

GO TURKEY - 7 DAYS

HIGHLIGHTS

- Istanbul - Sultanahmet (old Istanbul), Hippodrome, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sofia & Topkapi Palace
- Gallipoli Peninsular - ANZAC Cove, memorials, trenches, battlefields
- Troy - Trojan horse & ruins
- Kusadasi & Aegean coast
- Roman ruins of Pergamum & Ephesus
- Pamukkale thermal pools & Roman Hierapolis
- Ancient caravanseraï
- Cappadocia region
- Ankara

INCLUSIONS

- Breakfast daily
- 6 nights budget hotels/hostels
- Transportation in a fully air conditioned, non smoking coach
- Guided sightseeing - Troy and Pergamum (entrance fees not included)
- English speaking tour leader on the bus to provide information and assistance in booking optional activities.
- No local payment

TOUR MAP



GO GUIDE

Your guide to on the ground...

VISA REQUIREMENTS

UK, Australian and Irish passport holders can obtain a tourist visa on arrival in Istanbul. Cost is currently GBP£10/EURO 15 for UK, USD\$20/EURO 20 for Australian and USD\$10/EURO 10 for Irish passports. New Zealand passport holders do not require a visa for a stay of less than 3-months.

South African passport holders REQUIRE a visa (issued prior to departure). For further information and download of visa application forms, head online to - www.turkey.embassyhomepage.com. Please ensure that you have at least six months validity on your passport, from date of return.

Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change. Visa procurement is also the responsibility of the traveller and not of GOBUS

CLIMATE

Turkey is a destination that can be visited year-round. Temperatures in Turkey during the Northern Hemisphere summer are generally high from Jun - Sep. April days can be amazingly warm, though temps drop at night, so pack some warmer clothes. In winter, although for the most part temperate, it has been known to snow, so you may enjoy Turkey draped in snow during the months of Dec - Feb.

TIME

Turkey is 2 hours ahead of GMT.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Recommendations - Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in the last ten years, plus Typhoid and Hepatitis A (validity varies).

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is compulsory on our trips. Please ask a member of our reservations team if you would like us to book this for you.

VOLTAGE

220 Volts. Sockets are of the European, 2 pronged variety. Check www.kropla.com/electric2 for more info

MONEY

GBP £1=YTL2.47 USD \$1=YTL1.50 AUD \$1 =YTL1.36 (subject to fluctuation). YTL=New Turkish Lira.Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and banks. ATM machines exist in all major towns and cities.

ENTRANCE FEES

Entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approximately USD \$120-150

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES & GUIDED DAY TOURS

With the exception of Troy and Pergamum, guided sightseeing is not included in your tour. Please refer to the pricing guide to budget for these optional extras.

TIPPING

It is customary to tip in Turkey. Naturally, though, the amount is entirely up to you. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture.

BITS & BOBS

- Can of coke, 330ml YTL3
- Mineral water (local brand, 500ml or 1L) YTL1.50
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, a beer, local t) YTL50
- Beer (local brew Efes - 330-500ml) YTL3-5

GOOD ADVICE

BRIGHT IDEAS:

- Pack a selection of clothes that can be layered so that you are prepared for all weather conditions.
- Bring spare camera batteries/film or memory card so you can go snap happy!
- If you fancy a tippie, take advantage of Duty Free buys.
- Buy a phrase book and practice your holiday Turkish.
- Bring a small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Keep a supply of small notes for local transactions.
- Keep a photocopy of your passport data pages.

5 THINGS TO DO/SEE:

- Visit the beautiful Blue Mosque in Istanbul.
- View the poignant memorials & trenches at Gallipoli.
- Take a rubber tube ride down the chilly current of water at Saklikent Gorge!
- Opt for an amazing hot air balloon ride of the surreal landscape of Cappadocia.
- Take an invigorating swim amongst the submerged columns at Pamukkale Thermal.

5 THINGS TO BUY:

- A blue glass evil eye pendant
- A meal of Turkish shish kebab and all the trimmings
- A swag of Turkish delight. Try the pistachio-studded or milk-infused varieties. Available everywhere
- A Turkish carpet or kilim. Try the Grand Bazaar - bargain hard and don't fall for 'it's an antique'.
- A nargile (bubble pipe) and some apple tobacco. Even if you don't smoke, it's a great 'show & tell' piece.

GO GUIDE

GO TURKEY: ITINERARY

DAY 1 - ISTANBUL TO GALLIPOLI

Welcome to Turkey! Arrival at Istanbul Atatürk International Airport, where after you have attended to customs and immigration formalities, you can make your own way to the departure point

- The fastest way to get into town from the airport is by taxicab (20-40 mins – around USD\$12 to USD\$20)
- A cheaper but slower way is the Havas airport bus (60 - 70 mins - around USD\$3.50 - 4.50). Havas leaves around every 30 mins to a point in the city centre. From here, you'll need to hail a taxicab to take you to your hotel.

We then travel to the WW1 battlefields of Gallipoli. Here you can explore the trenches and memorials without the ANZAC day crowds. Once the site of fierce fighting and today almost hauntingly beautiful, with its wooded landscape dotted with understated memorials to the war dead. There is an optional guided tour of the Gallipoli battlefields. Spend the afternoon in the pretty town of Cannakale. Overnight - Eceabat

DAY 2 - TROY & PERGAMUM

Eceabat – Troy - Pergamum - breakfast. This morning to drive to Troy. If you've seen the movie – 'Troy' based on poet Homer's – 'The Iliad' you'll be familiar with Paris – Prince of Troy, his prized Helen and Hector – Prince of Troy on the Trojan side and Agamemnon and Achilles (he of the heel) on the Archaean (Greek) side. The legend of the lost city of Troy and Homer's poetry was bought alive by its rediscovery in 1863. Subsequent excavations revealed 9 ancient cities, one on top of the other, dating back to 3000 BC! We enjoy a tour of the ruins and marvel at a replica of the stoic Trojan wooden horse that as the story goes –was filled to the gunnels with Achaean soldiers who helped sack Troy.

Driving further south to the ancient ruins of Pergamum, once one of the Middle East's richest and most powerful little kingdoms, we'll enjoy a guided tour. Home to one of the steepest, vertigo - inducing amphitheatres in the classical world, Pergamum was also famous for its asclepion (medical centre). See the Temple of Trajan and of course the Library, which in its time was said to rival the library in ancient Alexandria. After exploring the ancient ruins, we continue to Kusadasi on the Aegean Coast. Dinner and overnight - Kusadasi.

DAY 3 - KUSADASI & EPHEBUS

Kusadasi – breakfast. Today, you have the option of taking a guided tour at the legendary Roman ruins of Ephesus or relax and explore Kusadasi. Ephesus is positively the best-preserved classical city in the eastern Mediterranean, and among the best places in the world to get a feel for what Roman life must have been like. Ephesus, under the Romans was a vast city with a population nearing 250,000. It became the Roman capital of Asia Minor. It revelled in its prosperity from commerce and visiting pilgrims who came to see the its great Temple of Artemis - one of the Seven Ancient Wonders. All good things come to an end, however. The town's harbour, despite the efforts of various engineers and planners, silted up and cut Ephesus off. Severed from its commerce, Ephesus quickly lost wealth and eventually by 6 AD, when the Emperor Justinian was looking for a suitable site to construct the St John Basilica, he by-passed Ephesus and chose Ayasoluk Hill in Selcuk, which eventually became the new city centre.

You'll have plenty of time to tour the marble ruins of Ephesus. Be sure to see the famous Library of Celcus, the gymnasium of Vedius and Stadium, the great theatre and stroll the streets in the ruins of this large Roman ruined city. You'll see public toilets, a brothel, fountains and various temples.

Spend the afternoon at leisure in Kusadasi, make sure you check out some of the beautiful Aegean beaches! Overnight - Kusadasi

DAY 4 - KUSADASI & PAMUKKALE

Kusadasi - breakfast. Today you have a choice of activities! Spend another day lazing on the beach in Kusadasi, visit the Ottoman-Greek village of Sirince where you can try some of their speciality fruit wines or travel east to Pamukkale.

Pamukkale - home of the famous gleaming white calcium terraced pools. Known locally as the Cotton Castles, they are a natural phenomena and gift of Mother Nature. Pamukkale was formed when warm, calcium rich mineral water cascaded over the cliff edge, cooling and depositing in the process. The calcium built natural shelves and pools on the cliffs, known as travertines. Today, many of the pools are closed to tourists. However, areas of the travertines can be walked upon, albeit in bare feet. We can also opt to enjoy a unique and very pleasant dip in the warm waters at the Pamukkale Thermal, with its submerged fragments of fluted marble columns near the centre of the ruined spa town of Hierapolis. Overnight - Kusadasi.

DAY 5 - SILK ROAD, CAPPADOCIA

Kusadasi - Cappocia - breakfast. This morning we follow an ancient silk trade route across the Anatolian Plain to the bazaar and yet wonderful region of Cappadocia. We stop enroute to visit the ancient caravanserai of Sultanhani, just as the traders once did. Overnight Cappadocia.

DAY 6 - CAPPADOCIA

Cappadocia - breakfast. Cappadocia - perhaps the jewel in Turkey's crown. Cappadocia is one of Turkey's most extraordinary national treasures. The utter improbability of the seemingly surreal landscape has to be seen to be believed with its 'stuff of fables' cave dwellings and phallic 'fairy chimneys' landscape. Whole troglodyte villages, subterranean churches and fortresses have been hewn from the soft, porous, eerily eroded rock of Cappadocia. The crumbling legacy of persecuted Christians trying to escape the Muslim onslaught in 1st-10th centuries AD by effectively heading underground is one of Turkey's finest attractions. Early this morning you can opt to take a fantastic hot-air balloon ride over the region and be back in time to take the optional guided tour of the southern part of the region. The tour takes us to the World Heritage listed site of the Göreme Valley where you'll see stunning examples of rock-cut Byzantine churches, chapels and temples and Zelve with its eroded landscape of 'fairy chimneys'.

Tonight it's time for some partying Turkish Style - as you have the option of going to a Turkish folklore evening which includes all the food and drink you can manage! Overnight - Cappadocia region

DAY 7 - ANKARA

Cappadocia - Istanbul - breakfast. Breakfast. Today we are up bright and early as we make our way back to Istanbul, via Ankara, the nation's Capital. We stop off at an impressive salt lake, and then have time to visit the Mausoleum of the famous Mustafa Kemal Atatürk - founder of the Turkish Republic and its first President. Here we can discover what happened to the Turkish nation after the ANZACs left. We head back to Istanbul where your tour ends, and its time to say goodbye to new friends!

PLEASE NOTE: This tour is run is operated by FEZ travel and runs under the tour name of 'Traveller's Turkey'

Note: Topkapi Palace is closed on Tuesdays, whilst the Hagia Sofia is closed on Mondays. Please consider this when booking. Grand Bazaar and Egyptian Spice Market are both closed on Sundays.

The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and GOBUS and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of GOBUS

worldwide adventures • festivals & events • christmas & new year breaks

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