Turkey Unplugged - 10 Days
go guide
don’t leave home without it

Explore Istanbul and its bazaars and grand Mosques, wander round the battlefields of Gallipoli, see Roman ruins, the beautiful Aegean Coast, Pamukkale and the jewel in Turkey’s crown - Cappadocia, with its amazing underground cities and whimsical landscape.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights
- Istanbul - old city, Istanbul, Hippodrome, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sofia, Basilica
- Underground Cistern and Topkapi Palace
- Gallipoli Peninsular - ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair memorials, trenches and battlefields
- Troy - Trojan horse and ruins
- Aegean Coast
- Carpet weaving and leather manufacturing houses
- Roman ruins of Pergamum and Ephesus
- Pamukkale thermal pools and Roman Hierapolis
- Cappadocia region, Goreme Valley and underground city
- Ankara - Ataturk’s Mausoleum

What's Included
- 9 breakfasts and 4 hotel dinners
- 9 nights 4 star and special class hotels
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 of tour and departure transfer (to Ataturk International Airport) at 11am & 1.30pm on day 10
- Guided sightseeing - Istanbul, Gallipoli, Troy, Ruins of Ephesus and Pergamum, Pamukkale, Hierapolis and Cappadocia
- Escorted by an English speaking, degree qualified Turkish tour guide
- All relevant transport and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included
- Tipping Kitty: $40 USD
- Entrance Fees: $130-140 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 : Welcome to Turkey!
Saturday. Welcome to Turkey and the start of your holiday. Included arrival transfer to our hotel. Spend the afternoon at leisure or head out to explore the city. Istanbul is easy to get around on foot and there are plenty of restaurants and cafes dotted about the city. At 8 o clock this evening our tip filled welcome meeting takes place. Take the opportunity to meet your tour guide and travel companions then maybe head out for some dinner or a chat in the bar afterward. Overnight - Istanbul

Day 2 : The Old City
Istanbul. After a good night’s rest and breakfast, we meet all our tour group members. At this point in time all entrance fees and your tip kitty will be collected. Shortly after we depart on a classic guided tour of the only city to span two continents.

Our sightseeing tour includes a visit to the stunning Blue Mosque (which faces the Hagia Sofia) and is famed for it’s blue Iznik tiles and unique 6 minarets, the ruinous Hippodrome – now a small park of sorts and once scene of chariot races and political activities in Byzantine times, Hagia Sofia Museum - constructed as a Basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian, Topkapi Palace and the Underground Cistern – an ancient underground water tank - replete with carved and fluted Corinthian columns and a puzzling head of Medusa. Visitors walk on walkways suspended above the shallow water. It’s very cool and peaceful.

Please note that the 9th November 2014 departure only visits the exterior of Hagia Sofia (it is closed on Mondays) but also visits the Grand Bazaar. Overnight - Istanbul (B)
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 understatated memorials to the war dead.

Our guided tour of the region will take in sights such as 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.

Crossing the Dardenelles 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 & Kusadasi

Gallipoli – 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 Aechaean (Greek) side. The legend of the lost city of Troy and Homer’s poetry was bought alive by it’s rediscovery in 1963. 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 storic Trojan wooden horse that, as the story goes, was filled to the gunnels with Aechaean 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 sweetest, 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 we drive to Kusadasi on the Aegean Coast via a leather manufacturing house. Overnight - Kusadasi (B, D)

Day 5: Ancient Ephesus

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 Celsus, 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. Carpet weaving has long traditions in Turkey and afterward we stop to watch a demonstration of how they are made. Tonight, you may wish to consider heading out for dinner. Downtown Kusadasi is the place to go with a varied choice of restaurants, pubs and cafes. Overnight - Kusadasi (B)

Day 6: Pamukkale Thermal Pools

Kusadasi – Pamukkale. Driving east, we arrive at Pamukkale - home of the famous gleaming white calcium terraced pools. 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.

Take a barefoot walk along the traverines or opt for a dip in the warm waters of the Pamukkale Thermal pool, with its submerged fragments of fluted marble columns.

Our final stop is the ruined spa town of Hierapolis, which was a a cure centre founded around 190 BC by the Romans. The Romans were aware of the curative powers of mineral springs and created communal baths. Overnight - Pamukkale (B, D)

Days 7-8: Fairytale Cappadocia

Pamukkale – Cappadocia. On our drive to Cappadocia, we visit some ancient caravanersasi such as Sultanhani caravanersasi. Tonight (day 7) why not join us on an optional and fun Turkish evening out.

On day 8, after breakfast and a good night’s rest, we enjoy a guided tour of 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...
Day 9 : Ataturk's Mausoleum  
Cappadocia - Istanbul. Via Ankara - the nation’s capital, we visit the mausoleum of Mustafa Ataturk - the father of modern Turkey, before continuing to Istanbul late in the evening. Overnight - Istanbul  
(B)

Day 10 : Istanbul  
Monday. After breakfast your tour draws to a close. Onward departure transfers to Ataturk International Airport are offered complimentary at 11am and 1:30pm today. Happy travels!(B)

09 Nov 2014 departure  
09 NOVEMBER 2014 DEPARTURE. Please note this tour starts on a Sunday and ends on a Tuesday. This tour offers travellers the opportunity to pay their respects on Remembrance Day at Gallipoli. On 11 November we tour the battlefields of Gallipoli remembering the brave soldiers that died on upon these shores. On this tour includes a stop Hagia Sophia - exterior only, (as the interior is closed on a Monday) and visit Istanbul’s famed Grand Bazaar in the afternoon which will be open on this day.  

If travelling on our Turkey Unplugged tour departing on SUNDAY 09 Nov 2014 and ending on TUE 18 Nov 2014 , special arrangements have been incorporated into your tour as follows:  

Day 2: Istanbul City Tour  
Today we take a guided tour of the Old City from where the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires were ruled. We'll tour the stunning Blue Mosque famed for its blue Iznik tiles, Hippodrome, the cavernous Underground Cistern, Hagia Sofia (exterior only, closed on Monday) and Topkapi Palace. Later this afternoon visit the famed Grand Bazaar for a stop of retail therapy. Overnight - Istanbul.  

Day 3: Remembrance Day at the WW1 Battlefields  
Istanbul - Gallipoli. Remembrance Day is the day dedicated to honouring and all the Commonwealth service men and women who have died in the line of duty. Remembrance Day also known as Armistice Day or Poppy Day commemorations have been held since the day was marked in 1918 and thereafter annually each 11 November.  

Day 4 onward: arrangements as per normal

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Visas  
From 10 April 2014 it is no longer possible to obtain a visa upon arrival. Travellers must apply for an e-visa online more than 24 hours prior to arrival. Please visit the Turkey e-visa website noted above.

Australian, British, Canadian, South Africans, Irish and USA passport holders can obtain a tourist e-visa online.

Costs are currently USD$60/EURO 45 for Australian and Canadian passport holders, USD $20/ EURO 15 for USA and Irish passports, and GBP10/EURO 15 for British passport holders. For South African passport holders there is no charge.

New Zealand passport holders currently do not require a visa for a stay not exceeding 3 months.

To arrange a Turkey e-visa online go to: https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/apply/

The form is easy to complete and will save you time upon arrival.

Please 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 and fees are subject to change and remains the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go Tours.

Entrance fees  
On group tours entrance fees to tourist sites are not included in our tour price. All entry fees must be budgeted by you. Entrance fee amounts do change, therefore upon arrival in Turkey your tour leader will outline the exact total of your entrance fees and collect this amount in Turkish Lira on day 2 of your tour.

Tipping Kitty  
It is customary to tip in Turkey. At the start of your tour we collect a small tipping kitty from all tour participants to cover tips en route (to be paid in Turkish Lira) This saves you the hassle of when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage handlers, waiters, drivers, your airport representative and other support staff throughout your tour.

This tipping kitty does not include a tip for your tour guide where we recommend an amount approx USD$4-5 per day. Naturally though the amount is up to you - tipping is an entirely personal gesture.

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. Turkish Lira (TRY) can be easily obtained prior to departure (though there is no real need to do so in advance) 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 TRY or TL.
USD 1 = TRY 2.2  
GBP 1 = TRY 3.6  
EURO 1 = TRY 2.9  
AUD 1 = TRY 1.95

Time & Voltage  
Turkey is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Turkish voltage is 230-240v AC. Turkish sockets are of the 3 round-
pin variety, similar though not identical to European sockets. Greek sockets are of the 2 round-pin variety. If taking a hairdryer or chargeable device, be sure to pack an adaptor.

**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 tipple, take advantage of Duty Free.
- Take out some TRY from the ATM facilities at the airport upon arrival.
- Buy a phrasebook and practice your holiday Turkish.
- Keep a supply of small notes for local transactions.

**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/end is inclusive of breakfast.

If arriving on day 1 of a holiday or booking pre-tour accommodation to save you waiting until standard hotel check in time, this can be booked in advance or locally.

**Site Opening Times**

**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 – 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 – 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 woolen 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. If you no longer wish to make the purchase, le 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.

**Departure Transfers**

We offer the following complimentary departure transfers: Aegean Explorer, Turkey Unplugged, Ottomans & Oil Wrestling & 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 one of day to Ataturk or Sahiba 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.

**Turkey Unplugged - 10 Days**

This Go Guide has been compiled with care and good faith. It gives an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the traveller and the operator or their affiliates. Any costs above those quoted are subject to change (how so are an accurate reflections of costs at the time of writing). Please note that any requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of the go.

updated on 13-10-2014