ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

*Your passport to adventure*

# Classic Turkey & Greek Islands

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|---|---|
| COUNTRY(IES) | Turkey , Greece |
| TOUR TYPE | Small Group |
| TRANSPORT | A/C minibus & local ferries |
| GROUP SIZE | Min: 2 \| Max: 20 |
| DURATION | 14 days |
| STARTS | Athens, Greece |
| ENDS | Istanbul, Turkey |
| MEALS | Breakfasts - 12, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 5 |

**TOUR ROUTE MAP** **14 Days**

**ROUTE:** **Athens** (Start) → **Santorini** → **Mykonos** → **Samos** → **Ku Adasi** → **Pamukkale** → **Goreme Open Air Museum** → **Blue Mosque** (End)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Acropolis, Parthenon, Greek islands of Santorini, Mykonos & Samos, Ephesus, Pamukkale & Hieropolis, Cappadocia landscape & underground cities, Istanbul

## Itinerary

### DAY 1 Arrive in Athens, transfer to hotel

Meet the transfer on arrival at Athens Airport and travel to the hotel. Once there, the rest of the day is free, giving you time to recover from the journey or head out independently for a first look around the city. The arrival remains easy and flexible, allowing you to settle into Athens before the more structured cultural and historical visits that follow.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Arrive at Athens Airport**

  You arrive at Athens Airport in Athens, Greece, beginning your journey in the country's historic capital.

- **Drive from Athens Airport to Athens Hotel**
  You are transferred from Athens Airport to your hotel in Athens, Greece, settling in before sightseeing begins.
- **Free Time in Athens**
  You enjoy free time in Athens, Greece, to relax after your flight and explore the surrounding area independently.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Athens hotel | None | Single room supplement (TUSGTG), Extra day in Istanbul - pre-tour |

## DAY 2 Athens, half day Acropolis tour

Spend the day among some of Athens' most important ancient landmarks, beginning with the Acropolis and continuing to the Acropolis Museum. Hadrian's Arch and the Temple of Olympian Zeus add further layers of Greek and Roman history before the organised sightseeing ends. The remaining time is free for independent exploration or a relaxed finish to the day.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Acropolis of Athens**
  Discover the ancient heart of Athens with a guided exploration of the Acropolis, one of the world's most important archaeological sites. See the iconic Parthenon, the elegant Erechtheion with its famous Caryatids, the Temple of Athena Nike, and the monumental Propylaea gateway while learning about the history and legacy of classical Greece.
- **Explore Acropolis Museum in Athens**
  You visit the Acropolis Museum in Athens, Greece, viewing key collections connected to the Acropolis and ancient Athens.
- **Visit Temple of Olympian Zeus and Hadrian's Arch**
  Visit the impressive Temple of Olympian Zeus, once one of the largest temples in the ancient Greek world, and admire its towering Corinthian columns. Nearby, see Hadrian's Arch, the historic gateway that marked the transition between ancient Athens and the Roman city built under Emperor Hadrian.
- **Explore Panathenaic Stadium in Athens**
  You visit the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, Greece, learning about the first modern Olympic Games held here in 1896.
- **Free Time in Athens**
  You enjoy free time in Athens, Greece, to relax after your flight and explore the surrounding area independently.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Athens hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 3 Ferry from Athens to Santorini, free time

Travel from Athens to Piraeus and board the ferry for Santorini. The sea crossing forms the main scheduled movement of the day, connecting mainland Greece with the Cyclades. Once on the island, the remainder of the time is free and no organised sightseeing is specified. The schedule therefore remains focused on the ferry journey and arrival, allowing you to become familiar with Santorini independently after disembarkation.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Athens Hotel to Piraeus Port**
  You transfer from your Athens hotel to Piraeus Port in Greece to board your ferry to the Cyclades.
- **Travel from Ferry Piraeus Port to Santorini**
  You take a ferry from Piraeus Port near Athens, Greece, across the Aegean Sea to Santorini.
- **Drive from Santorini Port to Santorini Hotel**
  You transfer from Santorini Port to your hotel on Santorini, Greece, then the rest of the day is free.
- **Free Time in Santorini**
  You have free time on Santorini, Greece, to begin exploring the caldera views, villages, and beaches independently.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Santorini hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 4 Santorini, free time & optional tours

This experience is designed to allow unstructured time on Santorini, encouraging personal exploration and relaxation on one of Greece’s most distinctive islands. travellers can enjoy the island’s dramatic caldera views, volcanic beaches, and iconic whitewashed villages at their own pace. Santorini’s blend of ancient history, shaped by its volcanic past, and contemporary island culture creates a unique setting for leisure. Opportunities may include strolling through cliffside towns, visiting local cafés, or simply enjoying the Aegean scenery. The day emphasizes flexibility and immersion in the island’s atmosphere without a fixed schedule.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Santorini**
  You have free time on Santorini, Greece, to begin exploring the caldera views, villages, and beaches independently.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Santorini hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 5 Ferry from Santorini to Mykonos

This journey connects two of the Cyclades' most iconic islands, combining scenic sea travel with relaxed island time. Departing from Santorini, the route begins with a transfer to the port before crossing the Aegean Sea by ferry toward Mykonos. The experience highlights Greece's island-hopping tradition and the changing seascapes of the Cyclades. Upon arrival, the transfer to the hotel introduces Mykonos's distinctive character, blending traditional whitewashed architecture with a lively coastal atmosphere. The day concludes with free time, allowing for independent exploration, leisure, or enjoyment of the island's vibrant setting.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Santorini Hotel to Santorini Port**
  You transfer from your Santorini hotel to Santorini Port to board your ferry back to Athens.
- **Travel from Ferry Santorini to Mykonos**
  You take a ferry from Santorini to Mykonos, Greece, travelling between Cyclades islands.
- **Drive from Mykonos Port to Mykonos Hotel**
  You transfer from Mykonos Port to your hotel on Mykonos, Greece, then your time is free.
- **Free Time in Mykonos**
  You have free time on Mykonos, Greece, to explore the island's towns, beaches, dining, and nightlife.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Mykonos hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 6 Mykonos, free day & local options

This journey combines relaxed island time in Mykonos with an overnight transition to the eastern Aegean. The day begins with free time to enjoy Mykonos at a personal pace, whether exploring its historic town, coastline, or local culture. A transfer to the port follows, marking the shift from leisure to travel. The overnight ferry experience reflects Greece's long-standing maritime routes connecting its islands across open sea. Arrival in Samos sets the stage for exploration of an island known for its natural landscapes, history, and traditional character.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Mykonos**
  You have free time on Mykonos, Greece, to explore the island's towns, beaches, dining, and nightlife.
- **Drive from Mykonos Hotel to Mykonos Port**
  You transfer to Mykonos Port late in the evening to board the overnight ferry to Samos.
- **Travel from Overnight Ferry Mykonos to Samos**
  You travel overnight by ferry from Mykonos to Samos, Greece, with reclining seats on board.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Ferry reclining seats | Breakfast |

## DAY 7 Samos to Kusadasi

This experience introduces the eastern Aegean island of Samos, blending arrival logistics with unstructured time to explore at a relaxed pace. After arriving at Samos Port, the day allows for independent discovery of the island's coastal scenery, traditional towns, and everyday rhythms. Samos is known for its green landscapes, historic connections to ancient Greece, and laid-back island character. The open schedule encourages personal exploration, relaxation by the sea, or casual engagement with local culture. The journey concludes at the port, preparing for onward travel across the Aegean.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Arrive at Samos Port**
  You arrive on Samos, Greece, in the morning and may have time to explore depending on ferry schedules.
- **Free Time in Samos**
  You have free time on Samos, Greece, to explore the town independently before continuing to Turkey.
- **Travel from Ferry Samos to Kuşadası**
  You take a ferry from Samos, Greece, across to Kuşadası on the Turkish coast.

### Kuşadası Coastal Arrival and Leisure

This journey marks arrival in Turkey along the Aegean coast, introducing the port town of Kuşadası. After disembarking, travellers transition into a setting shaped by seaside life, regional commerce, and proximity to major historical sites. Kuşadası's waterfront, local markets, and relaxed urban atmosphere reflect its role as a gateway between sea travel and inland heritage destinations. Free time allows for exploration of the town, leisure along the coast, or simple relaxation after the crossing. The experience emphasizes a smooth cultural and geographic transition from the Greek islands to western Anatolia.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Arrive in Kuşadası**
  You arrive in Kuşadası, Turkey, meet the local team and your Turkish tour guide, and settle in for the evening.
- **Free Time in Kusadasi**
  You have free time in Kusadasi, Turkey, to relax by the Aegean Sea or explore the town independently.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Kusadasi hotel | Dinner |

## DAY 8 Kusadasi, Ephesus Roman ruins tour

Travel from Kuşadası to Ephesus and spend time exploring the ancient site before continuing to the remains of the Temple of Artemis. The day then moves inland to Şirince, where the village surroundings offer a different perspective on the region. A carpet-weaving demonstration provides the final cultural element, bringing together archaeology, village life and traditional craftsmanship.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Kuşadası to Ephesus**
  You travel from Kuşadası to the archaeological site of Ephesus in Turkey for guided sightseeing.
- **Explore Ephesus Ancient Site**
  You visit Ephesus in Turkey, exploring one of the best preserved ancient cities in the Mediterranean region.
- **Explore Temple of Artemis in Ephesus**
  You visit the Temple of Artemis near Ephesus, Turkey, a major historic site linked to the ancient sanctuary.
- **Drive from Ephesus to Sirince**
  You travel from Ephesus to the hillside village of Sirince near Kusadasi, Turkey.
- **Explore Sirince Village**
  You visit Sirince village near Kusadasi, Turkey, known for fruit wines and traditional architecture.
- **Carpet Weaving Demonstration in Şirince**
  You learn about traditional carpet weaving in Turkey, seeing how carpets are made and the history behind the craft.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Kusadasi hotel | Breakfast,Dinner |

## DAY 9 Drive to Pamukkale and Hierapolis

This journey blends regional craftsmanship with one of Turkey’s most distinctive natural and archaeological landscapes. Beginning in the Kuşadası region, a leather goods demonstration highlights local artisan traditions and contemporary production techniques. The route then travels inland toward Pamukkale, revealing changing scenery across western Anatolia. At Pamukkale, the white travertine terraces and thermal pools showcase the area’s unique geological formation. The experience continues at the ancient city of Hierapolis, where Roman ruins and sacred spaces reflect the site’s historical role as a spa centre. Time at the hot springs allows for relaxation while connecting with the area’s long-standing wellness traditions.

ACTIVITIES

- **Leather Goods Demonstration in Kuşadası Region**
  You watch a demonstration of locally handcrafted leather goods in Turkey before travelling inland.
- **Drive from Kuşadası to Pamukkale**
  You drive east from the Kuşadası region to Pamukkale, Turkey, known for its white travertine terraces.
- **Explore Pamukkale Travertines**
  You visit the white travertine terraces of Pamukkale, Turkey, formed by mineral-rich thermal waters.
- **Explore Hierapolis Ancient Site**
  You tour Hierapolis in Turkey, the ancient city beside Pamukkale's terraces.
- **Visit the Hot Springs Swim at Pamukkale**
  You enjoy a dip in the thermal pools at Hierapolis in Pamukkale, Turkey, surrounded by ancient columns and ruins.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Pamukkale hotel | Breakfast,Dinner |

DAY 10

## Drive the Silk Road to Konya

Travel from Pamukkale to Sultanhani Caravanserai before continuing to Konya for a visit to the Mevlana Museum. The two stops introduce different aspects of central Anatolian history, from long-distance trade to religious and cultural heritage. Once the museum visit is complete, continue by road towards Cappadocia and finish the day with the overland transition into its unusual geological landscape.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Pamukkale to Sultanhani Caravanserai**
  You visit the white travertine terraces of Pamukkale, Turkey, formed by mineral-rich thermal waters.
- **Explore Sultanhani Caravanserai**
  You visit Sultanhani Caravanserai near Konya, Turkey, a grand Seljuk-era trading stop.
- **Drive from Sultanhani Caravanserai to Konya**
  You continue by road to Konya, Turkey, an important historic city linked to the Whirling Dervishes.
- **Explore Mevlana Museum in Konya**
  You visit the Mevlana Museum in Konya, Turkey, the spiritual center of the Whirling Dervishes.
- **Drive from Konya to Cappadocia**
  You travel from Konya to the Cappadocia region of central Turkey.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Cappadocia hotel | Breakfast,Dinner |

DAY 11

## Cappadocia, full day tour

Visit the Göreme Open Air Museum, the fairy chimney landscape and an underground city. These three components form the complete supported programme for the day. The underground settlement demonstrates how people adapted the volcanic terrain for shelter and defence, while Göreme provides the religious heritage focus. No specific underground city name or extra valley visit is given, so none should be added.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Goreme Open Air Museum in Cappadocia**
  You visit the Goreme Open Air Museum in Cappadocia, Turkey, exploring rock-cut churches decorated with early Christian frescoes.

- **Explore Fairy Chimneys in Cappadocia**
  You visit the fairy chimneys in Cappadocia, Turkey, viewing surreal volcanic formations shaped by centuries of erosion.
- **Explore Underground City in Cappadocia**
  You explore an underground city in Cappadocia, Turkey, discovering tunnels and chambers carved for refuge and daily life.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Cappadocia hotel | Breakfast,Dinner |

## DAY 12 — Cappadocia, drive to Ankara before returning to Istanbul

Leave Cappadocia and travel to Ankara, exchanging the region’s volcanic landscapes for the urban surroundings of Turkey’s capital. Visit Anitkabir and learn more about Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and the foundation of the Turkish Republic before continuing west towards Istanbul. The long road journey connects central Anatolia with the country’s largest city while adding an important modern historical landmark to the day.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Cappadocia to Ankara**
  You travel by road from Cappadocia to Ankara, Turkey, crossing central Anatolian landscapes on a long overland journey.
- **Explore Anitkabir in Ankara**
  You visit Anitkabir in Ankara, Turkey, the monumental mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and a symbol of modern Turkey.
- **Drive from Ankara to Istanbul**
  You continue by road from Ankara to Istanbul, Turkey, returning to the country's cultural and historical hub.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Istanbul hotel | Breakfast | Kayseri to Istanbul Flight Upgrade (inc. transfers) |

## DAY 13 — Istanbul, old city tour

Spend time among the principal landmarks of Istanbul’s old city and examine the architectural legacy left by both Byzantine and Ottoman rulers. Religious monuments, palace complexes and civic spaces provide insight into how power, faith and public life were expressed over many centuries. The visits focus on the historical core of the city and provide a broad introduction to the influences that shaped Istanbul into an imperial capital.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Blue Mosque in Istanbul**
  You visit the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey, admiring its grand domes, minarets, and intricate Ottoman-era tilework.
- **Explore Hagia Sophia in Istanbul**
  You explore Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey, a monumental structure reflecting Byzantine and Ottoman history.
- **Explore Hippodrome of Constantinople in Istanbul**
  You visit the Hippodrome of Constantinople in Istanbul, Turkey, once the ceremonial and sporting center of the Byzantine Empire.
- **Explore Grand Bazaar in Istanbul**
  You visit the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest covered markets in the world. The bazaar contains thousands of shops selling textiles, jewellery, spices, and souvenirs.
- **Explore Topkapi Palace in Istanbul**
  You tour Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, Turkey, the former residence of Ottoman sultans filled with courtyards and royal chambers.
- **Explore Hagia Irene in Istanbul**
  You visit Hagia Irene in Istanbul, Turkey, a historic church within the Topkapi Palace complex with a long Byzantine past.
- **Explore Harem**
  Step inside the Harem and discover the private world of the Ottoman court, from its ornate rooms to the stories of those who once lived there.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Istanbul hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 14 — Istanbul, departure transfer to the airport

Enjoy your final hours in Istanbul at your own pace before departure. The free period can be used for last-minute shopping, revisiting a favourite area, walking nearby streets or simply relaxing before leaving the city. Later, transfer from your hotel to Istanbul Airport for the onward flight, creating a straightforward conclusion that combines flexible personal time with the final included departure service.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Istanbul**
  You enjoy free time to explore Istanbul, Turkey, discovering its streets, markets, and historic landmarks at your own pace.
- **Drive from Istanbul Hotel to Istanbul Airport**
  You are transferred from your hotel in Istanbul to Istanbul Airport, Turkey, for your onward departure.
- **Departure from Istanbul Airport**
  Your tour concludes at Istanbul Airport, where you complete departure formalities and continue with your

onward flight.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| N/A | Breakfast | Extra day in Istanbul - post-tour |

### INCLUDED

- All accommodation as stated in the itinerary
- All transport and transfers
- Greek island ferry crossings as per itinerary
- Port-hotel transfers on Greek islands
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Services of a local tour leader throughout
- Entrance fees to sites visited in Turkey
- Services of a Greek tour leader from Athens to Samos
- Services of a professional Turkish tour guide from Kusadasi to Istanbul
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Tipping kitty

### EXCLUDED

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees in Athens (allow approx. EUR 17 for the Acropolis and Acropolis Museum)
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for guide & driver
- Port or border fees
- Optional tours
- Any other items not mentioned above

## Tour 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.

### 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.

### 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, Mantı, 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.

## Important Notes

**1** **Accommodation**

This tour uses a range of hotels mainly at the local 4-star level. Please check the Accommodation section for more information on the normal hotels used on this tour. This list is given as a guide though and hotels may change from

time to time to others of a similar standard.

Accommodation levels and hotels are slightly different in Greece and Turkey to general Western standards. We regularly inspect all the hotels we use to ensure that the service you receive is as close as possible to your expectations. Please check your hotel room when you first arrive (hot water, cleanliness etc.), as our rep will wait in the hotel reception for at least 15 minutes to help in case of any problems.

We will contact you with your arrival hotel details normally a couple of weeks before departure.

**Check-in Times:** Official hotel check-in times in Greece and Turkey are between 14.00 and 15.00. However, we do always try to ensure that if you arrive early, you can check into your room as soon as possible. We can nearly always get you into your hotel rooms by midday, but please understand that it is out of our control if the hotel is full and it takes a little longer. You will have full use of the hotel facilities while you wait if there is a short delay.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

## 2 Transport

Our Turkey & Greece tours use a mix of air conditioned minivans, minibuses and coaches depending on the size of the group.

Ferry journeys to the Greek islands are booked in advance and approximate timings are given in our tour itineraries. These are subject to change however, and any tour that visits the islands is subject to adjustments and amendments based on the available ferry schedules. While it does not happen often, sometimes ferry schedules are changed without notice and ferries may also be cancelled completely due to poor weather conditions. In this event the program may need to be adjusted and you may end up spending more or less time in one location than originall planned. This is the nature of travel between the islands and we thank you for your patience and understanding in the rare event of this occurring.

## 3 Transfers

The tour includes a 24-hour airport arrival transfer service in Athens airport and departure transfer service to either of Istanbul's two airports. All other transfers throughout the tour including between ferry ports and hotels are also included.

## 4 Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

In Greece we provide a professional tour guide for the tour in Athens, and a tour leader to accompany throughout the whole tour until you board the ferry for Turkey in Samos.

In Turkey we provide a fully trained, local English-speaking guide to accompany you all the way from Kusadasi to the end of the tour in Istanbul. They will escort you on all of the sightseeing tours.

At Encounters Travel we try to use local guides and reps as much as possible. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

## 5 Entrance fees, Hotel fees & permits

Entrance fees to all sites visited during the tour while in Turkey are included in the price. However entrance fees to sites visited in Athens are not included. Please allow approx. EUR 25 to cover the Acropolis and Acropolis Museum.

**Greece Hotel Residence Fees:** The Hellenic National Tourism Organization has announced that a residence fee will be applied on all hotel accommodation, starting from 1st January 2018. The fees must be paid by guests directly to the hotel before the end of their stay and are therefore not included in the tour price. Fees are per room per night (not per person) and have been set at EUR 1.50 for 3* hotels, EUR 3.00 for 4* hotels and EUR 4.00 for 5* hotels.

## 6 Tipping

Tipping is common practice in Turkey and Greece, as a sign of appreciation for services provided. Your tour price includes a kitty contribution to various tips that your tour guide/leader will make along the way to ensure the smooth running of your tour. This does not cover your tour guide, driver(s) or transfer staff though.

**Turkey tour guide & Greece tour leader:** If you feel that your tour guide and tour leaders in Turkey and Greece have worked hard and been of good assistance to you, then they will certainly appreciate a tip at the end of your time with them. How much you tip is subject to your satisfaction with their service and your personal budget. You should not feel pressured to tip any particular amount. As a guideline, we can suggest that for good service, approximately GBP 2-4 / USD 3-6 / EUR 3-5 per day would be appropriate.

**Drivers:** You may have a range of private drivers on your trip. For those you see for at least several days and who are more involved with the group, a tip of around EUR 1-2 per person per day is generally appropriate.

## 7 What to take

**Luggage:** Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you on the tour. You should also bring a small daypack/bag to take out during the day. Your main luggage will normally be left in the hotel during your sightseeing trips. However, you do have lots of transfer on this tour, between ferries, through ports and hotels. So, please only bring as much as you are comfortable carrying yourself.

**Luggage limits:** There is no luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your hold luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before travelling to the airport.

**Clothing:** This tour only runs during the warmer summer months between June and September. The climate is hot and sunny, getting cooler as the year progresses. Modesty rates highly in some parts of Turkey, especially for women and in the East, so please ensure clothes are loose fitting and not too revealing. Loose shorts are OK in tourist sites, as are T-shirts, but these should not show too much bare flesh (your shoulders should remain covered). The Greek islands are more relaxed.

**Other items:** We also recommend you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, money belt, small torch, camera & charger.

## 8 Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departures on this tour approximately every 2 weeks from June to September. 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.

## 9 International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour.

We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued.

Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines are more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

**Flight CO2 Emissions:**

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

## 10 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

## 11 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.

We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

## 12 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

## 13 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

## 14 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

*IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.*

**Covid-19**

**Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.**

## 15 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

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## 16 Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

**How Water-to-Go Technology works:**

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

**The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:**

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can’t fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon’s efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

**Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide**

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.
- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

**Use Water-to-Go products and you'll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!**

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

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## 17 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

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## 18 Voltage

Sockets are two round pronged and 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little

loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already.
If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

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## 19 Money - Turkey

The Turkish lira was re-valued at the end of 2004 to become the ‘New Turkish Lira’. The word ‘New’ has now been dropped, and we are back to ‘Turkish Lira’ again (TRY).

It is normally cheaper to convert money to Turkish Lira in Turkey than at home. Using an ATM or a credit card will often get you the best possible exchange rates; the post and telephone office (PTT) and banks offer very reasonable rates, too. Try to use ATM machines that are attached to banks while they are open, so that if your card is swallowed you can go into the bank and get it released back to you.

It is difficult for us to specify the money that you will spend per day, however, as a general rule USD 20-50 per day can provide you with additional meals, tipping, snacks & drinks. Should you wish to purchase many souvenirs or other luxuries, of which there is a diverse range, you will have to budget for these.

A mixture of cash and credit cards are the best forms of currency. Credit cards are accepted in most restaurants, bars and pubs. MasterCard and Visa are most welcomed; American Express cards work at some ATMs and AmEx offices. Credit cards are also useful for cash advances, which allow you to withdraw Lira instantly from associated banks and ATMs throughout Turkey. Cash cards and ATM’s are widespread in most of Turkey including in Istanbul, Canakkale, Selcuk, Marmaris, Pamukkale, Fethiye, Kas, Cappadocia, and Ankara.

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## 20 Language - Turkey

The official language of Turkey is Turkish. In addition, between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of the population speaks a different mother tongue, usually Kurdish or Arabic. Turkish words are spelled with an adapted Roman alphabet. The language is phonetic; each letter has only one sound that is always pronounced distinctly.

You'll find you won't have much of a problem with the language barrier. English is well communicated by many Turks. Below you will find some important phrases that will have you sounding like a Turk in no time!

Yes = Evet (eh-vet)
No = Hayir (hah-yuhr)
Maybe = Belki (behl-key)
Please = Lutfen (loot-fen)
Thank you = Tesekkur (tesh-eccur)
Pardon me = Pardon (phar-don)
Who = Kim (kim)
When = Ne zaman (neh zah-mahn)
Today = Bugun (boo-ghoon)
Yesterday = Dun (dhuen)
Tomorrow = Yarin (yar-in)
I'm sorry = Ozur dilerim (oz-oor del-eh-rim)
Help = Imdat (eem-daht)
Police = Polis (po-lis)
Hello = Merhaba (mehrhaba)
Goodbye = Hoscakal (hosh-cha-khal)
Good night = Iyi geceler (ee-yee geh-jeh-lehr)
How are you ? = Nasilsin ? (nah-sil-sihn)
Open = Acik (ach-oek)
Closed = Kapali (kap-ah-lee)
Bad = Kotu (koh-too)
Good = Iyi (eeh-yea)
Hot = Sicak (sijark)
Cold = Soguk (sooh-ook)

Bill, please = Hesap lutfen (hesarp, lewtfen)  My name is Paul = Ismim Paul (Eas-meem Paul)

I am a vegetarian = Vejeteryanim (vej-e-tar-ian-eam)  I need a doctor = Doktora ihtiyacim (dohk-tor-ah eeh-tee-yajum)

Do you speak English ? = Ingilizce biliyor musun (een-geal-je bee-leh-your-moe-sean)

I don't speak Turkish. = Turkce bilmiyorum (Terkche-bil-me-you-room)

I don't understand = Anlamiyorum (ahn-luh-mee-your-room)

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