

# Dolmabahce Palace and Ancient Istanbul Tour



## Highlights

- Explore Dolmabahce Palace with its luxurious interiors and imperial history
- Visit Suleymaniye Mosque, one of the most important landmarks in Istanbul
- Discover hidden gems like the 1001 Columns Cistern and Little Hagia Sophia

## Description

The Dolmabahce Palace and Ancient Istanbul Tour is a half-day experience that combines imperial architecture with lesser-known historical sites of the city. This tour offers a different perspective of Istanbul, focusing on Ottoman elegance and Byzantine heritage in a compact program.

The tour begins with a visit to the impressive Dolmabahce Palace, located along the Bosphorus. Known for its richly decorated halls and European-influenced design, the palace reflects the final period of the Ottoman Empire. Inside, you will see remarkable details such as the famous crystal chandelier gifted by Queen Victoria, along with elegant salons and ceremonial halls. The palace also holds a special place in modern Turkish history as the residence of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

The program continues with the Suleymaniye Mosque, one of the largest and most significant mosques in Istanbul. Built on one of the city's seven hills, it offers both architectural beauty and panoramic views. The mosque complex also includes the tombs of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and Hurrem Sultan, adding historical depth to the visit.

The tour then explores lesser-known but equally fascinating sites. You will visit the Cistern of 1001 Columns, an atmospheric underground structure from the Byzantine period, followed by the Little Hagia Sophia, a peaceful and historically important mosque that reflects early Byzantine architecture.

This tour is ideal for travelers who want to go beyond the most common routes and experience a mix of iconic landmarks and hidden historical sites within a shorter timeframe.

### Included

- Half-day guided Istanbul tour
- Entrance to Dolmabahce Palace
- Visits to Suleymaniye Mosque, 1001 Columns Cistern, and Little Hagia Sophia
- Professional guide service
- Transportation during the tour

### Excluded

- Personal expenses

### Important information

- Duration: 5-6 hours
- Available days: Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
- Available hours: 08:30
- This is a half-day tour with an approximate duration of 4 hours
- Pick-up is usually around 08:30 depending on your location
- The tour includes visits to both indoor and outdoor historical sites
- When visiting mosques, appropriate dress is required; shoulders and knees should be covered, and women are advised to bring a scarf
- Comfortable walking shoes are recommended
- Program may vary depending on operational conditions

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