



## ISTANBUL CITY TOUR

**\*10:00** Departure from the Hotel

**\*10:30-12:30** Visiting the **Hagia Sophia Museum** which is a great architectural beauty and an important monument both for Byzantine and for Ottoman Empires. Once a church, later a mosque, and now a museum, Hagia Sophia has always been the precious of its time.

*Hagia (St.) Sophia, one of the greatest marvels of architecture, was constructed as a basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian. Built in 537 by Byzantine Emperor Justinianus, St.Sophia has been the largest cathedral in the world for nearly a thousand years. It is considered the masterpiece of Byzantine architecture. After having been the Patriarchal basilica of Constantinople, it was converted into a mosque in 1453 by Sultan Mehmet II. the Conqueror, and into a museum by Atataürk in 1935.*

**\*12:30-14:00** Visiting the **Sultan Ahmed Mosque & Sultan Ahmed Square** (The mosque is popularly known as the **Blue Mosque**)

*Blue Mosque, facing Hagia Sophia, is famous for its blue Iznik tiles and unique with 6 minarets, built in the name of Sultan Ahmet. The last great imperial mosque of the classical period, its name comes from 20.000 marvellous blue-toned Iznik tiles decorating the interior walls.*

*The Hippodrome of Constantinople was a circus which was the sporting and social centre of Constantinople, capital of the Byzantine Empire. Today, it is a square named Sultanahmet Meydanı (Sultan Ahmet Square) in the Turkish city of Istanbul, with a few fragments of the original structure surviving. Hippodrome was the center of sportive (chariot races, athletics) events and political activities of the old city. Obelisk of Theodosius, Serpentine Column, German Fountain of Wilhelm II are the monuments decorating Hippodrome.*

**\*14:00-16:00** **Boat Tour**

*2-hour boat trip on the Bosphorus with light snacks.*

**\* 16:30** **Return to Intercontinental Hotel**