



ACADEMY TRAVEL

TAILORED
SMALL GROUP
JOURNEYS

TÜRKIYE BY LAND & SEA

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION

Bodrum

OVERVIEW

Sitting at the nexus between Europe and Asia, Türkiye has for millennia been a bustling meeting place. Today, Türkiye is a country full of remarkable archaeology, layers of deep history, rich cultural experiences, and outstanding natural beauty.

On this extraordinary 17-day journey led by Dr Chris Carter, we travel across land and sea to immerse ourselves in the ancient wonders of Türkiye and the neighbouring Greek Islands. Our tour commences in the magnificent city of Istanbul, before exploring the well-preserved ruins of ancient Ephesus and picturesque Priene. Following our sojourn on land, we embark on our maritime adventure, on board our privately chartered ship MS *Elara 1* (a classic wooden yacht exclusive to this area).

Once underway, we spend 10 nights leisurely cruising the Mediterranean and visiting the scenic seaside ports of the Turkish and Greek Aegean. This adventure will combine expert guidance through the archaeological sites, both well-known and obscure, with chances to indulge in the legendary cuisine of Türkiye.

An optional four-night, post-tour extension on the Anatolian Plateau, exploring the fascinating underground cities and churches of Cappadocia, is available with this tour.



TOUR LEADER

Dr Chris Carter is an Indigenous and historical archaeologist with over 20 years' experience leading tours. He has a BA (Hons), MA and PhD from the Australian National University.

TOUR DATES

June 6-22, 2024

TOUR PRICE

\$14,840 per person, twin share
\$5,680 single supplement

TOUR DEPOSITS

A **\$1,000** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour. A second non-refundable instalment of \$3,000 will be required in December 2023 on confirmation of the charter.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

ITINERARY

Istanbul (3 nights), Kuşadası (2 nights), Bodrum (1 night), Cruise (10 nights)

INCLUSIONS

Land component: 6 nights' accommodation in 5-star hotels, all breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners. Economy flight Istanbul-Izmir. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

Cruise component: 10 nights aboard a traditional Gulet private charter, with all meals onboard, all shore excursions, and the group tip for cruise staff.

MS ELARA 1



CABINS
12 EQUAL SIZE

GUESTS
18

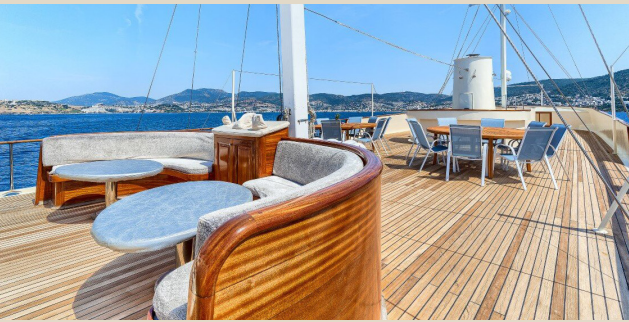
CREW
7

LENGTH
44 METRES

BEAM
10 METRES

REFIT
2017

CRUISING SPEED
10 KNOTS



PRIVATE CHARTER CRUISE

The centrepiece of this unique tour is the 10-night private cruise aboard the MS *Elara 1*, as we journey from the vibrant beach town of Bodrum in southwest Türkiye, through the azure waters of the Aegean Sea to the port city of Fethiye on the Turquoise Coast. While soaking in the incredible views onboard, we go behind the bright blue bays and pine-clad cliffs to explore the many incredible ancient sites to be found along Türkiye's coastline and the Greek Islands of Symi and Rhodes.

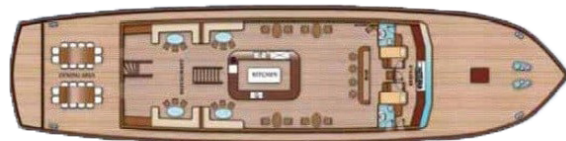
With 145 feet of comfort, this traditional wooden yacht, hand-crafted in Türkiye, is your home at sea. Her un-rushed pace, at 10 knots, allows you to soak in the coastline, one island or seashore at a time. And thanks to her smaller size, there is no waiting to get on or off, allowing you more time to enjoy our onshore visits.

Refitted in 2017, the MS *Elara 1* has a carefully designed main deck, and an upper sun deck area equipped with jacuzzi and sun loungers – ideal for our small group journey. With 12 equal-sized cabins, arranged as six double and six twin beds, each are well-appointed with a private ensuite with hairdryer, mirror, TV with satellite reception, portholes, storage, safe deposit boxes and air-conditioning. The main deck has a long indoor air-conditioned saloon with a main bar at one end. There are also shaded cushioned seats to relax outside.

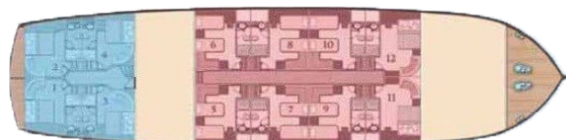
More details at www.gule charter.org/elara-1/



Sun Deck



Main Deck



Lower Deck



DETAILED ITINERARY

Start & Finish

The tour starts at 4.00pm on Thursday 6 June, in the lobby of the Eresin Sultanahmet Hotel, Istanbul. The tour ends after breakfast on Saturday 22 June, with a transfer to Dalaman airport for connecting flights to Istanbul.

A note about this itinerary

Please note the listed itinerary for our 10-night private cruise is weather dependent and the captain has the final say on where we moor or how far we travel each day. Please also note that the tour leader Dr Chris Carter is an archaeologist and adventurer, and his style of tour leadership will reflect these interests.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Private Chartered Cruise on a Traditional Turkish vessel

Spend 10 nights cruising along the Turkish Coast and through the islands of the Aegean on a privately chartered Gulet – a traditional wooden yacht hand-crafted in Türkiye.

Byzantine Splendour

Experience the Byzantine and Ottoman splendour of Istanbul, including the colourful bazaars, stunning mosques, ancient palaces and the seraglio of the sultans.

Impressive Ruins

Explore the legendary cities of the Aegean coast hidden behind the bright blue bays and pine-clad cliffs, from the exceptionally well-preserved ruins of Ephesus to the stunning rock-cut tombs near Kaunos.

Ancient City of Knidos

Visit this once thriving city on the Aegean Coast, home to the most famous of Praxiteles' works and perhaps one of the most famous sculptures of Classical Greece, the *Aphrodite of Knidos*.

Rhodes Old City

Immerse yourself in the tales of Crusader Knights while wandering through the architectural masterpiece that is the Palace of the Grand Masters, once a flourishing centre of commerce and culture in the Mediterranean.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

Thursday 6 June

Arrive Istanbul

We meet in the foyer of our hotel in the late afternoon. We first make our way to the bustling streets of the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world, before enjoying a traditional Turkish dinner near the Hagia Sofia. Overnight Istanbul (D)

Friday 7 June

Colourful Constantinople

We begin the day with a tour of the Old City that has been known over the centuries as Byzantium, Constantinople and Istanbul. Our tour of Topkapi Palace and Harem will provide a glimpse into the colourful world of sultans, ambitious courtiers, beautiful concubines and scheming eunuchs, who lived and worked there when it was the court of the Ottoman empire, between the 15th and 19th centuries. After a break for lunch, we wander the ancient Byzantine Hippodrome before visiting the Sultanahmet Mosque (Blue Mosque) and the breathtaking Hagia Sophia, considered the epitome of Byzantine architecture. Constructed as a church, the Hagia Sophia was the religious focal point of the Eastern Church for nearly 1,000 years, before being converted to a mosque following the fall of Constantinople in 1453. We conclude our day in the subterranean masterpiece that is the Basilica Cistern, commissioned by Emperor Justinian and built in 532 from hundreds of columns salvaged from ruined temples. Overnight Istanbul (B)



Istanbul

Saturday 8 June **Gems of the Bosphorus**

This morning we step into the world of opulence, architectural brilliance, and historical significance as we journey through the Dolmabahçe Palace. Built by Sultan Abdulmecid I – the 31st Sultan of the Ottoman Empire – to rival the royal residences of Europe, it features lavish interiors and insights into the empire's past. After a lunch break on the Galata Bridge, we immerse ourselves in the exotic spices of the famous Egyptian Bazaar before embarking on an unforgettable cruise along the Bosphorus, travelling as far north as 15th-century Rumeli Fortress on the European side, and the 14th-century Anadolu Fortress, on the Asian side. Evening at leisure. Overnight Istanbul (B)

Sunday 9 June **Istanbul Archaeology Museum**

We begin the day at the Istanbul Archaeological Museum, providing us an overview of what we'll see on our travels to come. A complex which consists of three museums – the Archaeological Museum, the Museum of the Ancient Orient and the Tiled Kiosk Museum – they collectively hold over one million objects that represent the Assyrian, Hittite, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman civilizations. A highlight will be the Alexander Sarcophagus, covered in scenes of Alexander the Great (thought actually believed to hold Abdalonymus, the king of Sidon). Afterwards we make our way to Istanbul airport for our flight to Izmir, on the Aegean coast, known as Smyrna in antiquity. There we meet our coach for the scenic drive to Kuşadası, with dinner tonight in our hotel. Overnight Kuşadası (B, D)



Ephesus

Monday 10 June **Ancient Ephesus**

This morning we explore Ephesus, one of the largest and best-preserved classical sites of the ancient world. The city was once considered the most important Greek trading centre in the Mediterranean region. In the 7th century BCE, Ephesus fell under the rule of Lydian Kings and it became a thriving city where men and women enjoyed equal opportunities. Here we visit the vast theatre, agora, terrace houses, bathhouses, temples, colonnaded streets, and the Library of Celsus, believed to have held around 12,000 scrolls! We conclude our visit at the Selcuk museum, where pieces found in and around the ruins of Ephesus are displayed. After lunch we will visit the monumental 6th-century Basilica of Saint John the Divine in Selcuk. The evening is at leisure, with dinner tonight in our hotel. Overnight Kuşadası (B, L, D)



Priene

Tuesday 11 June **Picturesque Priene**

Departing for Bodrum this morning, we visit the quiet, picturesque Hellenistic city of Priene en route. Built on a steep hillside in an innovative grid-pattern design, Priene is home to many monuments. Sponsored by Alexander the Great, it is said to be the most perfect example of Ionic architecture ever built and we spend time exploring the ancient theatre, council chamber, Roman baths and gymnasiums, along with the ruins of an ancient Synagogue

Knidos



and a temple to Athena Polias. Following lunch in a traditional restaurant on the coast, we arrive in Bodrum during the late afternoon, with the evening at leisure. Overnight Bodrum (B, L)

Wednesday 12 June

Bustling Bodrum

The hub of Bodrum's boating activities, Bodrum Harbour will be our first stop this morning, before we explore the Bodrum Museum. Housed in the 14th-century Crusader Castle of Saint Peter, the museum is famous for its underwater collections excavated off wrecks around the coast of Asia Minor. After some free time for lunch, we board our traditional wooden ship, the MS *Elara 1* – a boat unique to the Bodrum region. In the afternoon we set sail for Cape Tekir, cruising through the Ceramic Gulf past the Greek island of Kos to the Classical site of Knidos, where we moor in the ancient harbour in the lee of the Hellenistic theatre. Overnight MS *Elara 1* (B, D)

Thursday 13 June

Knidos - where the Aegean and Mediterranean meet

The 2,600-year-old city of Knidos is a rare historical gem, standing the test of time with magnificent structures, a port street lined with columns, an agora, two ancient theatres and two ports. Leaving our vessel moored in the harbour, we walk through some of the ancient streets of this spectacularly positioned city. Later in the afternoon we cruise further east along the coast past Palamat Buku before entering Datca Harbour, enabling admittance to Greek waters. Our final destination for the day is the stunning Greek island of Symi. Overnight MS *Elara 1* (B, L, D)

Symi Island



Friday 14 June

Exquisite Symi Island

This morning we explore the exquisite island of Symi, famous for its quaint pastel-coloured houses. Joining a local guide, we visit the museum and climb the steps to get a spectacular view of the harbour. After lunch at a harbourside tavern, we have time to explore the beautiful town of Gailios. Later we cruise across the channel to the island of Rhodes, spending the night adjacent to Rhodes Harbour. Overnight MS *Elara 1* (B, L, D)

Saturday 15 June

The Island of Rhodes

Gothic architecture and Crusader tales will be the focus of today as we soak in the wonders of the UNESCO-listed old town of Rhodes. On our leisurely guided tour, we stroll down the Street of the Knights, marvel at the Palace of the Grandmaster and absorb the rich cultural heritage of Rhodes in the Archaeological Museum. Following our tour, you have some free time to further explore the Old City at your own pace. Overnight MS *Elara 1* (B, D)

Sunday 16 June

Secluded Bozburun

Returning to Turkish waters today, we cruise into the deep wooded inlet of Bozburun. During the afternoon you can visit the small town before we explore some of the archaeological sites that are

Rhodes



Bozukkale



scattered around the lengthy shoreline of the inlet. This area was once famous for the quality of its quarried marble and is well-known as a centre for shipbuilding. Overnight MS Elara 1 (B, L, D)

Monday 17 June

Fortified Ports

Cruising east toward the Loryma Peninsula, we disembark to visit Bozukkale, which is Turkish for the 'Broken Castle'. This site contains the remains of a magnificent Rhodian citadel guarding the harbour and was once home to a formidable navy. During the afternoon we go ashore again to explore parts of ancient Loryma. The important harbour fortress has protected fleets throughout history, from those belonging to the Athenian general Konon in 395 BCE all the way through to the Ottoman era, when Sultan Suleiman I conquered the surrounding lands and took siege over Rhodes in 1522 CE. Overnight MS Elara 1 (B, L, D)

Tuesday 18 June

Glass Shipwreck

In 1025 CE a small, two-masted Byzantine merchant ship, with a crew of Hellenised Bulgarians, was transporting its cargo of glazed Islamic bowls, copper cauldrons, sumac, raisins, and an unusual ballast made up of broken glassware from Beirut, when it was struck by a gale force wind. The unfortunate vessel crashed onto a rocky shore near Serçe Liman and sank, with all goods on board. The wreck has provided a time capsule of life in the Byzantine period and this morning we visit the ongoing excavation site. Later we disembark for a leisurely walk, through spectacular scenery, to the ancient remains of Kasara. Overnight MS Elara 1 (B, L, D)



Kaunos

Wednesday 19 June

Spectacular Rock-Cut Tombs

Today we cruise along the mountainous shores of eastern Caria, across the Bay of Marmaris to the cove of Ekincik. From here we take a river boat into the reed-fringed marshes of the Dalyan River and visit the beautiful Roman city of Kaunos. Walking from the landing stage, we see the well-preserved theatre, Hellenistic in origin and rebuilt in Roman times, the ancient harbour installations with statue bases and quayside Stoa, Byzantine churches and a vast Roman bath complex. Afterwards we continue up-river to view the spectacular 4th-century BCE rock-cut temple tombs of the Carian kings, hewn out of the dramatic cliff-face. Later we explore the friendly town of Dalyan situated along the River, just inland from the coast. Overnight MS Elara 1 (B, L, D)



Coastline to Fethiye

Thursday 20 June

Secluded Lydae

After breakfast this morning, we cruise eastwards to the cove of Alaliman and visit the romantic ruins of Lydae. Located in the middle of a peninsula, in a basin surrounded by mountains, the well-hidden site is a peaceful haven, reachable only by sea. Walking up the ancient, paved road we reach the crest of a hill where lies the Agora of ancient Lydae, with a number of fine late Roman mausolea overlooking the Bay of Fethiye. For those that wish to, a walk of a further hour brings us to the haunting

ACCOMMODATION

Istanbul, Eresin Sultanahmet

(3 nights)

This 5-star hotel is located in the heart of Istanbul, a short walk from Sultanahmet Square and Blue Mosque.

www.eresin.com.tr

Kuşadası, Charisma Deluxe Hotel

(2 nights)

Featuring a 60-metre private beach, the 5-star Charisma offers an infinity pool with sweeping views of the Aegean Sea.

www.charismahotel.com

Bodrum, Hotel Marmara

(1 night)

Set on a hilltop, this 5-star hotel offers a free-form outdoor pool with 180° views of Bodrum Bay and Kos Island.

www.themarmarahotels.com

Cruise, MS Elara 1

(10 nights)

The ship features 12 equal-sized cabins, arranged as six double and six twin beds, all with a private ensuite.

guletcharter.org

WEATHER

June marks the beginning of the summer season in Türkiye, so expect warm to hot days averaging between 26-34°C, perfect for a sea breeze. There is chance of some rainfall and cool evenings, so a light jacket is recommended.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Grade Three

This tour is among our most physically demanding. You should be able to comfortably participate in up to five to seven hours of physical activity per day, including walking at an easy to regular pace, sometimes on uneven terrain, with only short breaks. See our website for full details:

academytravel.com.au/fitness-requirements

remains of Arymaxa, once a Roman latefundia, the country estate of the Diaphantes family whose mausoleum dominates the landscape. The views over the coast of ancient Lycia from here are truly outstanding. After lunch in the beautiful inlet Çamlıköy, we cruise across the Gulf of Fethiye. Overnight MS Elara 1 (B, L, D)

Friday 21 June

Picturesque Mountains

Disembarking at picturesque Fethiye on Türkiye's Turquoise Coast this morning, we spend the day ashore, enjoying the mountain scenery and visiting the spectacular ancient Lycian city of Tlos (dating from 2,000 BCE). Afterwards we enjoy a traditional lunch in the hills before returning to Fethiye, where you have time to spend an hour or two in the colourful town before re-embarking for our final dinner on board. Overnight MS Elara 1 (B, L, D)

Saturday 22 June

Depart Fethiye

After an early disembarkation we transfer to Dalaman airport for connecting flights to Istanbul and onwards. Passengers joining the Cappadocia post-tour extension will take a flight to Türkiye's capital city, the cosmopolitan Ankara, and continue via coach. More details over the page. (B)



ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Sharon Williams** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

sharon@academytravel.com.au



info@academytravel.com.au



academytravel.com.au

CAPPADOCIA

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

OVERVIEW

Spread across the middle of Turkey like a lunar landscape, Cappadocia has captivated travelers for centuries. Continue the Turkish adventure with Dr Chris Carter on this four-night tour extension as we experience the breathtaking landscape and fascinating subterranean refuges and churches of Cappadocia, home to the world-famous 'fairy chimneys'.

TOUR DATES

June 22-26, 2024

TOUR PRICE

\$3,980 per person, twin share

\$1,250 single supplement

GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

ITINERARY

Uçhisar (4 nights)

INCLUSIONS

4 nights' accommodation in a 4-star hotel. All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 2 dinners. Economy flight Dalaman-Ankara. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

ACCOMMODATION

Cappadocia, Taskonaklar Hotel
(4 nights)

This boutique four-star hotel is located in the natural rock citadel of Uçhisar, the tallest point in Cappadocia, with exceptional views across the valley. A cave style hotel, it features 23 rooms each with its own unique character and modern amenities for an enjoyable and comfortable stay.

taskonaklar.com/en/

ITINERARY

Included meals are shown with the letters B, L and D.

Saturday 22 June | On to the Anatolian Plateau

After an early disembarkation, we take a flight to Türkiye's capital city, the cosmopolitan Ankara, where we transfer to our coach for the three-hour drive through the changing landscapes to Cappadocia. Dinner is in our hotel. Overnight Uçhisar (B, D)

Sunday 23 June | Breathtaking Cappadocia

For early risers, you can opt for a balloon ride (additional cost) over the fairy chimneys of Cappadocia, a unique landscape shaped by erosion, volcanic and human activity. This morning we visit the Göreme Open Air Museum, with rock-cut cave churches carved out by Orthodox monks between 900 and 1200 CE. After exploring the colourful churches, there is an option to walk through the Red and Rose Valleys to finish at the village of Cavusin. Evening at leisure. Overnight Uçhisar (B)

Monday 24 June | Underground City & Whirling Dervishes

We begin the day exploring the underground city of Kaymakli, excavated by Christian communities in the 6th and 7th centuries. From Kaymakli, our drive takes us to the Ilhara Valley in south-western Cappadocia. The scenery is superb as we descend into the Peristema Gorge where, once inside, we will see a number of Byzantine churches carved into the cliffs and decorated with beautiful frescoes. After a leisurely walk along the river, we enjoy lunch on the banks of the local stream before returning to our hotel. Tonight we attend a performance of the famous Whirling Dervishes, a mystical dance performed by members of the Sufi sect of Islam. Overnight Uçhisar (B, L)

Tuesday 25 June | The natural wonders of Love Valley

This morning we walk through the natural wonders of White Valley (also known as Love Valley) before we drive on to Avanos. Here we visit a terracotta factory where the traditional ceramics are made from red local clay, a practice dating back to the Hittites. Afterwards we make a few panoramic stops on the return to our hotel before an afternoon at leisure to enjoy some last-minute shopping. This evening we enjoy our farewell dinner. Overnight Uçhisar (B, D)

Wednesday 26 June | Departure

The tour concludes after breakfast with a transfer to either Nevsehir or Kayseri airport for connecting flights. (B)