



## **Anatolian Adventure**

Country(ies): Turkey

Tour type: Small Group

Transport: A/C minibus

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 20

Days: 10 days

Start Location: Istanbul, Turkey

End Location: Istanbul, Turkey

Meals: Breakfasts - 9, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 6

#### **Highlights:**

Istanbul, Gallipoli battlefields & memorials, Troy, Pergamum Acropolis, Ancient Greek & Roman ruins at Ephesus & Hieropolis, Pamukkale calcium travertines, Sultanhani Caravansary, Cappadocia underground churches & fairy chimneys.



### **Itinerary**

### Day 1: Arrive into Istanbul, transfer to hotel

Upon arrival our staff will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel in the centre of Istanbul for the start of your trip. The rest of your day is free to explore this vibrant city.

**OVERNIGHT:** Istanbul hotel

**MEALS:** None

**EXTRAS:** Single room supplement (TUSGAA) Extra day in Istanbul - pre-tour

### Day 2: Istanbul, old city tour

Our trip begins this morning with a full day tour of Istanbul. Lying across two continents this historically important city played an integral role in the development of both the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. We visit the 17th century Blue Mosque, the Aya Sofya museum and explore the former residence of the Ottoman Sultans at Topkapi Palace before ending at the famous Hippodrome.

**OVERNIGHT:** Istanbul hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** 

### Day 3: Gallipoli battlefields and memorials tour

We depart Istanbul this morning for the drive to Gallopoli where we will receive a fully guided tour of this World War I battlefield site. Although home to some of the fiercest fighting during the War today the site is full of poignant memorials set against a subdued wooded landscape. Our tour will include the Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair memorials, ANZAC Cove, Johnston Jolly as well as The Nek and Gallipoli Museum. There will also be chance to see the original trenches and tunnels used during the war before we head to our hotel in Canakkale.

**OVERNIGHT:** Canakkale hotel **MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

# Day 4: Tour of Troy and the Acropolis of Pergamum (replaced with Assos for 2025)

This morning we make the short drive to the ancient city of Troy. Lying undiscoverd until midway through the 19th Century the excavations here brought the legend of the Trojan horse and the poems of Homer back to life. We then continue our drive south to the acropolis of Pergamum. A former kingdom we enjoy a full tour of the site including the Temple of Trajan and the famous library which is believed to have rivalled the library of Alexandria

and helped shape Pergamum into a renowned cultural and political centre.

Please note that from 2025 the visit to Pergamum will be replaced with a visit to Assos.

**OVERNIGHT:** Kusadasi hotel **MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

### Day 5: Kusadasi, Ephesus Roman ruins tour

After breakfast we drive to the Roman site of Ephesus. The city at one time housed 250,000 people and is regarded as one of the best preserved ancient cities in the Mediterranean. We visit the Temple of Artemis, and explore the ancient marble streets of this ruined Roman city. This afternoon we visit the fruit wine growing village of Sirince and learn about the history of carpet weaving in Turkey.

**OVERNIGHT:** Kusadasi hotel **MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

### Day 6: Drive to Pamukkale and Hieropolis

We travel east this morning to Pamukkale, site of the well known white calcium terraces known as Travertines. Pamukkale translates as 'cotton castles' and the naturally occuring geology here has created cloud like formations unlike anywhere else. We then head to the ancient city of Hierapolis to enjoy a dip in the hot thermal pools lodged amongst ancient columns left by the Romans who used the pools for their therapeutic powers.

**OVERNIGHT:** Pamukkale hotel **MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

### Day 7: Drive the Silk Road to Konya

Travel back in time today as we follow the ancient Silk Road towards Konya. We learn more about the history of this important trade route with a stop at the Sultanhani Caravanserai before arrivingin Konya where we include a visit to the Mevlana museum - the former home of the original Mevlevi Whirling Dervishes.

**OVERNIGHT:** Cappadocia hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast.Dinner

EXTRAS:

# Day 8: Cappadocia, full day tour

Today we set out to explore the beautiful and surreal landscape of Cappadocia. Unlike nowhere else on earth, this bizarre setting creates a fairytale view full of improbable rock formations and underground villages. Often described as the jewel of Turkey we have a full tour here to explore the subterrenean churches and fortresses

used by Christians to avoid persecution over a thousand years ago.

**OVERNIGHT:** Cappadocia hotel

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

### Day 9: Cappadocia, drive to Ankara, return to Istanbul

We leave early this morning for the drive to Ankara, Turkey's modern day capital city. We visit Anitkabir - mausoleum of the famed Mustafa Kemal Ataturk before returning to Istanbul by road. This is a long day's drive, and we can arrange an upgrade to an internal flight from Kayseri in Cappadocia if you prefer (please ask for current times & prices).

**OVERNIGHT:** Istanbul hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Kayseri to Istanbul Flight Upgrade (inc. transfers)

### Day 10: Istanbul, free time, transfer to airport

Your time is free today for some last minute sightseeing and shopping in Istanbul before we transfer you to the airport for your flight home. Optional tours are available locally to see more of Istanbul, and we can also add extra nights in the Istanbul hotel if you'd like to spend more time exploring the city.

**OVERNIGHT:** N/A **MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Extra day in Istanbul - post-tour

#### Included:

- All accommodation as mentioned in the itinerary
- All transport and transfers
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Entrance fees for sights mentioned in itinerary
- Services of a local tour leader throughout
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Tipping kitty

#### **Excluded:**

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for guide & driver
- Any other items not mentioned above

#### **Notes**

- The itinerary on departures coinciding with Anzac Day may be amended stightly to take account of Anzac Day on 25th April.
- 2025 Departures will include a visit to ancient Assos which will replace the visit to Pergamum which is included on 2024 departures.

#### Similar tours:

The following tours also either run alongside this tour or follow a similar or extended itinerary:

- <u>Discover Turkey</u> cuts 2 days from this tour by flying to Kusadasi instead of driving, missing out the wartime memorials at Gallipoli, and the historic sites of Troy and the Acropolis of Pergamum
- <u>Taste of Turkey</u> another 8-day Turkey tour, running alongside this tour to beging with but then missing out Cappadocia and flying back to Istanbul after Pamukkale.
- <u>Turkey Encounters</u> our most comprehensive Turkey small group tour, adding additional visits along the Mediterranean coast before heading to Cappadocia. 17 days in total.
- <u>Best of Turkey</u> this 11-day tour travels first from Istanbul to Cappadocia, and then to the Mediterranean coast to visit Ephesus, Troy and Gallipoli before finishing back in Istanbul. So very similar, but in a reverse direction.

# **Options**

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

### Single room supplement (TUSGAA)

Min numbers: 1

The tour price is based on 2 people sharing twin/double rooms. This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. If you are a single traveller and would be happy to share a room, let us know and we will see if we can pair you up with another single traveller of the same sex. If a room share is not available when you book then we will add the single room supplement to your booking and it will be payable with your balance payment unless we have arranged a room share for you by then. If a room share is arranged after you have paid the supplement then we will refund it to you. Room shares are arranged in order of booking.

Note: Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

### Extra day in Istanbul - post-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). On tours which includes airport transfers, these are still included on your extra day. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

### Extra day in Istanbul - pre-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). On tours which includes airport transfers, these are still included on your extra day. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note**: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

### Kayseri to Istanbul Flight Upgrade (inc. transfers)

Min numbers: 1

This option exchanges the drive from Cappadocia to Istanbul (via Ankara) with a flight from Kayseri to Istanbul. All transfers are included. Please note that if this option is selected, it does mean that you will miss the included sightseeing in Ankara.

**Notes**: Flights are subject to availability. Single room supplements apply.

### **Cappadocia Cooking Class**

Min numbers: 1

Join an immersive cooking experience from 17:30 to 21:30 in a Turkish village house, where you'll learn to prepare a three-course meal primarily using the traditional 'Tandir' method. After the cooking session, you'll get to enjoy your delicious creations in a traditional village setting, truly immersing yourself in Turkish culinary traditions.

Tour includes Transportation in a fully air-conditioned, Pick up & drop off from/to your hotel, English speaking chef and cooking class.

Note: A minimum of 2 passenger are required for this option to operate.

### **Kusadasi Cooking Class**

Min numbers: 1

Venture into the Turkish countryside and cook authentic dishes such as Sultan Köfte, Mant?, and Yaprak Sarma alongside a professional chef. Afterwards, savour your culinary creations with local wine in a tranquil village setting.

Tour includes Transportation in a fully air-conditioned, Pick up & drop off from/to your Kusadasi hotel, English speaking chef and cooking class.

Note: A minimum of 2 passenger are required for this option to operate.

### **Istanbul Cooking Class**

Min numbers: 1

Uncover the secrets of traditional Turkish cuisine with a local chef in the hotel kitchen. You'll create, cook, and then enjoy your own Turkish meal, all while taking in a stunning rooftop view.

Tour includes Transportation in a fully air-conditioned, Pick up & drop off from/to your Istanbul hotel, English speaking chef and cooking class.

Note: A minimum of 2 passenger are required for this option to operate.

#### 1. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are committed to being a small group operator, as we feel this gives everyone in the group the best chance to get to know their fellow travellers and to hear and make the most of their guide. There's no point in us providing great guides if you've got to peer over 30-40 shoulders to see them! So, we won't ever put you in a 50-seater coach with 49 other people and just one guide. Instead, we set our Turkey small-group departures to have a maximum of 20 travellers (dedicated Anzac Day tour groups may be larger).

In Turkey we provide a fully trained, local English-speaking guide for all of the sightseeing tours. Our local reps in some of the towns and cities en-route are also at your service. At Encounters Travel we try to use local Turkish guides and reps as much as possible. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

#### 2. Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departure on this tour all year round starting on a Saturday. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 travellers. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request.

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**Note:** Please <u>download an up-to-date copy</u> of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.