

Jewels of Sultans Crown

12 days | Starts/Ends: Istanbul



PRIVATE TOUR: From historic and majestic Istanbul to surreal Cappadocia, all the classics of Turkey are here with an added visit to Antalya, Perge and Aspendos with some of the world's most beautifully preserved amphitheatres.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Istanbul - The Old City, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sofia, Hippodrome and Topkapi Palace
- Gallipoli Peninsular - ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair, trenches and battlefields
- Troy - Trojan horse and ancient ruins
- Antalya and the ancient city of Perge
- Aegean Coast - Kusadasi and Cannakale
- Roman ruins of Pergamum and Ephesus!
- Pamukkale - Thermal pools and Roman Hierapolis
- Aspendos - Magnificent amphitheatres
- Konya - Silk Road and Mevlana Museum
- Cappadocia - Uchisar Castle, fairy chimneys and underground city
- Ankara - Mausoleum of Ataturk and museum

What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 8 dinners
- 11 nights SUPERIOR hotels. STANDARD and DELUXE hotel options are also available upon request. Accommodation rating – See Trip Notes for details
- Touring as per itinerary
- Entrance fees for all included sightseeing
- English speaking, degree qualified Turkish tour guide
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on days 1 and 12 (one each day)
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

COVID SAFE GUIDE

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Istanbul

Welcome to Istanbul. You will be met upon arrival at the airport by one of our representatives and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free. **Overnight - Istanbul**

Day 2 : Old City sights

After breakfast enjoy a full day tour of the magnificent city of Istanbul. Explore Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sofia, the Blue Mosque and the

Roman Hippodrome; once home to chariot races, gladiatorial battles and public executions, before trying your hand at a spot of haggling in the Grand Bazaar. Tonight there is an optional Turkish dinner with traditional Turkish entertainment. **Overnight - Istanbul (B)**

Day 3 : Cappadocia

Istanbul - Cappadocia. Driving to Ankara we visit the mausoleum and museum of Kemal Ataturk, one of Turkey's most revered leaders, famous for his progressive reform of Turkish society and his incredible strategic command during World War I, thwarting the Allied attempts at invading Turkey. You will then enjoy a picturesque journey through the Lakeland before arriving in Cappadocia. **Overnight - Cappadocia (B, D)**

Day 4 : Cappadocia



Cappadocia. This morning opt for a hot air balloon ride over the incredible landscape of Cappadocia, before embarking upon a full

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day sightseeing tour of the region. Discover the surreal landscapes of Cappadocia, visit the Kaymakli Underground City where early Christians took refuge from their persecutors and the Open Air Museum in Goreme - where you can view some of the best examples of Byzantine art in the rock cut churches with frescoes and paintings dating back to the 10th century. You will also visit the natural fortress of Uchisar before

being given a demonstration of the local handicrafts of hand-made carpets, Turkish tiles, onyx and potteries. **Overnight - Cappadocia (B, D)**

Day 5 : Konya

Cappadocia - Konya. Today we drive onward to Pamukkale via the 13th century Seljukian masterpiece of Sultanhan Caravanserai and Konya. In Konya visit the 13th century Mevlana Museum; the original lodge of the Mevlevi Whirling Dervishes, a mystical Sufi Muslim group. It contains the tomb of Mevlana, a leading philosopher and mystic of Islam, which remains an important place of pilgrimage. Tonight you have the option to watch a Whirling Dervishes performance. **Overnight - Konya (B)**

Day 6 : Antalya



Konya - antalya. This morning drive to Antalya and visit the ancient city of Perge, originally settled by the Hittites around 1500BC. Perge has an impressive colonnaded street and is the site where most of the statues on display at the Antalya Museum were unearthed. Also visit Aspendos, which is home to one of the best preserved amphitheatres in the world. **Overnight - Antalya (B, D)**

Day 7 : Pamukkale

Antalya - Pamukkale. After breakfast depart for Pamukkale. Remainder of the day at leisure. Perhaps try the beautiful thermal baths of your hotel. **Overnight - Pamukkale (B, D)**

Day 8 : Pamukkale

Pamukkale - Kusadasi. After breakfast visit the incredible white calcium terraces of Pamukkale and ancient Hierapolis, with its Necropolis graveyard of over 1200 graves. The Temple of Apollo, the Plutonium, dating back to third century BC and the sacred pool are some of the highlights of Hierapolis. The shallow thermal waters ripple over a wonderful scattering of ancient roman ruins that lie beneath. This afternoon, en route to Kusadasi we visit the ruins of the great Temple of Artemis (one of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World), which is situated in a marshy basin between Selcuk and Ephesus. **Overnight - Kusadasi (B, D)**

Day 9 : Ancient Ephesus



Kusadasi. This morning you will drive to the ancient and magnificent city of Ephesus, one of the largest and most well preserved ancient city's in the Mediterranean, with Roman theatres, fountains, buildings, churches and temples. Ephesus was originally built on the north slope of Mount Pion in 1000 BC but was later relocated to its current location in 4th century BC. This afternoon you can visit a Turkish leather manufacturing house where products are available for sale. **Overnight - Kusadasi (B, D)**

Day 10 : Pergamum

Kusadasi - Canakkale. This morning, departing early we visit Bergama, the site of the ancient city of Pergamum which remained hidden from the modern world until 1871

when the German engineer Carl Humann rediscovered it when some locals showed him an interesting and strange mosaic that turned out to be the Altar of Zeus. Pergamum, one of Turkey's oldest civilised settlements, inhabited since pre-historic times through to Ionic, Roman and Byzantine civilizations. You will have the chance to visit the ancient acropolis situated on top of a steep hill and the aforementioned Altar of Zeus. We continue to Troy, the ancient city made famous by Homer's Odyssey and the fable of Helen, Achilles and the Trojan horse. Afterwards drive on to Canakkale. **Overnight - Canakkale (B, D)**

Day 11 : Gallipoli



Canakkale - Istanbul. After breakfast cross the Dardanelles to visit the evocative battlefields of Gallipoli. In World War 1 the Allies tried in vain to capture Turkey in order to better supply troops in Europe via access to the Black Sea and also open up better supply routes to Russia. It was on the beaches of the Gallipoli peninsula where the Allies landed and over 11,000 Anzacs lost their lives. Visit key sites such as Anzac Cove, Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair, The Nek and other Turkish and Allied trenches. **Overnight - Istanbul (B)**

Day 12 : Istanbul

Istanbul. Your tour arrangements end after breakfast. Onward transfer to the airport.(B)

Accommodation ratings

On our Private trips, you can often choose your style of accommodation. The price quoted on our website is reflective of the included accommodation, please see the "included" section on the first page of this document for details. Should you opt for an alternative hotel category, this will be

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confirmed in writing with the respective price on your invoice.

For further details about the indicative hotels, please see the "hotels" tab on our website. Here we rank hotel's in their respective country (REGIONAL CATEGORY) - but we also tell you how it ranks by Western standards (OUR CATEGORY).

STANDARD - Equates to a Western 3-star standard, always featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant.

SUPERIOR - Equates to a Western 4-star standard, featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant and often a swimming pool and/or a fitness centre.

DELUXE - Equates to a Western 5-star standard, usually featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, excellent service and customer care.

LUXURY - Equates to a Western 5-star plus standard - the creme de la creme. Featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, this accommodation is a cut above the rest. Sheer opulence!

Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for your tour guide: USD\$5-7 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing.

For your driver and On The Go Representative we'd recommend USD\$2-3 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Turkey Country Guide

Visas and passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Turkey.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Visas

Turkey health requirements and water

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Turkey from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all the appropriate vaccinations. The tap water in Turkey is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Universal travel adaptor
- Spare camera batteries/memory card so you can go snap happy
- Take out some Turkish Lira from the ATM facilities at the airport upon arrival
- Buy a phrasebook and practice locally
- Keep a supply of small Turkish Lira notes for local transactions

It's not like home

Travelling to far-flung corners of the earth often involves encountering lifestyles and conditions that are very different from what you are used to back home. As such it is important to come prepared for unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect everything to go exactly as planned, as things can and do change in foreign countries. The people, customs, creed

and languages are different from one region to the next.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

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 to Sat 0900 – 1900hrs (closed Sunday).

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.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they

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been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

What to expect and Ramadan

Ramazan dates: 13 April - 12 May 2021 (approx). The month of Ramazan (Ramadan), the ninth of the Islamic calendar, is a great time to travel in the region as you get a real insight into the Muslim faith. It is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds and spending time with family and friends. The fasting is intended to help teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint and generosity. It also reminds them of the suffering of the poor, who may rarely get to eat well. During the day, people must refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and sexual activity, so if you encounter someone who is a bit grumpy please be understanding, flexible and sympathetic. As tourists you will be generally unaffected although some places may close early, but your tour leader will do their best to plan around this. Most hotels bars and tourist restaurants will remain open. In the evening you will experience a celebratory atmosphere at iftar, when people break their fast. To witness Ramazan is a real highlight making your tour in the region that bit more interesting. Each year it begins roughly ten days earlier than the year before, according to the Gregorian calendar.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

Turkey site opening times

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

- Topkapi Palace - Closed Tuesdays
- Grand Bazaar - Closed Sundays
- Blue Mosque - Closed during all prayer times and Friday's until 3pm
- All museums in Turkey will open at 1pm, on the 13th of May and 20th of July 2021
- The Spice Bazaar and Grand Bazaar are closed as follows:

2020: 1, 2, 3 Aug / 29 Oct

2021: 1 Jan / 13, 14, 15 May / 20, 21, 22, 23 Jul / 29 Oct

Blue Mosque renovations

The Blue Mosque (also known as Sultanahmet Camii in Turkish) is currently undergoing renovations and for the foreseeable future there will be scaffolding erected inside and other construction works will be taking place. Whilst we will visit the inside of the Blue Mosque when included on a tour, please be aware that some parts of the Mosque may be off limits to tourists.

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