

Turkey Discovered - 14 Days

go guide

don't leave home without it



A World Of Discovery



Discover Turkish treasures on a trip that packs in Ottoman Istanbul, ancient ruins, Gallipoli and the Aegean, fine Mediterranean beaches, whirling dervishes, stunning Cappadocia and UNESCO Listed Safranbolu. This is ultimate Turkey, in two amazing weeks!



WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET

Trip Highlights

- Istanbul - old City, Hippodrome, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sofia, Topkapi Palace and the Grand Bazaar
- Gallipoli Peninsular - ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair memorials, Galipolli Museum, trenches and battlefields
- Troy - Trojan horse and ancient ruins
- Aegean coast and islands
- Roman ruins of Ephesus and Pergamum
- Pamukkale thermal pools and Roman Hierapolis
- Carpet weaving demonstration and leather showroom
- Fethiye and Koycegiz - lake, turtle beach & mud baths
- Greek villages of Sirince and Kayakoy
- Marmaris, Saklikent Gorge, Antalya and the ancient theatre of Aspendos
- Konya - Silk Road, ancient caravanserais and Mevlana Whirling Dervish Museum
- Ankara - Ataturk's Mausoleum

- Cappadocia - Uchisar Castle, fairy chimneys and underground city
- Safranbolu - UNESCO World Heritage Listed town, Ottoman architecture and artisans

What's Included

- 13 breakfasts and 8 dinners
- 12 nights 4 star hotels and special class hotels, 1 night Otoman Mansion home - Safranbolu
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 14
- Guided sightseeing - Istanbul, Gallipoli, Troy, Ruins of Ephesus, Pergamum, Sirince, Pamukkale, Hierapolis, Koycegiz, Kayakoy, Marmaris, Antalya, Konya, Cappadocia and Safranbolu
- Koycegiz lake cruise and mud baths
- Wine tasting in Sirince
- Saklikent Gorge - canyon walk and tubing (optional)
- Ferry crossing of the Dardenelles
- Escorted by an English speaking, degree qualified Turkish tour guide
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private, modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: \$40 USD
- Entrance Fees: \$160 USD
- Tip for your tour guide and driver. We recommend you allow \$3 - 5 USD per day, per traveller as a tip for your guide and \$2 USD per day for your driver. Tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture.
- International flights and visa

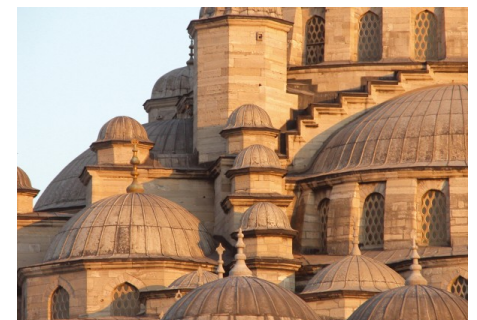
DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Istanbul

Saturday. Welcome to Turkey! Arrive Istanbul airport and included transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the afternoon offers free time for you to relax or explore. This evening our tip filled welcome meeting takes place. A great opportunity

to meet your tour guide and travelling companions before our exciting 14 day adventure gets under way. **Overnight - Istanbul**

Day 2 : The Blue Mosque & Topkapi Palace



Istanbul. After a good night's rest and breakfast, we meet all our tour group members (as some may have arrived overnight) in the hotel lobby. At this point in time all entrance fees and your tip kitty will be collected. Shortly after we depart for a classic guided tour of the only city to span two continents. The Bosphorus stretches out in front of the old city known as Sultanahmet and is the strait of water that divides the continents of Europe and Asia, both of which the city of Istanbul straddles. Touring the heart of the Old City from where the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires were ruled, we'll view some amazing sights. See the Blue Mosque (opening subject to prayer times) which faces the Hagia Sofia and is famed for its blue Iznik tiles and unique 6 minarets and the ruinous Hippodrome - now a small park of sorts and once scene of chariot races and political activities in Byzantine times and the Hagia Sofia Museum - constructed as a Basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian. Just around the corner is the stunning Topkapi Palace where we spend time exploring the grounds and various museums contained within the Palace walls. Tonight is free for you to explore or simply relax at our hotel. **Overnight - Istanbul (B)**

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www.onthegotours.com
uk 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com
aus 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
nz 0800 44 77 69 can 1 866 890 7038
usa 1 866 377 6147 sa 0800 982 686

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Day 3 : Gallipoli - WW1 battlefields



Istanbul – Gallipoli. Today, we travel to the WW1 battlefields of Gallipoli. Here, we'll embark upon a guided tour of the region, once the site of fierce fighting and today almost hauntingly beautiful, with its wooded landscape dotted with understated memorials to the war dead.

Our guided tour of the region will take in sights such as ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine Australian War Memorial and cemetery, Chunuk Bair New Zealand War Memorial and cemetery, the Nek, Johnston's Jolly and the many fortified trenches still clearly visible amongst the scrub after all these years. Roughly 3 feet deep, the system of trenches provided much needed safe cover for troops as they desperately fought the enemy.

We'll also visit the ANZAC Museum - a museum of modest proportions which exhibits period uniforms, weapons, copies of letters from servicemen and other poignant personal possessions. Outside the small museum are some memorial gardens and top views of the peninsular memorials dotted across the landscape. Crossing the Dardanelles by ferry (offering panoramic views of the entire Gallipoli Peninsula) we proceed to our hotel for a little rest and relaxation. **Overnight - Canakkale** (B, D)

Day 4 : Troy & Coastal Kusadasi



Gallipoli Region - Kusadasi. This morning we enjoy a short guided tour of Troy! If you've seen the movie – 'Troy' or read the 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 Achaean (Greek) side. The legend of the lost city of Troy and Homer's poetry was brought 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 bear witness to 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, 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. We continue to Kusadasi on the Aegean Coast. **Overnight - Kusadasi** (B, D)

Day 5 : Ancient Ephesus



Kusadasi – Sirince. Today, we enjoy a guided tour at the Roman ruins of Ephesus. 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 its great Temple of Artemis - one of the Seven Ancient Wonders. Exemplifying the finesse of Roman urban life, we'll see the Great Theatre, Curetes Way, the Temple of Serapis, ancient toilets and a public brothel. Carpet weaving has long traditions in Turkey and afterward we stop to watch a demonstration of how they are made. **Overnight - Kusadasi** (B, D)

Day 6 : Cotton Castles of Pamukkale



Kusadasi – Pamukkale – Marmaris. Meandering through the sweeping plains and endless cotton farms we arrive at the ruins of Roman Hieropolis and the hot springs of Pamukkale. Admire this

surreal landscape created by frequent earthquakes in the fault depression of the Menderes river basin. Marvel at the crystalline marble, quartzites and stalagmites, which shimmer in the sunlight. There will be time to paddle our feet as you walk the terraces or opt for a dip in the thermal baths. Later we stop at a leather manufacturing house. **Overnight - Marmaris** (B, D)

Day 7 : Boat Cruise & Greek Kayakoy

Marmaris - Greek Kayakoy - Fethiye. Arriving at the lakeside town of Koycegiz, we embark upon a boat cruise to turtle beach and smother ourselves in mud at the local mud bath. A stop is made en route to explore the quaint Greek Village of Kayakoy. **Overnight - Fethiye** (B, D)

Day 8 : Discover the Med



Fethiye. Today offers free time for you to independently explore the stunning Mediterranean coastline. Spend the day by the beach or shopping the markets of Fethiye or alternatively cruise the Med on a 12 island boat cruise. Taking a charter boat to the 12 islands costs approx USD\$30 and can be booked locally with a number of local charter companies. **Overnight - Fethiye** (B)

Day 9 : Saklikent Gorge

Fethiye - Antalya. Today we visit the stunningly beautiful Saklikent Gorge, Turkey's longest and deepest canyon, where you'll have the chance to go tubing down the icy mountain stream, take a walk through nature, or just relax and watch the world go by from the fig tree shaded wooden platforms that overlook the river. Weaving our way through the Taurus Mountains we arrive to Antalya. **Overnight - Antalya** (B, D)

Day 10 : Whirling Dervishes



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Antalya – Cappadocia. Early morning departure for Konya, en route we visit the ancient theatre of Aspendos and naturally beautiful Tinaztepe sink hole and cave. Arriving at Konya, we tour the monastery of the Mevlana whirling dervishes and the mausoleum of Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi. A further stop is made along the Silk Road at the Seljuk - a fine example of an ancient Silk Road caravanserai. **Overnight - Cappadocia** (B, D)

Day 11 : Underground Cities



Cappadocia. Today we tour the stunning Cappadocia region - an extraordinary national treasure. The utter improbability of the seemingly surreal landscapes have to be seen to be believed, where 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. A guided tour of the region includes the World – Heritage listed site of the Göreme Valley to see stunning examples of rock-cut Byzantine churches and chapels, Kaymaki Underground City and Uchisar Castle. An optional Turkish dinner and folklore evening is available tonight. **Overnight - Cappadocia** (B)

Day 12 : Safranbolu - Ottoman Royalty

Cappadocia – Ankara - Safranbolu. Opt for an early morning hot air balloon flight over lunar landscape. Via Ankara and the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk we arrive at the World Heritage Listed town of Safranbolu. The town boasts many graceful Ottoman homes, once the residences of royalty and artisan work shops crafting traditional Turkish wares. Tonight we stay in an Ottoman mansion home. **Overnight - Safranbolu** (B, D)

Day 13 : The Grand Bazaar



Safranbolu - Istanbul. This morning we embark on a walking tour of the old town before returning to Istanbul with an afternoon visit to the Grand Bazaar. **Overnight - Istanbul** (B)

Day 14 : Istanbul

Friday. We say goodbye to our new friends, our tour ends after breakfast and onward departure transfer to the airport. (B)

Please Note

Travellers on this tour will be a combination of those booking with On The Go Tours and Global Travel. The tour group will depart as one and all touring arrangements will be conducted together.

30 June 2012 departure - Kids on board

Our tour departing 30 June 2012 caters for adult travellers and families with children over 6 years of age. We expect to have possibly 2 - 3 minors (aged between 7 - 18 years) travelling with their parents on this trip.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Climate

Turkey is a destination that can be visited year round. Temperatures in Turkey during the Northern Hemisphere summer are generally high, particularly during the summer months from June through September. April can spring up surprising results. Days can be amazingly warm, though temperatures do drop at night, so pack some warmer clothes. Summer in Turkey for the most part is hot and dry. For the beach worshipper, June through September is best, when you'll enjoy glorious Mediterranean sun. Turkey is a lovely winter destination, the weather is usually temperate, although from December through to February you may enjoy a little snow in Istanbul, Anatolia or Cappadocia. Whatever month you consider, you'll be rewarded with seasonal variations that range from leaf-strewn autumns to sun-kissed summers.

Health Requirements

Recommendations - Tetanus and Polio, plus Typhoid and Hepatitis. Contact your local

healthcare provider for the most up to date information.

Currency

We recommend you carry a mixture of cash and a debit/credit card. The Turkish Lira is fully convertible and can be obtained before departure or upon arrival. ATM facilities, banks and exchange booths are available in all major cities and towns. Avoid changing the bulk of your money at the airport, the exchange rates are usually more favourable in the city.

Credit cards are widely accepted in large restaurants, hotels and shops. Although merchants may place a surcharge of up to 10% on credit card purchases. Ensure you have sufficient funds in cash before travelling outside major cities and towns. Travellers cheques are hard to exchange, so best not to bring them.

Turkish Lira - abbreviated to TL or TRY.

USD 1 = TL 1.8

GBP 1 = TL 2.8

EURO 1 = TL 2.5

AUD 1 = TL 1.8

Time

Turkey is 2 hours ahead of GMT.

Essential Packing

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- A photocopy of your passport data pages.
- The voltage in Turkey is generally 220V and outlets fit a two-pin European plug. You should pack a Universal Adaptor and check that it is suitable for Turkey.
- Spare camera batteries/memory card so you can go snap happy.
- If you fancy a tittle, take advantage of Duty Free.
- Buy some Lira at the airport upon arrival.
- Buy a phrasebook and practice your holiday Turkish.
- Keep a supply of small notes for local transactions.

Holiday Money

Funds collected in Turkey for entrance fees and tip kitty (if applicable to your holiday) or optional excursion that you may wish to participate in are payable in local currency (TL).

Pre-Tour Accom & Arrival Transfers

If you would like to arrive into Turkey prior to your tour or stay on longer, we can arrange pre or post tour accommodation for you. Pre/post tour accommodation is located at the hotel your tour commences/ends and is inclusive of breakfast.

If arriving on day 1 of a holiday or booking pre-tour accommodation with us on a tour or short stay that includes an airport arrival transfer (as indicated in the 'What's Included' section of this Go Guide) we will be at the airport (Ataturk or Sahiba Gokcen), ready to transfer you to your hotel.



If arriving prior to 8am on day 1 (essentially on a flight that arrives very, very early in the morning) you will need to purchase a night of pre-tour accommodation to save you waiting until standard hotel check in time, which is generally 2pm.

ARRIVING VIA ATATURK AIRPORT

As you enter the arrival hall in Ataturk Airport turn LEFT and walk along the concourse. Look to the right, our representative will be waiting here behind the barricade, displaying an on the go sign. Remember, the representative won't know what you look like, so it will be important to look out for our company sign, in order to facilitate rendezvous.

SABIHA GOKCEN AIRPORT

If arriving into Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen International Airport, an additional 50km from the Istanbul city centre. Please be timely in exiting customs and in meeting our awaiting representative, who will be holding an on the go tours sign.

If your tour or sailing holiday does not include an arrival transfer you will need to make your own way to the tour start point. Details of the tour/sailing holiday start point can be found on your tour voucher.

Departure Transfers

We offer the following complimentary departure transfers: Aegean Explorer, Turkey Unplugged & Remembrance Day tours - departure transfers at 11am and 1.30pm on the final day of your tour (day 8 for Turkey & Tutankhamen tour) to Ataturk International Airport. Turkey & Tutankhamen tour: on day 8 at 11am & 9pm. Turkey Discovered: departure transfer on the final day of your tour at any time of day to Ataturk International Airport.

Christmas Turkey and Turkish Delight: departure transfer on the final day of your tour at any time of day to Ataturk or Sabiha Gokcen Airports. Flying Carpet Crystal Coast: departure transfer on the final day of your tour at any time of day to Izmir Airport.

Should you require a departure transfer at any other time, this can be booked in advance or locally.

Visas

Australian, British, Canadian, Irish and USA passport holders can obtain a 3-month tourist visa upon arrival at Istanbul Ataturk International Airport. Cost is currently USD\$20/EURO 15 for USA, Irish and Australian passports, and USD\$60/EURO 45 for Canadian passports, GBP10/EURO 15 for British passports. South African passport holders can obtain a 30 day tourist visa upon arrival for USD\$20. South African citizens may be asked to show proof of funds upon arrival (50USD/day). New Zealand passport holders currently do not require a visa for a stay not exceeding 3 months.

Ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your date of arrival to Turkey. Please re-confirm all visa requirements with the Turkish embassy at least one month before travel. Visa procurement is subject to change and remains the

responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.

Site Opening Times

Popular sightseeing spot in Istanbul are closed on specific days. Please plan your visit accordingly.

Hagia Sofia - Closed Mondays

Topkapi Palace - Closed Tuesdays

Grand Bazaar & Egyptian Spice Bazaar - Closed Sundays

Blue Mosque - Closed during all prayer times

During Ramadan (known as Ramazan in Turkey), some restaurants and shops (excluding those catering mainly for tourists) and attractions may close earlier, so scheduling may be slightly altered to ensure featured attractions are visited.

Shopping

Turkey is a virtual Aladdin's Cave. The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul is cavernous and full of unusual and everyday objects. Known locally as Kapali Carsi - the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul's Old City is a massive conglomeration of shops (some 4000) divided into areas specialising in gold, carpets, leather, souvenirs and clothing. Turkish handicrafts include a rich variety of textiles and embroideries, articles of copper, onyx and tile, mother-of-pearl, inlaid articles, leather and suede products. Jewellery, carpets and kilims represent top buys at the bazaar.

Opening hours: Mon - Saturday 0900 - 1300hrs and 1400 - 1900hrs (closed Sunday).

The Egyptian Spice Bazaar at Eminonu near Istanbul is an easy continuance from the Grand Bazaar or good start point before heading onto the cavernous Grand Bazaar. Here, you can buy a dizzying array of spices at a fraction of the cost you'd expect to pay back home. Pine Kernels, peppercorns, real Iranian saffron and other precious commodities are hawked here at knockdown prices! Real Turkish delight is available by the tonne as well. Why not the milk-based Turkish delight studded with pistachios!

Opening hours: 0900 - 1900hrs Monday - Saturday (closed Sunday)

Markets and bazaars abound in other towns, too. During your stay in Turkey, you may visit a leather manufacturer and emporium. Although the quality of some of the jackets and clothing outstanding, the initially quoted prices can also be rather outstanding. If you do fancy a particular item, haggle, even if you are in the confines of what looks to be a smart showroom.

Carpet Buying

Turkey is justly famous for its carpets and kilims (a napless woven rug) and you'll be spoilt for choice. To ensure you get a good buy, spend time visiting several shops to compare price, pattern-type and quality. A good quality, long-lasting carpet should be 100% wool. Check the quality of the weave for possible holes. A wool carpet will have fine, frizzy fibres if you turn the carpet on its back. Cheaper carpets are made of cotton and most often the fringe will be, too. If you want a wool carpet and the fringe is of cotton, it's likely the carpet won't be a woollen one! The lies can be bigger than the fall of

Ottoman Empire. Don't make the mistake of buying a cotton carpet at the price of a wool one! Many carpets are made to look like antiques at prices to match. Set your budget, don't be swayed (however good the complimentary mint tea or cool drink might taste), and bargain. And remember the caveat - 'Let the buyer beware'.

IMPORTANT: Any purchases made whilst travelling are at your own discretion. Make sure you are completely happy at the product you are purchasing, on the go will not become involved at any time, at a later date or once you return home should your purchase not live up to your expectations. Proceed with caution.