

# ISTANBUL - ALEPPO

This itinerary, combining metropolitan Istanbul, biblical Antioch and ending with a private concert in a 14th century palace in Aleppo, is a fixed-departure tour for a group size of 8 or 16 pax.

Based at the historical Pera Palace in Istanbul (tangential to the clue behind Agatha Christie's mysterious



disappearance), with lunch and dinners in exquisite localities (ranging from reconstructed Ottoman palace cuisine in a restored palace, lunch in a mythical tower seemingly floating on the Bosphorus Straits to dinner on the lush grounds of an Ottoman-era police station overlooking Ortakoy Mosque and the Bosphorus. Guests go on a private boat trip around the Bosphorus, visiting the must-sees of Topkapi and the Grand Bazaar before moving on to Antakya (referred to as Antioch in ancient times) where you will be visiting Antakya's Archaeological Museum and St. Peter's Church (now in a state of ruin) where much of early Christian art was found. The trip ends in



Aleppo, where guests will visit the town's famous souks and Citadel. There will be a private concert in a 14th century Mamluke palace on the final night. The concert will feature some of the best living musicians and artists in the Arab performing arts scene and will feature inspired collaborations amongst indigenous art forms.

Calling ourselves 'travel mixologists', we've served up interesting itineraries for you to choose from- all of which are available for tweaking and embellishments whilst keeping the main ingredients.

Beautifully-themed journeys for you to choose from and to tweak according to your predilections.

URBANE NOMADS

Day 1-3

## ISTANBUL

### Day 1

Arrival in Istanbul. Be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel. Pera Palace once



hosted the guests travelling on the Orient Express and it is often thought that Agatha Christie had written the book Murder on the Orient Express here. The hotel is also tangential to the solving of Agatha Christie's own disappearance as a psychic had identified the key to Christie's diary as being hidden under the floor boards in this hotel.

Day is on a free and easy arrangement with dinner the first night at Tugra Restaurant. Located in the Ciragan Kempinski with views overlooking the Bosphorus, this fine-dining restaurant features fusion food and views overlooking the Bosphorus. The Ciragan Kempinski itself is a palace with equally palatial grounds, making this



location an ideal introduction for your first night in the city.

### Day 2

Today visit Topkapi Palace and the harems, followed by the Grand Bazaar. Lunch is at Yesil Ev, on the grounds of an Ottoman style wooden mansion in a neighbourhood historically favoured by dignitaries and

Ottoman sultans. Yesil Ev has played host to the likes of President Mitterand and Rudolf Nureyev. Conveniently located close to the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia, this makes for a convenient site for lunch. Dinner tonight is at Asitane, famous for their almost academic approach in reconstructing Ottoman palace cuisine.



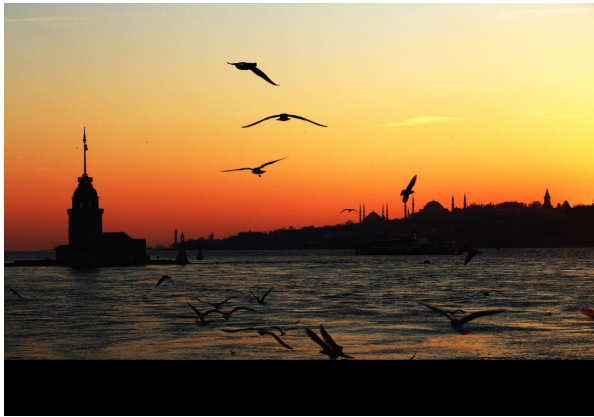
### Day 3

Take a private Bosphorus boat tour today, where you will see the many glorious yalis lining both the European and Asian sides of the Bosphorus. Figuring as some of the most expensive real estate in the world, these yalis have an unparalleled history. Stop over at Beylerberi palace before adjourning for lunch at Kiz Kulesi, a unique dining spot in Istanbul.

Alternately known as Maiden's Tower or Leander's Tower, the legends behind this edifice are informed by both Turkish and ancient Greek mythology. A tower on the Bosphorus Straits, the views from Kiz Kulesi would be amongst the things to remember the trip by.



Dinner on your last night in Istanbul is at Feriye Lokantasi, a former Ottoman police station with lush grounds. With views fronting the Bosphorus and Ortakoy Mosque, this is one of the best fine dining institutions in Istanbul with stellar service and food.



*Photo Courtesy of Abdulkadir G. Murteza*

**Day 4**

**ANTAKYA**

Transfer by flight today to Antakya, or the biblical Antioch. Day is on a free and easy arrangement.

**Day 5-7**

**ALEPPO**

**Day 5**

After an early morning breakfast, visit the Archaeological Museum of Antakya, with its collection of mosaics from ancient Antioch as well as St Peter's church before transferring onwards to the Syrian border where you will be met and transferred to Aleppo.

Day in Aleppo is on a free and easy arrangement before dinner at Zmorod, the ne plus ultra of fine dining in Aleppo.



## Day 6

Go on a tour of Aleppo today- from the tour of the formidable Aleppo citadel, occupied alternately by civilisations as diverse as the Greeks, Byzantines, Ayyubids and Mamluks, all jostling for geo-political dominance. These various civilisations have each had its impact on the architecture of the citadel,



which will be explained to you during the tour. Its construction, ways of fortification and secret passageways, all make an interesting history lesson. Move on to the souk of Aleppo, with its labyrinthine alleyways. Allegedly the longest souk in the whole of the Middle East, the traditions and fine architecture of the souk of Aleppo lures many travellers and Aleppo natives.

Have an early dinner at Dar Zamaria before being transferred to a 14th century Mamluke palace for a private concert tonight. Having been performed within similarly privileged environments for elite European families and Middle-Eastern royalty, the concert will feature some of the best living musicians and



artists in the Arab performing arts scene and will feature inspired collaborations amongst indigenous art forms.

## Day 7

After breakfast, be transferred onwards for your international flight.

Date	Nts. Location/Route	Accommodation/ Details	Rooms/Travel Time/Basis
	Name of the airport	<b>Arriving Flight &amp; Time TBA</b>	type of room plus meals (B,L,D)
Day 1-3	Istanbul	Pera Palace	Day1 :D - Day 2 & 3 : BLD
Day 4	Antakya	A 5 star hotel	B
Day 5-7	Aleppo	A 5 star hotel	Day5&6: B,D - Day 7: B
		<b><u>Departing Flight &amp; Time TBA</u></b>	

## **Total Price (Indicative Only): Euros 5872**

Per person on double occupancy basis

Single Supplement: 1088 euros

### **Price includes:**

All domestic transfers and tours mentioned. Accommodation in most basic room category and meal plans as defined above.

### **Price excludes:**

International flights to and from Istanbul. Travel Insurance. All meals not mentioned. Gratuities and all items of a personal nature.

## **Important Notes**

### **Trip Grading/Difficulty:**

This itinerary is done at a relaxed pace, with no strenuous or overtly physical activities and is suitable for all ages.

### **Flights**

It is essential that you give us your air schedule at least 60 days prior to departure, so that we may confirm your arrival and departure hotels.

### **Health**

You are strongly advised to contact your own GP or vaccination centre in respect of required vaccinations for Turkey. Check on recommended immunizations as least a month before travel. Among the items you might pack are: sun creams (factor 12 and above), insect repellent, sting relief cream, antiseptic cream, a lightweight hat and sunglasses.

### **Important Note**

While we endeavor to make the itinerary as accurate as possible, it should be considered an approximate schedule of activities rather than a rigid schedule of events. Trip itineraries are subject to revision due to weather, road and trail conditions, government restrictions and other factors beyond our control.

## **Booking Conditions:**

### **Booking your tailor-made holiday**

A booking is accepted only after we receive the completed signed booking form and/or the non-refundable deposit required. If the booking is made within 60 days of departure, then full payment is required at the time of confirmation except over the Christmas & New Year period when the full itinerary amount must be made at the time of booking. The balance of payment due for your travel arrangements must be paid by you not later than 60 days before departure; otherwise we may treat the booking as cancelled.

### **Methods of payment**

Payments for deposits and final monies for Travel Arrangements may be made by bank transfer.

### **Cancellation**

All cancellations must be advised in writing and will take effect the day we receive it. Urbane Nomads refunds all recoverable costs after cancellation, subject to third-party cancellation and refund policies and a USD500 administration and travel planning fee.

In some cases hotels require prepayment in full for hotel rooms and services in the peak period. In such cases these deposits are non refundable.

### **Travel Insurance**

It is a condition of booking the Travel Arrangements that You are adequately insured for the full duration of the your travel arrangements in respect of illness, injury, death, loss of baggage and personal items, cancellation and curtailment. The choice of insurer is the sole discretion of You. In signing the Booking Form or paying for your holiday You confirm to Us that You either have or will have procured such insurance before the commencement of Your Travel Arrangements.

Further Terms and Conditions apply. In signing the Booking Form or paying the deposit you confirm to Us that you have accepted the booking terms and conditions.

The Urbane Nomad keenly seeks the best that travel has to offer-keenly seeking out exciting design hotels with its associated mod cons, the most unique travel experiences in localities yet to be discovered by the masses or experiencing a favoured tourist destination on an entirely different level.

**URBANE NOMADS**