

FLIGHTS: BECAUSE OF THE FLUIDITY IN THE COVID RESTRICTIONS WE HIGHLY ADVISE YOU TO PURCHASE TICKETS THAT ARE EITHER REFUNDABLE OR CHANGEABLE.

We have seen with this pandemic how quickly restrictions can change. Please make sure you can receive a refund/credit or change your ticket without penalties.

PLEASE NOTE: For this trip we start in Izmir and end in Istanbul.

Here are some examples of how you can book your ticket. I will use YHT for the departure and return city since you will all be different. YHT = YOUR HOME TOWN

Going to Turkey you leave North American one day and arrive Turkey the next day. To arrive for first day of the trip you will need to **depart North America on Thursday, Oct 6** to arrive in Izmir for the first day, Friday, Oct 7.

The beauty of getting your own ticket is that you can go early or stay later somewhere in Europe or in Istanbul to spend extra days. On other tours that provide airfare you are stuck with their flights and with the seat they assign you. You can book any flight you wish and even use your points for the trip.

Option 1:

Departure YHT – ADB

Return: IST or SAW – YHT

Option 2:

Return ticket to Istanbul

Departure: YHT –IST or SAW Also purchase discount airline **ONE WAY** to get to our first city on the itinerary from Istanbul IST or SAW –ADB **arrival Oct 7 into Izmir**

These flights are VERY reasonable. **HOWEVER**, if you do this option allow **at least 3 hours** for delayed flight to catch your one way to Izmir. The airline will not honor delayed flight since you will have a separate ticket purchased with another airline. Another option, for this option, is to go into Istanbul a day or two early and enjoy time and catch a flight on Oct 7 to Izmir to join group.

Return: IST or SAW - YHT

Airport codes

IST for Istanbul

SAW for Istanbul

ADB for Izmir

FLIGHT TIPS:

Please note:

YOU MUST SELECT YOUR SEAT TO BE CONFIRMED ON A FLIGHT!

Some have learned the hard way that if you do not select your seats when you purchase your ticket you do not have a confirmed seat and will be the first one bumped if the flight is oversold. Even if you must pay for a seat, you SHOULD select your seat to ensure a confirmed spot on that flight.

To arrive day of tour start date:

Oct 6 – Thurs - Departure from North America

Oct 7 - Fri - Arrival in Izmir

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY! These tips can make or break your trip!

CONNECTION TIMES

One of the most crucial things to remember when booking your ticket is that for the transatlantic flight, usually there is only one transatlantic flight a day flown by the airline you are flying with. If you miss your connection to the point of departure for that transatlantic flight, your only option is usually to wait until the next day if they have space on the next day flight.

Because of this we strongly recommend that you have a **long connection time** between the time you are to arrive in that departure city and the time you depart on your overseas flight. We would never book one without **at least** a 3-hour connection time. With COVID requirements it could take longer.

For example, if you are flying out of New Orleans and arrive in New York at 11 am you would want a departure from New York to Istanbul no earlier than 2 pm.

Even with a long layover of 3 hours, because of weather one year on an Israel trip, a large group barely made their connections, and some others did miss their connections and were put on later flights and missed some of the events.

Going in a day early helps with this scenario as well. If you missed a connection and did happen to be put on the next day flight you would lose your hotel for the early night but would be there in time to join the start of the tour.

TICKET PURCHASE TIP:

Someone asked where we buy our tickets. Here is the long answer.

We look at Travelocity or Expedia to see the best flights and then we buy from the airline directly if at all possible. The reason for buying directly from the airline is that you can cancel or change much easier. Also, if there is a problem, you are delayed, get bumped or have to be re-routed, you can deal directly with the airline instead of the 3rd party.

However, sometimes you can get a really good price on Travelocity because it mixes airlines for the itinerary that normally do not sell each other's tickets on their website. If that happens and it is a really good price and maybe better routing, then we buy from Travelocity.

For example, there may be an itinerary on Travelocity for the trip that uses Delta and United and they don't sell each other's part of the trip on the either of the airline's website. If so, then we buy from Travelocity. The itinerary might be to fly (1) from LA to New York on Delta and (2) from New York to Istanbul on United.

If you go onto either Delta or United's website, they may not sell each other's part of the trip. If you buy the tickets separately and have two tickets and you have a delay on the Delta flight into New York, United will not honor the delay and rebook you free. If you have it all on one ticket, then United will honor the delay. Therefore, you have to buy from a supplier like Travelocity or Expedia to get it all one ticket. (That being said we have done the two separate ticket scenario but we leave a VERY big connection time if we do. It is taking a chance for sure)

If the itinerary is all on one airline for the entire trip OR if one of the airlines in the itinerary sells the other airline's part as well then you can buy on that airline's website. For example, if one of the flights is Air Canada and one of the flights is United and on the Air Canada site it sells the whole itinerary of flights, then you can buy there if they offer the same price as Travelocity. In that case we would check both Air Canada and United to see if one offers it cheaper. Crazy but one can sell the same ticket at a different price.

If you have any questions about flights you find, do not hesitate to either e-mail Sis King (Nan) or direct message her on GroupMe. We don't mind checking what you have found to see if connections good, etc. You have 24 hours to cancel a flight after purchase.