# ESSENTIAL TURKEY TOUR



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# Turkey Tour with Premium Hotels & Flights

**Duration:** 11 days

Stay: 9 nights hotels (4 & 5-star rating), 1 overnight flight

Travel style: Escorted coach tour with flights from Australia

Booking code: TRKET11M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience Email hello@mytravelxp.com

# 11 Days Essential Turkey Tour & Flights

# About the holiday

Combine the history, culture and natural wonders of Turkey in one escorted tour!

Discover the vibrant culture and welcoming tradition, together with countless unique travel experiences. Roam the incredible palaces, bazaars and mosques of Istanbul. Then journey into the bizarre as you explore other-worldly Cappadocian landscapes. Walk among the impressive ancient wonders of Pergamum and Ephesus, as well as the natural treasures of Pamukkale. Enhance your experiences with the options to cruise the Bosphorus between Europe and Asia, get an unforgettable scrub down at a Turkish baths and float over the fairy-chimneys of Cappadocia in a balloon.

Appreciate the comfort of deluxe hotels, along with the convenience and security of travelling on an escorted group tour. An experienced guide looks after you throughout, to make sure you get the most out of the amazing journey!

# Why you'll love this trip...

There is the ideal balance of included activities & time to explore at your leisure Tour Istanbul, Cappadocia, Pamukkale, Ephesus, Troy, Canakkale, Gallipoli & more Travel with an English-speaking tour guide to make the most of your trip The exciting package includes flights from Australia!

#### Travel dates

2024 - See our website for dates & prices.

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date. Available dates and current prices will be advised. Conditions apply.

Ask us about upgrading the flights or extending your holiday Call our office on 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com



#### **Escorted tour includes:**

Flights - Return economy airfares Istanbul

Fly from Australian capital cities (surcharges may apply)

Accommodation - 9 nights in 4- & 5-star hotels

Meals - 9 breakfasts, 6 dinners

Transportation - Air-conditioned, modern coach or mini-bus.

Airport Transfer - From Istanbul Airport and Sabiha Gokcen Airport (on day 1)

Tour Guiding - Services of experienced guides licenced by the Ministry of Tourism.

Free Wi-Fi - Complimentary hotel Wi-Fi (where available)

**Sightseeing** - As per the itinerary (entrance fees not included)

Blue Mosque

Hagia Sophia

Topkapi Palace Museum

Derinkuyu Underground City

Goreme Open Air Museum

Cavusin

Pigeon Valley

**Uchisar** 

Ihlara Valley

Pamukkale White Terraces

**Ephesus Ancient City** 

Asklepion Ancient City

Troy Ancient City

Anzac Cove

**Beach Cemetery** 

Lone Pine

Chunuk Bair

War Trenches

Subject to confirmation by airlines, hotels, tour company & local operators.

Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

#### Package excludes:

Airport transfer at end of the tour

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Entrance fees, as outlined in the itinerary (local costs may vary at time of travel)

Optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc.

Gratuities for guides, representatives & drivers

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

Subject to confirmation and booking conditions apply.

# Experiences on tour & features:

- Feel the beating heart of Istanbul from your hotel in the old town beside monumental landmarks such as the Hagia Sophia. Join an optional Bosphorus Cruise to watch Europe and Asia unfold on your sides.
- Stay in hand-picked, centrally located and authentic 5 & 4-Star hotels and ride in private modern coaches.
- Travel with an expert local guide throughout your trip, get the best introduction and insights into Turkish culture.
- Visit the shores of Gallipoli to honour the fallen during one of the greatest battles of WWI & tour famous ancient cities in Anatolia; Troy, Pergamum, Asklepion and Cappadocia.
- Explore the well-preserved ruins of Ephesus delving into ancient times and soak in the gorgeous Library of Celsus.
- Walk among cottonlike pools of travertine in Pamukkale and soak in the magical landscape of Cappadocia with options for an unforgettable hot-air ballooning adventure and Turkish Bath.
- No night drives; however, some long rides are required to cover all these incredible places.

#### **Itinerary:**

# DAY 1: Fly from Australia to Turkey

#### Day 2: Arrive Istanbul

Welcome to Turkey! At the Istanbul airport terminal keep your eyes peeled for the local representative's sign for your transfer to the hotel. Meet in the hotel lobby at 7:00pm for an informal meeting with your group and guide.

Until then, start to explore Istanbul. Like climbing to the top of the Galata Tower for epic views or splash some cash at the Grand Bazaar. After the meeting, join in an optional group dinner at a local restaurant to get to know your new travel mates.

- Accommodation
   Ottoman Legacy Hotel 5 Star
- Included Activities
   Group Dinner

#### Day 3: Istanbul City Tour

After breakfast, we begin to explore the magical old town of Istanbul. Stroll through the historical heart of the old city, making stops along the way to the Blue Mosque, Hippodrome, majestic Topkapi Palace and the Hagia Sophia. In the afternoon take an optional cruise down the Bosphorus river and see the epic skyline.

- Accommodation
   Ottoman Legacy Hotel 5 Star
- Meals Included Breakfast
- Included Activities
   Sightseeing of Blue Mosque
   Sightseeing of Hagia Sophia

Sightseeing of Topkapi Palace Museum

- Optional Activities
   Bosphorus Boat Cruise 10 EUR
- Entrance Fees
   Blue Mosque Free
   Hagia Sophia 25 EUR
   Topkapi Palace Museum 1500 TL

# Day 4: Istanbul, Cappadocia

Today we sit back and relax in the coach. Watch the amazing Turkish scenery unfold before us and pass by small towns and villages. We'll drive through the capital city of Ankara before reaching Cappadocia. In the afternoon, visit Derinkuyu Underground City, complete with a church, wells, food stores and even stables all located 60m under the ground. End the day with an optional traditional Hamman (Turkish bath).

- Accommodation
   Avrasya Hotel 4 Star
- Meals Included Breakfast, Dinner
- Included Activities
   Sightseeing of Derinkuyu Underground City
- Optional Activities
   Turkish Bath Experience 30 EUR
- Entrance Fees
  Derinkuyu Underground City 13 EUR

#### Day 5 : Cappadocia

Rise and shine, it will be an early start for our optional sunrise hot air balloon ride over the stunning landscapes and fairy chimneys of Cappadocia. Or if preferred enjoy a leisurely start to the morning before we all fill up on breakfast. We will explore the UNESCO World Heritage listed Göreme, and tick off bucket list sights along the way including Göreme Musuem, Pigeon Valley, Uchisar and Cavusin. Tonight, get your dancing shoes on for our optional Turkish Night.

- Accommodation
   Avrasya Hotel 4 Star
- Meals Included Breakfast, Dinner
- Included Activities
   Goreme Open Air Museum Visit
   Sightseeing of Cavusin
   Sightseeing of Pigeon Valley
   Sightseeing of Uchisar
- Optional Activities
   Turkish Night Show 35 EUR
   Hot Air Balooning 290 EUR
- Entrance Fees
  Goreme Open Air Museum 20 EUR

#### Day 6: Cappadocia, Konya

It's time to hit the road to Konya, home of the famous whirling dervishes - members of the Sufism order. Along the way we will stop at Ihlara Valley, a unique honeycombed canyon with rock-cut underground dwellings and churches from the Byzantine period. You can relax and replay cherished moments of discovery at our overnight stay in Konya.

- Accommodation
   Novotel Konya Hotel 5 Star
- Meals Included Breakfast, Dinner
- Included Activities
   Sightseeing of Ihlara Valley

# Day 7 : Konya, Pamukkale

Meet the diverse Turkish culture and its various facades today. Starting with an 8-century-old centre of education and architectural beauty, Karatay Madrasa, continue to the Museum and Mausoleum of Mevlana, also globally known as Rumi. Explore the ideas and works of the famous scholar, poet and theologist of the 13th century, whose teachings of understanding and acceptance have lived on to this day. From cultural to natural wonders, we travel towards to the Cotton Castle of Turkey, Pamukkale. Your seat for dinner is already reserved at the hotel restaurant.

- Accommodation
   Hierapark Hotel 4 Star
- Meals Included Breakfast, Dinner
- Included Activities
   Sightseeing of Karatay Madrasa 60 TL
   Mevlana Museum Visit

#### Day 8: Pamukkale, Ephesus, Kusadasi

Get your cameras ready, as it is time to visit Pamukkale, or 'cotton castle' in Turkish. Pamukkale is a natural site that contains hot springs and travertine, giving the appearance of terraces made by carbonate minerals left by the flowing water. The ancient city of Hierapolis was built on top of the white castle and people have bathed in its pools for thousands of years. Our next stop is the spectacular, well preserved ancient city of Ephesus. Ephesus was cited in the book of Revelations, and historians believe the Gospel of John was written here. Famed for the Temple of Artemis which was completed around 550 BC and is one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. We will sleep overnight in the seaside town of Kusadasi.

- Accommodation
   Signature Blue Resort 5 Star
- Meals Included Breakfast, Dinner
- Included Activities
   Sightseeing of Pamukkale White Terraces
   Sightseeing of Ephesus Ancient City
- Entrance Fees
   Pamukkale White Terraces 30EUR
   Ephesus Ancient City 40 EUR

# Day 9: Kusadasi, Pergamum, Troy, Canakkale

After breakfast we will depart for ancient city of Troy. You may of heard of Troy from Greek mythology or maybe just watched the Brad Pitt movie, but now you will visit the ruins and archaeological site of the city of Troy, and of course the famous wooden horse. We will stay overnight in Canakkale. You will have the evening to relax and discover the town.

- Accommodation
   Kolin Hotel 5 Star
- Meals Included Breakfast, Dinner
- Included Activities
   Sightseeing of Troy Ancient City
- Entrance Fees
   Troy Ancient City 27 EUR

#### Day 10: Canakkale, Gallipoli, Istanbul

Today we depart for the shores of Gallipoli. A place of important significance for Aussies and Kiwis, we will visit the beach and cemeteries at ANZAC Cove, before paying our respects at memorial sites Chunuk Bair and Lone Pine. In the afternoon, we will drive back to where our adventure began, Istanbul.

- Accommodation
   Legacy Ottoman Hotel 5 Star
- Meals Included Breakfast
- Included Activities
   Sightseeing of Anzac Cove
   Sightseeing of Beach Cemetery
   Sightseeing of Lone Pine
   Sightseeing of Chunuk Bair
   Sightseeing of War Trenches

#### Day 11: Depart Istanbul, Fly to Australia

Today we say goodbye to our new friends over breakfast and check-out of the hotel by 11:00am. Make your own way to the airport in time for your departing flight.

 Meals Included Breakfast

Please note: The day-by-day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

# Affordable Holidays - How do we do it?

With over 30 years' in the business, we know the travel industry better than anyone and have tracked down the best experiences around the world. We go directly to local suppliers to source the best price and holiday for you. Dealing directly with local operators is why our holidays are more affordable. We work with reputable travel professionals that offer exceptional service and safe travel policies. If you think you are paying too much for your travel arrangements, please give us a call, we will work hard to find the ideal holiday for you - that's My Travel Experience!

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#### Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be <u>viewed and downloaded on our website</u>, or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

#### This is a summary in brief for our customers:

- 1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
  - 2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
- 3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
- 4. Around 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
- 5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically via email.
- My Travel Experience manages a professional client operating account. All booking payments are held securely to pay for your travel services. We do not retain your money and funds are distributed promptly to travel service providers, including but not limited to, airlines, tour operators, cruise lines and hotels. We are required to pay the providers deposits and final payments and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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