



Guides in Turkey and SRM Guides

In Turkey, guides have to be state certified by law, this is their work permit. Studying at the Tour Guiding Department of a university is not enough to receive their work permit, they still need to pass series of tests, attend classes at Ministry of Tourism and Culture for in-field training and graduate with satisfactory results to qualify. Candidates scoring high enough are certified and given a badge called “kokart”. All other badges, especially carried by hawkers at touristic sites, and called “certifications” **are not** legal. Specialization and developing experience after obtaining work permit is based on personal interests, abilities, education, time and money invested.

We categorize guides in three different levels.

Junior Certified Guides: Guides who finished official education and has a certification / work permit. Junior doesn't mean young by age, but new in our pool and philosophy.

For upto 4 hours: EUR 235.- / For upto 8 hours: EUR 265.-

Qualified Certified Guides: Guides who are fluent in English and have a significant amount of field experience. They are hand picked among thousands of certified guides after series of interviews. As well as their knowledge and experience, their personality and understanding of hospitality are among the criteria that make them stand out. They are on continuing SRM training (under Lale & Tankut's mentorship) and are potential guides for Rick Steves tours or similar organizations.

For upto 4 hours: EUR 265.- / For upto 8 hours: EUR 295.-

Senior Certified SRM Guides (lead guides for Rick Steves tours or similar): All have further skills, education and experience. They have attended extensive workshops with Lale, Tankut and managers of Rick Steves (some also studied under Rick Steves in USA directly); and mastered their skills of being an ideal host. They have the knowledge, experience and ability to understand needs and expectations of travelers and act accordingly. They are generous about sharing their lives and opening magical doors.

They are **proactive** and **agile**.

They can take you several steps ahead, and carry you to a level where you start understanding life like locals, eat like locals -sometimes just simple street food, sometimes elegant Ottoman imperial food-, and have fun like locals.

They know Istanbul and Turkey inside out, and can take you to walks through streets you can never know that existed.

If you are an art and museum lover, you will not only learn about local arts and crafts, but you will also understand social and cultural reasons that gave way to them. With our guides you can go beyond classical tour approach of simply looking and hearing, but you will understand, live, experience and enjoy. You will understand the culture as it is, get an insight to customs and daily routines of locals. Our guides can help to get under the skin of a place by sharing experiences gained in a lifetime, a difficult work.

“Senior” meaning having significant experience working with SRM, not older by age.

For upto 4 hours: USD EUR 465.- / For upto 8 hours: EUR 495.-

Specialists: Specialists are professionals with different careers and education who spend time with our clients. Specialists may be urban planners, botanists, engineers, theologians, teachers, archaeologists, political analysts, restorators, artists, and more. Please inquire.

Price details for guides: Prices noted above are for up to two travelers. For each additional traveller per person supplement is: EUR 10 for junior certified guides, EUR 20 for qualified certified guides, EUR 30 for senior certified guides. No supplement for children under 12.

Vehicle arrangements for Istanbul: If you prefer using a private vehicle instead of a walking tour or public transport, daily fee for a van for 1- 4 people in central Istanbul is EUR 175, for 5 – 10 it is EUR 225. Please inquire for larger parties and / or VIP vehicles, or other destinations. Price includes taxes, excludes parking.

Fine print: Please note; transportation during guide only services (if SRM is not providing a private vehicle), museum admissions and meals –including guides’- are not included and to be paid by the traveler on the spot. This is done on purpose to provide maximum flexibility for you. Our guides are experienced about managing time and meeting spontaneous requests. Based on your personal pace, you can visit one or ten museums, or have a lengthy lunch and splurge.