

# Turkey Unplugged

10 Days | Starts/Ends: Istanbul



Explore stunning Istanbul with its bazaars and mosques and wander around the battlefields of Gallipoli. See Roman ruins in Pergamum and Ephesus, discover the beautiful Aegean Coast, the natural wonder of Pamukkale and the jewel in Turkey's crown - Cappadocia, with its amazing underground cities and whimsical landscape.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Cappadocia – explore the surreal landscape on a guided tour including the Goreme Valley, Zelve and Uchisar castle-mountain
- Istanbul – visit highlights of the Old City including the beautiful Blue Mosque, Hagia Sofia and imposing Topkapi Palace
- Ephesus – tour the marble ruins of this Roman city which was once the site of the great Temple of Artemis - one of the Seven Ancient Wonders
- Pamukkale – stroll around the terraced pools and opt for a relaxing dip in the naturally warm and calcium rich waters
- Gallipoli – pay your respects at the Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair memorials and visit ANZAC Cove, a famous WW1 landing site

- Troy – discover the legendary ruins and see a replica of the famous wooden horse which as the story goes, was used to sack the city
- Pergamum – marvel at the Roman amphitheatre which is one of the steepest in the classical world
- Hierapolis – see the UNESCO-listed ruins of this ancient spa town, built on the site of natural hot springs

### What's Included

- 9 breakfasts and 1 dinner
- 9 nights 4 star and special class hotels
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 of tour and departure transfer (to Istanbul Airport) at 11am & 1.30pm on day 10. In 2020, the departure transfers will be offered at 9am & 1pm.
- 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 transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$40pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$115-130pp, paid in local currency

- Tip for your tour guide and driver. We recommend you allow USD\$5 - 7 per day, per traveller as a tip for your guide and USD\$2 per day for your driver. Tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture
- International flights and visa

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Welcome to Turkey

Saturday. Welcome to Turkey and the start of your holiday. There's an included arrival transfer to our hotel before the afternoon is at leisure. Relax in the hotel 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. **Overnight - Istanbul**

### Day 2 : The Old City



Enjoy a tour of the Old City, from where the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires were ruled. We'll visit the stunning Blue Mosque,

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famed for its blue Iznik tiles. Discover the Hippodrome and Hagia Sofia, which was constructed as a Basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian. Finally, we explore the impressive Topkapi Palace, which was the main residence of the Ottoman sultans in the 15th century. **Overnight - Istanbul (B)**

## Day 3 : Gallipoli - WW1 Battlefields



Istanbul – Gallipoli. Today we explore ANZAC Cove and the many memorials dotted across the WW1 battlefields. Our guided tour takes in sights including ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine Memorial and cemetery, Chunuk Bair Memorial and cemetery, the Nek, Johnston's Jolly and the many fortified trenches still clearly visible amongst the scrub after all these years. **Overnight - Canakkale (B)**

## Day 4 : Troy & Kusadasi



Gallipoli – Kusadasi. This morning we enjoy a short guided tour of Troy. The legend of the lost city of Troy and Homer's poetry was brought to life by its rediscovery in 1863. Subsequent excavations revealed nine ancient cities, one on top of the other, dating back to 3000 BC. We enjoy a tour of the ruins and admire a replica of the Trojan wooden horse that, as legend goes, was filled with Achaean soldiers who helped to sack Troy.

Driving further south we reach the ancient ruins of Pergamum, home to one of the steepest amphitheatres in the classical world. Pergamum was also famous for its Asclepion (medical centre). We continue to Kusadasi on the Aegean Coast via a leather manufacturing house. **Overnight - Kusadasi (B)**

## Day 5 : Ancient Ephesus



Today, we explore legendary Ephesus - perhaps the best-preserved classical city in the eastern Mediterranean. Under Roman rule, Ephesus was a vast and prosperous city with a population nearing 250,000. It was an important centre of commerce and a popular destination for pilgrims who came to see the great Temple of Artemis - one of the Seven Ancient Wonders.

We have plenty of time to tour the marble ruins of Ephesus. Discover the famous Library of Celsus, the Stadium, the gymnasium of Vedius and the Great Theatre. We'll see ancient public toilets, a brothel, fountains and various temples. There's also a visit to a carpet manufacturing house. **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. Known locally

as the Cotton Castles, they're a natural phenomena and gift from Mother Nature. 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 are known as travertines. Take a barefoot walk along the travertines or opt for a dip in the warm waters of the thermal pool, with its submerged fragments of fluted marble columns.

Our last stop of the day is the ruined spa town of Hierapolis, famed for the curative powers of its mineral springs. These were dammed to create communal baths. **Overnight - Pamukkale (B)**

## Days 7-8 : Fairytale Cappadocia



Pamukkale - Cappadocia. On day 7 we drive to Cappadocia, stopping to visit some ancient caravanserais (roadside inns) such as Sultanhani. Tonight there's a fun optional evening of Turkish folklore.

On day 8 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 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.

A guided tour of the region takes us to the World Heritage listed Goreme Valley. See stunning examples of rock-cut Byzantine churches, chapels and temples. Marvel at

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Zelve, with its phallic-like eroded landscape. Stopping on the outskirts of Goreme Village we have the opportunity to see Pigeon Valley, where centuries old pigeon houses are carved into the surrounding cliffs. Our tour also takes in the incredible Uchisar castle-mountain. Enjoy marvelous views of Cappadocia from the summit and explore the underground city of Kaymakli.

You'll also have the opportunity to visit an Onyx shop, which specializes in historic jewellery designs that are unique to Turkey and crafted using local materials. For those not interested in shopping, there's time to relax and grab a drink from the local cafe. This evening, we enjoy dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight - Cappadocia** (B:2, D:1)

## Day 9 : Back to Istanbul

Cappadocia - Istanbul. Today we head back to Istanbul, stopping en route for lunch (payable locally). We arrive into Istanbul in the evening.

If you'd prefer to avoid the long journey over land today, we also offer the opportunity to fly from Cappadocia to Istanbul. **Overnight - Istanbul** (B)

## Day 10 : Istanbul

Monday. After breakfast our tour draws to a close. An onward departure transfer is included to Istanbul International Airport and is offered at 11am or 1:30pm today. From 2020 onwards, the departure transfer times will be offered at 9am and 1pm. (B)

### HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

### Ramada Old City

A member of the reputable Ramada chain, the Istanbul Old Town property is modern and comfortable with excellent amenities. Guestrooms are bright and spacious with

contemporary amenities. Two restaurants are on offer and our personal favourite is the wonderful roof top restaurant, serving delicious local cuisine coupled with a magnificent view of the City and Sea. The perfect way to end the day. Located very close to the Historical part of the city with major Monuments are all walking distance.



### Tusan Hotel

The family run Tusan Hotel offers modern facilities in a tranquil setting. Rooms are comfortable and well equipped and offer guests beautiful forest or sea views. The hotel benefits from a private beach and an indoor and outdoor restaurant. A refreshing pint of beer in the English Pub whilst challenging the bar staff to a game of pool is a great way to spend the evening. This accommodation sits within a beautiful pine forest looking across the Dardanelles with a private beach exclusively for guests.



### Marina Hotel

Marina hotel is a modern hotel with a sea view and balcony from nearly every spacious room. It has recently been renovated and features an indoor and outdoor pool and you may also use the facilities and beach of 5-Star Pine Bay.



### Colossae Thermal Spa Hotel

Set in landscaped gardens, the Colossae Thermal Spa Hotel has an enviable location in Pamukkale. Guest rooms are spacious and tastefully decorated and offer a wonderful level of comfort, ensuring a good night's sleep. The on site thermal spa offers guests the chance to relax, revitalise and enjoy what this region is most famous for. Breakfast can be eaten outside on the terrace while dinner is often taken by the shimmering water of the pool.



### Burcu Kaya Hotel

The Burca Kaya building was modelled on ancient Seljuk architecture and carved into rocks. The rooms are simply furnished and decorated with neutral colours. The stone walls and rich wooden panelling give the accommodation a truly authentic feel, whilst still maintaining a high level of comfort. The swimming pool has views of the famous fairy chimneys and the restaurant uses locally produced fruit and vegetables. The hotel is located in Ortahisar, the centre of Cappadocia.



### PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person travelling when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the 'Per

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person' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

## PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
27 Feb	USD 1,595	USD 2,145

## PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
12 Oct	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
19 Oct	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
02 Nov	USD 1,595	USD 2,145
30 Nov	USD 1,595	USD 2,145
28 Dec	USD 1,695	USD 2,245

## PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
11 Jan	USD 1,295	USD 1,845
15 Feb	USD 1,295	USD 1,845
29 Feb	USD 1,595	USD 2,145
14 Mar	USD 1,595	USD 2,145
28 Mar	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
04 Apr	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
11 Apr	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
02 May	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
23 May	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
13 Jun	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
27 Jun	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
11 Jul	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
18 Jul	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
25 Jul	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
01 Aug	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
08 Aug	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
15 Aug	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
22 Aug	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
05 Sep	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
19 Sep	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
26 Sep	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
03 Oct	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
10 Oct	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
17 Oct	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
31 Oct	USD 1,695	USD 2,245
21 Nov	USD 1,595	USD 2,145
05 Dec	USD 1,595	USD 2,145
26 Dec	USD 1,695	USD 2,245

## PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
09 Jan	USD 1,295	USD 1,845
13 Feb	USD 1,295	USD 1,845

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