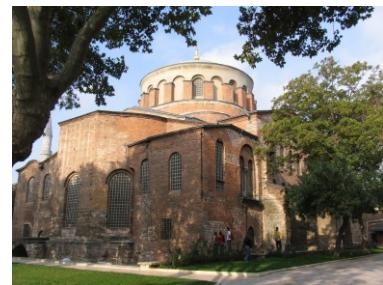




# Art and History in the Eternal Capital: Istanbul

with Tour Leader Allan Langdale

For seventeen centuries Istanbul was the capital city of a great empire; first the Byzantine and then the Ottoman. Join art historian Dr. Allan Langdale on a series of pedestrian adventures exploring both the highlights and unknown corners of Constantinople/Istanbul. In a series of urban itineraries with an expert on the history, art, and architecture of the city, peel back the multiple layers of time, see pockets of Istanbul the way it was in centuries past, and live the wonders of one of the world's greatest cities!



# Introduction:

Dr. Allan Langdale is an art and architectural historian who has travelled widely in Italy, Turkey, Greece, and other Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries. He often works on trips for Smithsonian Journeys, Lindblad/National Geographic, and Zegrahm Expeditions. He is the author of several articles and books such as *In a Contested Realm: An Illustrated Guide to the Art, Archaeology, and Architecture of Northern Cyprus* (2012), *Palermo: Travels in the City of Happiness* (2015), and *The Hippodrome of Istanbul / Constantinople: a Handbook of its History* (2018). You can find out more about Allan and follow his travel blog at 'Allan's Art and Architecture Worlds'.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: September 1, 2019

Travel from US to Istanbul. Transfers to hotels [Yeşil Ev and Sultan Zeynep; or other in close vicinity of Sultan Ahmet Square] Evening introductions and briefing for next day held at Sultan Zeynep Hotel.

### Day 2: September 2, 2019

**AM:** Meet group after breakfast 9:30 am for walking tour of Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque, the Küçük Ayia Sofia (Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus), Boukoleon Palace. Lunch.

**PM:** The Palace Mosaics followed by free time; some people might like to visit the Bazaar. Dinner on your own but attend briefing at 8:00 pm at hotel.

### Day 3: September 3, 2019

**AM:** Meet group after breakfast 9:30 am Basilica cistern and Topkapi Palace with lunch in the Topkapi palace.

**PM:** Hagia Sophia, the Spice Bazaar and the Rustem Pasha mosque. Dinner together. Briefing after dinner.

## **Day 4: September 4, 2019**

**AM:** Meet group after breakfast 9:00 am: Ferry ride up the Golden Horn to the city walls. Walk along city walls, visit the Tekfur Sarai, Church of the Christ in Chora, and the Virgin Pammakaristos. Lunch.

**PM:** Continue walk along the walls of Constantinople to the Yedikule. Commuter train return to Sultan Ahmet square. Dinner. Briefing after dinner.

## **Day 5: September 5, 2019**

**AM:** Meet group after breakfast 9:00 am: Commuter ferry to Üsküdar, walk in Üsküdar market; continue with commuter ferries to Boğaz Hatti ferry stop and tour of the Rumeli Fortress.

**PM:** Free time for individual exploration, or I can take people to Hagia Eirene (if it's open). Meet for group dinner in Kumkapi & briefing.

## **Day 6: September 6, 2019**

**AM:** Meet group after breakfast 9:30 am The Suleiman Mosque and Kulliye with the tomb of Sinan. Lunch.

**PM:** The Fatih Mosque, aqueduct of Valens, and the Zeyrek Cami (Church of the Pantocrator). Dinner and briefing for flights tomorrow.

## **Day 7: September 7, 2019**

**AM:** Archaeological Museum of Istanbul. Gülhane Gardens. Lunch.

**PM:** Walk to Pera, go up the Galata Tower, walk along İstiklal Street and take the trams. To Taksim area for dinner. Return.

## **Day 8: September 8, 2019**

**AM:** Meet group after breakfast 9:00 am. Ferry to the Princess Island. All-day excursion with lunch in the Princess Island. Return for farewell dinner.

## Day 9: September 9, 2019

**AM:** Transfers to airport for onward flights or flights home.

## How the Trip Works

Guests are responsible for their own flights, airport transfers, hotel reservations, entry fees, meals and all sundry expenses of travel. The advantage of this is that you can use your miles for the airfare and book hotel rooms that are within your desired price range (as long as they are in the area of Sultan Ahmet Square so we are all close to one another). The group size is limited to six people maximum, four minimum, who have good walking abilities and who are in good health. Travel and health insurance is required and a waiver exempting your Tour Leader from any liabilities must be signed before the commencement of the trip. We shall all rendezvous at a designated time and place and meet every day to enjoy the itinerary together. As your Tour Leader I'll facilitate all aspects of your days, itinerary and transportation (usually public transportation; though walking is involved). Guests will contribute \$90 per day per person for seven days. This will cover your Tour Leader's air fare, transportation, meals, lodging, site entry fees, and guiding and lecturing duties. Since the group will be small, we can have lectures in hotel rooms equipped with large screen TVs. Fees should be paid in advance two months before the journey begins. Contact me regarding cancellation policies. Tipping is entirely discretionary.

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\*Note that it is quite possible for you to add elements either to before or after the itinerary above. If you are interested in seeing more of Turkey's wonders, I can put you in contact with a very good Turkish operator who can arrange trips to Ephesus or Cappadocia or other places in Turkey.