



### Program

We will take you on a guided tour of the main attractions of Istanbul. We are going to visit the Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent, the Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia and the Grand Bazaar.

### Hippodrome

The Hippodrome has been a center for sports and entertainment in the old Constantinople, the Roman capital; as well as very important center for politics, as sports and politics were closely knitted up at these times. No wonder that the Hippodrome has been a starting point for revolts and political movements throughout the history. Echoes of cries by slaves riding chariots in ferocious races; and the passionate words of intellectuals and poets that lit the flame of public movements are still reminiscent, to those with a powerful imagination.

### Sultan Ahmet Camii / The Blue Mosque

It was the dying wish of Sultan Ahmet, who perished at a young age at the 17th century, due to a disease, to finish the mosque so that his name would live forever.

It is called Blue Mosque by visitors who fell in the awe of the delicate designs of Ottoman tiles that decorate the walls of the shrine. The floral patterns of the tiles, as well as well lighted, capacious internal spaces are a testimonial of the eternity of the soul.

## **Ayasofya / The Haghia Sophia**

The "Shrine of Holy Wisdom", the marvelous Byzantine basilica built in the 6th century Marks the true beginning of the golden age of Justinianus, the conqueror of Africa and Italy, who achieved lasting fame through the complete revision of all Roman law, resulting in what is known today as the Corpus Juris Civilis.

The domed construction of the sanctuary is an architectural innovation; and was so richly and artistically decorated that Justinian proclaimed, "Solomon, I have outdone thee!". Mankind would have to wait for over millennia before being able to build a cathedral that would surpass the gigantic size of Haghia Sophia.

It was converted to a Mosque following the Ottoman conquest of the city, by the order of Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror in 1453; as the young Sultan fulfilled a divine premonition by the Holy Prophet Mohammad himself. In 1935 the building was converted to a museum, by the executive order of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey.

## **Grand Bazaar**

The largest and the most attractive covered bazaar in the world; where people have been trading diamonds, carpets, food, perfumes, and, even gossip for centuries!

**The price per person is 40,00 €**

### **INCLUDES:**

- Transportation by air conditioned vehicles.
- Fully escorted by an English speaking tour guide.
- Admission fees.

### **EXCLUDES:**

- Drinks and all personal expenses.
- The VAT (18%) is not included in the price.

### **TERMS & CONDITIONS:**

- A credit card for guarantee is required.
- Cancellations can be done until 12/12/2014 in order to avoid penalty, otherwise full tour rate will be charged. 100% will be charged to non show.
- Children 11 and younger receive 50% discount.

**Reserve your seat through email to [info@wseas.org](mailto:info@wseas.org) until December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

*The tickets are subject to the bus seats availability.*