



# Explore Turkey in 9 Days from Ephesus to Cappadocia

**Duration:** 9 Days 8 Nights

Generated on: August 24, 2026

## Tour Itinerary

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Day-by-day plan & key activities

### Day 1

#### Arrival in Izmir, Ephesus Tour



Upon your arrival in Izmir in the morning, you will be transferred to your hotel in Selcuk, which is approximately an hour's drive away. After reaching Selcuk, proceed to check in to your hotel and take some time to freshen up before embarking on your day's adventures.

In the mid-morning to early afternoon, your first destination will be the ancient city of Ephesus, renowned as one of the most well-preserved ancient cities in the world. Begin your exploration with a visit to the Library of Celsus, an iconic structure that showcases remarkable grandeur and offers deep insights into its historical significance. From there, move on to the Great Theatre, one of the largest ancient theaters globally, where you can admire its impressive architecture and imagine the vibrant performances that once took place there. Your tour will continue with a visit to the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Although primarily in ruins today, the temple still provides a fascinating glimpse into the grandeur of ancient architecture and the religious practices of the time.

In the late afternoon to evening, you will have some free time to either further explore other parts of Ephesus at your own pace or return to Selcuk to relax. Optional activities during this period include visiting the Ephesus Museum, which houses a rich collection of artifacts from the site, or taking a leisurely stroll through the charming town of Selcuk. This is a perfect opportunity to soak in the local atmosphere and perhaps sample some delicious local cuisine.

As the day winds down, you will return to your hotel in Selcuk for an overnight stay. This will give you the chance to unwind and reflect on the day's experiences, preparing you for the adventures that lie ahead.

### Day 2

#### Incredible Trip to Pamukkale





In the morning, depart from your accommodation early to maximize your time in Pamukkale. Upon arrival, head straight to the travertine terraces to begin your exploration of this stunning natural wonder.

During the late morning to early afternoon, take the time to explore the unique natural formations of the travertine terraces. Marvel at the breathtaking views and capture some memorable photos of the cascading white limestone terraces. After enjoying the terraces, proceed to the [ancient city of Hierapolis](#), which is situated atop the travertine terraces. This historic site offers a fascinating glimpse into the past with its well-preserved ruins.

In the afternoon, visit the well-preserved theatre of Hierapolis. As you stroll through the ruins, imagine life in ancient times and appreciate the architectural prowess of the era. Following your tour of the theatre, take some time to relax and rejuvenate in the thermal pools of Pamukkale, famously known as the Cotton Castle. The mineral-rich waters offer therapeutic benefits, providing a perfect opportunity to unwind and soak in the natural beauty surrounding you.

During the late afternoon to evening, enjoy a leisurely walk around the area to fully soak in the serene ambiance. This is an ideal time to grab some refreshments and reflect on the day's experiences. As the day comes to a close, return to your accommodation in Pamukkale for an overnight stay, allowing you to relax and prepare for the adventures that lie ahead.

**Additional Tips:** Remember to wear comfortable clothing and footwear, bring sunscreen and plenty of water, and be prepared for a day of both exploration and relaxation in this beautiful natural and historical wonderland. Enjoy your trip!

### Day 3

### Fantastic Journey to Antalya



In the morning, begin your day by traveling to Antalya. Depending on your preference and schedule, you can reach Antalya by plane, train, or bus. Upon arrival, make your way straight to Kaleici, the historic old town of Antalya. Spend the morning wandering through its narrow streets, which are adorned with charming Ottoman-era architecture. Take your time to soak in

the picturesque surroundings and capture plenty of photos to commemorate your visit. A highlight of your morning will be a visit to [Hadrian's Gate](#), one of Antalya's most iconic landmarks. This beautifully preserved Roman triumphal arch is a must-see attraction, offering excellent opportunities for memorable photographs.

After exploring Kaleici, head to the Antalya Museum in the afternoon. Allocate a couple of hours to immerse yourself in the rich history and culture of the region. The museum boasts a vast collection of artifacts, including sculptures, ceramics, and coins that date back to ancient times, providing a comprehensive overview of Antalya's historical significance. Following your museum visit, take a break for lunch at one of the local restaurants in the area. Enjoy delicious Turkish cuisine, such as kebabs, mezes, or fresh seafood dishes, allowing you to refuel before continuing your explorations.

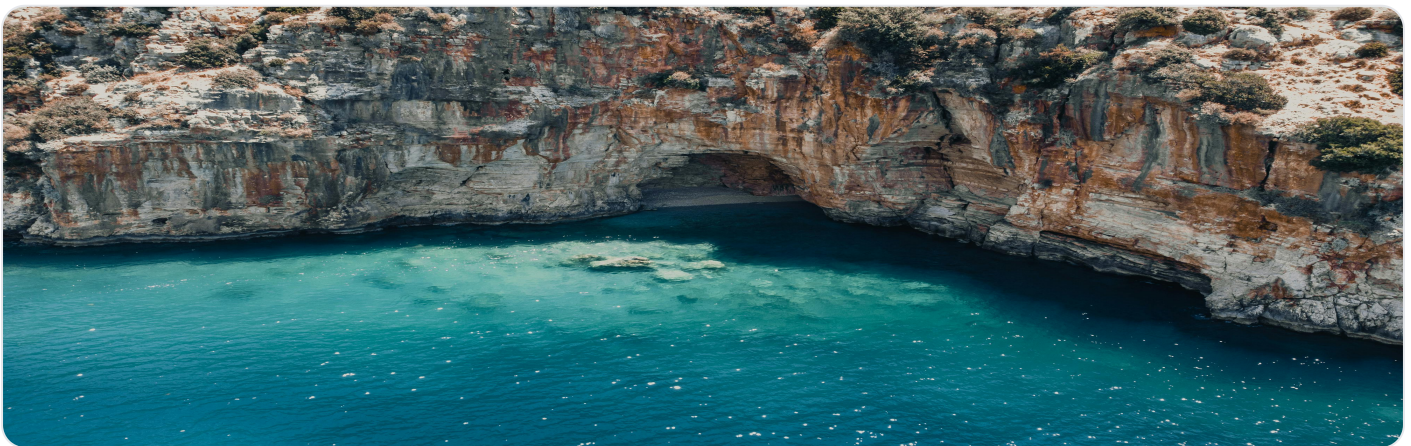
Post-lunch, visit the Antalya Archaeological Museum, which is conveniently located nearby. This museum showcases an impressive array of artifacts from surrounding archaeological sites, including Perge, Termessos, and Aspendos. Spend some time exploring the exhibits and gaining insights into the ancient civilizations that once thrived in this region.

In the evening, you'll have some free time to relax and enjoy Antalya at your own pace. Take a leisurely stroll along the waterfront promenade or unwind on the beach, taking in the beautiful views of the Mediterranean Sea. The laid-back atmosphere of Antalya provides the perfect setting to relax after a day of sightseeing. For dinner, indulge in a delicious meal at one of the seaside restaurants. Savor fresh seafood and other Turkish specialties while watching the sunset over the sea, creating a perfect end to your day.

Finally, check into your accommodation for the night, where you can relax and reflect on the day's experiences. After a fulfilling day of exploring Antalya's rich history and natural beauty, you'll be well-rested and ready for the adventures that lie ahead.

#### Day 4

#### Travel from Antalya to Konya



In the morning, start your day early by departing from your accommodation to maximize your time in Konya. Upon arrival, begin your exploration with a visit to the [Mevlana Museum](#), the resting place of Rumi, the renowned Sufi mystic. Spend about one to two hours immersing yourself in the museum's serene atmosphere, learning about Rumi's life, his teachings, and the history of the Mevlevi Order. Admire the beautiful architecture and the intricate details that reflect the spiritual significance of the site.

By midday, make your way to Alaeddin Mosque, one of Konya's oldest mosques, dating back to the 13th century. Allocate approximately one hour to explore the mosque and its surroundings, taking in the historical and architectural grandeur that has stood the test of time. Afterward, proceed to Karatay Madrasa, another architectural gem in [Konya](#). This former Islamic school now serves as a museum, showcasing an impressive collection of Seljuk ceramics and tiles. Spend around one hour appreciating the intricate tile work and gaining insights into the rich history of the Madrasa.



In the afternoon, take a break for lunch and savor the local cuisine of Konya. You can choose from various traditional Turkish dishes at nearby eateries or restaurants, enjoying specialties that reflect the region's culinary heritage. Following lunch, depending on your interests and the time available, consider engaging in optional activities. You might visit the Ince Minare Museum, which houses a significant collection of Seljuk-era artifacts, or explore the Konya Archaeological Museum to learn more about the area's ancient civilizations. Alternatively, take a leisurely stroll around the bustling city center to experience Konya's vibrant atmosphere and local life.

As the evening approaches, conclude your day by returning to your accommodation for a restful night in Konya. Reflect on the spiritual and cultural experiences you've enjoyed throughout the day, allowing yourself to fully absorb the ambiance of this historical and spiritual center of Turkey. Spending the night in Konya provides the perfect opportunity to unwind and prepare for the adventures that lie ahead, ensuring you are refreshed for the days to come.

## Day 5

### Konya to Cappadocia



In the morning, begin your journey early by departing from your starting point to make the most of your day in Cappadocia. As you travel, take a moment to stop by the Sultanhan Caravanserai, a 13th-century Seljuk caravanserai that served as a vital resting place for travelers along the ancient Silk Road. Spend some time exploring this historical gem, appreciating its architectural significance and imagining the many travelers who passed through its halls.

By mid-morning, you will arrive in Goreme, the heart of Cappadocia. Head straight to the [Goreme Open-Air Museum](#), a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its rock-cut churches adorned with intricate frescoes from the Byzantine era. Spend a couple of hours wandering through this remarkable museum, marveling at the rich history and cultural significance embedded in each structure. Take your time to fully absorb the unique blend of natural beauty and historical artistry that defines Goreme.

Around lunchtime, take a break to enjoy a meal in Goreme or a nearby area. Sample the local cuisine, which offers a delightful array of traditional Turkish dishes, providing a perfect opportunity to refresh and refuel before continuing your exploration of the region.

In the afternoon, visit Pasabag, also known as Monks Valley, famous for its extraordinary fairy chimneys and surreal rock formations. Stroll through the valley, admiring the unique landscape and capturing memorable photos of the otherworldly scenery. The distinctive shapes of the fairy chimneys create a picturesque backdrop that is quintessentially Cappadocian.

Next, make your way to Avanos, a town renowned for its pottery-making traditions that date back thousands of years. Visit local workshops to witness artisans crafting pottery using traditional techniques passed down through generations. You may even have the opportunity to try your hand at pottery-making yourself, creating your own unique souvenir to take home.

In the late afternoon to evening, you have the option to engage in additional activities based on your interests and the time available. Consider taking a hot air balloon ride for a breathtaking aerial view of Cappadocia's stunning landscape, weather permitting. Alternatively, enjoy a leisurely walk through the scenic countryside, soaking in the tranquil ambiance of the region.

As the day draws to a close, check into your chosen accommodation in Cappadocia. Unwind and relax after a day of exploration, allowing yourself to reflect on the day's adventures. For dinner, dine at a local restaurant where you can savor delicious Turkish cuisine and perhaps sample regional specialties unique to Cappadocia. After dinner, take a leisurely stroll through the charming streets of Cappadocia or relax at your accommodation, reminiscing about the day's experiences and preparing for the adventures that lie ahead.

## Day 6

### Wonderful Excursion to Cappadocia



In the morning, you have the option to start your day with a breathtaking hot air balloon ride at sunrise. This experience allows you to witness the mesmerizing landscapes of Cappadocia from above, offering unparalleled views of its unique rock formations and fairy chimneys. Please note that this activity typically requires booking in advance and incurs an additional cost. If you choose not to participate in the balloon ride, you can proceed directly to your next destination.

By mid-morning, head to [Devrent Valley](#), also known as Imaginary Valley. This area is renowned for its whimsical rock formations that resemble various shapes and figures, providing a surreal and picturesque landscape. Spend some time hiking through the valley, exploring the unique geological structures, and taking photographs to capture the enchanting scenery. The imaginative shapes make Devrent Valley a favorite spot for both photographers and nature enthusiasts.

For lunchtime, enjoy a delicious local meal at a restaurant near Devrent Valley. Savor traditional Cappadocian dishes, which offer a delightful array of flavors that reflect the region's rich culinary heritage. This break allows you to relax and recharge before continuing your afternoon explorations.

After lunch, make your way to [Uchisar Castle](#), the highest point in Cappadocia. Climbing to the castle's peak rewards you with panoramic views of the surrounding valleys, fairy chimneys, and intricate rock formations. Take your time to soak in the breathtaking scenery, admire the vast landscape, and capture memorable photos from this vantage point. Uchisar Castle not only provides stunning views but also offers insight into the historical significance of the region.

In the late afternoon, choose between exploring the Kaymakli or Derinkuyu Underground City. Both of these subterranean cities served as refuges for early Christians fleeing persecution and are remarkable feats of engineering carved into the soft volcanic rock. Delve into the intricate network of tunnels, rooms, and passages, guided by knowledgeable experts who will share the history and significance of these underground settlements. Exploring these ancient cities offers a fascinating glimpse into the lives of those who sought shelter beneath the earth.



As the evening approaches, return to your accommodation in Cappadocia to relax and unwind after a day of exploration. Enjoy a leisurely dinner at a local restaurant, where you can indulge in delicious Turkish cuisine and perhaps sample regional specialties unique to Cappadocia. This is a perfect time to reflect on the day's experiences, share stories, and plan your next adventure.

Finally, spend the night at your chosen accommodation in Cappadocia, whether it's a charming boutique cave hotel or a cozy guesthouse. Rest and recharge, preparing yourself for more adventures in this captivating and historically rich region. Cappadocia's blend of natural beauty and cultural heritage ensures that each day is filled with unforgettable moments and experiences.

## Day 7

### Outstanding Visit to Cappadocia



In the morning, begin your day with a visit to Urgup, a picturesque town renowned for its charming streets and vibrant shops. Wander leisurely through Urgup, admiring its unique architecture and soaking in the local ambiance. The town's quaint buildings and lively atmosphere provide a perfect start to your day, allowing you to experience the authentic charm of Cappadocia.

After exploring Urgup, head to Cavusin to visit the ancient rock-cut churches. Marvel at the intricate carvings and delve into the rich history of these fascinating structures, which offer a glimpse into the region's spiritual past. Take your time to explore the churches, appreciating their architectural beauty and historical significance. Following your exploration of Cavusin, take a hike through the nearby Rose Valley, where you can revel in its stunning natural scenery. The Rose Valley's vibrant hues and unique rock formations create a breathtaking backdrop for a memorable morning adventure.

In the afternoon, enjoy a leisurely lunch before making your way to Ortahisar Castle, a striking landmark that offers panoramic views of the surrounding area. Explore the castle grounds, discovering its historical significance and the stories that have shaped the region. From the top of Ortahisar Castle, take in the expansive vistas of Cappadocia's fairy chimneys and rolling valleys, providing ample opportunities for photography and reflection. After visiting the castle, continue to explore the town's traditional architecture, immersing yourself in the local culture and heritage.

As the evening approaches, consider enhancing your experience with an optional traditional Turkish dinner paired with a folkloric dance show. This delightful activity allows you to delve into Turkey's vibrant culture while savoring delicious local cuisine. Enjoy captivating performances that showcase the rich traditions and artistic expressions of the region, creating a memorable end to your day (note that this activity is optional and may incur an extra cost).

Finally, conclude your day of exploration by returning to your accommodation in Cappadocia. Unwind and reflect on the day's adventures, allowing yourself to relax and prepare for another exciting day ahead. Whether you're staying in a charming cave hotel or a cozy guesthouse, your overnight stay provides the perfect opportunity to recharge and fully appreciate the unique

beauty and cultural richness of Cappadocia.

## Day 8

### Return to Izmir



In the morning, begin your day by arranging transportation to either Kayseri or Nevsehir Airport for your flight back to Izmir. It is advisable to start early to ensure you have ample time for travel and to complete all necessary check-in procedures without any rush. Once you have arrived at the airport, board your flight and enjoy the journey back to Izmir, reflecting on the memorable experiences from your time in Cappadocia.

Upon your arrival in Izmir in the afternoon, arrange for a transfer from the airport to your hotel. After checking in and settling into your accommodation, you may want to grab lunch at a nearby restaurant or café, depending on your arrival time and hunger level. Izmir boasts a diverse culinary scene, offering a variety of local and international options that allow you to indulge in some delicious cuisine.

Following lunch, take some leisure time to explore Izmir on your own. You can visit popular attractions such as [Konak Square](#), where the iconic Clock Tower stands as a centerpiece, or wander through the bustling [Kemeraltı Bazaar](#), renowned for its vibrant atmosphere and extensive array of shops. Alternatively, enjoy a relaxing stroll along the [Kordon](#), Izmir's scenic waterfront promenade, which offers beautiful views of the Mediterranean Sea and a pleasant environment for an afternoon walk.

If you're in the mood for shopping, Kemeraltı Bazaar is the perfect destination to find souvenirs, spices, textiles, and more. This historic market area provides a glimpse into the local culture and offers a wide variety of goods to browse and purchase. On the other hand, if you prefer to unwind, you can return to your hotel to relax and rejuvenate after a day of travel and exploration.

As evening approaches, treat yourself to a delicious dinner at one of Izmir's many restaurants. Whether you're craving fresh seafood, traditional Turkish dishes, or international cuisine, Izmir offers plenty of options to satisfy your taste buds. Enjoy a leisurely meal, savoring the flavors and perhaps pairing your dinner with a glass of local wine or a refreshing beverage.

After dinner, return to your hotel for a comfortable overnight stay. Use this time to reflect on the day's adventures, relax in your accommodation, and prepare for your next journey. Whether you choose to reminisce about your travels or simply enjoy a good night's rest, your overnight stay in Izmir provides the perfect conclusion to your trip.

## Day 9

### Departure





arranging a transfer to the city center of Izmir. The journey from the airport to the heart of the city typically takes around 20 to 30 minutes, allowing you to settle in quickly and start your exploration without delay.

Once you reach the city center, your first destination is Konak Square, the vibrant heart of Izmir. Here, you can admire the iconic Clock Tower, a prominent symbol of the city that stands proudly amidst the bustling square. Take a moment to soak in the lively atmosphere, watch the locals go about their day, and perhaps capture some memorable photos of this historic landmark.

From Konak Square, make your way to the nearby Kemeraltı Bazaar, a historical marketplace that offers a delightful blend of traditional charm and modern vibrancy. As you stroll through the narrow streets of the bazaar, you'll encounter a diverse array of goods, ranging from aromatic spices and colorful textiles to exquisite Turkish handicrafts. Don't forget to engage in some friendly bargaining with the shopkeepers to secure the best deals and truly immerse yourself in the local culture.

For lunch, take a break at one of the many charming cafes or restaurants within Kemeraltı Bazaar. Here, you can indulge in a traditional Turkish meal, savoring local specialties such as succulent kebabs or a variety of mezes. Enjoy the rich flavors and hearty dishes that reflect the culinary heritage of Izmir, providing a perfect respite before continuing your afternoon adventures.

After a satisfying lunch, head to the Agora Open Air Museum to delve deeper into Izmir's ancient history. This fascinating site showcases the remains of an ancient Greek marketplace, offering a captivating glimpse into the city's past. Wander through the ruins, explore the well-preserved columns and arches, and imagine the vibrant marketplace that once thrived here centuries ago. The Agora Open Air Museum is a testament to Izmir's rich cultural legacy and provides an enriching experience for history enthusiasts.

As the afternoon progresses, take some time to relax and unwind at Kordonboyu, Izmir's beautiful waterfront promenade. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the scenic path, breathe in the fresh sea breeze, and take in the panoramic views of the sparkling Aegean Sea. The promenade is lined with lush greenery, charming cafes, and vibrant spots perfect for people-watching or simply enjoying the serene environment.

As evening approaches, treat yourself to a delightful dinner at one of the many waterfront restaurants along Kordonboyu. Choose from a variety of dining options that offer fresh seafood, traditional Turkish dishes, and international cuisine. Savor your meal while watching the sun set over the sea, creating a picturesque backdrop that enhances your dining experience.

After a fulfilling day of exploration and culinary delights, it's time to prepare for your departure. Arrange your transfer back to Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport, ensuring you have ample time to navigate any check-in procedures and security protocols. Reflect on the day's adventures and the wonderful memories you've created in the vibrant city of Izmir as you make your way to the airport for your flight back.

## Inclusions

- Boutique Style Accommodation
- All Private Transportation
- Professional Tour Guide
- Local (Non-Touristy) Lunches
- Entrance Tickets/Fees

## Exclusions

- Beverages
- Tips for guides, drivers, hotel staff, and service providers
- Lunch
- Food and drinks, unless specified
- Personal expenses

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**Planet Travel Advisor** — This document is a travel proposal. Final details may vary based on availability and confirmation.