

## Rotary Club Genève International - Trip to Istanbul, Turkey

### *Tentative Program by Walter B. Gyger*

7 June, Thursday			Individual flight booking
	18:25	Departure from Geneva	Main group
	22:35	Arrival to Istanbul	
		Shuttle to Swissotel	

8 June, Friday		Breakfast	individual
	09:00	Departure from Swissotel	group
	09:30	Arrival to Sultanahmet area	group
		Visit of Hagia Sophia	around 1 hour
		Walk to Yerebatan Sarnici and visit	3/4 hour
		Visit of Blue Mosque	1 hour
		Visit of Topkapi Palace	around 1,5 hours
		Lunch at Topkapi Palace	3/4 hour
	14:15	Visit and shopping at Grand Bazar	
	16:30	Return to Swissotel	
	19:00	Departure to the Residence of the Swiss General Consul	
	19:30	Reception by the General Consul of Switzerland	

9 June, Saturday		Breakfast	individual
	09.15	Departure from Swissotel	
	09:30	Tour of Dolmabahce Palace	around 1,5 hours
	11:00	Cruise on the Bosphorus	around 1,5 hours
	12:30	Visit of Spice Market	
	13:00	Lunch at Hamdi Restaurant	
	14:00	Departure to Taksim Square	
	14.30	Tour of Taksim, Beyoglu, Istiklal Avenue and Pera area	
	16:30	Back to Swissotel	
	19:00	Departure to Bebek	
	19:30	Dinner in a typical fish restaurant	

10 June, Sunday	Breakfast	Individual
	Hotel check-out	Individual
09:30	Departure from Swissotel	with luggage
	Tour of the archaeology museum and small farewell lunch	
13:00	Shuttle to Atatürk Airport	Main group
15:20	Departure to Geneva	
17:35	Arrival at Geneva	



**Recommended Swissotel “The Bosphorus”, Istanbul:**

<https://www.swissotel.com/hotels/istanbul/media/photos/>

**07 June // Arrival transfers :**

For 01 to 09 pax in the same transfer, private transfer from Atatürk Airport to Swissotel is EURO 80.- per transfer way.

For 10 to 19 pax in the same transfer, private transfer from Atatürk Airport to Swissotel is EURO 110.- per transfer per way.

For 20 pax or more in the same transfer, private transfer from Atatürk Airport to Swissotel is EURO 130.- per transfer per way.

**08 June // Full day tour :**

We begin our tour of the Sultanahmet district, the heart of old Istanbul, at Hagia Sophia. Built by the Emperor Justinian in the early 6th century AD and designed by Anthemius of Tralles and Isodore of Miletus, the church is one of the marvels of world architecture. Converted into a mosque in 1453, it is now a museum. Its massive dome still dominates the skyline of old Istanbul. It is also famed for its mosaics, including glittering portraits of emperors and empresses and a poignant Virgin and Child. Next we visit the Blue Mosque which takes its name from the exquisite tiles adorning its interior. Built by Sultan Ahmet I in the early 17th century and designed by a pupil of Sinan, the greatest of Ottoman architects, it is the only imperial mosque with six minarets. Its courtyard is

especially grand. The Hippodrome, the stadium of ancient Byzantium, held 100,000 spectators and featured objects from all corners of the empire. Of these, an Egyptian obelisk and a bronze sculpture of three entwined serpents from Delphi survive. Lunch. After lunch, we begin our tour at Topkapi Palace, which, from the 15th to the 19th century, was the principal residence of the Ottoman Sultans. We will visit the fabulous Imperial Treasury and the Baghdad Kiosk. Topkapi Palace is now a museum and has unrivalled collections of jewelry, including the Spoonmaker's Diamond, the 3rd largest in the world. It also possesses numerous Ottoman court costumes and ceramics, notably including one of the world's finest collections of Chinese celadon ceramics, many of which were gifts from other rulers. Interestingly, some of the ceramics have a special glaze that was said to change color in the presence of poison. We also visit the Imperial Armory, displaying centuries of Ottoman weaponry. But perhaps the loveliest feature of Topkapi Palace are its courtyards with their ancient trees; it is easy to imagine the sultan strolling here far from the cares of state and empire. Our last visit will be The Grand Bazaar, which was the commercial heart of the old city and its 4,000 shops are full of treasures including carpets and kilims, silks, jewelry, ceramics, icons, and leather goods. Wandering through the Grand Bazaar, indulge in some shopping, Ottoman style. After tour, transfer back to hotel.

Price for 21 pax : EURO 65.- per person including services of a private guide between 09:00-18:00 hrs, private transportation between 09:00-18:00 hrs , entrance fees, expenses of the guide and the driver, set menu lunch without drinks at Konyali Restaurant in Topkapi Palace

#### Lunch menu of restaurant

*Soup & Pastry with cheese*

*Turkish Doner Kebab Meat & Chicken with; Rice, Mashed Potatoes and Vegetable*

*Mixed Season Salad*

*Milk Pudding*

*1 Ottoman Palace Sherbet + Water*

#### **09 Jun // Full day tour :**

Enjoy a half day tour of the Bosphorus District which is the most charming part of the city of Istanbul. Upon our pick up from the hotel, firstly we visit the magnificent Dolmabahce Palace which in the 19th century was the principle residence and the administration center of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. With its splendor baroque exterior and mixture of traditional and European interior decorations; curtains, carpets, furniture and chandeliers, it is a reminder of the formidable Ottoman Empire. Our guide gives us an explanative tour in the corridors, saloons and administrative halls and the whole visit makes us aware of one of magnificent empires of our world which ruled Asia, Africa and Europe continents in health and peace. After the palace, we start our

2 hours cruise on the Bosphorus by our private boat. At the end of the tour, disembark near the Golden Horn. Lunch at Hamdi Kebab Restaurant. After lunch, visit Taksim, Beyoglu, Istiklal Avenue and Pera area. After tour, transfer back to hotel.

Price for 21 pax : EURO 90.- per person including services of a private guide between 09:00-18:00 hrs, private transportation between 09:00-18:00 hrs , entrance fees, expenses of the guide and the driver, set menu lunch without drinks at Hamdi Kebab Restaurant and 2 hours cruise on the Bosphorus by private boat (no time to disembark at Asian side and return back to European side)

#### Lunch menu of restaurant

White Flat Bread

¼ Turkish "Tulum" Cheese

(made in goat skin)

Served with fresh butter

Soup

Mini Turkish Pizza

Stuffed giant meat ball

½ Season's Salad

KEBAP PLATE;

Urfa Kebap(160 gr.)

(Served with Rice, Tomatoes, Pepper, Onion)

2 Slices of Baklava

Water included

#### **10 Jun // Half day tour :**

After breakfast at hotel, half day tour of the archaeology museum. This superb museum showcases archaeological and artistic treasures from the Topkapı collections. Housed in three buildings, its exhibits include ancient artefacts, classical statuary and an exhibition tracing İstanbul's history. There are many highlights, but the sarcophagi from the Royal Necropolis of Sidon are particularly striking.

Price for 21 pax : EURO 25.- per person including services of a private guide between 09:00-18:00 hrs, private transportation between 09:00-18:00 hrs , entrance fees, expenses of the guide and the driver

**10 Jun // Departure transfer :**

After tour, transfer to Atatürk Airport.

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***Tentative Budget: approx. 1'000 €***

Flight	218.95	Prices may increase
Transport from and to Airport	10 € each way	
Hotel, breakfast included	120 single room 140 double room	Add 8% TVA See above
Day 1 (visit old town)	80.00 €	Lunch included
Dinner 1 <sup>st</sup> Day	50.00 €	I will ask a Turkish journalist to present us the political and economic situation of the country
Day 2 (visit Beyoglu, short trip on the Bosphorus with stop at the Asian side)	100.00 €	
Dinner	50.00 €	We can either renounce on a joint dinner or have dinner at the Bosphorus
Day 3 (visit archeological museum and transport to airport)	25.00 €	