



# TREASURES OF TURKEY

Classic Tour | 18 Days | Physical Level 1

ISTANBUL - CANAKKALE - SELCUK - PAMUKKALE - ANTALYA - KONYA -  
CAPPADOCIA - ANKARA - ISTANBUL

The place where East meets West, modern-day Turkey is a treasure trove of fascinating history and archaeological wonders. From Istanbul's iconic landmarks and Gallipoli's bloody battlegrounds to Cappadocia's other-worldly landscapes and much more, this all-encompassing tour uncovers the extraordinarily rich culture of a country at the fulcrum of European and Asian history.

- Visit Istanbul's iconic landmarks
- Pay your respects at Gallipoli
- Discover the ancient city of Ephesus
- Unearth Magnesia's fascinating history
- Be mesmerised by a Whirling Dervish ceremony

## TOUR MAP



## TREASURES OF TURKEY TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Turkey visa fees for Australian passport holders (please see visa section below for further information)
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

## CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Turkey on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

## PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

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All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Treasures of Turkey' is rated 1 (5 being the highest) on the physical scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required, but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances on foot. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around sights and climbing some steps.

Some of the ancient sites, including Ephesus, Magnesia and Hierapolis, are spread across large areas; therefore, some walking is required although there are usually rest points along the way. Much of the sightseeing in Istanbul is also on foot. During much of the two days in Cappadocia you will be exploring the landscapes on foot - the walking distances are not far, but the terrain is sometimes uneven and sloping. The viewpoint at Uchisar involves around 200 steps up and down. In Cappadocia please be ready to walk through tunnels and narrow passageways, as well as climb wooden stairways, while exploring the ancient underground city of Kaymakli and other rock-carved sights. Your guide will brief you in detail before each excursion: should you want to opt out, your guide will be able to make arrangements for this.

Of course, our National Guides and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

If you require any more information about the pace or level of physical activity on our tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

## JOINING YOUR TOUR:

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The tour is 18 days in duration including overnight international flights in both directions as this is the most likely flight option from Australia. Please note, some flights may depart and arrive on Day 2.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Please email your international flight times to [info@wendywutours.com.au](mailto:info@wendywutours.com.au) so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Please advise your international flight times to reservations. Join the tour on Day 2 in Istanbul and end the tour on Day 17 in Istanbul. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

#### ITINERARY CHANGES:

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It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.



## DETAILED ITINERARY

**Day 1-2: Fly to Istanbul**

Meals: D

Fly overnight to Istanbul, the 'city where East meets West'. You will be met on arrival and transferred to your city centre hotel ahead of this evening's welcome dinner and briefing.

**Destination Information**

**Istanbul** – Regarded as one of the World's greatest cities, and certainly one of the most influential in the history of the last two millennia, Istanbul (formerly Byzantium and Constantinople) is a melting pot of the old and new: a vibrant, modern metropolis built around a historical heart where Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman treasures compete for the limelight. The setting is equally dramatic: straddling the Bosphorus and flanked by the Golden Horn, the city's imperious skyline is an imposing sight, especially from the water. We have two full days for guided visits to the key sights at the start of the tour, along with a boat trip on the Bosphorus, with a further half day at the end with the chance to explore further either on your own or on one of our optional excursions.

**Day 3: In Istanbul**

Meals: B, L, D

Explore Istanbul's landmark sites. Visit the remains of the once mighty Hippodrome and marvel at the Blue Mosque's exquisitely tiled walls before continuing to the Hagia Sophia, the crowning achievement of the Byzantine Empire. Discover the mesmeric beauty of Topkapi Palace and its extraordinary treasures, then immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world, with a chance to enjoy a traditional Turkish coffee at one of its original coffee shops. Later dine at the atmospheric Cicek Pasaji (Flower Passage) which is a small, covered street of traditional restaurants that serve typical Turkish mezes with raki.

**Destination Information**

**The Blue Mosque** – Officially called the Sultan Ahmed Mosque, this is arguably Istanbul's most beautiful building. The domed and semi-domed exterior is set off by six elegant, slender minarets, while the most exquisite blue Iznik tiles cover the interior. These, together with the light streaming through its windows, give the mosque its nickname - the Blue Mosque.

**Hagia Sophia** – Unquestionably the architectural jewel in the crown of the Byzantine Empire, the stunning Hagia Sophia has miraculously survived nearly 1,500 years and remains the heart of this city. The Hagia Sophia (Church of Divine Wisdom) was consecrated in 537, converted to a mosque by the Ottoman Turks in 1453, then declared a museum by Atatürk in 1935, only to be converted back into a working mosque in 2020.

**Topkapi Palace** – Built by successive sultans between the 15th and 19th centuries, the opulent, sprawling Topkapi Palace is home to some of the most fabulous treasures of the Ottoman empire, including the jewel-filled Treasury and the architecturally exquisite Harem, not to mention its beautiful views out across the Bosphorus.

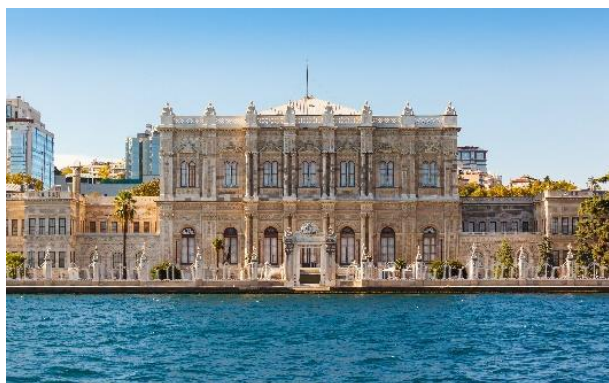
**The Grand Bazaar** – Since it was founded in the 15th century the wonderfully busy and colourful Grand Bazaar has been the beating heart of the Old City. Dozens of labyrinthine covered lanes are lined with shops, stalls, cafés, restaurants, bathhouses and still-functioning workshops, where skilled artisans are still turning out hand-made masterpieces as they have been for centuries.

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**Day 4: In Istanbul**

Meals: B, L, D

In the morning explore some of the city's lesser-known locations, a chance to uncover the real beating heart of the city away from its most famous sights. First visit one of Istanbul's hidden gems in the UNESCO-listed Fener and Balat districts. Walk through the colourful, labyrinth-like streets of these historical neighbourhoods, whose rich history dates back to Byzantine times, with Armenian, Jewish and Orthodox influences still present today. You



will also visit the Egyptian Bazaar, the second largest covered market in Istanbul and famous for its amazing array of herbs and spices. This is still the best place to buy Turkish delight, dried fruit, exotic spices and herbs. Nearby is Tahtakale, the traditional hardware district, with its beautiful but little-visited 16th-century Rüstem Pasha Mosque.

This afternoon, enjoy a private cruise along the Bosphorus Strait, the waterway that divides Europe and Asia, to witness the city's minaret-studded skyline and its most famous sites from the water, including the dramatic Rumeli Fortress, Dolmabahce Palace and the sultan's former summer residence - Beylerbeyi Palace. Later you have the chance (optional) to experience a traditional Turkish Bath in one of the city's oldest and most prestigious hammams, or if you prefer you can save this for the last afternoon of the tour when you return to Istanbul. In the evening enjoy your dinner at a fish restaurant overlooking the Bosphorus.

**Destination Information**

**Fener and Balat districts** – Modern and traditional mingle here in abundance, with trendy coffee shops and design boutiques sitting next more old school cay bahcesi (tea gardens) and artisan workshops. The

**Bosphorus Strait** – Connecting the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara, which in turn connects via the Dardanelles to the Mediterranean, the Bosphorus lies on the boundary between Asia and Europe. It also separates Thrace (European Turkey) from Anatolia, the country's much larger Asian side. This is the world's narrowest strait used for international navigation

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**Day 5: Via Gallipoli to Canakkale**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast drive approximately 4 hours to reach the arid hills of the Gallipoli Peninsula. After a short break at the town of Gallipoli, visit the key battlefields and memorials from World War I. These include the Helles Memorial, built to commemorate the 20,956 missing British and Commonwealth soldiers. You will also visit Anzac Cove, where in the early hours of 25th April 1915, the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) made a landing and set



up a base from which the front line was supplied over the next 10 months. You will also explore Shrapnel Valley and the evocative Lone Pine Memorial, on a plateau 120 metres above sea level, from where there are wide-ranging views across the peninsula. Later visit Chunuk Bair Memorial, commemorating the New Zealand dead, then continue to the Gallipoli War Museum and see letters written by soldiers, along with displays of uniforms and armaments used by both sides. Later travel from Europe to Asia across the Dardanelles - either by ferry or across the 1915 Canakkale Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in the world, with a suspended central span of over two kilometres. After checking into the hotel in Canakkale enjoy a complimentary drink as the sun sets across the water - your chance to raise a toast in memory of the 111,000 lives lost (46,000 Allies, 65,000 Turkish) in one of the WWI's bloodiest campaigns.

**Destination Information**

**Gallipoli Peninsula** – A narrow and strategic peninsula separating Thrace (European Turkey) from Anatolia, infamous for the Gallipoli campaign during World War I, which was intended to secure the peninsula for Allied ships to pass through the Dardanelles and take Constantinople (Istanbul) thereby defeating Ottoman Turkey.

**Day 6: Via Troy and Pergamum to Selcuk**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, discover the fabled UNESCO World Heritage site of Troy, with its multi-layered history and wonderful legends. Continue to Bergama to visit the Greco-Roman city of Pergamon, perched on its acropolis, with far-reaching views of the plains all around. In Bergama enjoy a special lunch at typical village houses. You will be divided into smaller groups and hosted by a number of local families, a perfect chance to try Turkish home cuisine and meet your hosts in their homes. Later drive on to Selcuk and check-in to the hotel for two nights.

**Destination Information**

**Troy** – Cities have been built here one on top of the other for more than 5,000 years. The vast, ancient walls evoke the epic tales of the Iliad, which culminate in the story of the wooden horse which finally enabled the Greeks to conquer the might city.

**Pergamum** – A fabulous and well-preserved Greco-Roman city, famous for its Altar of Zeus, its Temples of Athena, Trajan, and Dionysus, plus its magnificent and unusually steep 10,000 seat theatre.

**The Dardanelles** – One of the world's narrowest straits critically important for international navigation, the Dardanelles connects the Sea of Marmara with the Mediterranean. 61 kilometres long and in parts as narrow as just 1.2 kilometres, the Dardanelles have throughout history been strategically important - from ancient Troy, the Persian and Byzantine Empires to the modern-day.

**Day 7: Ephesus**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning you will explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved ancient sites in the world. Later travel into the hills behind Ephesus, to visit the chapel built on the spot where the Virgin Mary is believed to have spent the last days of her life, in the company of Saint John to whom she was entrusted by Jesus Christ before he was crucified. Enjoy a picnic lunch today along with a cookery class experience. Watch some Turkish cooking techniques and then take the chance to prepare and cook some of the food. Later learn how hand-woven Turkish carpets are produced, then continue to the beautiful old village of Sirince, set on the forested hillside. This region is known for its olive oil, fruit and wine production, and you can take the opportunity to visit one of the vineyards or olive oil producers. In the evening Dinner at a traditional koftecisi, specialising in grilled kebabs and meatballs.





### Destination Information

**Ephesus** – Ephesus is believed to have been settled in the 10th century BC by Ionians, but then changed hands many times before becoming a Roman dependency in 133 BC during the reign of Emperor Augustus. It was also an important city during early Christian times as evidenced by St. Paul's visit and St. John being buried nearby. The ruins that remain here give us a clear picture of life in Ephesus, including the roads used by chariots; ancient bath houses; mosaic pedestrian walkways; even a brothel. Among the most spectacular sites are the famous facade of the Celsus Library, constructed from 117-125 AD, which contained rectangular niches to hold its papyrus scrolls, and a spectacular, well-preserved theatre that could seat 24,000 people.

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### Day 8: Via Magnesia to Pamukkale

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast set off to the little-visited ancient site of Magnesia, which dates back to 400-350BC and was an important city in the fertile Menderes (Meander) valley. Our partner in Turkey is a proud sponsor of the archaeological excavations here, which allows us special access to archaeological areas that are normally restricted. Later continue to the extraordinary thermal waters and geological formations of Pamukkale (which literally translates as 'Cotton Castle') where you have the chance to relax and enjoy the hotel's facilities including the thermal pool.



### Destination Information

**Magnesia** – Also known as Magnesia on the Maeander, this ancient Greek city was once a rival to nearby Ephesus, due to its fertile lands and strategic location. The size of Magnesia's stadium and wellpreserved theatre tell of its former glory.

**Travertines of Pamukkale** – The picturesque, white terraces of Pamukkale have been created over millennia by the calcite-rich waters flowing from 17 thermal springs. The travertines are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along with the neighbouring ancient site of Hierapolis.

**Day 9: Pamukkale to Antalya**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast set out to explore the Hellenistic site of Hierapolis, which was an important trading post on the routes connecting East to West. Later, during the Roman Period, Hierapolis became famous as a thermal centre, with its massive bath houses built to serve visitors from around the ancient world. Upon arrival at the site, you will be greeted by spectacular views of the calcium pools that have been formed by the spring waters of Hierapolis over thousands of years. Explore the ancient site, including its fabulous necropolis and one of the best-preserved Roman theatres in the world. Later drive south to the coastal city of Antalya for a two-night stay.

**Destination Information**

**Hierapolis** – Hierapolis has recently been appointed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wandering through the colossal tomb chambers of the Necropolis you will comprehend the wealth of a society that could afford such impressive tombs within the so-called “Sacred City” (the meaning of Hierapolis in ancient Greek).

**Day 10: In Antalya, visit Perge and Aspendos**

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will visit the impressive ruins of Perge and Aspendos, as well as the picturesque waterfalls of Manavgat, rounded off with a boat trip along Antalya's attractive shoreline. The ancient Greek city of Perge, located close to Antalya, was capital of the region of Pamphylia. While there is a wealth of historical remains to see here, the theatre, memorial fountain, city gate, agora, baths and gymnasium especially stand out. Next, you will visit the nearby city of Aspendos, famous for its incredibly well-preserved Roman theatre, said by many to be the best example in the Mediterranean world. En route back to Antalya you will have a chance to see the beautiful Manavgat waterfalls, as they cascade over a wide area surrounded by channels and terraces. Enjoy a change of pace in the afternoon as you head out on a private boat tour from Antalya, lasting around two hours, with the chance to swim or just relax and take in the coastal scenery. Later there's the chance to eat at one of Antalya's traditional restaurants in the heart of the old city, a fitting end to a varied and busy day.



### Destination Information

**Perge** – Perge was famous for its temple of Artemis and for being the home of the ancient Greek mathematician, Apollonius. The sculptures excavated here are as impressive as the ancient buildings. Historians thought Perge was founded at the end of the Trojan wars (1275 B.C) but a recently excavated Hittite tablet mentioning Perge confirms the city was established long before the Trojan wars.

**Aspendos** – Aspendos was founded on the plains close to one of the biggest rivers of the region Köprüçay (ancient Eurymedon). Famous for its wonderfully preserved 7,000-seat theatre, which stands 96 metres wide with commanding views across the surrounding plains. The theatre is still in use today for music and ballet performances, nearly 2,000 years after it was built.

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### Day 11: To Konya

Meals: B, L, D

Drive northeast from the coast onto the Anatolian Plateau, a sparsely populated region of rolling steppes bordered by the Taurus Mountains in the south. Arriving at the traditional town of Konya, you will have the chance to visit the Mausoleum of Mevlâna, the founder of Whirling Dervishes, before dinner and your overnight stay.



### Destination Information

**Konya** – Konya was called Iconium during the Roman period and was an important outpost controlling many of the East - West trade routes crossing Anatolia. Konya also served as the capital of Seljuk Turkish Kingdom during the 13th century, while Istanbul (Constantinople) was still part of the Byzantine Empire.

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### Day 12: Via Sultanhanı to Cappadocia

Meals: B, L, D

Set off from Konya and drive first to Sultanhanı Caravanserai - one of the most significant and best-preserved Seljuk caravanserais in Turkey. Enjoy time at this majestic building and imagine the camel caravans of old stopping here en route from China or Central Asia. Continue to the other-worldly landscapes of Cappadocia and check in to your hotel for a three-night stay. After dinner at the hotel, visit the historic Saruhan Caravanserai to see the Sema Ritual performed by Whirling Dervishes, a deeply mystical experience where the dancers fall into a rhythmic trance-like state.



### Destination Information

**Sultanhanı Caravanserai** – The caravanserai was built in 1229 by the Seljuk sultan Alaeddin Keykubad I, when Aksaray was an important stopping point on the Silk Road through Anatolia. After suffering partial destruction in a fire, the building was restored and extended in 1278 under Sultan Kaykhusraw III. The monumental caravanserai is one of the best examples of Anatolian Seljuk architecture.

### Day 13: In Cappadocia

Meals: B, L, D

This morning at sunrise you have the opportunity (optional) to enjoy an unforgettable experience: to float in a hot-air balloon over Cappadocia's extraordinary landscapes of volcanic cones, cliffs and rich green valleys.



Later, start a full day exploration of the region with a visit to the monastic centre of Goreme. The town was founded by St. Basil as the first Christian monastic centre during the 4th century. Now the area is described as an 'open-air museum', with rock-hewn churches and monastic dwellings dotting the landscape, often decorated with well-preserved Byzantine frescoes. Later visit picturesque Pasabag Valley, where cone-shaped chapels and hermitages look as if they have been sculpted by contemporary artists! Your next stop will be Kaymakli Underground City, a subterranean settlement composed of troglodytic cave dwellings providing shelter for early Christians protecting themselves from invaders. Kaymakli had the capacity to house a total of 5,000 people at once with its eight different subterranean levels. Finishing literally on a high, you will stop by the rock-carved natural citadel of Uchisar with its spectacular views of the whole region from the top.

On the way back to the hotel there will be the opportunity to stop at Avanos, an attractive town famous for its red clay, which has been used in pottery since the 2nd millennium BC. You will visit the studio of a local Cappadocian pottery artist and see the creation of traditional pottery and ceramic masterpieces.

In addition, today you will have the chance to visit a local family in their traditional stone-built home to meet the family and learn about everyday life in this part of Turkey, aspects of which have hardly changed in generations. Expect to be offered the most authentic of Turkish welcomes: a glass of 'cay' or traditional 'kahve' (coffee). Enjoy dinner at a popular local restaurant this evening.



## Destination Information

**Cappadocia** – The looming volcanoes of Erciyes and Hasan used to be active thousands of years ago and erupted continuously, covering the whole region with a blanket of volcanic rock (tuff) that is easily eroded by wind and rain, also carved by human hands, due to its soft character. Cappadocia has been occupied by various civilisations for many centuries, including the Hittites, Greeks, Byzantines, Romans and Turks, often in dwellings carved out of the soft rock itself.

### Day 14: In Cappadocia

Meals: B, L, D

On your second full day in Cappadocia, enjoy the scenic beauty of Ihlara Valley, the picturesque village of Mustafapasa, the rock-cut churches of Soganlı and a fabulous opportunity to learn the art of Turkish home cooking!

Drive first to Ihlara Valley, a long gorge cut into the volcanic rock, honeycombed with rock-cut underground dwellings and churches from the Byzantine period. Then visit Mustafapasa, a perfectly preserved Greek village in the heart of Anatolia. The former Greek inhabitants left the village in 1923 during the population exchange between Turkey and Greece.



At lunch today you will have the chance to enjoy a demonstration of authentic Turkish home cooking. The setting for lunch is an original stone house, decorated with Turkish textiles and local Cappadocian rugs, to give you a real flavour of traditional Turkish hospitality.

In the afternoon continue to Soganli valley, which has been inhabited since the earliest days of the Christian era. The rock-cut churches here date from the 9th to 13th centuries. Soganli, like other valleys in Cappadocia, exemplifies the harmony between man and nature.

This evening once again we head out to a local restaurant for dinner.

## Destination Information

**Ihlara Valley** – A remarkable valley, 15 kilometres long and up to 150 metres deep, dotted with more than 50 rock-cut churches and numerous other buildings carved from the surreal landscape. Many of the churches are decorated with frescoes, for example a striking representation of the Last Judgement can be seen in the IX Century Yilanli Kilise (Church with Snake).

**Soganli Valley** – Over 100 churches were carved into the soft 'tufa' walls of the valley between the 9th and 13th centuries, along with cloisters, storehouses and several distinctive dovecotes. In Soganli, for the first time, the exterior surfaces of some rock cones were carved to form unique churches with high drums and domes.

**Day 15: To Ankara**

Meals: B, L, D

Say goodbye to Cappadocia and drive around 3 to 4 hours to Ankara. Historically known as Angora, Ankara is the capital of Turkey and the country's second-largest city after Istanbul. Upon arrival, you will visit the Anatolian Civilizations Museum, a museum that has drawn worldwide acclaim for its unparalleled collection of artifacts from all the civilisations that have occupied Anatolia throughout history and prehistory, including the Hittites, Urartians and Phrygians. Afterwards, visit the colossal Mausoleum of Ataturk, the burial place of the national hero who founded the modern Republic of Turkey.

**Destination Information**

**Ankara** – The capital city is centrally located on the Anatolian Plateau at an elevation just under 1,000 metres. This humble town crowned with an imposing citadel of reddish-brown Ankara stone was proclaimed capital by Kemal Ataturk in 1923. Today Ankara is Turkey's second-largest city with a population of over six million.

**Day 16: Fly to Istanbul**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast in Ankara drive to the airport and fly to Istanbul. Here transfer to the hotel for lunch and then enjoy a free afternoon in one of the world's great cities. You can either explore independently or choose from one of our optional excursions outlined below.



You could take a guided tour to explore traditional Cukurcuma, a wonderful neighbourhood famous for its many antique shops. Also visit the Museum of Innocence, created by famed Turkish novelist and Nobel prize winner Orhan Pamuk. The museum is based on his novel of the same name and evokes the everyday life of Istanbul during the last 30 years of the 20th century, the period in which the novel is set.

Alternatively, you may want to try your hand at an Ebru painting workshop. Ebru painting is a centuries old Turkish art, where natural dyes mixed with ox gall are sprinkled with brushes made of horse tails on the surface of water in an ebru tray. When the design is ready paper is left on top to absorb the dyes and shapes. A third option is to experience the refined art of the Turkish Bath at the 16th century Hurrem Sultan Hammam, one of the very best and most traditional hammams in the city. Indulge in a deep cleanse and relaxing massage, your reward for the action-packed days you've just spent enjoying the best of western and central Turkey!

Each of the optional excursions requires minimum two participants and cost €50pp for the guided tour of Cukurcuma, €80pp for the Ebru painting experience, and €110pp for the traditional Turkish Bath and massage.

For your final evening visit the bustling and historical district of Kumkapi, on the Sea of Marmara, where fishermen have lived and worked for centuries. Enjoy your meze starters with fish or seafood main courses, often with traditional live music and belly-dance performances going on around you.

**Day 17-18: Tour ends Istanbul**

Meals: B

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After breakfast at the hotel transfer to Istanbul Airport for your overnight flight back home.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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A Entry visas are required by all visitors to Turkey. Wendy Wu Tours' Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. We will supply you with all paperwork and submit the visa application on your behalf.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

All information with regards to visas will be updated regularly on our website as we find visas process' are changing on regular basis.

### INSURANCE:

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We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

Please check you have adequate travel insurance or understand the risks of participating in optional activities. A personal waiver form may be required to be completed before you take part.

### EATING IN TURKEY:

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Turkish food is full of variety and we hope will be a highlight of your tour. The choice of restaurants on your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. We aim to bring you the meals as described in the itinerary above but cannot guarantee this as changes may be necessary from time to time for operational or other reasons. For your convenience in general at the end of a long travelling day your meal will be at the hotel restaurant, and otherwise we have chosen atmospheric local restaurants with menus reflecting local specialities.



All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from dinner on the day of your group's arrival until breakfast on your day of departure. Your tour also includes cooking demonstrations at Selcuk and in Cappadocia.

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions or allergies when booking your tour.

### **TIPPING POLICY:**

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Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Turkey is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups. We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

### **PORTERAGE:**

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Please be aware that portorage is not included on our tours in Turkey. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and busses.

### **LUGGAGE:**

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All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

### **PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:**

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Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AU\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that cannot resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

### CLIMBING STEPS:

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Sightseeing at nearly all the archaeological sites and some mosques involves climbing quite a number of steps. The viewpoint at Uchisar involves around 200 steps up and down. In Cappadocia please be ready to walk through tunnels and narrow passageways, as well as climb wooden stairways, while exploring the ancient underground city of Kaymakli and other rock-carved sights. Your guide will brief you in detail before each excursion: should you want to opt out, your guide will be able to make arrangements for this.

People with knee or hip injuries who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

### VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au)

Wendy Wu Tours is committed to always providing a safe and healthy environment for all passengers. We work closely with our airline partners to take effective measures to protect you from contracting and spreading COVID-19, in accordance with legal requirements and government guidelines. Please follow the below link for more details on our COVID vaccination policy: <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-visas/covid-vaccination-policy/>

### COVID SAFE:

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Your safety and well-being will always be our Number 1 priority which is why we've instituted the most stringent COVID health and safety protocols on all of tours. As we continue to monitor current restrictions and operational impacts, these protocols will evolve, and we will provide detailed guidelines for your particular tour prior to departure. For further details please go to the following link <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/about-us/travel-with-confidence/>

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

### AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

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Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: February 2023