



PETÉN TRAVELS

TRAVEL BEYOND THE ORDINARY

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Wednesday, October 9th - Tuesday, October 29th
(20 Nights, 21 Days)

(4 nights on the luxury gulet cruise on the Lycian coast)



Philip II, King of Macedon and father of Alexander the Great, originally planned the conquest of Asia. A small expedition had already crossed the Dardanelles when Philip was assassinated in 336 B.C. Succeeding his father and having secured his kingdom, Alexander began his own preparations for the invasion of Asia. In the spring of 334, he crossed the Dardanelles and set out on what is possibly the greatest military expedition in history.

Peten Travels takes its visitors on a specially-designed tour that follows in the footsteps of Alexander the Great, following his spectacular feats across Anatolia. The tour will be led by an expert in the field and will be augmented, when possible, with input by local specialists.

Experiencing this extensive itinerary will allow travellers to truly appreciate the details of Alexander's historic campaign. We follow his exact route, and at every stop we consider the challenges he faced and the strategies he crafted. From the mighty walls of ancient Troy to the soaring columns of the temple at Didyma, to the now-quiet banks of the Issus River you will leave Anatolia with an admiration of Alexander as well as the larger world he helped create.

Day 1 Istanbul

Special category (4-star) hotel

Members of our staff greet you at Atatürk airport and arrange for your transfer and check-in at your hotel. Our small group of travellers will enjoy a welcome drink and then dinner. **(D)**

Day 2 Istanbul

Special category hotel

The great metropolis of Istanbul, Turkey's most dynamic city, gateway between east and west. An introduction to this journey will appropriately begin beside the Alexander Sarcophagus in the **archaeological museum**, followed by some sightseeing on foot in the old city. **(B,L,D)**.

Day 3 Çanakkale

Kolin Hotel (5-star)

Travelling distance: 340 km ~ 212 miles

Leaving Istanbul early in the morning we proceed in our comfortable vehicle to the **Dardanelle Straits**. On the way we pass Sestos, where Philip left his army under the command of Parmenio. We shall cross the straits head to Illium (**Troy**) where Alexander landed in imitation of Achilles. Here he made a sacrifice in the old temple of Athena, and brought away the sacred shield, which was later to save his life. Continue to the **Achaean Harbor** near **Rhoeteum**. According to Diodorus, Alexander went there to declare Asia, "spear won land". We view the shores of **Rhoeteum** and **Sigeum**, which are bordered by the Scamander River. We visit the **tombs of Achilles** and **Patroclus** where Alexander and his inseparable companion Hephaestion laid wreaths and then ran a race around them, naked and anointed with oil. **(Prepare yourself for a good hike in the Plain of Illium)**. **(B, L,D)**

Day 4 Biga

Special category hotel

Travelling distance: 97 km ~ 60 miles

After breakfast we set off for **Çanakkale's Archaeology Museum**, which houses two unique sarcophagi. One is the first relief sculptured sarcophagus and the other one is the world's first painted Persian sarcophagus. The rest of the unique finds displayed here are from Troy and its surrounding cities. Continue on to the **Plain of the Granicus** to observe the topography of the terrain and the military positions taken by the Persian and Macedonian armies on the hillside and river bank. **(B,L,D)**

Day 5 Izmir

Key Hotel (5-star)

Travelling distance: 333 km ~ 207 miles

This morning we drive south to the land of Croesus to visit **Sardis**, the wealthy capital of the Lydians located at the head of the Royal Persian Road to Susa in modern Iran. Alexander garrisoned at Sardis and restored to the Lydians the right to be judged by their own native laws. A short drive takes us to the large Temple of Artemis with 20 columns long. **(B, L, D)**

Day 6 İzmir

Key Hotel

Explore the **agora** of the ancient Smyrna at the foot of the highest hill in İzmir constructed during the rule of Alexander the Great, and the spring nearby which Alexander is believed to have dreamed of

rebuilding the city. The current excavations are revealing the heart of old Smyrna in all its glory. We visit the excellent **İzmir Archaeological Museum. (B, L, D)**

Day 7 Kuşadası

Special category hotel

Travelling distance: 96 km ~ 57miles

Today we will drive up to the **ancient walls of Ephesus** and walk along the walls and drive to the **Temple of Artemis**. After a relaxing lunch and the departure of many tour buses we enter Ephesus. It was here at **Ephesus** that the citizens welcomed Alexander, who established a democracy and restored the exiles. He also offered to dedicate the new temple to Artemis. **(B, L, D)**

Day 8 Heraklia Ad Latmos

Simple, small hotel

Travelling distance: 68 km ~ 42miles

A leisurely morning is followed by an afternoon drive south to the Ionian coast where we will walk the stepped street of **Priene**. Here Alexander contributed to the construction of the temple of Athena Polias, which was dedicated to him. Driving through the Meander Valley we reach **Miletus** where Alexander faced serious opposition. Despite the strength of the defending forces, he besieged the city by land and sea and managed to capture it in just days. **(B, L,D)**

Day 9 Bodrum

The Marmara (5-star) or similar special category hotel

Travelling distance: 105 km ~ 65 miles

In the morning we set off on our leisurely drive to Bodrum. Along the way we stop to see the temple of Apollo at **Didyma**, one of the most spectacular monuments still remaining. It was here that Alexander's ultimate victory over the Persians was prophesized. In the autumn of 334 Alexander marched into Caria. We follow his footsteps, passing from Ionia to Caria by way of the Maryas Valley. We enter the Arian city, **Iasos**, and explore one of the prettiest sites in Turkey. Alexander made a local boy, who swam with dolphins, priest of Poseidon. We end the day in Bodrum at our hotel. **(B,L, D)**

Day 10 On board - Göcek

Travelling distance: 235 km ~ 147 miles

In Bodrum, the birthplace of Herodotus, we visit the site of the celebrated **Mausoleum of Halicarnassos**, and the remains of the fortifications against which Alexander led a desperate seige. We travel to Lycia, as Alexander did, following the line of the modern road to Pınara. On the way he was informed of the surrender of Telmessus and was well received by its citizens. Pınara also surrendered to Alexander the Great. In **Göcek** we board our luxurious gulet*. **(B, L,D)**

Day 11/12 On board

We now have a chance to relax and swim aboard a traditional Turkish gulet, as we sail along Lycia's turquoise coast. This represents the perfect opportunity to reflect on Alexander's navy and the ancient Mediterranean in general, while we go ashore to see the remains of once grand cities. **(B, L, D)**

Day 13 On board

We visit the capital city of Lycia, **Xanthus**, which gave itself up to him along with 30 other smaller Lycian cities. After a short drive to **Letoön**, we explore the shrine dedicated to Leto and her children

Apollo and Artemis. It was believed that Alexander received the famous prophecy concerning the destruction of the Persian Empire here. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 14 Disembark at Üçağız
Olympos Lodge (special category)
Travelling distance: 90 km~56 miles**

After breakfast we disembark and are met by ground transportation takes us to the triple-harbored **Phaselis**: a city later renowned for possessing Achilles' original spear, and for being the haunt of pirates. When Alexander arrived, the people here crowned him with golden wreaths. When he left, he gambled on a short cut around the coast. Supposedly the sea parted in supplication, making way for his army. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 15 Antalya
Tuvana hotel (special category luxury)
Travelling distance: 140 km~87 miles**

This morning our driver takes us up the mountains of Pisidia to explore **Termessos**, one of the rare cities to say 'no' to Alexander and still survive. We check into our special hotel in the old city of Antalya. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 16 Afyon
Anemon Hotel (5-star)
Travelling distance: 293 km ~ 183 miles**

Alexander marched north, by way of **Sagalassos** where archaeological excavations have revealed a vast, impressive ancient city captured by Alexander in a bloody siege. We proceed to Celaenae (Dinar) via Lake Burdur, an important center of communication with roads that ran west to the Hermus and Meander valleys. Guests have the opportunity to enjoy the thermal pool before dinner in the hotel. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 17 Ankara
Cukurhan (special category boutique hotel)
Travelling distance: 257 km ~161 miles**

In the morning we drive north to the Phrygian Highlands to visit the city of King Midas, **Gordion**, on the River Sangarius, southwest of Ankara. Alexander longed to visit the acropolis to see the ancient wagon of Gordias, founder of the old Phrygian monarchy. And it was here that Alexander cut its knot with his sword. From Gordian Alexander advanced to Ancyra, the modern **Ankara**, where Paphlagonian envoys met him, offering submission. We follow Alexander to Ankara.**(B,L,D)**

**Day 18 Cappadocia
Yunak Evleri or similar luxury Cave House
Travelling distance: 307 km ~ 192 miles**

Alexander was eager to get through the Taurus passes and into Cilicia so he marched south to **Cappadocia** without making any attempt to conquer it. Following Alexander we stop at the highlights of Cappadocia and have a leisurly day. The area is a geological wonderland, full of fairy chimneys, rock-hewn churches, and underground cities. **(B,L,D)**

Day 19 Adana

Hilton Hotel (5-star)

Travelling distance: 310 km ~ 194 miles

This morning we follow the route of Alexander through the rocky landscape of Cappadocia to Cilicia. We visit the rock-cut monastery, **Eski Gümüşler**. Stop at **Tyana**, modern Niğde, we drive through the **Cilician Gates** (on the old road) and descend into Cilicia arriving at **Tarsus** ready to explore this ancient city. **(B, L, D)**

Day 20 Fly to Istanbul

Special category hotel

Travelling distance: 200 km ~ 126 miles

This morning we drive on to **Kinet Hüyük**, ancient **Issus**. In the late afternoon we board our flight back to Istanbul. We bid our farewells to one another at dinner. **(B, L,D)**

Day 21 Return flight

Participants are transferred to the international airport to connect with their return flights. **(B)**

PLEASE NOTE: The itinerary involves a good deal of walking. Good comfortable footwear is therefore essential. It should be pointed out that the tour may not be suitable for passengers who require assistance or who have difficulties with mobility. Please make sure you enjoy hiking, good local food and cultural interaction.

***About our “gulet”-:** A “gulet” is a traditional wooden Turkish yacht modified to accommodate passengers. The gulets in Turkey have high safety standards and comply with local government regulations, which are monitored thoroughly by the coast guard. Our gulet is a magnificent 38-metre vessel with air-conditioned cabins beautifully finished with mahogany paneling. Each cabin has a private bathroom with a shower. There is plenty of room for relaxing and reading in the lounge or on the decks outside. A large kitchen and bar area is located towards the back of the gulet, and meals are served in a large open area at the stern. Canvas and sailcloth awnings cover the dining area and a portion of the foredeck and provide shade for comfortable lounging.

Dress on board is informal.

Trip limited to a maximum of 10 participants

Tour price

€8820 Euro per person based on double occupancy (twin /double bedded room)

€678 Euro single room supplement at hotels

€780 Euro single cabin supplement at gulet

What’s included in this price?

- Specialist leadership & local tour manager
- All hotel accommodation. Some hotels are special category with local architectural ambience
- Meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L= Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Bottled mineral water during transportation
- Domestic flight fare from Adana to Istanbul
- All ground transportation by a/c, modern mini / midi bus with fridge, reclining seats, wide windows.
- All entrance fees in the itinerary
- Meticulously prepared tour folder with maps and information to help you get the most from your tour

- Parking fares, local taxes and tolled high-ways & bridges
- Service charges to all hotels, baggage handling
- 4 nights on a luxurious gulet (breakfast, lunch, dinner & limited local wine and beer)

What's not included?

- International outbound & return air travel fares
- Lunch / shopping at local markets for picnic lunches
- Insurance of any kind.
- Excess baggage fee, airport taxes, cost of obtaining your passport or tourist visa
- Personal expenses such as laundry, room service, communication charges...
- Beverages when you are not on board
- Discretionary gratuities to your tour manager, driver.

AN ISTANBUL EXTENSION TOUR TO PRECEDE THIS TOUR IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.