



## **ISLAMIC HERITAGE TOUR**

**Istanbul to Cairo – 11 Nights / 12 Days**

### **Rate:**

**\$3,860CAD per person in Double Occupancy**

**\$720 single supplement rate**

**Return Flight & Domestic Flights & Tour Included**

### **Departure Flight from New York or Toronto**

#### **Day 01 Arrive to Istanbul Airport – at 16:30pm**

Our representative will meet you after the customs and baggage claim with a sign “YOUR NAME” on it. A short orientation tour and briefing about tour. Transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (D)

#### **Day 02 Istanbul**

Today we start our tour with Istanbul Archeological Museum. This museum contains a wealth of artefacts from the 50 centuries of Anatolia’s History. From the Hellenic and Roman to the Ancient Orient and Islamic- Arts an extensive collection can be seen (as Hammurabi’s famous law code). Then continue to Topkapı Palace, the residence of the sultans for 4 centuries. At Topkapı Palace a splendid collection of Ottoman Arts some holy objects are presented in a magic atmosphere. In particular the mantle of the Prophet Mahomet which was brought back from Cairo by Sultan Selim (until the abolition of the caliphate in 1924, this mantle was presented for the veneration of the imperial family and court dignitaries by the sultan in person, once in a year on the fifteenth day of the month of Ramadan). After Topkapı Palace we will visit the famous Hagia Sophia (Divine Wisdom) which was the greatest church of christianity until the conquest of Istanbul by the Ottomans. It was through the Imperial Door that Mehmet the Conqueror came in 1453 to take possession for Islam of the greatest religious edifice in the world. Today’s last visit will be Sultan Ahmet Mosque, known as the Blue Mosque, is the central element of the complex built by Ahmet I (1603 – 1617). This mosque is considered to be the last example of Ottoman classical architecture. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. (B,L,D)

#### **Day 03 Istanbul**

First visit in Turkish – Islamic Arts Museum which is a treasure house of beautiful objects from the Seljuk (11th – 13th centuries) to Ottoman (14th – 20th centuries) period. And also earlier periods beginning in the 8th century.

Then we will go to Şehzade Mosque created by The Great Architect Sinan as the one of his masterpieces and is considered one of the most remarkable of buildings of this day. Architect Sinan is considered the greatest Ottoman architect of the Ottoman Empire’s Architectural heritage. Sinan acquires a reputation as a valued military engineer and is brought to the attention of Sultan Suleyman who appoints Sinan as head of the office of Royal Architects. And Sinan is elevated to the position of State Architect. After Şehzade we go to Great Suleymaniye Mosque. The Legendary Suleymaniye Mosque is realized in what is commonly called the “crown on the hill”. Dominating the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn the silhouette of the Suleymaniye, with its slender minarets and lofty dome, is one of the defining features of Istanbul. After Suleymaniye we will go to see magnificent tiles of Rustem Paşa Mosque. Then we will see also interior of New Mosque (Yeni Camii). At the end of the day we will visit the Egyptian Bazaar.

Spices, dried fruits, nuts, and seeds are among the many treasures to be found at this bazaar also known as the Spice Market. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. (B,L,D)

**Day 04** **Istanbul**

We start our tour with Eyup Sultan Mosque and Mausoleum, located outside the corner where the land walls meet the walls along the Golden Horn, is considered a sacred site for Moslems. Eyup-el-Ensari was a standard-bearer of Mohammed and he died here during an Arabic siege of the city in the 7th century. The old trees, flocks of pigeons, the praying believers and the visiting crowds create a mystical and colorful atmosphere around the mosque and the mausoleum. We have a break at Pierre Loti Hill. Pierre Loti is located in Eyup, which belongs to Fatih district, on the European side of Bosphorus, Istanbul. There is a cafe (tea house) which has an incredible view of Golden Horn, from Eyup to Eminonu. Then continue to Fatih Mosque. This was the first Turkish mosque built after the conquest. The main building was completed in seven years (1463-1470). The architect Atic Sinan built the largest kulliye in Ottoman Art History. The kulliye consisted of medreses, Kervansaray, hamam, a hospital, baths, a kitchen for the poor, a library, and a Koranic school. After lunch visit The Grand Bazaar which is one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world, with more than 58 covered streets and over 1,200 shops which attract between 250,000 and 400,000 visitors daily. Opened in 1461, it is well known for its jewelry, pottery, spice, and carpet shops. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul (B,L,D)

**Day 05** **Istanbul**

Free morning. At noon, embark on a Bosphorus Boat tour viewing the beauty of the European and Asian shorelines on either side. Cross to the Asian side to visit the Camlica Hill. After lunch visit Joshua's Hill. Hill located on the Asian shore of Bosphorus in Beykoz district of Istanbul, Turkey is a shrine containing a mosque and a tomb dedicated to Saint Joshua (Turkish: *Hazreti Yuşa*). The sacred place, culminating the height of 180-195 meters above sea level, is also an important landmark for vessels coming from the Black Sea. At the summit of the hill is a terrace with benches for the comfort of pilgrims visiting the mosque and the tomb of Saint Joshua. To the north of the hill, Yoros Castle is situated. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul (B,L,D)

**Day 06** **Istanbul**

Free day at your leisure. Overnight in Istanbul (B,L,D)

**Day 07** **Departure from Istanbul**

Transfer to the Istanbul Airport for departure to Cairo. Arrival to Cairo airport, our representative will assist you through passport control formalities, luggage identification & portage will greet you. From the airport you will be transferred to the hotel. Overnight in Cairo (B,L,D)

**Day 08** **Cairo - Aswan**

After breakfast, we will visit the Pyramids & Sphinx. Then fly to Aswan from Cairo. View of the Elephantine Island and visitation to Aga Khan Mausoleum by felucca (sailing boat). This region is referred to as Upper Egypt because the land is higher than that near the Mediterranean coast. Other theories claim that the island is named after its shape. It is easily verifiable that the island's shape is similar to that of an elephant's tusk. Visit the Temple of Philae. Visit Aswan Grand Bazaar. Lunch at a selected restaurant. Camel ride and visitation to a Nubian Village (Dinner and Entertainment) Overnight in Aswan (B-L-D)

**Day 9** **Cairo**

Fly back to Cairo from Aswan. Start your full day visiting the renowned Citadel that was built by Saladin in the 12th Century and was the seat of power for the following 700 years. On the premises is the Alabaster Mosque of Mohammed Ali, one of the landmarks in Cairo whose minaret can be seen from any part of the city. The Mohammed Ali mosque was built in Turkish style, very similar to the Blue Mosque in Turkey. Then visit Mosque of Sultan Hasan Located at the end of Al-Qalaa (Citadel) Street, it was founded by Al-Nasser Hassan Bin-Mohammed Bin-Qalawon, a Mamelouk ruler, as a mosque and a school accommodating the four main sects (madhhabs) of Sunnism then visit Mosque of Ahmed Ibn Tulun This is the third "large mosque" (Gamee) built in Egypt. It is characterized by its spacious hall (saha), its unique spiral minaret and a large collection of gypsum decoration. At the end of the day we will transfer you back to your hotel. Overnight at your hotel (B,L,D)

(Optional) Cairo by night and Felucca on The Nile: This is a city tour all around Cairo to see the known places in Cairo. And sailing boat trip (Felucca) around the Guezireh Island is one of the most romantic trips in Cairo to admire the beauty of the moonlight or sunset. Oriental dinner included.

**Day 10** **Cairo**

Breakfast. Full day Islamic Tours (Al Azhar University, the Islamic Museum and Mosques): By car to millenary Islamic University of Al Azhar, then to the Islamic Museum where are kept among other treasures an invaluable collection of antique Mosque lamps. Al Azhar Park visit.. By the car to Bab El Fetouh & Bab El Nasr, two famous gates of the Fatimid City, Bab Zuweila ,El Hussein Mosque and El Mouayad Mosque. Visit two of the most beautiful Medieval Islamic houses at Beit El Sheimi. Finally, shop at the Khan Khalili Bazaar before returning to the hotel. Overnight stay in Cairo (B,L,D)

**Day 11** **Cairo**

Breakfast Full day tour in the Mosques starting the mosques of El Refay which has three mosques inside it. Then go to the mosque of the daughter of the prophet El Saida Zeinb .then go to visit the mosque of the daughter of the daughter of the Prophet El Saida Nafiesa . Then visit Manial Palace (ex – Crown Prince Mohamed Ali's Oriental Palace) on Rodah Island, where a fine collection of Arab Art and Mosaics can be admired. Visit of the reception the rooms, the gardens, the private museum, and the beautiful mosque. The duration of the visit is around two hours. Then by car to the Cairo Tower (height 600 ft.) on Guezireh Island to enjoy a panoramic view of Cairo. Overnight in Cairo (B,L,D)

**Day 12** **Cairo – Istanbul – Toronto**

After breakfast departure to the airport for your flight to Istanbul. Toronto flight is at 11:30 am (B)

**INCLUDING:**

- International return flight Toronto – Istanbul - Cairo Return with Turkish Airlines
- 11 Nights at 4\*Hotels
- Daily breakfast and dinners at the hotels all Lunches.
- All transfers and transportation by private AC Bus
- 2 domestic flights to and from Aswan
- Sightseeing as per the itinerary



- Private English Speaking Tour Guide throughout the tour
- Entrance Fees to the sites and museums
- Service charges and local taxes

EXCLUDING:

- Visa Fees
- Drinks
- Travel Insurance
- Tips to tour guide and driver
- Any other item which is not listed above