

## **Half Day Excursion to the Byzantine and Ottoman historical place**

**When:** Wednesday, 28.5.2014

**Departure time:** 14.00

**Departure place:** Entrance of the Kadir Has conference center. Buses will transfer us to SultanAhmet.

**Return:** 19.00. Buses will transfer us to central points of the city close to public transportation.

### **Description**

**Hagia (St.) Sophia**, one of the greatest marvels of architecture, 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; the marbles and the mosaics are among the finest in the world. It was converted into a mosque in 1453 by Sultan Mehmet II the Conqueror and in to a museum by Ataturk in 1935.

**Hippodrome**, 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.

**Topkapi Palace**, this extraordinary and secret palace was the residence of the Imperial Ottoman Sultans and the center of the Ottoman might for nearly 400 years. The building is a typical example of Ottoman architecture and the rooms exhibit rich collections of porcelains, robes, weapons, shields, armors, Ottoman miniatures, Islamic calligraphic manuscripts as well as Ottoman treasures and jewellery.

**Hagia Irene** or Hagia Eirene (Greek: Ἁγία Εἰρήνη, "Holy Peace", Turkish: Aya İrini), is a former Eastern Orthodox church located in the outer courtyard of Topkapı Palace in Istanbul, Turkey. Constantine I commissioned the first Hagia Irene church in the 4th century. The building ranks, in fact, as the first church built in Constantinople. Emperor Justinian I had the church restored in 548. It served as the church of the Patriarchate before Hagia Sophia was completed in 537. During the reign of Sultan Ahmet III (1703-1730) was changed into a weapons museum. Today serves mostly as a concert hall of music.

**English speaking tour guide will accompany the group.**