



Treasures of Eurasia



Sunday, September 6 – Saturday, October 3, 2020

28 Days / 27 Nights



Cost: \$ 29,745 per person (double occupancy)

\$ 3,675 plane registration fee

Single supplement available upon request

Itinerary

Day 1 – Sunday, September 6: Arrival in Skiathos, Greece

Welcome to the lush island of Skiathos! Air Journey staff will greet you at the Atrium Hotel.

We'll meet for introductions and a welcome cocktail before dinner.



Renowned among returning guests for offering unparalleled Greek hospitality, Atrium Hotel Skiathos is a home away from home. All accommodations are inspired by nature, seamlessly blending wooden and stone elements to create a comfortable and modern ambience.

The hotel masterfully combines style, tradition, and high-end, tailor-made service, with an emphasis on the guests' personal needs and preferences. Its accommodations boast high-end facilities and stunning, panoramic views of the sea or the island's idyllic natural landscape, making for an unrivalled and unforgettable Skiathos experience.

Hotel: Atrium Hotel
Welcome Cocktail and Dinner included

Day 2 – Monday, September 7: Skiathos

Skiathos presents an ideal combination for leisure and sea sports. There are more than 60 beautiful beaches with golden sand or white pebbles; a turquoise sea to swim or sail in; today we'll go on a half day boat tour to the neighboring islands of skopelos and sail to the Pelion peninsula (Mainland Greece).

Hotel: Atrium Hotel
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 3 – Tuesday, September 8: Skiathos

Today is a day to relax or explore on your own.

Hotel: Atrium Hotel
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 4 – Wednesday, September 9: Skiathos → Tbilisi, Georgia

990 NM

Fly to Tbilisi. Upon arrival at Tbilisi international airport this afternoon, clearing immigration and customs, the group will be met by our local guide. We will then be privately transferred to our hotel in the center of town by private luxury vehicle. Transfer to Tbilisi (30 min) and check in at the Stamba Tbilisi Hotel.

Stamba Hotel was conceived to highlight the industrial splendor of the 20th century printing house in which it is situated. Housed within historic atriums, passages and courtyards of what was once Georgia's most important printing house, Stamba Hotel is a celebration of Tbilisi's ever-evolving identity as a hotbed of talent and originality.

This afternoon we'll explore the sites of this captivating city with our expert guide. Tbilisi is the capital of Georgia and the country's largest city. The city is a vibrant example of the mix of nationalities, cultures, religions, and ethnic groups found in Georgia. Tbilisi was founded in the 5th century AD by Vakhtang Gorgasali, the Georgian King of Kartli (Iberia) and made into a capital in the 6th century. Today Tbilisi is a significant industrial, social, and cultural center.



We'll you will pass through the old quarters and the center, with its famous sulfur springs along the Mtkvari River. Traditional houses with balconies and grape vines are the backdrop to our stroll towards Narikhala, the 4th century fort overlooking the city. The fort provides an exquisite view of the city and region.

Hotel: Stamba Hotel
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 5 – Thursday, September 10: Visit Mtskheta – the Ancient capital of Georgia – Uplistsikhe cave town

This morning we'll drive to Mtskheta (30 min.) – the ancient capital of Georgia. The country's conversion to Christianity occurred in Mtskheta in 337 AD and it is considered one of Georgia's most important religious centers. Saint Nino erected the first Christian cross and the first churches were built here. Visit the monastery of Jvari perched on a cliff overlooking Mtskheta and continue to the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral.

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Svetitskhoveli church has long been the principal Georgian church and remains one of the most venerated places of worship to this day. This UNESCO World Heritage Site today functions as the seat of the archbishop.



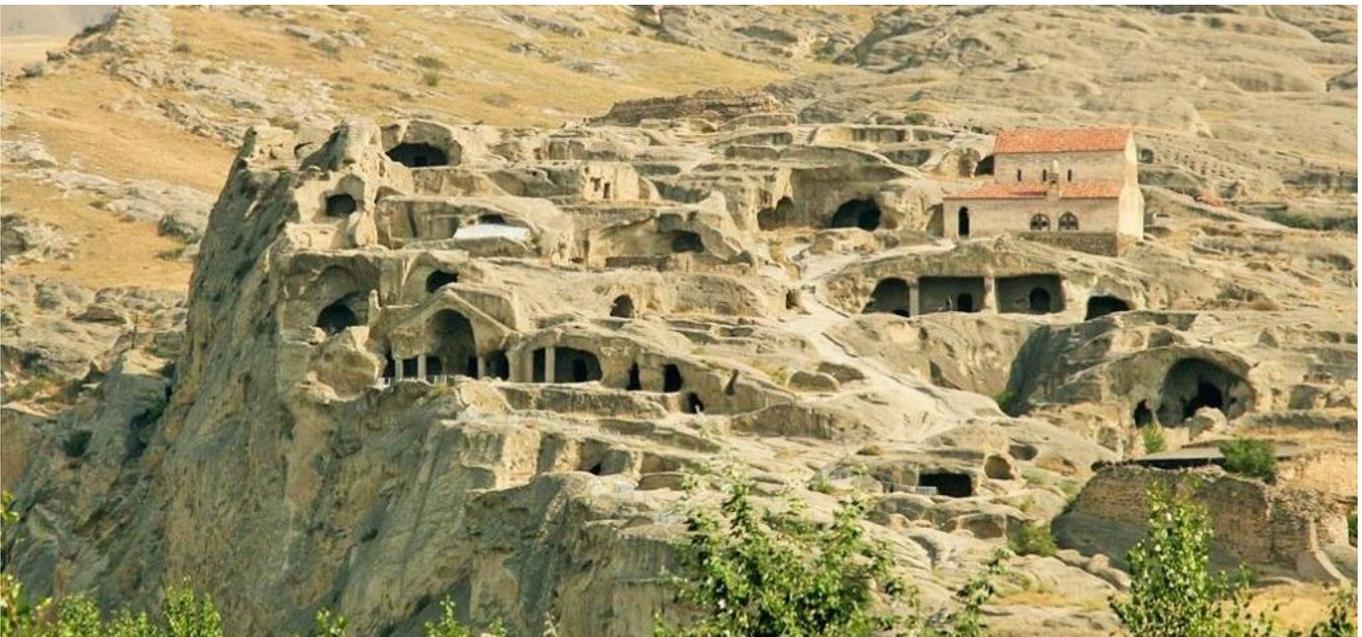
Continue to Château Mukhrani. The Château was established as the prince's estate of the royal Bagrationi name. In 1876, Ivane Mukhranbatoni, a royal family representative and political and public figure of 19th century Georgia returned from France with the chateau winemaking concept and since then the estate's own winemaking history began.

Our wine tour will guide you to discover the Georgian royal family history and breath-taking legends, a flavor of antiquity and enchanting wines which have just won 4 prestigious Medals the 23rd Grand International Wine Award Mundus Vini - one of the most important wine competitions in the world.

After a delicious lunch accompanied by wine tasting, we'll continue the drive to Gori town to visit the cave town Uplistsikhe (Fortress of the Lord) dating from the 1st millennium BC. The rock-hewn town includes houses, temples, streets, and Roman theatres which were carved out of the cliffs. Drive back to Tbilisi.

Hotel: Stamba Hotel

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included



Day 6 – Friday, September 11: Tbilisi

Today is a day to relax or explore on your own.

Hotel: Stamba Hotel
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 7 – Saturday, September 12: Tbilisi → Bukhara, Uzbekistan

895 NM

Fly to Bukhara. Upon arrival, we'll transfer to the Zargaron Plaza Hotel situated in Bukhara's historic center.

One of Central Asia's oldest cities, Bukhara was a legendary stop on the ancient Silk Road, a network of trade



routes between China and Europe. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site for its historic center, the city remains the best example of a well-preserved medieval Central Asian city.

Hotel: Zargaron Plaza Hotel
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 8 – Sunday, September 13: Bukhara

With our local guide, we'll explore Bukhara's historic center. Experience a time when this ancient city was a fabled trading outpost on the Silk Road and an intellectual center for Islamic scholars. Take note of not only the impressive mosques, religious schools and shrines that represent the best of Islamic architecture, but also the careful urban planning that led to the city's UNESCO designation.

Hotel: Zargaron Plaza Hotel
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 9 – Monday, September 14: Bukhara → Samarkand, Uzbekistan

115 NM

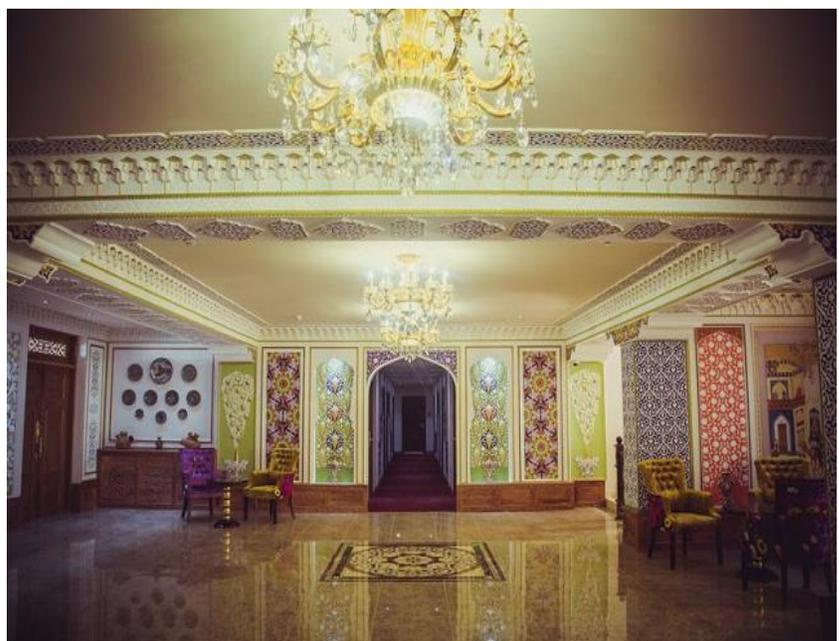
Fly to Samarkand - one of the highlights of Uzbekistan. This small town is packed with strikingly beautiful architecture and so much history.

Upon arrival we'll transfer to Emir Han hotel, positioned right on the patch of Silk Road that famously connects Samarkand and Bukhara.

Hotel: Hotel Emir Han
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 10 – Tuesday, September 15: Samarkand

Our full day city tour begins with a visit to Registan, a central courtyard surrounded on three sides by Madrasahs. Tillya-Kori, the Sherdor Madrasa on the right and the Ulu Bey Medresesi on the left has walls



covered in intricate gold. The Bibi-Khanym mosque has another great interior courtyard and is located in front of the Siab Bazaar, where you will experience the local food market.

Our tour then continues to Gur-E-Amir complex and the Shah-I-Zinda-Mausoleum another magnificent art that Samarkand has to offer.

Hotel: Hotel Emir Han
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 11 – Wednesday, September 16: Samarkand → Mary, Turkmenistan

270 NM

Fly to Mary. Upon arrival, we'll drive east of Mary, towards Bayram-Ali, to visit the contemporary re-incarnation and humble suburb of the glorious Ancient Merv (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

One of the major archaeological sites of Central Asia, Merv played an important part in the development of the Silk Road for more than 2000 years. Within the limits of the archaeological park, which is 1200 ha, you will have a chance to observe all constituent parts of the "wandering city".



Besides remnants of the cities of Merv, we'll visit the 6-9th centuries AD forts of Big and Little Kyz-Kalas, excellent examples of the so-called corrugated Koshks; the splendid XII c. mausoleums of Sultan Sanjar and Muhammed ibn-Zeyd, demonstrating exquisite Seljuk period brickwork and architectural decor. If time permits, a possible visit to several more interesting spots within the site.

After sightseeing, we'll head back to Mary for lunch at a local restaurant. Then visit Regional Mary Museum, presenting a wide array of archaeological finds (dating back to the 3rd mill. BC through the late 19th century) from both Ancient Merv and Bronze Age sites as well as interesting ethnographic displays reconstructing the scenes of daily life of the Turkmen population and other minorities of the Murghab oasis.

Today we'll also visit a local house in a village owned by a painter to see ordinary village life.

At the end of the tour, we'll check-in to Mary Hotel, located in the city center. It is the largest hotel in Mary city built in 2015. The six-floor hotel has a restaurant, a gym, swimming pool, and sauna. There are tennis courts in the adjoining territory. Apart from that, guests may enjoy shopping in the souvenir and the carpet shops.

Hotel: Mary
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 12 – Thursday, September 17: Mary ➔ Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

170 NM

Fly to Ashgabat. Upon arrival we'll transfer to Yyldyz hotel which has the best views of the capital and the Kopetdag Mountains.

This afternoon there is an orientation tour of the city. We will see the Monument and Park of Independence (looking like a white-marble "Eiffel Tower" standing in a beautiful park) and a rocket-like Arch of Neutrality, beautiful Ertoghrul Gazie Mosque (reminiscent of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul), and the unusual "Palace of Happiness" (the official name for the Wedding Palace).

In the evening we will enjoy a folk show of traditional Turkmen music and songs, see some of Turkmen customs and rituals.

Hotel: Yyldyz
Breakfast and Dinner included



Day 13 – Friday, September 18: Ashgabat: Old Nisa and Arkadash horse farm

This morning our tour includes the World Heritage listed fortress of Old Nisa, the earliest of the Parthian Empire capitals. Located in an atmospheric area on an irregular pentagon hill, at the foot of the Kopet-Dag Mountains, Old Nisa is a beautiful landmark. Afterwards continue to the Arkadash stud farm, home of the famous Akhal-Tekke horse. The breed is one of the oldest in existence and well known for its stamina. Snacks and tea will be provided at the farm.

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On the way back to Ashgabat make a sightseeing stop in Kipchak, to visit a complex of the biggest mosque in Turkmenistan (called “Turkmenbashi Spirituality Mosque”) and the family mausoleum of the first President. You will also visit the National Museum of History (more than 327.000 objects on a display) exhibiting exclusive ancient artefacts from different historical & archaeological sites of Turkmenistan, such as Old Nisa, Ancient Merv, Kunya-Urgench & others.

Hotel: Yyldyz

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 14 – Saturday, September 19: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan ► Baku, Azerbaijan

415 NM

Fly to Baku - straddling the Middle East, Europe and Asia, the enigmatic capital of Azerbaijan sits on the coast of the opal-blue waters of the Caspian Sea, with the Caucasus Mountains to the west.

Upon arrival, we'll transfer to the beaux-arts-style Four Seasons Hotel perched along the waterfront in the heart of central Baku.

Hotel: Four Seasons Hotel

Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 15 – Sunday, September 20: Baku

Today we'll go for a half day city tour of Baku. Step into the history and see the wonders that lie inside the 12th-century walls of Icheri Sheher, or The Inner City, during our guided tour of this UNESCO World Heritage site.

On the way we'll stop to savor layered Baklava stuffed with walnuts and spices and pick up jars of homemade jam.

We then stroll along New Boulevard; seaside streets lined with charming teahouses and cafes, and see the cultural insights at the Yarat Contemporary Art Centre and Azerbaijan Stone Museum.



Hotel: Four Seasons Hotel

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 16 – Monday, September 21: Baku

Today is a day to relax or explore on your own.

Hotel: Four Seasons Hotel
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 17 – Tuesday, September 22: Baku ➔ Yerevan, Armenia

260 NM

Fly to Yerevan, Armenia. Upon arrival we'll transfer to The Alexander Luxury Collection.

Introducing an exclusive new address to the city's developing social landscape, The Alexander is heralded as the first luxury international hotel in the historic center of Yerevan. Each of the 114 non-smoking guestrooms and suites features scaled back, minimalist design, grand gold accents and hints of decorative Armenian motifs.

The Alexander's collection of bars and restaurants attracts Yerevan's most discerning social scene. An all-day menu is offered at the signature Gabriel's Bar & Lounge, whilst fine dining venue, Atelier 1797 Penthouse Bar & Grill, is located on the building's top floor. The wood-paneled, The Keys Aficionado's Private Club, with handsomely designed bar and glass wine cellar, is the perfect place to enjoy a fine vintage, whilst French and Armenian sweet treats can be sampled in the elegant Gabriel's Patisserie, accessible via Abovyan Street.

After a short one hour rest, we'll go for a panoramic drive of the city Yerevan, see Opera and Ballet Building, Presidential House, National Assembly, Republic Square. Visit the Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial.

Continue to Yerevan Brandy Factory for tour and Cognac tasting.



Visit the Cascade Monument and modern art galleries

Hotel: Alexander Luxury Collection
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 18 – Wednesday, September 23: Explore the Geghar Cave monastery and Garny Temple

This morning we'll drive with our local guide to Geghard, one of the treasures of Armenia.

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It is a medieval monastery in the Kotayk province of Armenia, partially carved out of the adjacent mountain, surrounded by cliffs. It is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

While the main chapel was built in 1215, the monastery complex was founded in the 4th century by Gregory the Illuminator at the site of a sacred spring inside a cave. The name commonly used for the monastery today, Geghard, or more fully Geghardavank, meaning "the Monastery of the Spear", takes its name from the spear which had wounded Jesus at the Crucifixion, allegedly brought to Armenia by Apostle Jude, called here Thaddeus, and stored amongst many other relics.

Enjoy a private Spiritual Vocal Concert arranged specially for you.

Continue to Garni, a large village in the Kotayk Province of Armenia which is known for the nearby classical temple. En route stop for lunch at a rustic local restaurant. Enjoy the local food as well as the master class of Armenian lavish bread making.

After lunch, continue to the ancient pagan temple of Garni.



The Temple of Garni is a reconstructed classical Hellenistic temple and the best-known structure and symbol of pre-Christian Armenia. It is the only "Greco-Roman colonnaded building" in Armenia and the former Soviet Union. Enjoy traditional duduk flute by the temple.

We return back to Yerevan to visit Matenadaran Museum - The Institute of Ancient Manuscripts.

Hotel: Alexander Luxury Collection
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 19 – Thursday, September 24: Yerevan → Kayseri, Turkey

420 NM

Fly to Kayseri, Turkey. Upon arrival, we'll transfer to the Museum Hotel in Kapakokya.

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The Museum Hotel is composed from the restorations of old ruins into a luxury boutique hotel. With its unique location you can enjoy panoramic views of the major sites of the region including Avanos, Goreme, Love Valley, Pigeon Valley, Red Valley and Mt. Erciyes from all its rooms.

The hotel founder is an antique collector that has a great collection from the period of Ottoman, Seljuk, Roman, and Hittite. His vision was to allow hotel guests to experience the Cappadocian culture and let them feel the sense of a living museum. All of the rooms and outer spaces are decorated with the priceless antiques that are registered in Nevsehir Museum. During your time at the Museum Hotel, you will be enjoying your time in a real museum with many valuable antiques.

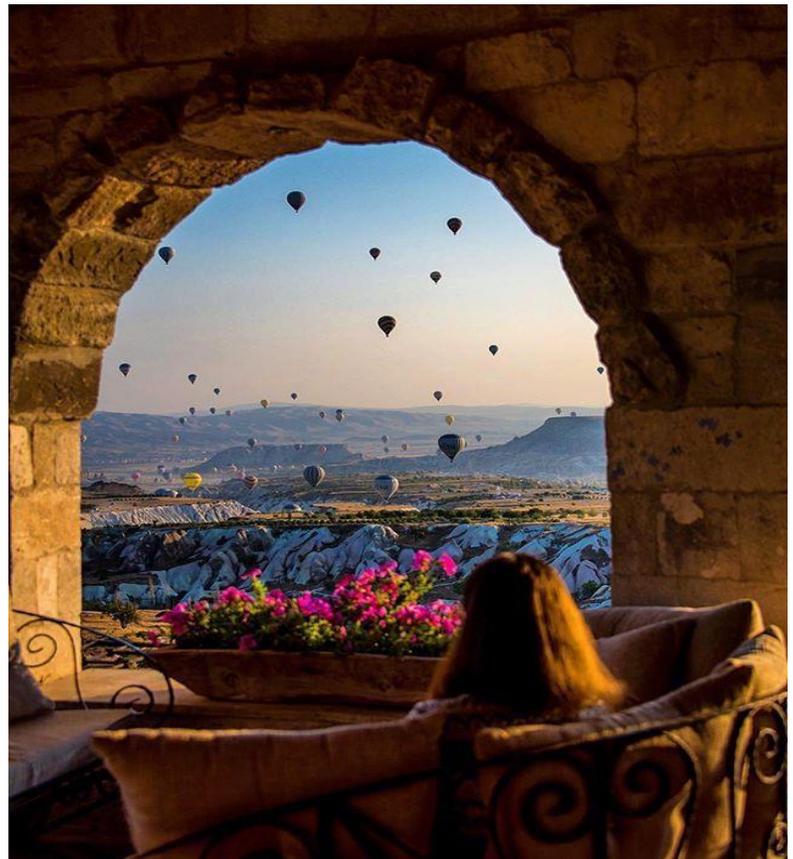
Hotel: Museum Hotel
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 20 – Friday, September 25: Balloon Adventure - Goreme – Kaymakli – Fairy chimneys

If the velocity of the wind is suitable today, we'll have an early bird departure from the hotel for a formidable "Balloon Adventure" over the enchanting "lunar landscape" of Cappadocia, to hail the slowly rising sun, with a glass of champagne. The balloon ride over Cappadocia at sunrise is an experience of a lifetime, with all the excitement of seeing from above, the farthest "fairy chimneys" of the vast region, as a lunar landscape, only possible in one's fantasies.

We will then return back to our hotel for breakfast. After Breakfast, our tour continues to explore the most extraordinary treasures of sacred art, the rock-carved churches of Goreme, now an 'open-air museum'. This museum hosts some of the finest examples of ninth and tenth century. What survives at Goreme and other sites scattered about Cappadocia marks out the region's rock-cut churches and chapels as one of the greatest museums of medieval art in the world.

Next, we'll visit another marvel of the region: the 'underground city' at Kaymakli. The enigmatic cellar villages, over 40 of which have been discovered empty, are among the wonders of Cappadocia.



After a morning of touring glorious sites in Cappadocia, we will be transferred to a specially-chosen vantage spot where, white-gloved country lunch has been arranged. Right in the midst of the Cappadocian landscape next to “fairy-chimneys”, this is truly being here!

Another cultural experience, unique to this region, is a visit to the group of young village girls from all over Cappadocia, at their “Art School”, where they happily learn to become masters of the national art of weaving Turkish carpets and kilims to be able to contribute to their traditional dowry, before they get married.

Hotel: Museum Hotel
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 21 – Saturday, September 26: Kayseri

Today is a day to relax or explore on your own.

Hotel: Museum Hotel
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 22 – Sunday, September 27: Kayseri → Bodrum, Turkey

380 NM

Fly to Bodrum situated on the southern Aegean coast of Turkey.



This fabled coastline is where Homer’s heroes were born, where the ancient Greeks consulted their oracles and the Romans built magnificent temples to honor their gods.

Hotel: Amanruya
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 23 – Monday, September 28: Bodrum

Today we’ll go for a half day city tour and explore the ancient sites from Greek and Roman history dotted across the Aegean coastline, a short drive or sail away, and for centuries the region has been a center of traditional artisan

Turkish crafts. Built in the early 15th century, Bodrum castle remains a medieval relic, fortified with green volcanic stones and marble columns.

Hotel: Amanruya
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 24 – Tuesday, September 29: Bodrum

Today is at leisure to relax and enjoy the hotel amenities on your own.

Hotel: Amanruya
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 25 – Wednesday, September 30: Bodrum → Milan, Italy

990 NM

Fly to Milan where we will transfer to Como – Immerse yourself in Lake Como. Enjoy a breathtaking setting on the shores of Italy's most famous lake, Mandarin Oriental, Lago di Como exudes romantic Italian style perfectly complemented by timeless Oriental charm. Atmospheric, elegant and incredibly private, the hotel effortlessly blends the romance of the past with the luxury of the present.

Hotel: Mandarin Oriental
Breakfast and Dinner included



Day 26 – Thursday, October 1: Como

With our local guide we'll begin an exploration of Como, the lake's main town, as we discover historic center. After lunch, enjoy a cruise around Lake Como admiring chic hillside villas and hotels against the backdrop of the Alps.

Hotel: Mandarin Oriental
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 27 – Friday, October 2: Como

Today is at leisure to relax or explore on your own.

Hotel: Mandarin Oriental
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 28 – Saturday, October 3: Milan → Home

After breakfast, we will check-out and fly separate ways as we head home.

Breakfast included

Stans Journey Distances			
From:	To:	Code	Distance (NM)
Home	Skiathos, Greece	LGSK	
Skiathos, Greece	Tbilisi, Georgia	UGTB	990
Tbilisi, Georgia	Bukhara, Uzbekistan	UTSB	895
Bukhara, Uzbekistan	Samarkand, Uzbekistan	UTSS	115
Samarkand, Uzbekistan	Mary, Turkmenistan	UTAM	270
Mary, Turkmenistan	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	UTAA	170
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	Baku, Azerbaijan	UBBB	415
Baku, Azerbaijan	Yerevan, Armenia	UDYZ	260
Yerevan, Armenia	Kayseri, Turkey	LTAU	420
Kayseri, Turkey	Bodrum Turkey	LTFE	380
Bodrum Turkey	Milan, Italy	LIMC	990
Milan, Italy	Home		
		TOTAL NM	4,905

Terms & Conditions

Our land program includes:

- Presence of an Air Journey tour leader who will facilitate clearances, Immigration, refueling, flight planning, and provide help with any difficulty that might arise
- Full-time services of a professional Air Journey guide and local experts
- Deluxe accommodations in hotels listed or similar categories based on double occupancy
- Meals: All breakfasts and most lunches and dinners
- Wine selected by Air journey is included with dinner. All other beverages are not included.
- Tours and admission to all planned group sightseeing
- All service charges and taxes
- Round trip transfers between airport and hotel

Our land program does not include:

- Travel Insurance (available, call us for details)
- Airport departure taxes
- Beverages except as noted above
- Personal expenses such as laundry, room service, communication charges and other incidentals

Please note that hotel accommodations and sightseeing are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Air Journey reserves the right to amend the order of sightseeing as necessary. Every effort will be made to operate tours as planned but alterations may occur after the final itinerary has been issued.

Passports are mandatory for the Journey.

Air Journey has quoted this itinerary with a minimum participation of 5 airplanes.

Our quoted prices include planning, handling and operational charges; they are based on current rates of exchange, tariffs and taxes as of April 2019. Air Journey reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets.

The Registration fee includes:

- Extensive Navigation log (airports, route, frequencies, information of airspace, nav-aids, reporting points, international flight plan) tailored for each aircraft;
- Flight plans and eAPIS manifest (departure and arrival) filed on your behalf;
- Pilot briefing prior to each day's flight;
- Weather website with constant updates showing TAF, METAR, Wind Aloft, prognostic forecast and review;
- Fuel availability confirmed along the route of flight;
- Flight bag and collared, cotton shirt for the pilot with his name and aircraft tail number embroidered on the upper front. Shirts are available for passengers and crew at an additional cost.

Cancellation, refunds:

- a) **Cancellation by the client:** Is always required in writing and is subject to the following schedule of dates, whereby some or all moneys paid will be retained:
 - i) Given outside of 120 days of departure: AJ retains deposit per person and plane registration fee
 - ii) Between 120 and 90 days of departure: AJ retains 50% of tour cost and plane registration fee
 - iii) Between 89 and 45 days of departure: AJ retains 75% of tour cost and plane registration fee
 - iv) Less than 45 days or no show of departure: AJ retains 100% of tour cost and plane registration fee
- b) **Cancellation by AJ:** Should AJ cancel the tour after deposits have been received due to fewer than the minimum participants required, the full deposit will be refunded. Should AJ cancel the tour at any time due to factors beyond their control (including war, flood, force of nature, riot, civil action), they will refund the client whatever portion of moneys are reimbursed by ground operators and accommodation suppliers.

Survival equipment is available for rental on a daily basis and will be waiting for you at our departure point. Contact us for details. Life vests are mandatory. A life raft is recommended.

Travel and Cancellation Insurance

Travel and Cancellation Insurance is strongly recommended and not included in the package but it can be purchased from Air Journey for approximately 6% of the cost of the Journey. The actual cost is based on a person's state of residency, birth date and amount covered. Contact Anais ([561 841-1551 ext. 3](tel:5618411551)) at Air Journey for more details.

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