

INSIGHT VACATIONS

The Art of Travelling in Style

TREASURES OF TURKEY





KEY

① Central Hotels + Nights

② Scenic Hotels + Nights

● Place Visited

○ Optional Place Visited

▨ Trip Option

🚢 Cruise

🚆 Train

✈️ Join/Leave Options

✈️ Included Flights

🏛️ UNESCO Heritage Site

Day 1 | Welcome to Istanbul



Welcome to Turkey. You'll start in vibrant Istanbul, where a representative will pick you up from the airport and transfer you to your hotel. Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director and getting to know your fellow travellers over a delicious Welcome Dinner.

Meals: Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Grand Wyndham Levent

Day 2 | Bosphorus Cruise and Bursa



In the morning embark on a cruise along Bosphorus Strait, one of the world's busiest waterways. Leisurely cruise past the quaint fishing villages that line its shores. Travel towards the old city and see the beautiful Ottoman palaces and fortresses, on the waterfront. Later, leave Istanbul for Bursa. A large city in northwest Turkey, it was the first major capital of the Ottoman Empire. Here we visit the Green Mosque, the Grand Mosque and the Mausoleum complex. There will be time in the afternoon to explore the city's bazaars, silk markets and historic monuments. This evening, venture to a local restaurant for a tasty meal.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Mövenpick Bursa Hotel and Thermal Spa.

Day 3 | Cumalikizik and Gordion



Begin your day of culture in the charming village of Cumalikizik, with its traditional wooden houses and very narrow cobblestone streets. Later you'll head to Gordion, which was once the capital city of ancient Phrygia, as you make your way to Turkey's modern capital, Ankara. Enjoy a relaxed evening at your hotel, the Hilton SA. Perhaps take a dip in its indoor pool or unwind in its jacuzzi or hammam.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Ankara HiltonSA, Ankara.

Day 4 | Sophisticated Ankara



A day for history enthusiasts, explore Turkey's bustling cultural capital, Ankara. Sightseeing includes a visit to the Hittite Museum and Anitkabir, the Mausoleum of Atatürk, Turkey's greatest modern leader and the first President of the Republic of Turkey. Later, head to Avanos in Cappadocia. Famed for its unique geological formation, Cappadocia is a scenic delight with golden hills and panoramic views.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton Avanos, Cappadocia

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Turkish Folklore Show - A folklore show in a cave setting, featuring vibrant dances from different regions and also a belly dancer. During the show unlimited amount of local drinks, both with and without alcohol, 4 kinds of Turkish 'meze' (hors d'oeuvres, appetizers), nuts, fruits and Turkish dessert specialities will be served.

Adult: 47.00 EUR

Day 5 | The Underground Cities of Cappadocia Experience



With its striking golden, volcanic landscapes, underground city and otherworldly buildings, Cappadocia could never be called ordinary. At every turn you'll be delighted with yet another geographical or architectural surprise.

Today you'll travel to the striking town of Göreme. Explore its rock-hewn churches decorated with ancient wall paintings. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at the Uçhisar Kadıneli Restaurant and get a taste of Anatolia's regional flavours. This establishment provides employment for the women of the village and supports their financial freedom.

Next, continue on to the Pasabag Valley and visit the underground city of Özkonak where you'll have time to explore its tunnels and holes with your Travel Director.

Later, join a Cappadocian local who has lived in the city for decades and take a tour of their cave house. Explore this unique way of living, learning about local traditions and family life. This evening you'll witness a performance of Whirling Dervishes before dining at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton Avanos, Cappadocia

Day 6 | Konya



Start your day by learning more about traditional pottery making in Avanos. It's then time to take a journey along the famous Silk Road to visit a 13th century caravanserai, a historic roadside inn where travellers would rest and recover after a day's journey, most notably along the iconic road itself. Later, you'll head to Turkey's most religious city, Konya, the old capital of the Anatolian Seljuk Empire. Once here, visit the Mevlana Museum, with its beautiful fluted turquoise dome, and see the Karatay Medrese and Ince Minaret.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Novotel Konya Hotel.

Day 7 | Through the Taurus Mountains



Your day begins with a scenic drive down the Taurus Mountains to Aspendos, an ancient city in Antalya. Known for having the best-preserved Roman theatre anywhere in the world, learn more as you explore it with your fellow travellers. Continue to your hotel for the next two nights and enjoy time to relax.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Akra Barut Antalya.

Day 8 | Antalya's Old Town



Start your day with a visit to Antalya's pretty Old Town, with its souvenir markets and sweeping sea views. The rest of the day is free to relax and enjoy the leisure facilities at your hotel. Alternatively, explore Antalya at your own pace. Ask your Travel Director for recommendations on places to explore in the city, take a stroll around the harbour or perhaps take a boat trip off the coast.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Akra Barut Antalya.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Mediterranean Dream - We drive to the harbour for a fantastic cruise by a romantic wooden yacht and enjoy the turquoise coast and bays of the South coasts of Turkey. During the yacht tour we will have opportunity to see the waterfalls and swim at the beautiful Mediterranean waters. Also on board you can take pictures of interesting landscapes of Antalya.

Adult: 50.00 EUR

Day 9 | The Pools of Pamukkale



Cross the soaring Taurus Mountains to see the remains of the ancient city of Hierapolis, a Roman spa city founded around 190 B.C. Next to the ruins, you can see the gleaming white travertine terraces of Pamukkale. Famous for its mineral-rich thermal waters and chalk-white limestone terraces, explore the area with your Travel Director. Later, head back to your hotel, the esteemed Doğa Thermal Health & Spa. Take full advantage of its indoor and outdoor thermal pools, steam room and its Turkish bath complex.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Doğa Thermal Health & Spa, Pamukkale.

Day 10 | Kusadasi



Start your morning with a trip to the Temple of Aphrodite, dedicated to the goddess of love, beauty and fertility, in Geyre. Based in the ruins of the ancient city of Aphrodisias, it was the focal point of the city in its heyday. You'll see the towering, fourteen columns of the temple that have been re-erected. Arrive into the coastal resort of Kusadasi for an evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Charisma De Luxe Hotel, Kusadasi.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Kusadasi Seafood Dinner. - Head to one of Kusadasi's favourite seafood restaurants. Known for stunning views and for serving the best fish dishes in coastal Turkey, dine on a variety of seafood and meze delights with drinks. Don't worry there's great options for those who don't like seafood too!

Adult: 77.00 EUR

Day 11 | Ancient Ephesus



Discover one of the world's finest archaeological sites, Ephesus. Walk through the colonnaded Arcadian Way, see the Library of Celsus and the huge Amphitheater, before visiting the House of the Virgin Mary, situated above the Ephesus ruins and the Ephesus Archaeological Museum.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Charisma De Luxe Hotel, Kusadasi.

Day 12 | Pergamon, Troy and Çanakkale.



Begin your day of legends with a trip to Pergamon. Once a powerful ancient Greek city, you'll find the Askleion temple here. A famous shrine and healing centre, it was built in honour of Asklepios, the god of medicine. Next, head to Homer's city of Troy, the focal point of the Trojan war and the backdrop to one of history's most famous love stories, that of Paris and Helen of Troy, the face that launched 1000 ships. A replica of the mighty Trojan Horse, which helped the Greeks capture the city in 1200 B.C., can be found beside the city's walls. After some time exploring, continue your journey to Çanakkale, a gateway to the Gallipoli WWI battlefields.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton Canakkale, Canakkale.

Day 13 | Gallipoli and ANZAC Cove



This morning, cross the Dardanelles Strait by ferry to the Gallipoli Peninsula. Located in the southern part of East Thrace, it was here that, for nine months during the Great War, Anzac troops fought, in an attempt to gain control of the Dardanelles Strait. Learn more about these events as you visit Anzac Cove and pay your respects at the Lone Pine Cemetery. Later, return to Istanbul where you'll spend the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Wyndham Levent

Day 14 | Istanbul and the Ottoman Empire



Today you'll take in the sites of Istanbul. In the morning, visit the historic Blue Mosque and the Hippodrome, where Roman chariot races were held, before exploring Hagia Sophia. Built in A.D. 537, it has recently turned from a museum into a mosque and is famous for its domed roof. Visit the Topkapi Palace, perched above the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn, the primary inlet of the waterway. Enjoy the excitement of bargaining in the bustling Grand Bazaar. In the evening, join your fellow travellers and toast to your trip over a Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Grand Wyndham Levent

Day 15 | Farewell Istanbul



It's time to say goodbye to your new friends, as your trip comes to an end. A transfer will take you to the airport for your onward flights, or for those extending their stay in Istanbul, speak to your Travel Director for tips and tricks on where to head.

Meals: Breakfast