

SAVE 40%

## Turkey: Istanbul, Cappadocia, Ephesus, and a Gulet Cruise

Dine high above Istanbul, balloon over Cappadocia's lunar landscape, and sail the coast in your own private yacht

**WHAT IS IT?** Thirteen nights in Istanbul, Cappadocia, and Izmir—three at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski (Readers' Choice Awards 2011), two at the Museum Hotel, two at the Swissôtel Grand Efes (RCA 2011), and a cruise aboard a luxe version of the traditional Turkish sailboat (chef included).

### WHY TAKE THIS TRIP NOW?

After Istanbul was named 2010's European Capital of Culture, the city's main historic area was closed to traffic and transformed into an open-air museum; restorations to monuments and buildings are just being completed. Two hundred miles away, Ephesus is the world's

best-preserved ancient Roman city, where 20 years' worth of excavations are finally bearing fruit: Restoration of two of the "terrace houses," begun in the 1960s, is finished, and archaeologists have begun replacing the green marble on the grand ballroom walls. Meanwhile, increasing interest in Cappadocia's eerie, lunar landscape means it has more luxury hotels than before, but it hasn't—yet—succumbed to the hordes.

### INCLUDED:

- Share a dinner with Mehmet Gürs, Istanbul's foremost chef, at a table in his own restaurant Mikla, atop the Marmara Pera hotel—one of the most sought-after spots in the city. The tasting menu (with wine pairings) might include molasses-glazed lamb entrecôte or monkfish with fennel risotto.
- Personal introductions to Istanbul's finest jewelry, leather, carpet, and hand-painted Iznik tile artisans.
- A Sufi whirling dervish performance and private dinner in Bezehane Cave, Cappadocia.

- A day exploring Ephesus with an archaeologist who's been on the excavation team for 40 years. Enter the ancient city again at sundown (it's been opened just for you) for a private, candlelit dinner with white-glove service at the Celsus Library, with a performance by the Izmir State Symphony Orchestra.
- A private, hour-long balloon ride over Cappadocia. The balloonist can descend close to the houses carved within the undulant rocks.
- A cruise on a *gulet*, which sleeps six with a crew of five. You'll visit Poyraz Bay, the picturesque port of Datça, cosmopolitan Marmaris, Lycian rock tombs near Dalyan, the ancient cities of Caunos and Xanthos, and the blue lagoon of Ölüdeniz—Turkey's most beautiful beach.
- And much more.

**CREATED BY** Turkey specialist Karen Fedorko Sefer (90-212-292-8555) of Sea Song Tours. For full details, more photos, and pricing, and to find out how many trips are still available, go to [condenasttraveler.com/worldonsale](http://condenasttraveler.com/worldonsale).

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### TIP FROM THE TRIP CREATOR

Turkey's famed rugs are just one of Istanbul's great buys. Another local specialty is hand-crafted 24-karat gold jewelry with semi-precious stones. —K.F.S.

### SPECIAL ACCESS

## Everest, Nepal, and India

Travel by helicopter (and camel) from the frigid top of the world to the steamy Subcontinent

**WHAT IS IT?** Nine nights in Nepal and India—one at the Oberoi Gurgaon, two each at Dwarika's Hotel in Kathmandu and the Oberoi New Delhi (Readers' Choice Awards 2011), one each at the Oberoi Amarvilas (RCA 2011) and the Oberoi Rajvilas (RCA 2011), and two at Anopura hotel, near Jaipur.

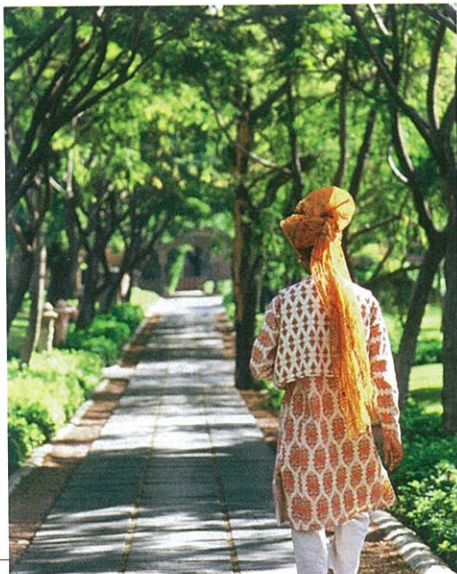
**WHY TAKE THIS TRIP NOW?** Interest in Everest has never been (no pun intended) higher: In 2011, 537 climbers reached the summit, compared with 182 ten years earlier—and this trip will take you as close to the world's tallest peak as you can get without actually scaling it. All this plus an immersion in some of India's religious, anthropological, romantic, and fabulously grand and utterly unique experiences.

### INCLUDED:

- A sunrise helicopter flight over Everest, joined by Tashi Tenzing Sherpa, the grandson of Tenzing Norgay Sherpa, who ascended Everest with Edmund Hillary. You'll pass over base camp, cross Cho La pass at 18,500 feet (an altitude high enough to require extra oxygen), and fly over the sacred Gokyo Lakes.
- An anthropologist and documentary filmmaker's insider look at Kathmandu, where you'll meet religious leaders, healers, heads of NGOs, and local artisans.
- Taj Mahal visits at both sunrise and sunset, when the grounds are quiet and the light casts a glow over the world's most romantic monument.
- A camel cart trip to Meena tribal villages of the Ramgarh Valley.
- A day exploring Old and New Delhi with a private car/driver and one of the foremost guides to local Buddhist sites. You'll also visit the Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb (see this month's cover), and the Qutub Minar.
- And much more.

**CREATED BY** Geographic Expeditions' Kirk Uhrlaub (415-962-3648). For full details, more photos, and pricing, and to find out how many trips are still available, go to [condenasttraveler.com/worldonsale](http://condenasttraveler.com/worldonsale).

One of six hotels on this trip, the Oberoi Rajvilas is near Jaipur, the famed "pink city" of Rajasthan.



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