



TREASURES OF TURKEY

– Anzac Day Dawn Service 2024

Classic Tour | 20 Days | Physical Level 4
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 very best of Turkey, and features a once-in-a-lifetime experience at Gallipoli - the Anzac Day Dawn Service.

- Visit Istanbul's iconic landmarks
- Pay your respects at Gallipoli
- Attend a moving Anzac Dawn Service 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 – ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 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 - Anzac Day 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 4:

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-Anzac Day is rated as a physical level 4 tour.

A good level of fitness will be required in particular for attending the Anzac Day Dawn Service. There will be several long walks, one of which is approximately 6km with 3km of that uphill on an unpaved road. You will be required to spend some hours at the site during the night before the service starts, sitting on ground and temperatures can be quite cold.

A reasonable level of fitness is required for the rest of the tour, but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- There are steps, tunnels and narrow passages to navigate at Cappadocia.

Of course, our National Escort 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.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 20 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.co.au so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Istanbul and end the tour on Day 19 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.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 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: Istanbul

Meals: B, L, D

Explore Istanbul's landmark sites, mainly on foot but with plenty of rest breaks along the way. First, visit the remains of the once mighty Hippodrome and view the Blue Mosque's exquisite cascade of domes and slender minarets before continuing to the Hagia Sophia, the crowning achievement of the Byzantine Empire, whose 31.7 metre dome was for a millennium the largest in the world. Then walk to one of ancient Byzantium's most remarkable engineering achievements: the vast, 6th-century Basilica Cistern. Descend the 52 stone steps into the cistern and marvel at the 336 marble columns supporting its vaulted ceiling.



After lunch, immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world. During the day you will also get the chance to enjoy a traditional Turkish coffee at one of the city's historic coffee shops. Later dine at Hamdi Restaurant, overlooking the Golden Horn, where some of Istanbul's finest kebabs have been served since 1970.

Your first full day in Istanbul is a busy one and full of highlights: expect to spend at least five hours walking and on foot. Your guide will arrange rest breaks and you can choose to skip some of the sightseeing if you prefer.

Destination Information

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.

Basilica Cistern – Called the Basilica Cistern because it was located under the ancient Basilica at the heart of the city, this engineering masterpiece provided a water filtration system to the city from its construction in the 6th century through to modern times. The cistern occupies nearly 10,800 square metres and is capable of holding 80,000 cubic metres of water. The ceiling is supported by 336 marble and granite columns, each 9 metres high, taken from the ruins of older buildings throughout the Byzantine Empire.

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.

Day 4: Istanbul

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, embark on a walking tour and discover the mesmeric beauty of Topkapi Palace and its extraordinary treasures. The sprawling palace holds some fabulous examples of Ottoman architecture and Iznik tilework, plus the very best views out over the Bosphorus and Golden Horn. Then we stroll through one of the city's oldest and most evocative sites: the Spice Bazaar (also called the Egyptian Bazaar), 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, decorated with exquisite tilework.



Later after pausing for lunch, explore some of Istanbul's lesser-known locations with a chance to uncover the beating heart of the city on a walk through one of the city's hidden gems: the UNESCO-listed Fener and Balat districts. Stroll 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.

To round off the day, 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. In the evening enjoy your dinner at a fish restaurant close to the Bosphorus.

Note that today involves a lot of walking with around six or more hours on your feet. Your guide will arrange rest breaks where possible and you will have the option to skip some of the visits if you prefer. For example you could choose to wait in a cay bahcesi (tea-house) rather than walk the steep, cobbled streets and alleys of Fener and Balat.

Destination Information

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, not to mention its beautiful views out across the Bosphorus.

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.

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 either by ferry or across the quite extraordinary 1915 Canakkale Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in the world, with a suspended central span of over two kilometres.

Destination Information

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 6: Troy

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, discover the fabled UNESCO World Heritage site of Troy, with its multi-layered history and wonderful legends. See the legendary walls of Troy and the replica of the wooden Trojan Horse.



This afternoon will be yours to enjoy free at leisure, returning for dinner at your hotel in Canakkale.

Later in the evening, you will be transferred to the Anzac Commemorative Site which opens to the public at 10.30pm on 24th April.

Important

The weather at Gallipoli can be highly variable and the site is exposed with no permanent shelter. Severe windchill can result in temperatures falling to below freezing overnight on 24 to 25 April. In contrast, you could experience hot temperatures during the following day. On previous Anzac Days, strong winds and heavy rain have been experienced on the site. You must ensure you come prepared for these conditions. You will be expected to bring your own mat to sit on and blanket/sleeping bag to cover up when waiting for the dawn service to commence. A warm coat, beanie and gloves would be a good idea.

You will have to choose between attending either the Australian Memorial Service at Lone Pine Cemetery, or the New Zealand Memorial Service at Chunuk Bair as there won't be enough time to attend both.

There will be several walks to get between the various ceremony sites, one of which is around 6km over a hilly, unpaved road. Only bring what you can carry as there are no porters or shuttles.

There will be strong security at the site, similar to airport security and your bags will be checked. You cannot bring your own food and drink into the site but food and drink is available to purchase.

If for some reason you opt out of the Anzac Day Dawn Service, you will be able to remain at the hotel in Canakkale for the night of the 24th April, however there is no refund for opting out.

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.

Day 7: Anzac Day Dawn Service

Meals: B, L, D

For breakfast today, you will be provided with a breakfast box to take to the Anzac Service.

The pre-service Anzac programme commences at 1.30am in the morning on 25th April, as follows:

- 5am: Spirit of Place
- 5.30am: Official Anzac Day Gallipoli Dawn Service
- 10am: Australian Memorial Service, Lone Pine Cemetery
- 11:30am : New Zealand Memorial Service, Chunuk Bair

At 1pm the coach will transfer you from Chunuk Bair to your hotel in Canakkale. There you can relax and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.



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 8: Via Pergamon to Selcuk

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, drive to the Greco-Roman city of Pergamon, perched on its acropolis, with far-reaching views of the plains all around. Visit the Altar of Zeus, the temples of Trajan, Dionysus and marvel at the magnificent 10,000 seat theatre at the Temple of Athena.

Continue to Bergama to enjoy a special lunch at a typical village house. 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.



Destination Information

Pergamon – 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.

Day 9: 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. The streets and buildings are so well preserved it isn't hard to imagine ancient life as it must have been, whether at the bath houses, the market, the theatre or the magnificent Celsus Library. Later enjoy a picnic lunch along with a chance to prepare and cook some of the food. In the afternoon sample locally produced wines and learn how hand-woven Turkish carpets are produced, then return to your hotel in nearby Selcuk.

**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.

Day 10: 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**

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 11: 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.

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Day 12: Antalya, visit Aspendos

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will visit the impressive ruins of Aspendos, then enjoy a boat trip along Antalya's attractive shoreline.

This morning 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.



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

Destination Information

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.

Day 13: 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. Note that Konya is more traditional than most other locations visited on this tour; you are asked to dress conservatively and alcohol may not be available.

**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.

Day 14: Via Sultanhani to Cappadocia

Meals: B, L, D

Set off from Konya and drive first to Sultanhani 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. Later continue to the other-worldly landscapes of Cappadocia, enjoying lunch and a short walk through the canyon of Ihlara, a fertile valley flanked by 150 metre cliffs and dotted with ancient rock-cut churches. Later drive to the village of Urgup and check in to your hotel for a three-night stay. In the early evening, visit the beautifully restored 13th-century 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. Note that the Sema is a religious experience, revered by Sufis for centuries, therefore photography is allowed only for a special extra performance at the end.

**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). Our visit takes in just a small part of the canyon.

Sultanhani 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 that crossed through Anatolia. After suffering partial destruction in a fire, the building was restored and extended in 1278 under the reign of Sultan Kaykhusraw III. The monumental caravanserai is one of the best examples of Anatolian Seljuk architecture.

Day 15: Cappadocia

Meals: B, L, D

For those that wish 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. Note that this activity is not an included part of our tour and you participate at your own risk.



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!. 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.

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.

Goreme Open Air Museum – This UNESCO listed cluster of rock-cut churches and monastic dwellings is regarded as the jewel in the crown of Cappadocia's rich history. The compact area contains some of the finest churches in the region, whose architecture has inspired centuries of Christian buildings, and whose vividly painted murals are among the finest examples of Byzantine art.

Day 16: 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 Valley, the remarkable underground city of Kaymakli and a fabulous opportunity to learn the art of Turkish home cooking!



Drive first to 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. Then 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. We enjoy a short walk (one hour approx. with some moderate ascent and descent) through the valley, mainly on a wide and well maintained path, but with some short sections on loose gravel. If you choose not to walk, your driver can take you to a café at the end of the walk, to rest and wait for the others.

At lunch today you will be welcomed by your host and his family to enjoy authentic Turkish home cooking. The setting is an original stone house, decorated with Turkish textiles and local Cappadocian rugs. This is a wonderful opportunity not only to learn about Turkish cuisine but to experience traditional and genuine Turkish hospitality.

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.

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

Destination Information

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.

Kaymakli Underground City – Once home to an estimated 3,500 people the 'city' is built eight levels deep into a hillside, with rock-cut tunnels and stairways connecting the chapels, refectories, sleeping chambers and storerooms. Only the first four floors are open to the public and our visit will include only the first level, with a chance to venture deeper into the city for those that wish (as it's not easy for a group to explore together). The tunnels and chambers are reasonably well lit, but you may find a torch useful. If you suffer from claustrophobia you are advised to skip this visit.

Day 17: 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 18: Drive to Istanbul

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast set off to drive back to Istanbul (5 to 6 hours) where we have lunch at a waterside restaurant on the Asian shore, close to Beylerbeyi Palace. From here we have fine views of the Bosphorus and over to the famous skyline of the old city. Check into your hotel then enjoy the rest of the afternoon in one of the world's great cities. You can either explore independently, do some souvenir shopping or indulge in 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!



Please allow AUD\$210.00 pp for the traditional Turkish Bath and massage.

On your final evening eat at the atmospheric Cicek Pasaji (Flower Passage) which is a small, covered street of traditional restaurants that serve typical Turkish meze, grilled meats and Turkey's national drink of choice: raki.

Day 19-20: Depart Istanbul

Meals: B

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Istanbul airport for your onward flight, arriving back in Australia the following day.

Please note: Only breakfast is provided on the group's day of departure.



TURKEY - TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

An Entry visa is required by Australian passport holder entering Turkey. Wendy Wu Tours' Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

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 processes are changing on regular basis.

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/>

INSURANCE:

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:

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.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in a Classic group, although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between Australia and Turkey. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning where needed. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

PORTERAGE:

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 coaches.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. **However, mini buses may be used for smaller groups (under 10 passengers).** Roads in Turkey have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only.

TIPPING POLICY:

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.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

LUGGAGE:

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.

EXCHANGING CASH:

The unit of currency in Turkey is the Turkish Lira. ATMs are common in major cities and tourist, and we recommend using an ATM inside a bank where possible. Most major credit cards are widely accepted in Turkey, though please bear in mind the charges of your provider. Debit cards are also widely accepted but may have a limit to the amount of cash you can withdraw – consult your bank about this before travelling.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

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.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

CLIMBING STEPS:

There are a reasonable number of steps to climb, on the Cappadocia section of the tour especially. Please see the individual day descriptions on this dossier for details. We encourage you to contact us to discuss any concerns beforehand or speak with the guide to understand more accurately the steps involved on each visit or walk.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is 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 will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smarttraveller.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:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: March 2024