



EasternTurkeyTours

Fabulous Turkey



Exceed your expectations **Email: info@easternturkeytour.org**



Blue Mosque, Istanbul

Cities: Istanbul(2) Canakkale(1) Kusadasi(2) Pamukkale(1)
Marmaris(1) Fethiye(2) Antalya(2) Cappadocia(3) Istanbul(1)

Day 01: Istanbul

Upon your arrival, you will be met by our representative before transfer to your Hotel. Spend the rest of the day at your own leisure.

Day 02: Istanbul

After breakfast at the hotel, a guided tour of Istanbul's principal sights: Topkapi Palace , St. Sophia, Blue Mosque and Spice Market. Evening leisure time. Overnight Istanbul. (B)

Day 3: Canakkale

After breakfast at the hotel, we drive along the north coast of the Sea of Marmara to the Battlefield sites of Gallipoli and visit monuments at Anzac Cove, Nek, Conk Bair, Lone Pine and 57.th regiment memorial with a final stop at the new War Museum. Gallipoli- in Turkish Gelibolu- was the site of allied landings on the 25th of April, 1915 by French, British Empire and Commonwealth troops which intended to force the Dardanelles and gain naval access to Constantinople. It is a place that saw the awakening of a national consciousness amongst not just Australians and New Zealanders but also Turks, because it was here that Mustafa Kemal, later Ataturk, founder of the Turkish Republic, first came to national prominence. Gallipoli is a moving place to ponder the terrible war that wracked the civilised world between 1914 and 1918 but more than that, it is today a tranquil place of pilgrimage for Australians, New Zealanders, British and Turks and it is a monument to the ideals



Lone pine monument



Monument to the Turkish 57th regiment



Troy

of peace and reconciliation. This ideal is best represented in an unassuming monument on Anzac Cove that simply carries the words of Kemal Ataturk from 1934:

"Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...
You are now living in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours..."

You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace, after having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well."

From Gallipoli we cross the Dardanelles by ferry for Canakkale. Overnight near Canakkale

Day 4: Troy - Pergamum - Kusadasi

After breakfast we depart for the legendary City of Troy, the site where the Trojan War took place. Of all the ancient sites in Turkey, Troy is probably the one that captures western imaginations the most yet the site is not large and as much as anything is an object lesson in how the methods and purposes of archeology have changed since the original excavator Schliemann, with his buccaneering methods, literally plundered the site in a massive exercise in profiteering and self publicization in 1871.



The legendary Trojan Horse



Troy



Pergamum, the temple of Hadrian

This is a complex multi layered site that covers not just the “Trojan War” but 3000 years of human habitation in at least 9 levels which our expert guides will bring to life. Apart from the archeology, what really inspires the imagination is Homer’s “Iliad” and indeed this is what drew Schliemann to this site in the first place; the legendary Trojan Horse is reconstructed at the entrance of the city while the wooden horse that was used in the making of the eponymous Hollywood blockbuster takes pride of place on the water front in the nearby port of Canakkale.

From Troy we cross Mt Ida and travel to Pergamum. Pergamum was a wealthy kingdom during classical times and a renowned place of healing with a specialisation in mental health at the Asclepion in the lower city. Pergamum was also famous in the classical world for a library that rivalled the great library at Alexandria and for the Altar of Zeus; located on the city’s impressive acropolis the Altar of Zeus celebrated victory over a Celtic tribe called the Galatians who once lived in central Anatolia. The altar was taken by German collectors to Germany in 1886; the reconstructed remains are now housed in the Pergamum Museum in Berlin. From Pergamum to Kusadasi. Overnight stay in Kusadasi

Day 5: Ephesus - Sirince - Kusadasi

After Breakfast a short drive to visit Ephesus, possibly the best preserved Roman city in the eastern Mediterranean and once the capital city of the Roman province of Asia which at its peak boasted a population of 400,000 people. In ancient times Ephesus was the centre of the cult of Artemis/ Cybele, the Anatolian Mother Goddess



Theatre of the Acropolis, Pergamum



Emperor Hadrian



Ephesus

and later celebrated as the last home of the Virgin Mary. Once a major port the city of Ephesus was abandoned after the estuary silted up in the 6th century; it is now more than five kilometres from the sea. The site of one of the Seven Churches of Asia, this was a place where St. Paul preached and incited a riot by those whose living depended on the cult of the goddess Artemis whose temple is nearby. It is believed that the Gospel of St. John was written in Ephesus. Afterwards we will have the opportunity to relax and discover and understand the rich history behind local handicrafts like hand-made carpets and leather goods. Then we continue to the beautiful village of Sirince for a stop to shop and where you can taste delicious wines produced locally. Return to Kusadasi for overnight stay



Calcite deposits at Pamukkale

Day 6: Hierapolis - Pamukkale - Marmaris

After Breakfast we head eastwards along the plain of the Meander River famous for its cotton plantations, figs and for sultanas, which come from and are named for, the Sultan Mountains along the southern edge of the plain. We will visit Hierapolis and Pamukkale. Famous today for the calcite deposits which look like frozen cascades of water, ancient Hierapolis was once a health spa renowned throughout the ancient world for the treatment of many ailments but especially allergies and skin complaints. The importance and wealth of this ancient city is clear from the impressive remains scattered up the hill behind the calcite Travertines although the profusion of important tombs in the city's necropolis does make one wonder about the efficacy of the treatments on offer in ancient times. However, people still visit to take "the cure" at the ancient



Swimming in the sacred pool at Pamukkale



site and at nearby spa hotels and there are always plenty of people swimming in the sacred pool amongst the fallen columns of the Temple of Apollo. The name Pamukkale means cotton castle. From Pamukkale we pass Denizli, the cotton capital of Turkey and on to Marmaris. Overnight Marmaris

Day 7: Koycegiz and Greek Kayakoy - Fethiye

After breakfast, this morning we will drive to the lakeside town of Koycegiz. Here we will enjoy a boat cruise to turtle beach and the adventurous can wallow in the warm, relaxing mud baths at the local thermal springs. En route to Fethiye we'll stop to explore the abandoned Greek village of Kayakoy. The inhabitants of this, and many other Greek communities in Anatolia, were exchanged for Turkish refugees expelled from Greece in a great exchange of populations in 1923. The village remains empty, untouched and slowly decaying as a quiet but eloquent testament to the power politics of nationalism that affected Europe after the First World War. Overnight Fethiye

Day 8: Fethiye

Leisure time in Fethiye: you will have the option to join a "12 Island" boat cruise or you can while away the day relaxing at the beach or shopping in the markets of Fethiye. Overnight Fethiye.(B)

Day 9: Saklikent Gorge – Antalya

After breakfast we will visit the stunningly beautiful Saklikent Gorge, Turkey's longest and deepest canyon; Saklikent means "Hidden City" in Turkish. After tracking along the canyon we will



Bathing in the sacred pool, Pamukkale



Kayakoy



Aspendos

continue to Antalya crossing the yaylas- high pastures- of the Taurus Mountains.

Day 10: Antalya (Aspendos) - Konya - Cappadocia

After breakfast and an early departure for Konya we will stop enroute to see Aspendos with its stunning Roman Theatre and at the scenic Tinaztepe sink hole and cave. Upon arrival to Konya, we will visit the monastery of the Mevlana- otherwise known as the "Whirling Dervishes" because of their spiritual and ecstatic ritual dance that induced a state of transcendence and connection with God.

We will leave Konya for Cappadocia via Seljuk- and on the way we will stop at a fine example of an ancient Silk Road caravanserai. The Caravanserais were one of the great achievements of the Seljuk Turks. Strung along the Silk Road at day marching intervals the Caravanserais were the responsibility of the local rulers and were usually attached to a religious foundation; in return for the toll merchants paid to use the Silk Road they were entitled to free room and board for themselves and their animals and medical care if required, free of charge for three days at each station. Dinner and overnight in Cappadocia which, like the caravanserai is included

Day 11: Cappadocia

After breakfast full day excursion in Cappadocia including visits to the Kaymakli Underground City, Open Air Museum in Goreme and natural fortress in Uchisar. You have the option of a Turkish folklore in the evening. Overnight in Cappadocia. (B,D)



Mevlana monastery, Konya



Cappadocia



The Fairy Chimneys and Uchisar in the distance

Day 12: Cappadocia - Ankara – Safranbolu

OR depart for Treasures of Eastern Turkey

Early in the morning an optional Balloon tour is available. Morning departure for Safranbolu via Ankara, the nation's capital city. In Ankara, we will visit the Mausoleum of Ataturk and its Museum. Known to Turks as "Anitkabir" this extraordinary building was completed in 1953 and its design represents the synthesis of architectural styles of Anatolia from ancient times to the present. This is the burial place of the national hero who founded modern Republic of Turkey and a memorial not just to him, but a monument to the achievements of the nation. We continue our drive and to Safranbolu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As its name suggest the town is the centre of a famous saffron producing region but the town is principally known today for the wealth of its Ottoman residential architecture and mosques. Tonight we stay at an old Ottoman mansion. (B,D)



Anitkabir, Ankara

Day 13: Safranbolu - Istanbul

After breakfast visit the old town of Safranbolu where you can test the fine sample of Turkish delights then continue to drive to Istanbul afternoon visit Grand Bazaar. Overnight - Istanbul. (B)

Day 14: Istanbul

Breakfast. Transfer to airport.(B)



Safranbolu



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