



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) and *Palermo: Travels in the City of Happiness* (2015). You can find out more about Allan, and follow his travel blog at 'Allan's Art and Architecture Worlds'.

Itinerary

Day 1:

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

Day 2:

AM: Meet group after breakfast 9:00 am for walking tour of Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque, and the Küçük Ayia Sofia (Church of Saints Sergius and Bachhus). Lunch.

PM: The palace mosaics and Hagia Sophia. Dinner. Briefing after dinner.

Day 3:

AM: Basilica cistern and Topkapi Palace with lunch in the Topkapi palace.

PM: The spice bazaar and the Rustem Pasha mosque, return walk through the Istanbul bazaar. Dinner. Briefing after dinner.

Day 4:

AM: Ferry ride up the Golden Horn to the city walls. Walk along city walls, visit the Tekfur Sarai and the church of the Christ in Chora. 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:

AM: Commuter ferry to Üsküdar, walk in Üsküdar market; continue with commuter ferries to Boğaz Hattı ferry stop and tour of the Rumeli Fortress.

PM: Free time for individual exploration. Meet for group dinner in Kumkapi. Briefing.

Day 6:

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:

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. In other words nothing is included in the trip. 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, including transportation (usually public transportation; though walking is involved). Guests will contribute \$75 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 (4-5 of them) in hotel rooms equipped with large screen TVs. This avoids the high costs for hotel conference rooms. Half the amount (\$260.00 per person) would be paid in advance two months before the journey, and the remainder in cash (US dollars or equivalent local currency) at the start of the trip. Contact me regarding cancellation policies. Tipping is entirely discretionary.

Allan Langdale Contact Information:

E-Mail: allanlangdale1@gmail.com
Tel. (US): 805.722.5731
Website: <https://allansartworlds.sites.ucsc.edu/>

