

Istanbul, Cappadocia and Ankara tour - 8 days

TR-06



This 8 day tour combines the highlights of cosmopolitan Istanbul and Turkey's capital Ankara with the breathtaking landscapes of Cappadocia. You'll begin in Istanbul, a sprawling city which spills over into two continents: Europe and Asia. There's plenty to see, including historic mosques, palaces and bazaars that will help you gain an insight into its beguiling past. From there, we'll fly inland to our next destination: Cappadocia. It's one of the prettiest areas of the country, not least because this volcanic landscape is littered with quirky rock formations and cave dwellings. Last of the trio we'll visit will be Ankara, the country's bustling capital and commercial heart.

DEPARTURE DATES:

05.04.2024; 05.11.2024; 05.18.2024; 05.25.2024; 06.01.2024; 06.08.2024; 06.15.2024;
06.22.2024; 06.29.2024; 07.06.2024; 07.13.2024; 07.20.2024; 07.27.2024; 08.03.2024;
08.10.2024; 08.17.2024; 08.24.2024; 08.31.2024; 09.07.2024; 09.14.2024; 09.21.2024;
09.28.2024; 10.05.2024; 10.12.2024; 10.19.2024; 10.26.2024; 11.02.2024; 11.09.2024;
11.16.2024; 11.23.2024; 11.30.2024; 12.07.2024; 12.14.2024.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Istanbul

Today you'll land in one of the world's greatest cities: Istanbul. Multi-faceted and magnificent, the place the Romans called Constantinople was once the hub of the Byzantine and later the Ottoman empires. 21st century Istanbul is thriving. After your transfer from the airport to your city centre hotel, we highly recommend you take a stroll through the neighbourhood to get your first taste of this mesmerising city. Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 2 - Istanbul

We'll begin today by concentrating on the oldest and most characterful parts of the city. On today's itinerary are visits to the spectacular Hagia Sophia, which during its history has been a mosque, church and museum. We'll show you around the fascinating Topkapi Palace, where the Ottoman sultans resided for more than four centuries. You can admire the cavernous Blue Mosque, officially the Sultan Ahmet Mosque - its nickname comes from the colour of the 20,000 or so Iznik tiles which cover its walls. You'll also see the Serpentine Column and the Colossus (the column of Constantine Porphyrogenitus) and the Hippodrome, centred on a landmark Egyptian obelisk - it's hard to believe that this was once a place where chariot racing took place. And of course no trip to Istanbul could be complete without a visit to the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world. Overnight in Istanbul. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 3 - Istanbul

This morning we'll head to Istanbul's second most famous bazaar as we take a look around the Egyptian Market, also known as the Spice Bazaar. Under its magnificent vaulted ceiling - in Istanbul you must always look up - you'll find traders touting for business. They sell colourful pyramids of spice, nuts, dried apricots, boxes of Turkish Delight and tourist trinkets. Outside, the square is always busy, with people and pigeons. The birds come to feed on scraps discarded by the fishermen line the Galata Bridge which spans the Bosphorus. They sit patiently by their rods, chatting as they wait for a bite. Fittingly, our next activity today is a boat trip along this important waterway. As we head upstream at a leisurely pace, you'll have plenty of time to admire the mansions and palaces that adorn its banks. Overnight in Istanbul. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 4 - Istanbul - Cappadocia

This exceptionally beautiful region lies inland, so to reach it we'll need to take a short flight from Istanbul and then complete our journey by road. The region's soft volcanic rock is easy to carve. When coupled with the area's turbulent ancient history, it's not hard to see why in the past, people felt safer underground. There are around 200 subterranean settlements of varying scale, the most famous being Kaymakli and Derinkuyu. We'll kick off our sightseeing programme underground exploring what it would have been like to live like this. The natural landscape is just as unusual and Cappadocia is best known for its fairy chimneys. These massively eroded pillars of rock are found in great concentrations in some of the nearby valleys, so we'll make time for a stop at a scenic viewpoint so you can grab some pictures. Overnight in Cappadocia. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 5 - Cappadocia

Cappadocia's caves provided the ideal refuge for persecuted Christian communities and many monasteries and churches, some with astonishing frescoes, litter the area. Goreme's Caves of God, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will be our focus this morning as we venture into the hollowed out tufa to get a closer look at these places of worship. The bucolic valleys surrounding Goreme are also a delight to explore. There are numerous opportunities in the delightful Avcilar, Red and Pasabag valleys for short hikes and riverside strolls where you can admire cliffs pockmarked with dovecotes, fruit orchards and more of those fabulous fairy chimneys. We'll wrap things up with a look at Uchisar's ruined hilltop castle which will have you reaching for your camera once again. Overnight in Cappadocia. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 6 - Cappadocia - Ankara

After breakfast we'll transfer you to Ankara, making the three hour journey in comfort by car. This modern city, the country's capital since 1923, is a commercial hub with modern shopping districts and office buildings. But it's also where the founder of the Turkish Republic is buried. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is one of the 20th century's great political leaders and at home he is considered a national hero. He rests in peace at a mausoleum called Anıtkabir. An included city tour will give you a feel for Ankara's major landmarks, such as the Presidential Palace, and you'll see how different it is from Istanbul. Overnight in Ankara. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 7 - Ankara

This morning we'll visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations, which is housed close to the Citadel, the hilltop settlement founded by the Hittites some 3000 years ago. It's highly regarded, considered one of the best archaeological museums in the country. Inside you'll find an array of exhibits that tell the story of the ancient settlers in Asia Minor from the Stone Age. The Neolithic, Hittite and Phrygian works of art are especially impressive. Down the hill from the museum are the ruins of the Roman temple of Augustus and Rome. It's not the only legacy of this once great empire, as Ankara is also where you'll find the Column of Julian and the ruins of the Roman baths. There'll be free time this afternoon for you to explore these sites and more on your own. If art's your bag, we'd also suggest calling in at Cer Modern. Overnight in Ankara. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 8 - Ankara

This is the end of your tour. Our driver will transfer you to the airport in time for your flight home.

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

[Accommodation](#)
[Guided tours & cultural programme](#)
[English - speaking guides](#)
[Half board meals](#)
[Ground transportation](#)
[Airport transfers](#)

Not included

[Personal travel insurance](#)
[Optional excursions](#)

Practical information

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[Contact our travel consultants](#)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

COMFORT - 3* PACKAGE

Dates	Tour Price	Single supplement
05/04/2024 - 05/11/2024	\$1695	\$445
05/11/2024 - 05/18/2024	\$1695	\$445
05/18/2024 - 05/25/2024	\$1695	\$445
05/25/2024 - 06/01/2024	\$1695	\$445
06/01/2024 - 06/08/2024	\$1695	\$445
06/08/2024 - 06/15/2024	\$1695	\$445
06/15/2024 - 06/22/2024	\$1695	\$445
06/22/2024 - 06/29/2024	\$1695	\$445
06/29/2024 - 07/06/2024	\$1695	\$445
07/06/2024 - 07/13/2024	\$1695	\$445
07/13/2024 - 07/20/2024	\$1695	\$445
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09/14/2024 - 09/21/2024	\$1695	\$445
09/21/2024 - 09/28/2024	\$1695	\$445
09/28/2024 - 10/05/2024	\$1695	\$445
10/05/2024 - 10/12/2024	\$1695	\$445
10/12/2024 - 10/19/2024	\$1695	\$445
10/19/2024 - 10/26/2024	\$1695	\$445
10/26/2024 - 11/02/2024	\$1695	\$445
11/02/2024 - 11/09/2024	\$1695	\$445
11/09/2024 - 11/16/2024	\$1695	\$445
11/16/2024 - 11/23/2024	\$1695	\$445
11/23/2024 - 11/30/2024	\$1695	\$445
11/30/2024 - 12/07/2024	\$1695	\$445
12/07/2024 - 12/14/2024	\$1695	\$445
12/14/2024 - 12/21/2024	\$1695	\$445

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Tour Price	Single supplement
05/04/2024 - 05/11/2024	\$1995	\$545
05/11/2024 - 05/18/2024	\$1995	\$545
05/18/2024 - 05/25/2024	\$1995	\$545
05/25/2024 - 06/01/2024	\$1995	\$545
06/01/2024 - 06/08/2024	\$1995	\$545
06/08/2024 - 06/15/2024	\$1995	\$545
06/15/2024 - 06/22/2024	\$1995	\$545
06/22/2024 - 06/29/2024	\$1995	\$545
06/29/2024 - 07/06/2024	\$1995	\$545
07/06/2024 - 07/13/2024	\$1995	\$545
07/13/2024 - 07/20/2024	\$1995	\$545
07/20/2024 - 07/27/2024	\$1995	\$545
07/27/2024 - 08/03/2024	\$1995	\$545
08/03/2024 - 08/10/2024	\$1995	\$545
08/10/2024 - 08/17/2024	\$1995	\$545
08/17/2024 - 08/24/2024	\$1995	\$545
08/24/2024 - 08/31/2024	\$1995	\$545
08/31/2024 - 09/07/2024	\$1995	\$545
09/07/2024 - 09/14/2024	\$1995	\$545
09/14/2024 - 09/21/2024	\$1995	\$545
09/21/2024 - 09/28/2024	\$1995	\$545
09/28/2024 - 10/05/2024	\$1995	\$545
10/05/2024 - 10/12/2024	\$1995	\$545
10/12/2024 - 10/19/2024	\$1995	\$545
10/19/2024 - 10/26/2024	\$1995	\$545
10/26/2024 - 11/02/2024	\$1995	\$545
11/02/2024 - 11/09/2024	\$1995	\$545
11/09/2024 - 11/16/2024	\$1995	\$545
11/16/2024 - 11/23/2024	\$1995	\$545
11/23/2024 - 11/30/2024	\$1995	\$545
11/30/2024 - 12/07/2024	\$1995	\$545
12/07/2024 - 12/14/2024	\$1995	\$545
12/14/2024 - 12/21/2024	\$1995	\$545

ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Best of Caucasus" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please [contact us for a quote](#).

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > [Short Break in Istanbul with a Visit to Cappadocia - 6 days \(TR-02\)](#), Price from \$1,245, 6 days
- > [Classical Turkey Tour: Istanbul, Cappadocia, Ephesus, Pamukkale, Izmir - 8 days \(TR-03\)](#), Price from \$2,095, 8 days
- > [Istanbul to Georgia - 13 days \(CT-07\)](#), Price from \$3,295, 13 days
- > [Best of Azerbaijan - 8 days \(AZ-02\)](#), Price from \$1,395, 8 days

HOW TO BOOK

Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Best of Caucasus holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form

Online: log on to www.best-of-caucasus.com and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Best of Caucasus, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@best-of-caucasus.com, or

Phone: call us on **+1 (917) 259 13 33**

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel category), and available upgrades.

Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

Step 4 - Payment

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum \$250) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

