

Taste of Turkey

Country(ies): Turkey

Tour type: Small Group

Transport: A/C minibus & internal flight

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 20

Days: 8 days

Start Location: Istanbul, Turkey

End Location: Istanbul, Turkey

Meals: Breakfasts - 7, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 4

Highlights:

Istanbul Old City, Gallipoli Battlefields, Troy, Pergamum,
Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, Pamukkale - Calcium
Travertines, Hieropolis



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Istanbul, transfer to hotel

Upon arrival our staff will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel in Istanbul for the start of your trip.

OVERNIGHT: Istanbul hotel

MEALS: None

EXTRAS: Single room supplement (TUSGTT) 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 Gallipoli 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 undiscovered 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 Hierapolis

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 occurring 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: Domestic flight to Istanbul

Today we head to the nearby airport in Denizli from where we'll take a short domestic flight back to Istanbul. Upon arrival you'll be transferred to your hotel and have the remainder of the day free.

OVERNIGHT: Istanbul hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 8: 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.

OVERNIGHT: N/A

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Extra day in Istanbul - post-tour

Included:

- All accommodation as stated in the itinerary
- All transport and transfers
- Domestic flight from Denizli to Istanbul
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Services of a local tour leader throughout
- Entrance fees to various sites
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Tipping kitty

Excluded:

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (mandatory, [get quote here](#))
- 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

- 2025 Departures will include a visit to ancient Assos which will replace the visit to Pergamum which is included on 2024 departures.

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 (TUSGTT)

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.

Kusadasi Cooking Class

Min numbers: 1

Venture into the Turkish countryside and cook authentic dishes such as Sultan Köfte, Mantar, 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

<p>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 group departures to have a maximum of 20 travellers (dedicated Anzac Day tour groups may be larger).</p>

<p>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.</p>

2. Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departure on this tour all year round starting on a Saturday with additional departures on Tuesdays through the summer months. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 travellers and a maximum of 20. 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 [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.
