



bolt-on spotlight

what you see

- Karatay caravanserai
- Kahraman Maras
- Kahta - ancient city
- Harran
- Sanli Urfa
- UNESCO-listed Nemrut Dagı

Departures operate in conjunction with our Turkey Unplugged and Turkey Discovered tours from May - September.

For Turkey Unplugged - Start Monday, fly to Istanbul Wednesday, end Thursday - so includes extra night FREE in Cappadocia! (Sunday)

For Turkey Discovered - Start Friday, fly to Istanbul Sunday, end Monday.

what you get

- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- 3 ★ hotel - 3 nights
- Bus transfer from Cappadocia region to Nemrut Dagı region
- Flight one way Gazientep - Istanbul (economy class)
- Guided sightseeing - Karatay caravanserai, Kahraman Maras, Kahta, Harran, Sanli Urfa, UNESCO-listed Nemrut Dagı
- Professional English speaking guide



on location

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

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.

money

GBP£1.00 = YTL2.21 USD\$1.00 = YTL1.24 (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.

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).

how much?

ENTRANCE FEES

Entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approximately USD \$20-30

TIPPING

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

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

bright ideas

- Bring a hat for the sun!
- Bring spare camera batteries/film and go snap happy.
- If you fancy a tippie, take advantage of Duty Free buys.
- Buy some Turkish Lira at the airport on arrival.
- Buy a phrasebook and practice your 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:

- The stunning sunrise over the plateau at Nemrut Dagı
- The remains of the head statues of the gods in the open air shrines
- Check out the mudbrick beehive houses in Harran
- Visit Sanli Urfa museum, to see the Neolithic and Chalcolithic exhibits from the lower Euphrates area
- Check out the Firfiri Mosque, once the church of Apostles

the big 5

5 things to buy:

- Ice cream at Kahraman Maras, reputed to be Turkey's best!
- A blue glass evil eye pendant
- A meal of Turkish sis kebab and all the trimmings
- A swag of Turkish delight. Try the pistachio-studded or milk-infused varieties.
- A nargile (bubble pipe) and some apple tobacco. Even if you don't smoke, it's a great 'show & tell' piece.





mount nemrut: itinerary

day 1

Welcome to Turkey! Transfer by bus from Cappadocia to Kahta, via Karatay Caravanserai, constructed in 1255 by Seljuks, a great example of Seljuk styles. We also visit Kahraman Maras, famous for its ice cream! Lunch, dinner and overnight - Kahta.

day 2

Kahta - Nemrut Dag - Sanli Urfa - breakfast. A very early start as we arrive at Mt Nemrut before dawn for the ascent from which we watch the amazing sunrise. Then its time to explore the statues.

Nemrut Dag (Mount Nimrod), a UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of Turkey's most awesome sights. Rediscovered by a geologist in 1881, and impressively located in a region that lies between the Taurus Mountains and the River Euphrates, Nemrut Dag was built by narcissistic Antiochus II (69 to 34 B.C.), the king of a minor buffer state called Commagene between the Roman and Persian empires. Nemrut Dag comprises a colossal funerary sanctuary dedicated to the megalomaniac king and two hierothesiums (open-air shrines) dedicated to numerous gods in statue-form including Apollo, Fortuna, Zeus, Hermes and Hercules. The heads of the gods (which have since toppled from most of the statues thanks to earthquakes) are outstanding works of art, and in their setting seem as mysterious as the figures on Easter Island. The facial features on the heads look Greek but the hairstyles and clothing are Persian in appearance.

The peak of Nemrut Dag itself is capped by the great shrine and what is rumoured to be the undiscovered tomb of Antiochus I and three female relatives. Attempts to penetrate the secret of this great tumulus pyramid where it is believed his burial vault lies, have been in vain.

The relief in the west court of a lion decorated with 19 stars, originally believed to be a horoscope relating to Antiochos' birthday but later as being the date that Antiochos' installed on the throne. There is also the thought that the arrangements of the planets show 7 July 62BC, possibly the time that construction on the site began.

The eastern court is the sacred centre with reliefs depicting Antiochos' Persian ancestors on one side and his Macedonian ones on another. A path at the foot of Mt Nemrut is believed to lead to a pathway linking the eastern and western terraces.

Back to Sanli Urfa, a city of mosques - be sure to see the Firfiri Mosque, at one time the church of the Apostles. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Sanli Urfa.

day 3

Sanli Urfa - Birecik - Gaziantep - Istanbul - breakfast. Today we head to Birecik, famous for its Bald Ibis birds, then onto Gaziantep for our flight to Istanbul. Transfer from the airport to our hotel and free time in Istanbul, to explore this awesome city. Lunch and overnight - Istanbul.

day 4

Istanbul - breakfast. Arrangements end after breakfast.

PLEASE NOTE: This trip is run in conjunction with Fez Travel.

NOTE:

If planning on additional sightseeing in Istanbul: Hagia Sofia - closed Mondays, Topkapi Palace - closed Tuesdays, Grand bazaar & Egyptian Spice Market - closed Sundays. Please time/plan your independent visit accordingly.

totally turkish

Did you know?

- Julius Caesar uttered the words 'Veni, Vidi, Vici' (I came, I saw, I conquered) in Amasya, east of the nation's capital, Ankara, when he came to Anatolia in 47BC.
- The common envelope was invented in Turkey.
- Tulips are originally from Anatolia! Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, ambassador to Charles V, introduced them to the Netherlands in 1554.
- The Temple of Artemis and the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus were among the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. You can still visit both sites at Ephesus and Bodrum! The other Wonders are; the Colossus of Rhodes, the Pharos (Lighthouse) of Alexandria, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia and of course, the Great Pyramids of Giza in Cairo, Egypt.
- Coins made of electrum (a natural gold-silver mix) were used for the first time in history in Lydia, city of Sardes in 7 BC. Sardes is in Western Anatolia.
- Aya Sofya (Hagia Sofia) in Istanbul intended to be the grandest, finest house of worship in the world. The resulting edifice was for almost 1000 years the largest church in the Christian world before being superseded by St Peter's in Rome!

Hamams - Turkish Bath Houses

The pleasures of the Turkish bath (hamam) are famous: soaking in the steamy heat, getting kneaded and pummeled on a marble slab by a masseur, being scrubbed and lathered by an attendant then relaxing in soft white towels with a cup of apple tea. Men and women bathe separately, though baths in tourist areas often accept both sexes for a higher price. A hamam usually costs around GBP10 - 15. While the experience is mostly safe, there has been the odd report from female travellers of unwelcome behaviour from their male masseurs. To avoid this, only accept the services of a female masseur. Also consult a guidebook.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938)

Though he died in 1938, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is Turkey's greatly revered national hero. Sacred in the hearts of millions of Turks, his image and famous quotations are everywhere in Turkey. From classrooms to ferry terminals, offices to shops, parks to buildings, a framed portrait, bust or statue of him will always feature.

A leader of immense vision, Atatürk revolutionised Turkey with sweeping reforms. In the process, he completely re-moulded Turkish society. After the republic was declared in 1923, a constitution was adopted, polygamy abolished, fez headwear was banned as it was deemed to be a mark of Ottoman backwardness and new Western-style legal codes were introduced. These included civil (and not religious) marriages, Islam was removed as the state religion and the Arabic alphabet was totally abandoned in favour of a modified Latin alphabet that exists to this day! On top of all this, in 1930 Constantinople became Istanbul. Atatürk was a brilliant and visionary statesman and indeed earlier in his life fought fearlessly and with distinction in World War One at Gallipoli alongside his men. Atatürk laid the foundations for the great forward-looking, secular, Westernised and democratic nation Turkey is today.

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 on the go 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 on the go.



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