



Crossroads of History: **Timeless Turkey and the Majestic Danube**

Fully Escorted 20 day tour with Melda & Jock Eddy
From Rotorua to Istanbul, Bucharest & Budapest
19 nights / 20 days: June – July 2026

Begin your extraordinary journey in Istanbul, where East meets West. Spend three nights in this vibrant city, where ancient palaces, centuries-old mosques, and bustling markets create a tapestry of rich history and modern culture. Explore iconic landmarks such as the stunning Hagia Sophia, the majestic Topkapi Palace, and the colorful Grand Bazaar. Next, journey to Canakkale for an overnight stay, where you'll visit the poignant Gallipoli Peninsula. Here, you'll walk in the footsteps of those who fought during the Gallipoli Campaign in World War I, paying tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed so much. The rich historical significance of this location is sure to leave a lasting impression.

Return to Istanbul for another night, allowing you to soak in the sights and sounds of this captivating city. Fly next to Bucharest, Romania's vibrant capital, for one night, where you'll discover the charm of this dynamic city. Explore its eclectic mix of architecture, from the grand Palace of the Parliament to the bohemian streets of Lipscani, and indulge in the city's lively café culture.

Then, embark on a beautiful 8-night river cruise along the Danube, one of Europe's most scenic rivers. Sail through captivating landscapes and historic towns, from the stunning medieval towns of Bulgaria and Serbia to the picturesque Austrian villages. With each port of call, you'll have the opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture, enjoy delicious cuisine, and explore centuries of history. The beauty and serenity of the Danube will be the perfect backdrop for your unforgettable journey.

Your adventure culminates with one final night in Budapest, the "Pearl of the Danube." Discover its stunning architectural gems, including the iconic Chain Bridge and Buda Castle, and unwind in one of the city's famous thermal baths. As your journey comes to an end, you'll depart with a heart full of memories and a deeper understanding of the rich histories, cultures, and landscapes of this remarkable region.

Transfer from Rotorua – Auckland Airport

Flights to be arranged once in date range

2 Night stopover (location to be confirmed)

24 June - Day 1: Istanbul

Arrive Istanbul International Airport.

Welcome to Turkey. On arrival, please clear customs and immigration. You will be met by a representative of our local agent outside the airport terminal, (look for a sign with Group name on) and then transferred to your hotel where accommodation is reserved for three nights on a bed and breakfast basis.

FER HOTEL, ISTANBUL

24 Jun 26	Tue	Check In	02:00 PM
27 Jun 26	Thu	Check Out	10:00 AM

Fer Hotel Old City

Mollafenari Mahallesi,
Türbedar Sk. No: 12, 34120 Fatih/İstanbul, Turkey
Phone: +90 212 522 50 80

3 nights' accommodation in a Deluxe Room (Queen or Twin) with daily breakfast

Fer is a new upmarket boutique located in the heart of Old City of Istanbul. Fer means radiant brightness in local language and the concept of the hotel is constructed on the idea of relation between light, water and mosaics of traditional Turkish architecture. Opened in March 2016 in a historical building reconstructed into modern and elegant property, Fer has 56 rooms and suites tastefully designed to a very high standard.



25 June - Istanbul

The morning, your walking tour starts with a visit to Topkapi Palace, where you can see amazing treasures and imagine how Sultan's life was. Continue to the Hippodrome, which was once the social centre of Istanbul. The Blue Mosque, with its beautiful hand painted tiles and Hagia Sophia: one of the greatest masterpieces ever built. You will fall in love with Istanbul instantly.



26 June - Istanbul

This morning start your day with a short walk from your hotel to visit the Basilica Cistern – an underground water storage system designed in the 6th century. Continue to the vibrant Spice Market where you can try some of the local delicacies before finishing at the Grand Bazaar where many bargains can be found and bartered for.



27 June - Istanbul – Gallipoli - Canakkale

This morning you will be picked up from your hotel lobby around 07:00 to travel to Eceabat, arriving around midday. On arrival you will be met by the local guide and escorted to a local restaurant for lunch. After lunch, depart on a guided tour of Gallipoli visiting Brighton Beach, Beach Cemetery, ANZAC Cove, Ariburnu Cemetery, ANZAC Commemorative Site, Mehmetcik Statue, Lone Pine Australian Memorial, Johnston's Jolly (Turkish and Allied trenches and tunnels), Turkish 57th Infantry Regiment Cemetery, The Nek Cemetery and Chunuk Bair New Zealand Memorial. Upon completion of the tour you will be transferred to your hotel for an overnight stay including dinner at a local restaurant.



AKOL HOTEL, CANAKKALE

27 Jun 26	Thu	Check In	02:00 PM
28 Jun 26	Fri	Check Out	10:00 AM

Akol Hotel, Canakkale

Cevat Paşa, Kayserili Ahmet Paşa Cd. No:32, 17000
Çanakkale Merkez/Çanakkale, Türkiye
Phone: +90 286 217 94 56

1 night accommodation in a Deluxe City View Room with balcony (Queen or Twin) with daily breakfast

Overlooking the Dardanelles Strait, the Akol Hotel is located in the heart of Canakkale and only a few steps from the sea. A seafood restaurant is located on the rooftop.

28 June - Canakkale - Troy - Istanbul

Morning departure for a tour of Troy. Discover the Trojan Horse, Sacrificial Altars, the 3700-year-old city walls, the Bouleuterium (Senate Building), the Odeon (Concert Hall) as well as the remains of the various cities from Troy I through to Troy IX. Upon completion of the tour, return to Eceabat for lunch. Return to your hotel in Istanbul for overnight.



28 – 29 June - 1 Night back at Fer Hotel, Istanbul

29 June - Istanbul

Today transfer to Istanbul airport for your onward flight to Bucharest.

AVALON BUCHAREST TO BUDAPEST

29 Jun 26	Depart	Bucharest
09 Jul 26	Arrive	Budapest

Cruise line: Avalon
Ship Name: Avalon Passion

29 June - Day 1: Bucharest, Romania

Welcome to Bucharest—The “Paris of the East”
The day is yours to relax and enjoy Bucharest. Spend some free time exploring this fascinating city on your own to discover its trendy shops, cafés, museums, beautiful homes, and churches along Victory Avenue.



30 June - Day 2: Bucharest – Oltenita (Embarkation)

***Classic Excursion** - Take a Guided Tour of the Romanian capital city of Bucharest with its tree-lined boulevards and Arc de Triomphe—honoring WWI Romanian soldiers. See the Royal Palace Square—the scene of the city’s 1989 riots to overthrow the communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Travel to Oltenita to board your Avalon Suite Ship® this afternoon.

OLTENITA (EMBARKATION)

Your Balkan Adventure Begins, Explore your Avalon Suite Ship® this evening and enjoy a dinner onboard.
Evening/Overnight Cruise to Rousse



01 July - Day 3: Rousse, Bulgaria, Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanassi Excursion

***Active Excursion**

Join a bike tour in Rousse with your Avalon Adventure Host, OR:

***Classic Excursion**

Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Bulgaria's largest inland port and visit its impressive Holy Trinity Church, OR:

***Classic Excursion**

Join a full-day Guided Tour to the former Bulgarian capital of Veliko Târnovo—with its ancient stone houses clinging to the cliffs above the Yantra River. Discover one of the oldest towns in Bulgaria (circa 4300 BC), as well as Bulgarian Revival architecture in the 15th-century town of Arbanassi. Sail to Svistov or join your ship there if you opted for the full-day tour.

Evening/Overnight cruise to Vidin



02 July - Day 4: Vidin

***Active Excursion**

Wander and discover this town, join your Adventure Host for a bike ride, OR:

***Classic Excursion**

Join a Guided Tour of Belogradchik. See the remarkable rock formations on the slopes of the Balkan Mountains, sculpted by 200 million years of nature's elements. Then, visit the mighty Baba Vida Fortress in nearby Vidin.

This evening, enjoy live entertainment on board with a Bulgarian folklore show.

Evening/Overnight Cruise to Donji Milanovac

03 July - Day 5: Donji Milanovac, Serbia-Iron Gates Gorge. Excursion to Lepenski Vir - Golubac

Before lunch on board, you'll sail through the spectacular and narrow Iron Gates Gorge—forming a natural border between Serbia and Romania.

***Active Excursion**

Stretch your legs, ease your mind, and enjoy a walk lead by your Adventure Host, OR:

***Classic Excursion**

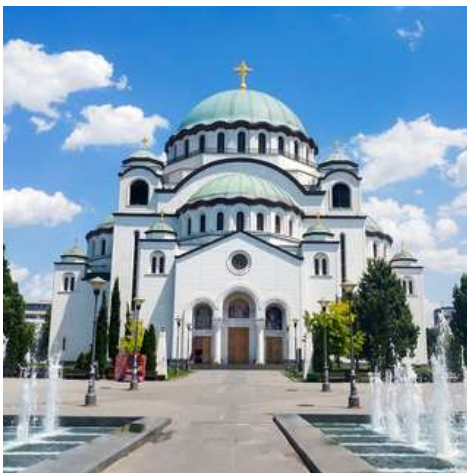
Join a Guided Tour to Lepenski Vir—an important Mesolithic archaeological site chronicling prehistoric cultures, settlements, and art. Marvel at the ancient discoveries and artifacts, as well as the unique views the site affords of the Danube Gorge. Enjoy a brief sailing to Golubač.

A Formidable Fortress

***Classic Excursion**

Visit the Fortress of Golubač, one of the best-preserved medieval fortresses in Europe. You'll hear about its tumultuous history as a border control defense in the Middle Ages, and a source of conflict between Serbia, the Habsburg Monarchy, and the Ottoman Empire.

Overnight Cruise to Belgrade



04 July - Day 6: Belgrade

Join your Adventure Host for today's special activities.

***Active Excursion**

Discover Belgrade's central walkway with your Adventure Host, OR:

***Classic Excursion**

Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Belgrade—where the Danube and Sava Rivers converge—and see the city's many fascinating sights, including Saint Sava, one of the world's largest Orthodox churches.

You may choose to join an Optional Guided Biking tour or spend free time in Belgrade exploring Knez Mihailova Street—Belgrade's central pedestrian thoroughfare with many lively cafés, shops, and cultural spots.

***Discovery Excursion**

Attend an onboard Lecture to learn about the rich history, destinations, and culture of the Balkan states.

Overnight Cruise to Novi Sad

05 July - Day 7: Novi Sad***Classic Excursion**

Join a Guided Tour of Novi Sad, the second largest town in Serbia. Admire its Austro-Hungarian old town, with its baroque buildings, and ancient fortifications.

***Active Excursion**

Enjoy a walking tour in Novi Sad along the narrow streets that climb slowly to the top of the hill above the city to Petrovaradin Fortress, OR:

***Discovery Excursion**

Experience the sweet life in Serbia with a visit and tasting at the Museum of Beekeeping and Živanović Wine Cellar in Sremski Karlovci.

Overnight Cruise to Ilok

**06 July - Day 8: Ilok to Vukovar*****Discovery Excursion**

Take a walking tour of Ilok with a wine tasting in a local cellar with stories of Croatian tradition.

Enjoy a short sailing to Vukovar during lunchtime

Vukovar, Croatia

The Heroic Town on the Danube

***Classic Excursion**

Enjoy a walking tour of Vukovar, the city the largest river port in Croatia.

This evening, enjoy live entertainment on board.

Overnight Cruise to Mohacs

**07 July - Day 9: Mohacs, Hungary*****Classic Excursion**

Join a morning Guided Sightseeing Tour of Mohács—the quiet Danube harbor town with its historical memorial parks, statues, and distinctive churches. Tour the remarkable medieval St. Nicholas Watermill—one of only a few remaining watermills performing stone-ground grain processing, OR:

***Classic Excursion**

Take a Guided Tour to nearby Pécs to see its 4th-century Christian underground tombs, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with fascinating murals. You'll also enjoy an organ concert on your tour.

Afternoon/overnight Cruise to Budapest

**08 July - Day 10 Budapest (Disembarkation)*****Classic Excursion**

Enjoy a Guided Sightseeing tour of Budapest, including the iconic Heroes' Square. Take in the beauty of Budapest while enjoying a free afternoon exploring such famous sights as the Chain Bridge. Get to know the city's cafés and pubs or take a hike through the hills above the Danube.

Breakfast

09 July - Day 11 Budapest

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. Transfer to the airport for your journey home.

2 Night stopover (location to be confirmed)

Flights to be arranged once in date range

Transfer from Auckland Airport to Rotorua

Tour Costings Include:

- Return private Coach transfers - Rotorua/Auckland/Rotorua
- Return airfares & taxes (airline to be confirmed)
- Transfers throughout itinerary
- Internal Airfare and taxes Istanbul/Bucharest
- 2 night stopover with accommodation and sightseeing in BOTH directions (stopover city to be confirmed)
- 4 nights' accommodation at Fer Hotel, Istanbul, including daily breakfast
- Visit to Topkapi Palace, Hippodrome, The Blue Mosque, Basilica Cistern and the Grand Bazaar
- 1 nights' accommodation at Akol Hotel, Canakkale, including breakfast
- Guided tour of Gallipoli including a visit to Brighton Beach, ANZAC Cove and Chunnik Bair
- Visit to Troy and the Trojan Horse
- 1 Night accommodation in Bucharest, including breakfast
- 8 Night River Cruise with Avalon along the Danube from Bucharest to Budapest
- Daily Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner while onboard your River Cruise
- Beer & Wine included with lunch and dinner while onboard your River Cruise
- Daily Sightseeing excursion options in each port while onboard your River Cruise
- Shipboard entertainment
- 1 Night accommodation in Budapest, including breakfast
- Meals as outlined: 20 Breakfasts, 9 x Lunches, 9 x Dinners
- Services of Professional Tour Escorts, Melda & Jock Eddy on behalf of helloworld Travel Rotorua

Cost per person (based on twin or double share): \$23,998.00

Single Supplement (limited availability): \$ 6,000.00

*****Please note that all costs are subject to a minimum of 10 paying adults – should the numbers decrease, prices may alter or tour may not proceed. All prices are subject to alteration paid in full.**

Deposit of \$2,000.00 per person due at time of booking.

2nd Instalment of \$4,000.00 per person due by Friday 1 August 2025.

Final Payment would be due no later than Thursday 19 March 2026 please.

A fully comprehensive travel insurance policy is essential for all travellers and compulsory to take out when participating in a helloworld Travel Escorted tour. Please contact us for details on travel insurance.

Please note the above costs include our non-refundable helloworld service fee as per our full Terms & Conditions.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

In order to confirm your travel arrangements and meet the payment deadlines imposed by the suppliers involved, your payment schedule is as above. Please note that if you do not meet these payment deadlines your travel plans may automatically be cancelled or your price may increase. Please ensure you record these dates accurately.

*** Please be aware that once you ask us to proceed with your booking, we are then committed to our suppliers. Any amendment or cancellation after this will incur amendment and cancellation fees. Travel Insurance should be taken out at this stage.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Should you wish to direct credit into our bank account, our account details are:

ANZ Rotorua
01 0414 0633684 001
WOW Travel Ltd, t/a HLO Rotorua
Client Trust Funds

Please use your surname as the reference, please allow enough time for your payment to be processed by the bank and still appear in our account by the due date.

Payment of your travel arrangements is deemed as acknowledgement and acceptance of our Terms and Conditions. Please refer to full Terms & Conditions attached.

CREDITCARDS:

Most major credit cards accepted, but these will attract administration fees.

Visa/MasterCard 2% Amex 3% Q Card from 2.5% Gem Visa from 3.5%

*****PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ALONG WITH THE FULL TERMS & CONDITIONS ATTACHED SO YOU ARE FULLY AWARE OF ALL CONDITIONS THAT APPLY TO YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS*****

***Please note, accommodation is on request at this stage, we do not know if the accommodation we have quoted is available until we receive a confirmation from the property and your accommodation is subject to availability at the time of booking. Once you ask us to proceed with your booking we will go through to the Resort/Hotel and make your reservation. If the Hotel comes back unable, we will endeavour to source a suitable alternative for you.

All prices quoted are correct at present but are subject to change by airlines, hotels, tour and /or cruise operators, currency fluctuation or government intervention until paid in full.

EPIDEMIC/PANDEMIC/WAR CHANGE POLICY

Please note that your travel arrangements are non-refundable, hence we recommend purchasing a Travel Insurance policy, which covers any unforeseen reason you may need to cancel (excluding pre-existing medical conditions, epidemic/pandemic/war and changes to government border restrictions). Should events change and you are not able to proceed with your travel arrangements, we would need to confirm with the Airline, Hotel and other supplier's regarding their policy at that stage. Airline tickets are non-refundable once purchased. Please note our helloworld booking fee is non-refundable and our change/cancellation fees will apply.

DOCUMENTATION:

Once full payment has been received, tickets and documentation will be ordered. Unless you request otherwise, your documentation will be kept in our safe until you are ready to collect them. In the interest of being environmentally friendly we are offering the ability for you to receive your documents electronically. Please let your consultant know if you would like your documents emailed to you.

CANCELLATION AND AMENDMENT PENALTIES:

All travel arrangements are non-refundable after you have paid your deposit or paid in full; however some travel arrangements may be amendable subject to paying the applicable penalty or fee. Fees vary depending on the date of your amendment or cancellation and fees increase the closer you get to your departure date and can be up to 100% of the value of your travel arrangements.

Strict cancellation and amendment penalties will be imposed by all suppliers in the event that you cancel or amend your travel arrangements. Fees vary by supplier and date of amendment / cancellations please ask your travel consultant if you would like clarification of these fees.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS:

As a security procedure, passports for all travellers must be shown at the time of booking. This is important to ensure names are correct as per passport with correct spelling. Strict fees will apply for any name changes or corrections of names after ticketing. helloworld Travel cannot be held responsible for costs incurred by travellers due to names incorrectly spelt if passports are not shown at the time of booking.

All travellers are warned to ensure their passport has at least six months validity beyond their intended date of return to New Zealand. There is the odd exception to this requirement please check the requirements for your travel with your consultant. Criminal convictions may restrict travel to many countries, please check with the embassies of the countries you intend travelling to should this apply. Whilst every effort will be made by consultants to give accurate advice on passport and visa requirements, correct travel documentation is ultimately the responsibility of the traveller in all cases. As the Privacy Act precludes us from accessing all relevant information, and requirements can change without notice to the travel industry.

If you are not travelling on a New Zealand Passport, please ensure you have the correct documentation required to enter back into New Zealand, eg: Returning Resident Visa, Work Visa etc. Please ensure this documentation is transferred to your new passport when obtained.

INSURANCE:

A fully comprehensive travel insurance policy is essential for all travellers. I can advise you on the most suitable options for your travel and provide you with a quotation, pre-existing medical conditions must be declared to ensure correct cover and claims are not declined. Cancellation Insurance should be included from the time you make your first payment towards your travel. helloworld Travel strongly cautions anyone against travelling without a suitable insurance cover. **Please note Travel Insurance covers any unforeseen reason you may need to cancel (excluding pre-existing medical conditions and any Covid/Pandemic related situations).**

FREQUENT FLYER REWARD POINTS:

At your request, your airline frequent flyer details can be entered into your reservation at the time of booking for the purpose of recording your air miles. Please advise your consultant of your membership details. Due to the inability of our consultants to be able guarantee that points will be awarded correctly, we strongly recommend that you retain copies of your E-tickets and boarding passes until your membership account has been updated correctly.

SEAT REQUESTS AND SPECIAL SERVICE REQUESTS:

Whilst we are happy to process your specific seat and special service requests to the airline on your behalf, we cannot be held responsible for the delivery of these services. All airlines reserve the right to change any pre-allocation of seats prior to check in and this is outside of our control. Many airlines now offer the opportunity to purchase your preferred seat. The delivery of special services such as vegetarian meals, bassinettes etc. are also entirely at the discretion of the airline and cannot be guaranteed by helloworld Travel.

Please advise us should you wish to reserve connecting flights from Rotorua to Auckland and return. Should you wish to drive to Auckland we are able to book security car parking and also reserve Auckland Airport accommodation. We also have details regarding the door to door shuttle transfers if you prefer this option. Please feel free to contact us for further details.

We confirm that we have read, understood and accept the full terms and conditions as per the above and the attached document, relating to our travel arrangements made by helloworld Travel.

Signed _____

Name(s) _____ Date _____

I would like to thank you for giving helloworld Travel Rotorua the opportunity to provide you with your travel proposal. I will be in contact with you over the next few days, however in the meantime, if you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me.

Rachel

Rachel Kitson
Travel Professional

" .. Holidays restore what everyday life steals from you it's true. "