

TENTATIVE ITINERARY ISTANBUL

- * **Full day city tour** includes an overview of the city of Istanbul and a boat ride along the Bosphorus
- * **The Grand Bazaar.** Nothing can prepare you for The Grand Bazaar. This labyrinth of streets covered by painted vaults is lined with thousands of booth-like shops, whose wares spill out to tempt you. ic Bedesten is the oldest part of the Bazaar and was once a warehouse and place where jewelers could make and sell their wares. Zincirli Han is one of the prettiest hans. Here a piece of jewelry can be made of your own design. Crafts, rugs, brass, and more sold within The Grand Bazaar.
- * **Topkapi Palace**, built between 1459 and 1465, Topkapi Palace was conceived as a series of pavilions rather than a single building with four individual courtyards. Initially the palace served as a seat of government and the official residence of the Sultans. Its treasures contain many precious artifacts.
- * **Haghia Sophia**, built in 537 AD remains one of the world's greatest architectural achievements. It stands as a testament to the sophistication of the 6th century Byzantine capital.
- * **The Blue Mosque** was built by some of the same stonemasons who built the Taj Mahal. The mosque takes its name mainly from the blue Iznik tilework. It is most magical when seen at night by floodlights. It was built between 1609 - 16 by Mehmet Aga, the imperial architect
- * **Exclusive appointments** in the jewelry, textile, and fashion merchandising industries.
- * **Cafer Aga Courtyard**, the cells of this former college are arranged around a tranquil courtyard cafe, are now occupied by jewelers, calligraphers, and other artisans selling their wares.
- * **Archaeological Museum**, classical and pre-classical collections.
- * **Orient Express** made its first run from Paris to Istanbul in 1889 covering 1,800 mile journey in three days. Both Sirkeci Station and the Pera Palas Hotel in Istanbul were especially built to receive its passengers.
- * **Cagaloglu Baths** are among the city's more sumptuous Turkish baths. They were built by Sultan Mahmut I in 1741. Men's and women's sections are separate and each consists of three different parts; a camekan or entrance, a sogukluk or temperate passage, and the main bath hot chamber or bararet.
- * **Istanbul Crafts Center** where you can watch skilled artisans at work.
- * **Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts** on display in the former palace of Ibrahim Pasa, 1493-1536. Each room concentrates on a different chronological period or geographical area of the Islamic world.

ATHENS and GREEK ISLES Itinerary 2009

Thursday, October 1 Depart USA

Friday, October 2 Arrive Athens from Istanbul or USA. **Royal Olympic Hotel**, rest of the day at leisure.

Saturday, October 3 Half day city orientation **tour** including the Acropolis, site of the famous Parthenon. Afternoon free for shopping in the chic Kolonaki area. Museums to explore; Byzantine, Greek Folk Art, Cycladic (primitive) Art, Archaeological, Theatrical, War, National Art.

Sunday, October 4 The **Monastiraki Market** will be visited, a wonderful antique and flea market.

Monday, October 5 This morning you will be transferred to the port of **Piraeus** for embarkation of your cruise ship. Cruise to the island of **Mykonos** with its lovely white washed buildings and windmills.

Tuesday, October 6 Morning arrival in **Kusadasi**, Turkey. This is the site of one of the “Seven Wonders of the Ancient World”, Ephesus. Also see the house believed to be where the Virgin Mary spent her last years. Continue to the island of **Patmos** and the Monastery of St John the Divine. He received the Revelation here that forms the Last Book of the New Testament.

Wednesday, October 7 Full day on the island of roses, **Rhodes**, famed for its historic Old Town with twisting lanes, medieval buildings, Hippocrates Square, and great shopping, especially 18 K gold. Visit the Temple of Athena on the majestic Acropolis of Lindos (optional).

Thursday, October 8 Morning arrival at **Heraklion, Crete**, location of the Palace of Knossos, legendary home of the Minotaur. Crete is the site of the bronze age Minoan civilization. Afternoon sail to **Santorini**, perhaps the most beautiful of the Greek Isles. The village is perched on the rim of an ancient volcano and thought by many to be the Lost Continent of Atlantis.

Friday, October 9 Morning arrival at the port of **Piraeus**. Many islands, many memories. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your flight home.