



TRAVELING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

Turkey In A Nutshell

10-Day, 9-Night Journey

Istanbul, Ankara, Cappadocia, Antalya, Pamukkale, Kusadasi

Immerse yourself in this unforgettable experience through Turkey in 10 days. You will visit many famous sites where history happened, from the ancient Ruins of Ephesus to the fairy-tale landscape of Cappadocia and the famous Pamukkale Hot Springs; with the tour ending in amazing Istanbul and its grand palaces and magnificent mosques.



Hagia Sophia Mosque was a church built by the Roman Empire in 537 AD



4000 shops in the Grand Bazaar



Celsus Library, Ephesus



Pamukkale Hot Spring



Antalya Harbor, Turkey



Hot Air Balloons

Inclusions

- Private Airport Transfers
- Hotel Accommodations
- Daily Breakfast & Selected Meals
(See tour plan for details)
- Guided Excursions with English-speaking

Local Guide

- Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per Itinerary

Exclusions

- International Airfare
- Domestic Airfare within Turkey
- Hotel Tourism Fee
- Travel Insurance
- Medical Expenses
- Visa Fee
- Gratuity
- Personal Expenses

Nearby Airports

Istanbul - Istanbul International Airport (IST)

Ankara - Ankara Esenboga Airport (ESB)

Izmir – Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport (ADB)

Itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVE ISTANBUL

Upon arrival into **Istanbul**, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel.

In the evening, we enjoy a **Bosphorus Dinner Cruise with Turkish Night Show** (3 hours @7:30pm).

Admire Istanbul's illuminated mosques, palaces and bridges from the water. Savor a delicious dinner. Enjoy live entertainment.

[2 nights in **Istanbul**. Meals: Dinner]

*Hotel check-in time is generally 3 pm or later. If your flight arrives in the early morning (e.g. midnight or 7 am) we suggest you add a pre-tour hotel night during booking for a well-deserved rest before starting your tour.

DAY 2: ISTANBUL OLD CITY TOUR



Discover the best of Historic Areas of Istanbul (UNESCO World Heritage Site) on **this guided group tour** (9 hours @8am, group).

- **Hagia Sophia** (admission is included): This timeless mosque was the pride and glory of Byzantine architecture. Take in the structure's imposing façade matched only by the grandeur of its towering vaulted ceilings within.
- **Blue Mosque**: Also known as **Sultan Ahmed Mosque** that is famous for its architecture as well as its iconic blue tiles.
- **Hippodrome and Obelisks**: Also known as **Sultanahmet Square** where chariot races were held.
- **Topkapi Palace** (admission is included): Witness the opulent and powerful history of the Ottoman sultans, showcasing magnificent architecture and priceless treasures. Closed on Tuesdays.
- **Hagia Irene Museum** in Topkapi Palace's courtyard (admission is included): Offers a unique glimpse into Byzantine history and architecture.
- **Harem in Topkapi Palace** (admission is included): Offers an intimate look at the lavish and intricate design of the Ottoman royalty's private lives.
- **Grand Bazaar**: This lively historic market is dotted with over 4000 shops filled with traditional Turkish handicrafts and more. A place where visitors can immerse themselves into local life and hunt for unique souvenirs amidst the echoes of centuries-old trade.

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 3: ISTANBUL – ANKARA, ANKARA CITY TOUR

Transfer to the airport and fly to **Ankara** (one hour 15 minutes flight, not included). Airport to hotel transfer.

Proceed for a **city tour of Ankara** visiting several historic sites (4-5 hours). Explore the **Museum of Anatolian Civilizations**. Discover remains from the Stone and Neolithic ages and venture into the past with your guide to learn about the Hittites, Phrygians and Urartians; and uncover the history of the Citadel of Ankara and Ataturk Mausoleum.

Visit **Temple of Augustus** and walk by the **Kızılay** neighborhood.

[1 night in Ankara. Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

DAY 4: ANKARA – CAPPADOCIA, SOUTH CAPPADOCIA EXCURSION

Check-out and drive to **Cappadocia** (about 3 hours by car).

Explore a lush part of the **southern Cappadocia** region on this day tour. (4 hours).

Take a gentle hike in the stunning canyon of the **Ihlara Valley**. Monks (7th and 11th century) settled in the valley and carved their houses, churches, and monasteries directly from the soft volcanic rock of the canyon walls. These structures are adorned with frescoes that reflect a range of artistic influences,

including Persian and Syrian styles. Walk along the trails and explore the rich tapestry of nature and history it offers.

Have lunch (at your own cost) by the river and check out the ancient **Selime Monastery** and the amazing **Kaymakli Underground City**.

[2 nights in Cappadocia. Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

DAY 5: RED ROUTE' (NORTH) CAPPADOCIA EXCURSION

This small group tour follows the 'Red Route', taking in the most-photographed sights of **North Cappadocia**. (6-7 hours @9:30am).

Visit ancient rock-hewn churches, towering fairy chimneys, and karst caves that dot the landscape of Cappadocia, making for some unforgettable photo opportunities.

Marvel at the fairy chimneys of Love Valley and Monk Valley. Visit Uchisar Castle and Imagination Valley, and explore the UNESCO-listed Goreme Open-Air Museum.

Finally, visit the pottery-making town of Avanos and maybe even have a go on the potter's wheel yourself.

[Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

① **Add-on:** Enjoy an **early morning hot air balloon** excursion over Cappadocia including transfer (2.5 hours). Your colorful balloon glides silently over the sublime hills and valleys of Cappadocia giving a true sense of the region's fairytale terrain.

DAY 6: CAPPADOCIA – ANTALYA, KONYA EXCUSION & WHIRLING DERVISHES

Check-out and drive to **Antalya** (about 6 hours by car). Enroute stop at **Konya** to explore famous local foods. Visit **Konya Mevlana Museum** - school of whirling dervishes (1.5 hours).

Arrive **Antalya** and visit the **Old Town**.

[2 nights in Antalya. Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

DAY 7: ANCIENT PERGE EXCUSION AND CABLE CAR RIDE

Excursion to **Perge**, one of the largest ancient cities in the Pamphylia region. (about 7-8 hours, @8:30am),

Enter by passing through the arch of the Roman Gate to be greeted by an amphitheater, the Hellenistic Gate (quite well preserved) and richly decorated remains of the city wall, and much more.

Ride the **Cable Car** to see a spectacular skyline of Antalya and enjoy fresh air with the scent of pine trees.

[Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

DAY 8: PAMUKKALE | PAMUKKALE HOT SPRING AND CITY TOUR

After breakfast proceed to **Pamukkale**. (3.5 hours @ 8am).

Visit **Pamukkale Hot Springs** and travertines; terraces of mineral carbonates left by flowing water. Enjoy a therapeutic hot spring soak. These hot springs have been used as a spa since the 2nd century BC (about 3.5 hours, arrive hotel about 5pm).

[1 night in Pamukkale. Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

DAY 9: KUSADASI | ANCIENT EPHEBUS AND CITY TOUR

After breakfast proceed to **Kusadasi** (3 hours @ 8am).

Arrive Kusadasi for your **Kusadasi City and Ephesus tour** (4-5 hours).

Visit the Library of Celsus, the Temples of Hadrian and Artemis, and the vast Great Theater. Walk through the excavated ruins in Ephesus

Carpet weaving school, Leather Production Center and local **winery**.

[Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

DAY 10: JUSADASI – IZMIR, DEPART TURKEY

After breakfast, transfer to Izmir airport for your flight.

[Meals: Breakfast]

*Hotel check-out time is generally around 11 am. If your flight departs in the evening or past midnight, we suggest you consider adding a post-tour hotel night during booking, to be comfortable and well rested before your flight home.

*The duration and start time of excursions are subject to change without prior notice.

Hotels

We carefully handpick our hotels to ensure they provide you with the best comfort and experience. For Private Tours, you may request a specific hotel as one of the customizable options.

