



10 Days Best of Turkey Travel Itinerary

Duration: 10 Days 9 Nights

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Tour Itinerary

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Day-by-day plan & key activities

Day 1

Arrival in Istanbul



Upon your arrival in Istanbul, you'll be transferred to your hotel to check in and freshen up. Begin your day with a visit to the iconic Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmed Mosque), where you can marvel at its stunning architecture and intricate tilework. Remember to dress modestly, covering your shoulders and knees, as it is an active place of worship. A short walk away lies Hagia Sophia, a historic masterpiece that has served as a cathedral, mosque, and now a museum, showcasing impressive Byzantine and Ottoman architecture.

For lunch, enjoy delicious Turkish cuisine at a nearby local restaurant, savoring dishes like kebabs, mezze, or Turkish pide. In the afternoon, immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of the Grand Bazaar. Wander through its maze of alleys filled with shops selling everything from carpets and jewelry to spices and souvenirs. Engage with local vendors and bargain for unique treasures to take home. As the evening approaches, explore the surrounding areas of the Sultanahmet district, perhaps visiting the Basilica Cistern or the Hippodrome.

Conclude your day with a traditional Turkish dinner at a local restaurant, experiencing the rich flavors and warm hospitality. After dinner, return to your hotel for a well-deserved rest, reflecting on the day's adventures and preparing for the next part of your journey. Spend the night at your hotel in Istanbul, ready to explore more of this fascinating city or continue to your next destination the following day.

Day 2

Istanbul Sightseeing



Begin your day early with a guided tour of the iconic Hagia Sophia, dedicating 1-2 hours to explore its magnificent architecture and rich history. Late morning, head to the Topkapi Palace, the former residence of Ottoman sultans, where you can spend 2-3 hours immersing yourself in the palace's grandeur, including its exquisite gardens, courtyards, and museum collections. For lunch, relax at a local restaurant near Sultanahmet, savoring delicious Turkish cuisine such as kebabs, mezes, or Turkish delights.

In the afternoon, visit the stunning Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmed Mosque), spending around 45 minutes to an hour admiring its impressive architecture and intricate tilework. Adjacent to the mosque is the ancient Hippodrome; take a leisurely stroll through this historic site, exploring the remnants of the chariot racing arena for about 30 minutes to an hour. As the day progresses into the late afternoon and evening, enjoy a leisurely walk through the vibrant streets of Sultanahmet. Browse local shops for souvenirs and handicrafts, and perhaps stop for a traditional Turkish coffee or tea at a quaint café.

Conclude your day by returning to your accommodation for an overnight stay in Istanbul, allowing you to relax and reflect on the day's experiences. This itinerary offers a perfect blend of historical exploration and cultural immersion, ensuring a memorable visit to this fascinating city.

Day 3

Gallipoli Tour



Begin your day early in Istanbul, departing for Gallipoli to arrive by mid-morning. Upon arrival, proceed to the visitor center or your guided tour meeting point to start your exploration of this historically significant region. Begin with a visit to Anzac Cove, the site of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps' landing during the Gallipoli Campaign. Take time to explore the area and reflect on its profound historical significance.

Next, head to Lone Pine Cemetery, one of Gallipoli's most prominent memorial sites. Participate in a guided tour to honor the soldiers who fought and lost their lives during the campaign. Continue to Chunuk Bair, another key location, where you can explore the battlefield and enjoy panoramic views from the summit, gaining deeper insights into the strategic events that took place here during World War I.

After a morning of historical exploration, take a lunch break at a nearby restaurant or picnic area to relax and recharge. In the afternoon, further delve into Gallipoli's history by visiting additional sites or museums, enhancing your understanding of the campaign's impact on World War I.

In the late afternoon, depart Gallipoli to return to Istanbul, enjoying the scenic journey back while reflecting on the day's experiences. Upon arrival in Istanbul, check into your accommodation for an overnight stay. Spend the evening unwinding, enjoying dinner, and contemplating your visit to Gallipoli before retiring for the night.



Begin your day early by departing from your starting point to maximize your time. Arrive at the legendary city of Troy, renowned from Homer's Iliad, and spend 2-3 hours exploring its archaeological site. Wander among the ancient ruins, including the famous Trojan Horse, and immerse yourself in the rich history and mythology that make Troy an iconic destination.

Midday, depart from Troy and embark on a scenic drive through the picturesque Turkish countryside en route to Pergamum. Upon arrival in Pergamum, start your exploration with a visit to the Acropolis, where you can admire stunning ruins and enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Next, explore the Asclepion, an ancient healing center dedicated to the god Asclepius, and learn about the medical practices of antiquity while marveling at its well-preserved structures. Continue your tour by visiting the Red Basilica, also known as the Temple of Serapis, notable for its impressive red brick walls and intriguing history.

In the evening, head to either Izmir or Bergama for your overnight stay. Check into your accommodation and take some time to relax after a day of sightseeing. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant, savoring delicious Turkish cuisine and reflecting on the day's adventures. Spend the night in Izmir or Bergama, depending on your preference and accommodation arrangements, ready to continue your journey the following day.



Start your day early by departing from your accommodation to make the most of your visit to Pamukkale. Upon arrival, begin your exploration with the mesmerizing travertine terraces of Pamukkale. Spend mid-morning walking along these unique natural formations, marveling at the cascading white limestone and crystal-clear pools. Don't forget to capture plenty of

photos to commemorate the stunning landscape.

Late morning, proceed to the adjacent ancient city of Hierapolis. Here, you can explore well-preserved ruins, including the impressive Roman amphitheater that offers breathtaking views of the surrounding area. After immersing yourself in the history and architecture of Hierapolis, take a break for lunch at one of the local restaurants nearby. Enjoy delicious Turkish cuisine while soaking in the serene ambiance of the region.

In the afternoon, continue your journey through Hierapolis by visiting the necropolis, where ancient tombs and sarcophagi provide a glimpse into the lives of those who once inhabited this historic city. As the day transitions into late afternoon, return to Pamukkale to relax and unwind in the thermal waters. These renowned thermal pools are celebrated for their therapeutic properties, offering a perfect way to soothe your muscles and rejuvenate.

Conclude your day by checking into your accommodation in Pamukkale for an overnight stay. Take some time to relax and reflect on your day of exploration, enjoying the peaceful surroundings and preparing for the adventures that await you the next day.

Day 6

Witness Ephesus Wonders



Begin your day early by departing from Selçuk or Kuşadası to make the most of your visit to the ancient city of Ephesus. Upon arrival, embark on a guided tour to explore the remarkable ruins, including highlights such as the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Artemis, and the House of the Virgin Mary. Spend the morning immersing yourself in the rich history and stunning architecture that make Ephesus a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Midday, take a break for lunch at a local restaurant in Ephesus or nearby Selçuk/Kuşadası, where you can savor delicious Turkish cuisine. After lunch, head to the Ephesus Museum to delve deeper into the site's history and view fascinating artifacts that provide greater insight into the lives of those who once inhabited this magnificent city.

In the afternoon, continue your exploration of Ephesus, revisiting any areas of particular interest or discovering parts you may have missed earlier. Depending on your interests and the time available, you can also explore nearby attractions or enjoy some leisure time to relax and soak in the local atmosphere.

As the day winds down, return to your accommodation in Selçuk or Kuşadası. Enjoy a delightful dinner at a local restaurant, reflecting on the day's adventures before spending the night in comfort. For convenience, consider hiring a private car or joining a guided tour to ensure smooth transportation and a flexible schedule tailored to your preferences.

Day 7

Cappadocia - North Tour



Begin your day early by flying to Cappadocia, arriving in the morning to maximize your time exploring this enchanting region. Start your North Cappadocia Tour with a visit to the Göreme Open Air Museum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Spend a couple of hours marveling at the ancient churches and monasteries carved into the unique rock formations, admiring the intricate frescoes that depict historical and religious scenes.

In the afternoon, head to Pasabag, also known as Monk's Valley, renowned for its distinctive fairy chimneys and surreal landscapes. Take a leisurely stroll through this otherworldly terrain, capturing the beauty of the natural rock formations. Next, visit the charming town of Avanos, famous for its pottery. Watch local artisans demonstrate their craft and even try your hand at pottery-making, creating your own unique souvenir.

Enjoy a traditional Turkish lunch at a local restaurant in Avanos, savoring delicious regional cuisine. In the late afternoon, drive to Uçhisar and explore Uçhisar Castle, the highest point in Cappadocia. Climb to the top for breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding valleys and fairy chimneys. If time permits, catch the stunning sunset from one of the scenic viewpoints around Uçhisar, soaking in the vibrant colors as the day transitions to evening.

Conclude your day by checking into your accommodation in Cappadocia, opting for a unique cave hotel experience if desired. Relax and unwind, reflecting on the day's adventures while enjoying the serene beauty of this magical region. Spend the night in Cappadocia, ready to continue your exploration the following day.

Day 8

Cappadocia - South Tour



Start your day early by embarking on the South Cappadocia Tour, ensuring you make the most of your time in this captivating region. Join a guided tour and begin with a visit to one of Cappadocia's remarkable underground cities—either Kaymaklı or Derinkuyu. If you prefer a more compact experience, Kaymaklı offers an intriguing glimpse into ancient underground life,

while Derinkuyu impresses with its vastness and depth, showcasing the marvels of ancient engineering.

Midday, take a break for a traditional Turkish lunch at a local restaurant, enjoying delicious regional dishes to refuel for the afternoon's activities. After lunch, explore the stunning Rose and Red Valleys, renowned for their beautiful rose-colored rock formations set against lush greenery. Enjoy a leisurely hike through these picturesque landscapes, immersing yourself in Cappadocia's natural beauty.

Continue your exploration by visiting Cavusin, where you can admire ancient rock-cut churches and abandoned cave dwellings adorned with intricate frescoes, providing insights into the region's rich history and culture. Next, head to Devrent Valley, also known as "Imagination Valley" or "Pink Valley," famous for its surreal rock formations resembling various animals and shapes. Wander through these unique structures, letting your imagination run wild.

In the evening, return to your accommodation in Cappadocia to relax and unwind after a day of exploration. Enjoy a delicious dinner at a local restaurant, savoring more Turkish cuisine or international fare, and reflect on your day's adventures during your overnight stay in Cappadocia.

Day 9

Hot Air Balloon Ride and Free Time



Begin your day with an optional hot air balloon ride over Cappadocia's surreal landscapes, typically scheduled early in the morning to capture the breathtaking sunrise views. Be sure to book this unforgettable experience in advance to secure your spot. After the exhilarating ride, return to your hotel for a leisurely breakfast or brunch, taking time to freshen up and relax following your early morning adventure.

In the afternoon, enjoy free time to explore Cappadocia at your own pace. You might visit local markets in towns like Göreme or Ürgüp, where you can find unique souvenirs, handcrafted goods, and sample local delicacies. Alternatively, indulge in traditional Turkish cuisine at a nearby restaurant or café, savoring dishes such as kebabs, mezes, and baklava. For those interested in history and culture, landmarks like the Göreme Open-Air Museum, Uçhisar Castle, or Pasabag (Monks Valley) offer fascinating insights into the region's rich heritage. If you're feeling adventurous, consider activities like hiking, horseback riding, or ATV tours to explore Cappadocia's rugged terrain and stunning vistas.

As evening approaches, return to your hotel to relax and unwind. Enjoy dinner at the hotel restaurant or venture out to try more local cuisine, reflecting on the day's memorable experiences before retiring for the night.

Day 10

Departure & End Your Trip



Begin your final day with a delicious breakfast at a local café or your accommodation, fueling up for the day ahead. After breakfast, embark on a sightseeing adventure by exploring a nearby attraction or landmark that piques your interest, whether it be a museum, park, or historical site. This allows you to soak in the local culture and history one last time. Midday, enjoy a leisurely lunch at a restaurant or indulge in street food, savoring the flavors of the region before your departure.

Following lunch, take some time to wander through local markets or shops, selecting souvenirs or gifts to commemorate your trip. This is the perfect opportunity to find unique items that capture the essence of your journey. In the afternoon, dedicate a moment to relaxation and unwind before your departure. You might visit a spa, take a leisurely stroll, or simply sit in a park to enjoy the serene surroundings.

As the day progresses, prepare for your departure by packing your bags and ensuring all your belongings are in order. Double-check that you have all necessary travel documents handy. In the evening, arrange transportation to the airport, allowing ample time to account for any potential delays. Finally, bid farewell to the city as you embark on your journey home or to your next destination, reflecting on the memorable experiences of your trip.

What's Included

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