



## **Voyage: August 24, 2021 | 24 NIGHTS – Odessa to Haifa**

### **Complimentary MAX Shore Program | IST505GV Mystical Cappadocia**

Come explore magical, mystical Cappadocia, with its fairy tale landscape of natural wonders and colourful history.

#### **ISTANBUL, TURKEY**

#### **4 Days / 3 nights**

- August 12 Ship arrives Istanbul @ 8 AM – Overnight
- August 13 Fly to Cappadocia – Overnight
- August 14 Cappadocia – Overnight
- August 15 Fly Cappadocia to Kepez to join the ship

Activity Level: Strenuous

Meals: Included as per itinerary below

#### **Daily Itinerary:**

#### **Day 1**

Arrive in Istanbul and enjoy a full day of touring the city's marquee sites. Following your day of exploration, return to the ship for a brief rest before heading out for a nice dinner that evening that also features an authentic whirling dervish show. Afterwards, return to the ship to overnight.

#### **Day 2**

Disembark the ship and head to the airport for your flight from Istanbul to Kayseri in central Turkey – the gateway to the Cappadocia region. The area at times seems like something out of a dream, with its deep valleys, fissures, and slopes that were turned into cones and columns as mother nature carved away at the lava rock. The volcanic rock is also perfect for carving entire buildings and the area is famous for these carved homes, stables, churches, and small cells used by hermits and monks. Many people still live in these rock formations, which are naturally cool in the summer.

When you first arrive, you will find yourself in an area that resembles the surface of the Moon and it is here your adventure begins. Start by seeing the natural citadel of Uchisar, which will allow you to get an extraordinary panoramic view of the region. Enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant before taking the walking path that connects to the Göreme Valley. This valley houses the Göreme Open Air Museum, which features churches and monasteries hewn out of rock that are adorned with colorful frescoes. From here, drive to the town of Avanos for check-in at the Anka Cave Suit Hotel where you will have dinner and spend the night.

### **Day 3**

Start the day with an **optional** early morning hot air balloon ride over the region. It's an unforgettable experience as you silently glide over the dramatic landscape while the sun rises and casts its light on the scenery below. Coming back to earth, have a late breakfast at your hotel and then set out for a full day of exploring. First, you will head to the south of Nevsehir for a visit to the underground city of Kaymakli. Used for centuries as a place of refuge, these underground cities were mostly abandoned after 1923.

Continue with a drive to the Ihlara Valley with its incredible gorge that has a stunning river running right down the heart of the valley. Near the province of Aksaray, it is still considered part of the southern Cappadocia region. Take an easy walk along a leafy nature trail dotted with numerous cave churches you can explore. Then, following lunch in the picturesque town of Beli Sirma, you will head to Derbent and the Guvercinlik (Pidgeon) Valley for an orientation tour and a chance to do some shopping. At the end of your activities, return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

### **Day 4**

Your final day starts with breakfast at the hotel and then a transfer to the airport where you will catch your flight to Kepez. On arrival, transfer directly to the pier and board the ship.

**Contact: Cruise Connections Canada**

Toll Free: 1-800-661-WAVE (9283)

Email: [info@cruise-connections.com](mailto:info@cruise-connections.com)

[www.cruise-connections.com](http://www.cruise-connections.com)