



## GREECE

# TÜRKIYE (TURKEY) & THE GREEK ISLANDS EXPLORER JOURNEYS

(TOUR CODE: 12975)

### STARTS AND ENDS

Istanbul to  
Athens

### TRAVEL PERIODS

18 May 25 - 14 Sep 25

### EXPERIENCE

Escorted

### TRAVEL STYLE

Group Journeys

Discover the best of Türkiye and Greece, from ancient wonders to the cultural riches of Istanbul and Athens, all capped off with a 4-night cruise aboard the Celestial Cruise.

## Highlights

- **Guaranteed Departures.** Small group sizes (max 24 passengers). English speaking only tour with an experienced Tour Director.
- Cruise the Aegean Sea aboard **Celestial Olympia Cruise**
- Enjoy a **boat trip along the Bosphorus** to witness Istanbul's skyline, historic landmarks, and the unique experience of being between two continents.
- Be amazed by **Pamukkale's natural marvel:** white waterfall, hot spring pools, and distinct calcareous formations, shaped by lime-rich waters.
- Marvel at the beautiful Cyclades island like **Mykonos and Santorini**

Embark on an awe-inspiring journey through Turkey and the Greek islands. Be amazed by Istanbul's iconic landmarks, Cappadocia's mesmerizing landscapes, Konya's spiritual essence, and Pamukkale's natural marvels. Fly to Greece and discover the rich history and captivating beauty of Athens, followed by a remarkable 4-night journey onboard the stunning Celestial Cruise.



GUARANTEED DEPARTURES



SMALL GROUP SIZES



SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL



ENGLISH-ONLY EXPERT GUIDES



CITY-CENTRE QUALITY HOTELS



SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDED



SLOWER-PACED ITINERARY



✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period

✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind

✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support

✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices

✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited

✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

## INCLUSIONS

- 10-nights accommodation in a 4-star hotel
- 4-nights onboard the Celestial Cruise
- One way flight from Istanbul to Athens
- Transportation by coach
- Private transfers to/from airport as per itinerary
- Onboard the cruise: All meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner), glass of soft drinks, wine or beer during meals, tea-time, Midnight Snack, Entertainment and Activities on board
- Daily Breakfast at the Hotel
- Dinners as per itinerary
- Guided visits in Athens, Istanbul, Cappadocia, Pamukkale, and Esmirna
- Ephesus Shore Excursion
- English-Speaking Only Tour Director throughout the journey (expect during the Cruise)

## ITINERARY

### Intro Map

Turkey & The Greek Islands Explorer Journeys



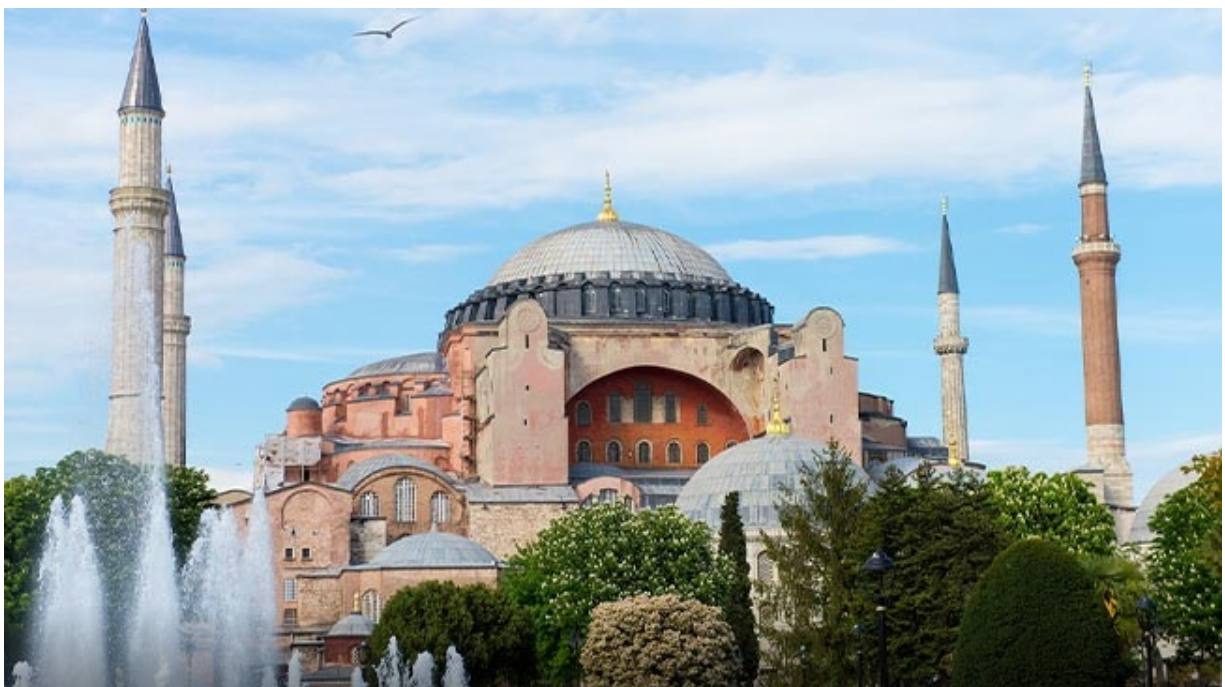
## Day 1 Istanbul Airport Istanbul

Upon your arrival at the airport, a private transfer will be awaiting for you and transfer you to your hotel.

At 19:00, meet with your Tour Director at the hotel's Reception Desk for a welcome meeting where you will also be meeting your fellow travellers. Following the meeting, enjoy a delightful dinner in a local restaurant.

Overnight stay in Istanbul at **Hotel Barcelo Istanbul**.

Dinner



## Day 2 Istanbul

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Departure from the hotel to visit the **Topkapi Palace**, residence of the sultans of the Ottoman Empire and it's situated in a strategic location overlooking the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn. The palace is renowned for its opulent architecture, lush

gardens, and intriguing collections of artifacts.

Then, enjoy a lunch in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, visit the **Sultanahmet** neighborhood with the Roman Hippodrome square, the Blue Mosque, unique among all Ottoman mosques in having 6 minarets and the splendid 6th century Hagia Sophia Mosque.

In the evening, discover the **Egyptian Bazaar**, a vibrant market filled with an array of aromatic spices, teas, sweets, nuts, and more.

Overnight stay in Istanbul at **Hotel Barcelo Istanbul**.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **3**

## Istanbul Cappadocia

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

In the morning, we will have a **panoramic tour of the city**, passing through the important neighborhoods of the historical part and the modern part of the city, including a walk along the pedestrian street of Istiklal.

Time at leisure in the **Grand Bazaar** (closed on Sundays, religious holidays and on October 29), a building that houses more than 4,000 shops inside.

Take a **boat trip through the Bosphorus**, the strait that separates Europe from Asia where we can enjoy the great beauty of the forests of Istanbul, its palaces and the yali, wooden palaces built on both banks.

After the tour, transfer to the airport to take a **domestic flight to Cappadocia**.

Upon your arrival in Cappadocia, you will be transferred to your hotel. If your arrival time at the hotel is after 10:00 p.m., dinner will be provided in the form of a boxed meal.

Overnight stay in Cappadocia at **Carus Cappadocia**.

Breakfast, Dinner



## Day 4

### Cappadocia

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

The morning is free for you to enjoy at your leisure. Alternatively, you have the option to enhance your experience by choosing a **sunrise balloon ride** (*Please note: This is not included in the package and can be purchased on-site*).

Later, we will embark on a captivating exploration of this remarkable region, characterized by a unique landscape sculpted by the volcanic eruptions of Erciyes and Hasan Volcanoes that occurred 3 million years ago. Our journey begins with a visit to the **Göreme valley**, where you will discover a multitude of monasteries and chapels intricately carved into the rock formations and adorned with exquisite frescoes.

Continue to the **Avclar and Güvercinlik valleys**, both boasting awe-inspiring vistas of the iconic "Fairy Chimneys." This route also leads us to the troglodyte **town of Uçhisar**, a living testament to its era, with dwellings etched into the rock and a commanding fortress that has withstood the test of time. In Cappadocia you have the opportunity also to visit the **typical workshops of Turkish carpets**.

In the evening, enjoy a delightful dinner at your hotel.

Overnight stay in Cappadocia at **Carus Cappadocia**.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **5**

## Cappadocia Konya

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

During the morning, we will have the opportunity to visit a **traditional pottery workshop**, where the age-old craft comes to life. Continuing our journey, we will encounter a remarkably intact 13th-century **Caravanserai**, a haven for travelers seeking respite along their routes.

En route, we will explore the **Serhatli underground city**. Constructed by Christian communities as a safeguard against Arab assaults, this city offers a glimpse into the strategic craftsmanship of its time.

Upon arriving in **Konya**, we will visit the **Mevlana Monastery**, the spiritual home of the whirling dervishes. This immersive experience provides a captivating window into the rich tapestry of traditional Turkish culture.

In the evening, enjoy a delightful dinner at your hotel.

Overnight stay in Konya at **Hotel Dedeman**.

Breakfast, Dinner



## Konya Pamukkale

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

We depart to **Pamukkale**, a true marvel of nature boasting a massive white cascade, intricate stalactite formations, and inviting natural pools created by the thermal springs. Renowned for its remarkable calcareous terraces, which have crystallized over time due to the calcium-rich water sourced from the region.

We will, then, visit **Hierapolis**, where a vast necropolis featuring over 150,000 tombs awaits our discovery.

In the evening, enjoy a delightful dinner at your hotel.

Overnight stay in Pamukkale at **Hotel Doga Termal**.

Breakfast, Dinner

## Pamukkale Ephesus Izmir Istanbul

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Departure to **Ephesus**, the capital of Asia Minor in Roman times. Visit the archaeological vestiges, where the temple of Hadrian and the library of Celso stand out. We will have the chance to visit a typical fur production center.

Later, we will make our way to Izmir's airport to catch a flight back to Istanbul. Upon arrival, we will come together with the fellow travelers for a memorable **Farewell Dinner** hosted at a local restaurant.

Overnight stay in Istanbul at **Hotel Barcelo Istanbul**.

Breakfast, Dinner



## Istanbul Athens

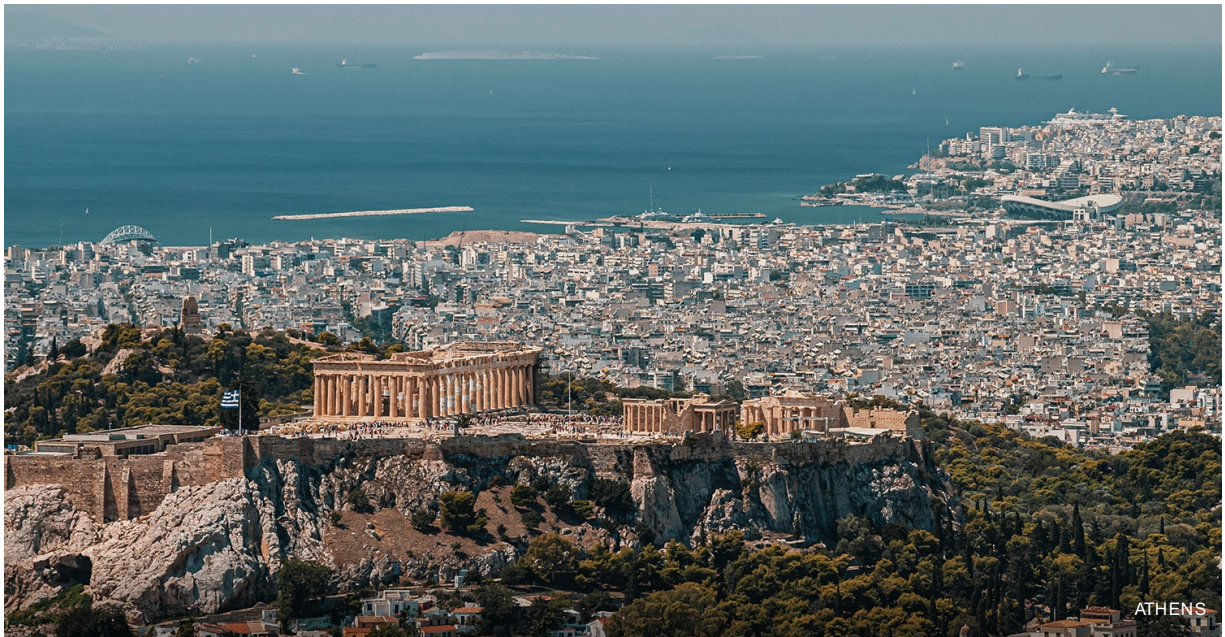
Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel. A private transfer will meet you and transfer you to airport.

At 19:00, meet with your Tour Director (TD) at the hotel's Reception Desk for a welcome meeting. You will also meet your fellow travellers.

Join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Dinner in Athens at a local restaurant.

Overnight stay in Athens at **Hotel Golden Age of Athens**.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **9** Athens Board your Cruise Mikonos

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

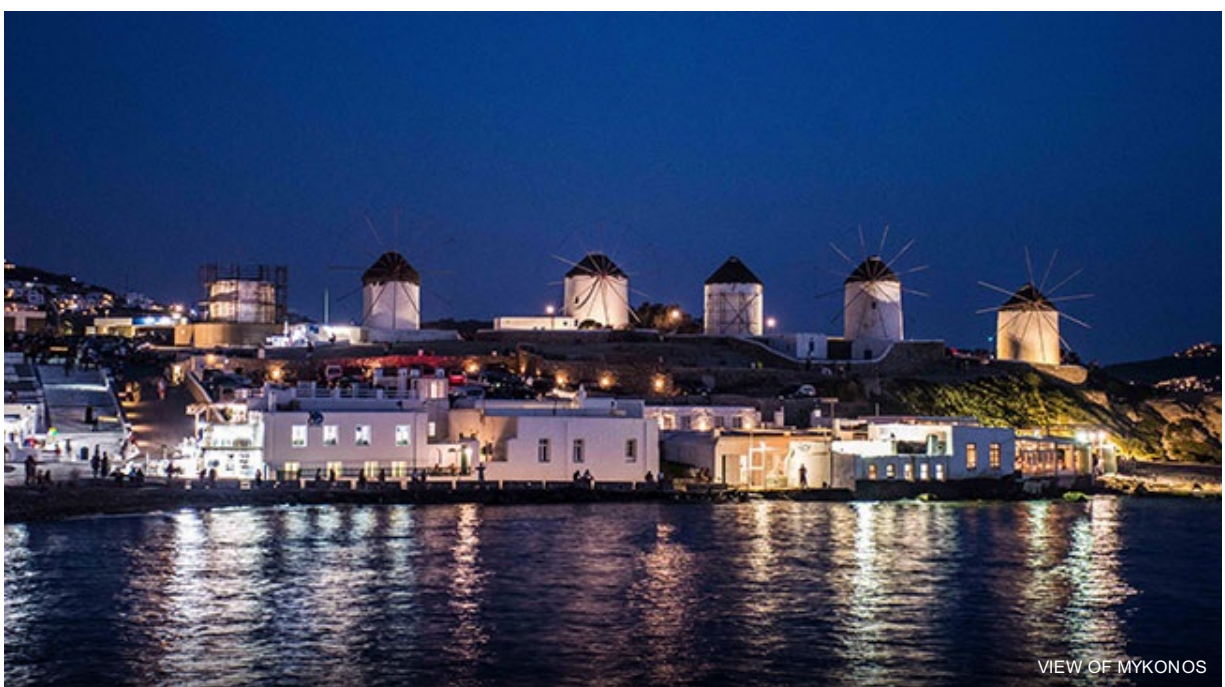
All aboard the Celestial Olympia Cruise to discover the beauties of the Aegean Sea and its unique Mediterranean islands.

This reathtaking 4-night Iconic Aegean tour gives you an unforgettable feast of ancient history, authentic cuisine, Greek culture and stunning vistas. From the captivating capital of Athens, your voyage takes you through crystal-clear waters to discover an exciting blend of thrilling attractions, dramatic cliffs, rolling landscapes and all the romanticism of the Greek islands. Set yourself up in your exterior cabin, where you'll be staying for the next 4 nights.

Join your Tour Director and fellow travellers to discover the ship followed by your private welcome dinner.

Overnight stay onboard the **Celestial Discovery** in an Exterior Stateroom Cabin.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **10** Cruise: Kusadasi (Turkey) Patmos



Enjoy your full buffet breakfast on board the ship.

Day at leisure to enjoy your cruise and the Mediterranean scenery. Choose amongst the various shore excursions offered by Celestial cruises. Your Tour Director will help you organizing them.

Overnight stay onboard the **Celestial Discovery** in an Exterior Stateroom Cabin.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



## Day 11 Cruise: Rhodes Island

Enjoy your full buffet breakfast on board the ship.

Day at leisure to enjoy your cruise and the Mediterranean scenery. Choose amongst the various shore excursions offered by Celestial cruises (extra cost). Your Tour Director will help you organizing them.

Overnight stay onboard the **Celestial Discovery** in an Exterior Stateroom Cabin.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **12** Cruise: Crete (Heraklion) Santorini

Enjoy your full buffet breakfast on board the ship.

Day at leisure to enjoy your cruise and the Mediterranean scenery. Choose amongst the various shore excursions offered by Celestial cruises. Your Tour Director will help you organizing them.

Overnight stay onboard the **Celestial Discovery** in an Exterior Stateroom Cabin.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **13** Cruise: Lavrio Port (Athens)

Enjoy your full buffet breakfast on board the ship.

Arrive at Lavrio, Athens' Port, at 0600 and commence disembarkation. Once at the port, your Tour Director will guide you to meet your Greek local guide to discover the city of Athens.

Drive through Panatenaico Stadium, where modern Olympics took over in 1896. Stop at Zeus Temple, father of all Gods. Continue to discover the main sites of Athens, such as the Parliament, Currency Museum, the Catholic Cathedral, Academia's neoclassic buildings, the University, the National Library and Adriano's Arc.

Continue to discover the highlight of the day, the Acropolis Archeological area. Propileos, Atenea Nike's Temple, the original Erektion's Temple, and Poseidon.

Check in at your hotel and rest of the day at leisure for you enjoy this historically stunning city of Athens.

Overnight stay in Athens at **Hotel Golden Age of Athens**.

Breakfast



Day **14** Athens

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Day at leisure for you enjoy the city. Optionally, you can have Delphi full day with lunch (not included).

In the early evening, join your fellow travellers for a final Farewell dinner.

Overnight stay in Athens at **Hotel Titania**

Breakfast



Day **15** Athens Athens Airport

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before a private transfer takes you to the airport.

Breakfast

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Barcelo Istanbul

The recently renovated Barceló Istanbul hotel is situated at the heart of the city near the elegant Taksim Square. It offers 270 well-designed rooms and suites with modern amenities, providing utmost comfort. The hotel boasts contemporary facilities including a rooftop lounge, sunbathing area with jacuzzis, and an impressive 1,200 square meter Wellness and Fitness Center. Additionally, it features 7 versatile event spaces accommodating up to 600 individuals, equipped for successful meetings and gatherings. The hotel's prime location in the Beyoglu district makes it an excellent choice for both business and leisure travelers, allowing them to immerse themselves in Istanbul's rich historical, cultural, and economic offerings.



### Carus Cappadocia

#### Cappadocia

Situated in Göreme and located 3.9 km from Uchisar Castle, Carus Cappadocia provides concierge services, non-smoking accommodations, a garden, complimentary WiFi, and a bar. All rooms at Carus Cappadocia are distinct from one another, each exemplifying unique sizes, architectural details, and forms. The hotel offers a total of 39 stone rooms and 11 cave rooms.



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## Dedeman

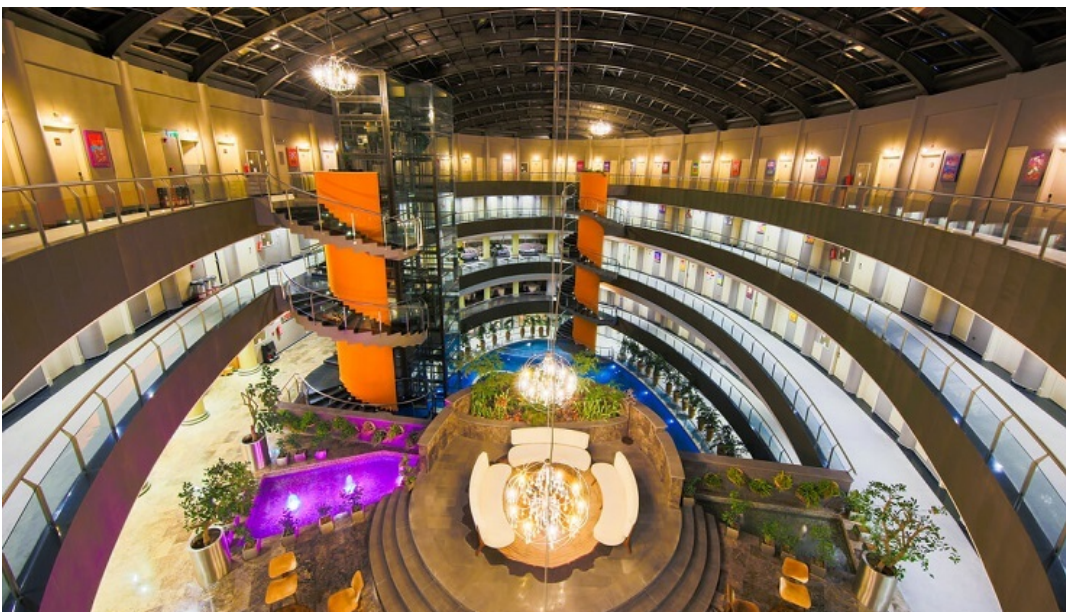
Nestled in the heart of Konya, Dedeman Hotel presents rooms with complimentary Wi-Fi, conveniently situated next to one of the city's largest shopping centers. The hotel boasts a rooftop bar and a range of recreational amenities, including an outdoor swimming pool, squash court, and fitness center. The contemporary air-conditioned rooms at Dedeman Konya Hotel Convention Center are equipped with a flat-screen TV and minibar. Indulge in Turkish and International cuisine at the Safran Restaurant amidst sophisticated surroundings. For panoramic city views, the Roof Restaurant and Bar is a perfect choice, and 24-hour room service is at your disposal. The hotel's offerings encompass an indoor swimming pool, hot tub, and hammam, inviting relaxation and massage indulgence.



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## Doğa Thermal

Beyond being a localized thermal hotel, Doğa Thermal Health & Spa boasts consistent therapeutic thermal water temperatures throughout the year, an expansive 693-square-meter spa and wellness center, four distinct conference venues, and a variety of leisure and communal spaces. As an opulent 5-star gem in the Karahayıt-Pamukkale region, this extraordinary establishment, located approximately 3 kilometers from the UNESCO World Heritage site of Pamukkale and conveniently situated about an hour's drive (60 km/37.28 miles) from Denizli Çardak Airport, offers an unparalleled experience.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Greek

### LOCAL CURRENCY

Euro(€)

- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit.

### Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fee
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package (Entrance tickets to sites and museums)

## IN PARTNERSHIP

