

Ultimate Turkey - ETUT

21 days: Turkey

What's Included

Istanbul city walking tour, Dinner with local family in Cappadocia, Ihlara Valley entrance and guided walk, Derinkuyu underground city entrance and tour, Overnight boat trip to Kekova Island, Guided walk and entrance to Simena Castle of Kalekoy, Entrance and guided tour of Pamukkale formations and Hierapolis ruins, Guided tour and entrance to Ephesus ruins, Guided tour and entrance to Troy, Guided walk and entrance to Gallipoli sites, flight to Sanliurfa, Visit to Harran beehive houses, Golbasi Park and mosque visit, Sunset excursion to Nemrut Dagi including visits to Karakus Tumulus, Severan Bridge and the ruins of Arsameia, Deyrul Zaferan Monastery and Ulu Mosque in Mardin, Boat trip to Akdamar Island, Entrance fee and guided walk in Ishak Pasa Palace, flight to Istanbul.

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VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2012 - December 31st, 2012

Trip Style

Classic: The trips we've build our reputation on.

Designed for maximum variety, these trips are geared towards travellers searching for a healthy mix of active exploration, uncommon landscapes, amazing wildlife and local cultures.

Service Level

Standard:

- Great value, reasonable prices, quality experiences
- Comfortable and varied tourist-class accommodations chosen for location and character
- Mix of public and private transport for the best overall experience
- All the top highlights included, plus plenty of time to explore on your own

Physical Grading

2: There'll be some light walking and hiking. Suitable for most fitness levels. Nothing too challenging.

Itinerary



Day 1 Istanbul

You can arrive at any time on Day 1 as there are no activities planned. There will be a brief meeting in the evening where you will meet your Tour Leader and fellow group members, as well as complete some admin and learn more about our trip to come. After the meeting, you may choose to join your leader and group for an optional dinner in a local restaurant.

Today is a good day to visit the Aya Sofya if you have some free time, as it is closed on Mondays.

Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 2 Istanbul, Night train (B)

We begin our day with an orientation tour of Istanbul on foot, with your Tour Leader. During this tour we will point out attractions such as the Aya Sofya and the Topkapi Palace, which you will want to return to and explore during your free time, as well as visiting and hearing the stories behind many of Istanbul's sights and discovering some of your leader's hidden city secrets.

Our walk will include a wander through the atmospheric Spice Bazaar. Built in 1660, and also known as the Egyptian Bazaar as this is where many of the spices were originally imported. This market was, and is the centre of Istanbul's spice trade. We head downhill to the Bosphorus. The many local ferries departing from here are a great way to see the city from the water, on the cheap! The newly renovated Galata bridge now houses many bars and restaurants, and is a great place to grab the traditional Turkish fisherman's lunch of fresh, fried fish in a roll washed down with a cold beer. Walking back towards the Sultanahmet area, your leader will point out the Topkapi Palace, home of the Ottoman sultans and their harems, as well as the fascinating Archaeological and Ancient Oriental Museums located in a nearby park. Once in Sutanahmet Park, your leader will explain a little of the tumultuous history behind the Aya Sofya – we recommend a visit during your free time.

We explore the fabulous Blue Mosque, admiring the beautiful symmetry and internal tile work of the building. As it is a working mosque, take the chance to learn more about the ceremony behind Islam, the religion of around 98% of today's Turks. In front of the Blue Mosque, the ancient Hippodrome was once the scene of chariot races and now houses monuments from various moments in Istanbul's history. Although there is little sign of it now, Divan Lu was once famous amongst travellers on the 70's Hippy Trail for its western food and relaxed atmosphere. En route, your leader will point out a couple of hamams, or Turkish baths- an unmissable Turkish experience for any visitor.

Passing by various graveyards, mosques and tea houses, our path leads uphill to Istanbul's grandest mosque complex and hilltop landmark, the Suleymaniye Camii. Learn more about the famous Sultan who is buried here, as well as the master architect who designed these beautiful buildings almost 500 years ago. There are many traditionally dressed sellers in this area touting refreshing glasses of sherbet for just a few cents- worth a try on a hot day! You are free to stay and explore the Grand Bazaar (please note that it is closed on Sundays), perhaps pause for lunch at one of this area's many restaurants, or you may choose to accompany your leader back to the hotel. The remainder of your time is free until we depart for the train station this evening.

In the evening we set off for the station ready to board our overnight sleeper night train, departing at 10pm this evening. Our accommodation is in comfortable shared 4-bunk compartments. They are air-conditioned and all bedding is provided. The toilet is located at the end of each carriage. There is also a dining car where you can purchase drinks and snacks. The journey should take approximately 9.5 hours to reach Turkey's capital, Ankara.

Overnight on the sleeper train.

Approx travel time:

Istanbul to Ankara, 9hrs 30mins

Days 3-5 Cappadocia (3B,1D)

After alighting our train, we transfer by private vehicle from Ankara to the town of Goreme, our base for exploring Cappadocia, where we will have plenty of free time for exploration. Why not visit the Goreme Open Air Museum, a complex of medieval painted cave churches carved out by Orthodox monks. There are more than 10 caves to visit, many of the churches are up to 1000 years old and still retain amazing colour and vibrancy.

Hire a bike or catch a local bus and explore some of the other villages in the area. The village of Mustafapasa, is a popular choice. Many of the houses date back to the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries and display fine examples of stonework.

One of the best ways to explore Cappadocia is on foot. Take the two hour trek through the beautiful Pigeon Valley, named for its many dovecotes. Explore old houses, churches and orchards, all blessed with stunning views over the surrounding countryside. The walk finishes in the town of Uçhisar, which is well worth exploring. Its natural castle like fortress is riddled with man-made cave homes and dovecotes and dominates the skyline of Cappadocia. This is a great place to take a lunch break in one of the many restaurants before catching a local bus back to Goreme.

One of the most spectacular vantage points for viewing this beautiful and unusual region is from the air. Why not book a dawn balloon ride for a beautiful bird's eye view.

During one of your evenings here, we will travel to a local village and have dinner with a local family. While enjoying the home made menu, with dishes which change according to the food in season, take the chance to ask our friendly hosts all about life in rural Cappadocia.

Overnight in Goreme (3 nights).

Approx travel time: Ankara to Goreme, 5hrs

Day 6 Derinkuyu, Ihlara, Konya, Village stay (B,D)

A busy day today as we depart Goreme early (7.30am), and head to the underground city of Derinkuyu. First built by the Phrygians in the eighth–seventh centuries BC, the underground city of Derinkuyu was most famously used as the hiding place for the first Christians who were escaping from the persecution of the Roman Empire between the fifth and tenth centuries AD.

During our visit you'll be able to see how people transferred their surface lives to this underground world. There are cellars, rooms for food storage, kitchens, churches, stables, wine or oil presses, and shafts for ventilation. The underground city, which covers eight levels and extends to a depth of 85m, was large enough to shelter thousands of people together with their livestock and food stores. Part of its mystery is that what you see is only one tenth of the city's actual size.

After our visit, we continue our journey to the beautiful Ihlara Valley. The Ihlara valley is a canyon with cliff-like walls 100-150m high and was created long ago when the Melendiz River eroded into the region's porous volcanic rock. The valley proved to be an ideal place for the seclusion and worship of monks, and a hideaway and defense area for people during times of invasion. The churches in the valley were decorated between the sixth and thirteenth centuries. We will have time to wander the valley exploring the numerous dwellings, churches and graves built into the valley walls, some of which are connected by tunnels and corridors, all set in a spectacular riverside, canyon setting.

After a quick lunch, we make our way to the city of Konya. Konya was the capital of the Seljuk Turks, and is home to some of the best Seljuk architecture in the country. Wander the streets and enjoy these beautiful and historic buildings. It was also here in the thirteenth century that the poet, Mevlana Rumi, founded the mystic Islamic sect known as the whirling dervishes. Consider visiting the museum, dedicated to Mevlana Rumi. As well as finding out more about the history of the dervishes, it is a fascinating place to people watch, continuously flooded with faithful pilgrims coming to pay homage.

In the afternoon, we travel approx one hour to a local village.

On the way, we will stop at a rare traditional wooden mosque dating from the 13 century where we are lucky enough to have the

local imam perform the call to prayer for us. This is a great chance to learn more about this and another Islamic religious traditions.

Here we will learn about local life and enjoy a home cooked dinner in our village home. Accommodations are very simple - mattresses on the floor of the family's living room - and include shared bathroom facilities but there is no better chance to learn about local Turkish life. All bedding is supplied for our overnight stay.

Overnight in village with simple accommodation.

Approx travel times: Goreme to Derinkuyu, 30mins; Derinkuyu to Ihlara, 50mins; Ihlara to Konya, 3hrs, Konya to village stay, approx 1 hour.

Day 7 Antalya (B)

Wander the charming cobbled hillside streets of the district of Kaleici. This is a great place to stop and have a drink at one of the restaurants with great views of the marina below. Those searching for a little culture may want to check out the Antalya Museum, which offers great reconstructions of life under the Ottoman Empire. For a break from the hustle and bustle why not head for the greenery and teashops of one of Antalya's parks.

Overnight in Antalya

Approx travel time: Konya to Antalya, 5hrs

Day 8 Overnight boat trip (B,D)

Our day begins with a visit to Chimaera, where we view the mysterious eternal flames that naturally spring from the rocks in this area. Continuing on to the beautiful coastal village of Uçagiz where after lunch, we board our boat for an unforgettable night on the sea.

On board, the facilities are very basic. We sleep on deck under the stars, with mattresses and full bedding, which are provided. There is a toilet and an open air shower on board. Dinner tonight is included and cold drinks are available for purchase and we do ask that no external drinks are brought onboard. This really is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the crystal waters Turkey is famous for!

Sleeping on the boat is seasonal from May to October and even during these months, will still be dependent on weather conditions. In other months, you will stay in a guesthouse at Uchagiz, but still spend a full day on a boat excursion on Day 9.

Overnight on the top deck of a boat/pension (depending on season).

Day 9 Kas (B,L)

After waking up on board and enjoying breakfast in the fresh air, we begin our full day boat excursion. We'll travel around Kekova Island by boat, allowing us to enjoy the sunshine and scenery and later walk up to the Simena Castle to enjoy the views and archaeological ruins. Spend your time swimming in the crystal water and relaxing on deck.

After enjoying lunch on board, we return to Uçagiz to board our private bus and make our way to the charming coastal town of Kas where we spend this evening. You'll be charmed by the cobbled streets and white washed buildings of pretty Kas. Spend time wandering the many small antiques stores, or enjoying a coffee and cake at one of the stylish cafes. Afterwards head down to the picturesque harbour. While there is no beach as such, buying a drink at one of the many seaside cafes entitles you to a deck chair and direct access to the turquoise water.

In the evening, pick one of the many attractive outdoor restaurants for a meal of local seafood specialties.

Overnight in Kas.

Approx travel time: Uçagiz to Kas, 40mins

Day 10 Pamukkale (B)

Today we make our way from Kas to Pamukkale. In the afternoon, we'll visit the famous white cliffs of Pamukkale. 2700m long and 160m high, visible from up to 20kms away, Pamukkale is made up of 17 hot water springs in which the temperature varies between 35 and 100 degrees. The white cliffs, or travertine are formed when the calcium carbonate, which is deposited at first as a soft jelly, hardens with time.

We also explore the ancient site of Hierapolis built on top of the white "castle". This UNESCO world heritage site is evidence that the

hot springs of Pamukkale were used as a spa since the second century BC, and there is evidence of large baths within the city.

Overnight in Pamukkale.

Approx travel time: Kas to Pamukkale, 5hrs

Day 11 Selçuk, Ephesus (B)

Today we travel to the town of Selçuk. In the afternoon visit the ruins of the ancient Roman town of Ephesus. One of the foremost cities of the world in its time, with a strategic location on the trade route, this well preserved city is one of the best places in the world to get a real feeling of what life must have been like during Roman times.

The massive, well preserved theatre dominates the view down Harbour Street, which leads to the long-silted-up harbour.

The impressive two storey library, whose façade has been carefully reconstructed from all original pieces, was built in 125 AD and once held nearly 12,000 scrolls. There is even a chance to see 2000 year old public toilets!

Once part of Ephesus but now the outskirts of Selçuk are the remains of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Temple of Artemis. Today only one column remains of this ancient structure.

After our visit, we return to town where you can use your free time to visit the small but exquisite Ephesus Museum, walk up the the remains of the town's hilltop castle or just wander the streets and cafes of this vibrant Turkish town. Catch a local "dolmus" bus 7km to the picturesque village of Sirince where you can sample some of the local wine or shop for crafts. The beach at Kusadasi is also within reach for the dedicated sunseekers.

Overnight in Selçuk.

Approx travel time: Pamukkale to Selçuk, 3hrs

Day 12 Ayvalik (B)

You'll be charmed by Ayvalik's blend of old Ottoman architecture, cobbled streets and attractive harbour. For those who cannot get enough of life at sea, it may also be possible to charter a boat from the harbour for a short cruise. Be sure to set the price before departure and check if it is per person or per boat.

After you have finished exploring, head down to one of the waterside restaurants for a sunset drink or meal. Enjoy the hospitality and beautiful views from our family-run pension. Located in a restored Ottoman house, it is always a highlight for our travellers. Please note that this accommodation has shared bathroom facilities and some rooms may be multi-share.

Overnight in Ayvalik.

Approx travel time: Selçuk to Ayvalik, 2.5hrs

Day 13 Troy, Çanakkale (B)

On our way to the city of Çanakkale, our base for the night, we pay a visit to the world famous Troy. Troy was made famous first by the Iliad, Homer's epic poem, and more recently by Orlando Bloom and Brad Pitt in the film of the same name! For centuries this story in the Iliad, was regarded as just a myth, until the ruins of the city were found in the mid-nineteenth century. While today not too much remains, it is possible, with a bit of imagination to get a feel for what a great city this must once have been. Of course you won't want to miss your chance to have your photo taken with the Trojan horse!

We continue a further 32km to the harbour town of Çanakkale, a busy port with a thriving student population. Join the crowds as they stroll the waterfront nightly, seeing and being seen.

Overnight in Çanakkale.

Approx travel time: Ayvalik to Troy, 2.5hrs; Troy to Çanakkale, 40mins

Day 14 Gallipoli, Istanbul (B)

This morning we make an early morning visit to Gallipoli, where thousands gave their lives during WWI in the Battle of the same name. Here the Turks fought off the numerically superior but badly commanded Allied forces who were forced to withdraw nine months later. We will visit ANZAC Cove, the war cemeteries, Lone Pine and other important sites. Even for those who are not familiar with this battle, this is a moving and beautiful site, completing any trip to Turkey.

We'll continue our journey to Istanbul where there will be the opportunity to continue your sightseeing or get in some last minute

shopping. Why not top off a wonderful adventure with dinner at one of Istanbul's atmospheric restaurants.

Overnight in Istanbul.

Approx travel time: Çanakkale to Gallipoli, 20mins (ferry) + 20mins (bus); Gallipoli to Istanbul, 5hrs

Please note, as this is a combination trip, this evening you will attend a welcome briefing for the Eastern Turkey section of your tour. Please note your tour leader and group composition may change for the upcoming sector.

Day 15 Sanli Urfa

This morning we head to the airport, ready to board our flight to Sanli Urfa. Timings will depend on the flight schedule, and it may be a very early (ie 5.30am) departure from our hotel this morning. If this is the case, a simple breakfast will be provided on the plane.

A world away from Istanbul, exotic Sanli Urfa gives you the chance to experience some true Middle Eastern flavour.

Begin the day with a visit to Harran, famous for its unique beehive houses. Constructed entirely without wood or nails, they are designed to be cool in summer and warm in winter. It must be a winning recipe as they have been built using the same design for at least 3,000 years. Some were still in use as dwellings until the 1980s, but now most of Harran's population lives in a newly built village nearby.

After returning to Sanliurfa we head to Golbasi Park. After exploring the surrounding mosque complex, enter the cave that is thought to be the birthplace of biblical Abraham before joining the many pilgrims at the pond below in feeding the sacred fish, which are believed to have helped save Abraham from death later in his life.

Later, explore the town's fascinating covered bazaars, taking the chance to enjoy a glass of sweet tea and perhaps a game of backgammon in a local tea house.

Tonight, don't miss the chance to try the local specialties - the spicy Urfa kebab, and lahmacun, which resembles a thin crust pizza topped with spicy ground meat.

Overnight in Sanli Urfa.

Approx travel time: Hotel to Istanbul Airport, 30mins; Istanbul to Sanli Urfa, 2hrs (flight); Airport to Harran and return to Sanliurfa, 45 minutes.

Day 16 Nemrut Dagi (B)

We begin this morning with a walk up to Sanliurfa's massive kale, or fortress which gives an impressive view of the town below.

Travelling through the Anatolian plains, we make our way to Kahta, the small town which is our base for exploring Nemrut Mountain and its surrounds.

After lunch we make our way up to Nemrut Dagi, stopping en route to explore.

Our first stop is the Karakus Tumulus. While the males of the royal family have their tomb in their ancient capital city and of course, more famously on the summit of Nemrut Dagi, it is believed that these funerary mounds may be the burial monuments for the royal women. We pass the Severan Bridge, which at 34.2m is the second largest arched bridge ever achieved by the Romans and still in very impressive shape for being 2,000 years old.

Also enroute are the ruins of Arsameia, once the capital of the ancient Commagene kingdom whose rulers built the giant temple and tomb at the top of Mount Nemrut.

Nemrut Dagi is simply one of the must-see attractions in Turkey. On reaching the carpark, it is around a 15-20 minutes walk up to the mountain summit.

Learn about the fascinating history behind this site - basically one man's celebration of himself - before watching the sun set among the giant fallen heads of two thousand year-old statues. A simply unforgettable experience.

Overnight in Kahta.

Approx travel time: Sanli Urfa to Kahta, 4 hours. Kahta to Mount Nemrut, 3hrs return.

Days 17-18 Mardin (2B)

The beautiful and ancient hill-top town of Mardin is a real treasure. Explore streets of carved stone houses and bazaars scattered with picturesque mosques, with the remains of an imposing castle towering above you. Visit one of the most beautiful post offices in the world - it used to be a family mansion!

Wander the atmospheric old bazaar where you can see many traditional craftsmen at work. Pick yourself up some locally made soap and see if you can spot Shahmeran, Queen of the Snakes. Her portrait is traditionally hung on walls inside houses in Mardin to bring

good luck and fertility to the occupants.

Purchase some local baklava- reputedly some of the best in Turkey - and join the locals to enjoy it in one of the outdoor teashops with stunning views over the border and into the plains of Syria.

On the morning of Day 18, we will visit the Deyrül Zaferan Monastery, which is still used by local Syrian Christian community. Founded in 493AD on the site of an older temple whose remains are still visible, this beautiful and important building was the home of the Head of the Syrian Orthodox church until the 1920s.

Mardin is a great place to experience a local hammam, or Turkish communal bathhouse. Take along your towel, soap and shampoo and enjoy a scrub like no other. The friendly locals will show you the correct protocol. Make sure you check the hours as the bathhouses are strictly segregated, usually being used by men in the morning and evenings, and women in the afternoons.

In the evening, why not take the chance to enjoy a meal of local dishes in an beautifully restored caravanserai, an ancient inn for traders and their animals.

Overnight in Mardin (2 nights).

Approx travel time: Mount Nemrut to Mardin, 5hrs

Days 19-20 Van (2B)

We begin this morning discovering the ancient city of Hasankeyf. Spectacularly built around a rocky mountain and the Tigris river, this is a special place in which the architecture of the regions many different rulers is evident.

After passing the wonderfully named town of "Batman", we begin to catch our first glimpses of Lake Van, a vast inland sea.

This afternoon, travel by local ferry to Akdamar Island, the spectacular setting for the beautiful Armenian built church of Kilisesi.

Marvel at the intricate external reliefs showing biblical scenes and characters, before wandering the atmospheric graveyards. Many tombs are carved with khatchkars- a type of cross which looks remarkably Celtic.

Returning by ferry at sunset, we make our way into the city of Van where we spend this evening.

Enjoy the spectacular and unique scenery out the window, as our road takes us through vast lava fields formed by ancient volcanoes who now reveal themselves as beautiful snow capped mountains.

On day 20, we enjoy a day trip to visit the incredible Ishak Pasa Palace. Perched high on a cliff, this half ruined fortified palace is the stuff Arabian tales are made of. Explore the many bedrooms of the harem, the ornate dining room and even the palace toilet, while enjoying stunning views over the plains below and onwards to Mt Ararat.

Overnight in Van.

Approx travel time:

Day 19, Mardin to Van, including stops at Hasankeyf,lunch and Akdamar Island excursion, 9hrs

Day 20 trip to Ishak Pasha Palace. It is approximately 2 hours each way Ishak Pasha Palace to Van return (4 hours total transfer)

The day trip will last approximately 8 hours including visiting time and time in Dogubayazit for lunch.

Day 21 Istanbul

This morning it is time to wave goodbye to the East as we transfer to Van airport where a short flight returns us to Istanbul. Your tour will finish in the early afternoon on arrival at Ataturk Airport.

Our usual flight is at 10am. Please do not book any onward travel until after 5pm to allow for possible delays.

We are able to organise extra post-trip accommodation if you wish to extend your stay for a few more days. Please ask at the time of booking.

Approx travel time: Van to Istanbul, 2hrs (flight)

Combination

This trip is a combination of our Absolute Turkey, [ETAT](#) and Eastern Turkey Adventure [ETET](#) trips.

What's Included

Istanbul city walking tour, Dinner with local family in Cappadocia, Ihlara Valley entrance and guided walk, Derinkuyu underground city entrance and tour, Overnight boat trip to Kekova Island, Guided walk and entrance to Simena Castle of Kalekoy, Entrance and guided

tour of Pamukkale formations and Hierapolis ruins, Guided tour and entrance to Ephesus ruins, Guided tour and entrance to Troy, Guided walk and entrance to Gallipoli sites, flight to Sanliurfa, Visit to Harran beehive houses, Golbasi Park and mosque visit, Sunset excursion to Nemrut Dagı including visits to Karakus Tumulus, Severan Bridge and the ruins of Arsameia, Deyrul Zaferan Monastery and Ulu Mosque in Mardin, Boat trip to Akdamar Island, Entrance fee and guided walk in Ishak Pasa Palace, flight to Istanbul.

Highlights

Dining in a local family home and tasting regional delicacies, relaxing on an overnight boat trip, exploring ancient ruins and mud brick cities, bargaining in bazaars, watching the sunset over Nemrut Dagı.

Dossier Disclaimer

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Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Important Notes

Mosques

Turkey is a predominately Muslim country, with many, many mosques. You should expect to be briefly woken by the dawn call the prayer which is broadcast from loud speakers at every mosque in each town or city. It is hauntingly beautiful and a very important start to the Islamic day.

Toilets

Please note that while all accommodation has "western style"toilets, virtually all public toilets available on the Eastern Turkey portion of this tour will be of the Asian squat variety. You are advised to carry tissues for times when toilet paper is not provided. Expect to pay to use public toilets in Turkey - usually between 0.50 and 1 TRL.

Public toilets may sometimes not be at the expected level of cleanliness.

Ramadam 2012:

Depending on the lunar cycles, around July 20th for a month. Please note that Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world, during which time the followers of Islam should not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. There may be some limitations to services and disruptions to schedules during Ramadan, but generally our tours still operate effectively during this period and food is available to non muslims throughout the day. for a month. Please note that Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world, during which time the followers of Islam should not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. There may be some limitations to services and disruptions to schedules during Ramadan, but generally our tours still operate effectively during this period and food is available to non-muslims throughout the day.

Combination tours:

Please note that this trip is a combination of multiple G Adventures tours. As such, the staff operating your tour may change between tour segments. You may also expect some group members to join or leave the tour, between tour segments.

Group Leader Description

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

Group Size Notes

Max 15, avg 10

Your Fellow Travellers

As you travel on a group trip you will be exposed to all the pleasures and maybe some of the frustrations of travelling in a group. Your fellow travellers will probably come from all corners of the world and are likely to be of a variety of ages too. We ask you to be understanding of the various needs and preferences of your group - patience with your fellow travellers is sometimes required for the benefit of everyone's travel experience. Remember too that you have responsibilities to the group. If you are requested to be at a place at a certain time, ensure that you don't keep the rest of the group waiting. We have found time and time again that the very best trips we operate are those where the dynamics within the group work well - this takes just a little effort on your part.

Meals Included

17 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners

Meals

Breakfast

Many breakfasts are included as part of your tour. Turkish breakfasts are very different from your usual cereal and toast morning fare - when was the last time you had olives for breakfast?

They pretty much universally consist of large slices of fresh "french style" white bread accompanied by slices of tomato, cucumber, white and yellow cheeses, olives, jam and honey. This is accompanied by tea (which a Turk would always choose!) or coffee (which is pretty much always instant coffee)

You will of course want to sample the famous Turkish coffee, but it is usually taken after a big lunch or dinner, or in the late afternoon with a pastry.

While we think these breakfasts are absolutely delicious, some travellers do find them a bit repetitive and enjoy buying market fruit the day before and eating this for breakfast.

Lunches

...will usually be simple and on the run. They are a great chance to try Turkey's delicious and healthy array of "fast foods".

This may include, "gozleme", a type of Turkish savory crepe, "chorba", delicious lentil soup, and of course doner kebabs in both beef and chicken varieties. You won't want to miss the chance to try "pide", Turkish pizza, and lahmacun- thin crust pizza you fold greenery into

You may also find "kumpir", Turkish stuffed potatoes.

Dinner

Most Turks start their dinners with a couple of mezes- small taster dishes such as grilled octopus, aubergine salad, and many more. You could also choose a soup made of fresh local ingredients.

Main courses tend to be based around fresh seafood if you are near the coast (expect to pay around 15 lira for a whole fish) or the ubiquitous kebab- skewers of charcoaled meat which comes on bread with salad. There are plenty of variations of the kebab-many regions have their own speciality so be sure to ask your leader.

Desserts

Yum- its all about the sugar. Baklava (about 2 TKL a piece for the good stuff) is something of a national obsession and it is believed the best comes from the East. There are endless varieties of pastries and milk based deserts available and you are sure to spend at least some time in a Turkish bakery taste testing.

Snacks

Don't miss munching on a simit , a Turkish pretzel or perhaps some grilled sweet corn to get you through between meals.

Drinks

Tea, served in small tulip glasses, is the number one beverage of choice in Turkey. It is freshly brewed and a tea bag is a rare thing. Turkish coffee is wonderful thing to try. The national beer is named Efes and is very good (usually 4-5 TKL a bottle) Wine is made in Turkey and is getting better every year. Expect to pay around 6-7 liras for a glass in a restaurant.

Water is approximately 1 TRL for a 1.5 litre bottle, soft drinks and juices are around 2-3 TRL.

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your group leader will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip.

Meal Budget

Allow USD380-500 for meals not included

Transport

Private air-con bus, overnight train, boat, plane

About our Transportation

On this trip we will use a mixture of public and private buses, trains, planes, boats and walking. You will really have the chance to experience all the different kinds of transport on offer in Turkey. The Eastern Turkey portion of the trip is in a private van.

Day 2: our overnight train accommodation is in comfortable shared 4-bunk compartments. They are air-conditioned and all bedding is provided. The toilet is located at the end of each carriage. There is also a dining car where you can purchase drinks and snacks. The journey should take approximately 9.5hrs from Istanbul to Ankara.

Day 8: On board our boat the facilities are very basic. We sleep on deck under the stars, with mattresses and full bedding, which are provided. There is a toilet and an open air shower on board. Dinner tonight is included and cold drinks are available for purchase and we do ask that no external drinks are brought onboard. This really is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the crystal waters Turkey is famous for! Sleeping on the boat is seasonal from May to October and even during these months, will still be dependent on weather conditions. In other months, you will stay in a guesthouse at Ucagiz, but still spend a full day on a boat excursion on Day 9.

Local Flights

Local Flights: All local flights are included in the cost of your tour unless otherwise noted. It is important that we have your passport information at the time of booking in order to process these tickets. Internal flight tickets are issued locally and will be given to you prior to the flight departure.

Single Travellers

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Accommodation

Hotels (17 nts), overnight train (1 nt), boat (1 nt, multi-share/Dec-Apr in a hotel) Home stay (1 nt)

My Own Room

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops, with the following exceptions: Night 2 overnight train, Night 6 local village stay, Night 8 Overnight boat and Night 12 Ayvalik.

About Accommodation

While in Western Turkey you will stay in small, clean and comfortable hotels and pansiyons. All accommodation, with the exception of that mentioned below, will have ensuite bathrooms with Western style toilets.

Accommodation in Eastern Turkey is quite different to that in the more "developed" areas of Turkey. Hotels tend to be for businessmen or cater to large groups of domestic tourists. As a result they tend to be bigger and the rooms more simple. Reception staff will speak very little or no English but will try their very best to help you. Below are details on some of our unique accommodation experiences on this itinerary.

Day 2 Overnight Train:

Our accommodation is in comfortable shared 4-bunk compartments. They are air-conditioned and all bedding is provided. The toilet is located at the end of each carriage. There is also a dining car where you can purchase drinks and snacks. The journey should take approximately 9 hours. My own room is not available tonight.

Day 6 Village Stay :

During our village stay we aim to give you the experience of life with a local family. We use two houses with each room sleeping up to three people and sharing the family bathroom. All bedding is provided.

In the evening we gather together to enjoy a meal or fresh, local produce with the menu dependent on what is in season. My own room is not available tonight.

Day 8 Overnight Boat:

Overnight on board the boat will take place between May and October only and will depend on weather conditions even then. The rest of the year and when the weather does not permit sleeping onboard, you will stay in a local hotel. This is a multi-share night on board a typical boat, mattresses will be put on the floor and you will be provided with bedding. There is one passenger toilet and one shower inside and one outside, both are shared. There is no hot water on board. No towels will be provided. My own room is not available tonight.

Day 12 Ayvalik

Located in a restored Ottoman house, our family-run pension is always a highlight for our travellers. This accommodation has shared bathroom facilities and some rooms may be multi-share. My own room is not available tonight.

Joining Hotel

Newport Hotel

Address: Mihat Paşa Cad.

Abuhayat Sokak No: 9,

Istanbul, Turkey

Phone: +90 212 518 61 10

Joining Instructions

A taxi from the airport to the hotel will cost around 35 Turkish Lira (approx USD 23) - NB taxis are more expensive late at night/early morning.

It is possible to take the metro from the airport to Istanbul city centre. Go to stop "ZEYTINBURNU".

From here catch the tramway at "ZEYTINBURNU" point, going towards SIRKECI; Go to stop "KAPALICARSI-GRANDBAZAAR" (Grand Bazaar) and walk down the hill following the tramline for 5 minutes then turn left to first street and turn at second street on right to find the hotel.

One ticket for Metro is 1,50 Turkish Lira.

One ticket for Tramway is 1,50 Turkish Lira.

METRO & TRAMWAY INFORMATION ON THE WEB

http://www.istanbul-ulasim.com.tr/en/default.asp?menu_id=1&sayfa_id=2

http://www.istanbul-ulasim.com.tr/en/default.asp?menu_id=1&sayfa_id=4

Arrival Complications

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your group leader (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details. If you have pre-booked an airport transfer and have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Joining Hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact G Adventures during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our local G Adventures local office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

G Adventures Local Operator: Istanbul - Eventa
During office hours: Tel: +90 212 366 58 24
After hours: +90 532 445 40 11 (Can Akgunduz)

G Adventures Turkey Manager - Yavuz
24hr Emergency number: +90 532 481 51 73

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local offices, we have a toll-free line for North America, which will connect you directly with our Toronto office. In the event that you cannot get through, you can reach a member of our Operations department at the mobile number below.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 800 465 5600
Calls from the UK: 0844 272 0000
From within Australia: 1 300 796 618
Outside North America/UK/Australia: 1 416 260 0999

Finishing Point Instructions

We are able to organise extra accommodation post-trip should you require it. Please enquire at the time of booking.

What to Take

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible. We highly recommend using a backpack or light sports bag, whichever you find easiest to carry, plus a small daypack. Luggage space on public transport is limited. You must be prepared to carry your own bags and be comfortable carrying them between transport and hotels (max. 15-20 mins walking), hopping on and off trains and public buses and up and down stairs.

Checklist

- Light fleece top
- Light windproof/waterproof jacket
- Small towel and swimwear
- Sun hat
- Personal clothing for mild to hot weather and cooler evenings (See also "What to Take" and "Local Dress" sections of this dossier)
- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Sport sandals
- Sunblock
- Sunglasses
- Toiletries
- Watch or alarm clock
- Water bottle
- Purification tablets or filter
- Pocketknife
- Money belt
- First-aid kit (should contain lip salve, Aspirin, bandaids, anti-histamine, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, insect repellent, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)

Optional Items:

- Camera and film
- Reading/writing material
- Binoculars
- Cover for backpacks

Documents:

- Passport (with photocopies)
- Travel insurance (with photocopies)
- Airline tickets (with photocopies)
- EUR cash
- Credit or debit card (see personal spending money)

- G Adventures vouchers, pre-departure information and dossier
- Any entry visas or vaccination certificates required

Laundry

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge or ask your Tour Leader where the closest laundromat is. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

Visas

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy, or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

An entry visa is required for citizens of the following countries (not limited to this list):

- U.S.A (US\$20),
- Canada (US\$60 on arrival; CAD\$75 for advance application)
- U.K. (US\$20; US\$45 for advance application)
- Australia (US\$20 on arrival)
- Austria, Belgium, Holland, Ireland, Israel, Portugal & Spain (varies from US\$10-100)

Visa costs can change at any time and with little notice depending on the political climate of the region.

A valid passport is sufficient for citizens of most other countries including New Zealand, Argentina, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland for stays up to 3 months. All other nationalities please check with your nearest Turkish Embassy.

Length of validity of your visa is dependent on your nationality, but is commonly 3 months.

For information on whether your nationality is eligible for visa on arrival, we recommend the following link
<http://www.canberra.emb.mfa.gov.tr/ConsularServices.aspx>

Destination Guide

For practical information on weather, typical costs, visa information, special events and much more, our Destination Travel Guide is the place to visit! This handy guide will tell you everything you need to know about everywhere we go! Head to <http://www.gadventures.com/travel-guide> for detailed information on the countries and cities we visit.

Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

Money Exchange

The local currency in Turkey is the Turkish Lira (TRY).

Almost all local purchases in Turkey (meals, souvenirs, optional activities, etc) will be paid for in TRY

ATMs are found within main cities in Turkey and will generally accept cards on the Visa and Mastercard networks. It is a great idea to travel with both a Visa and Mastercard if at all possible as while there is no hard and fast rule, some banks seem to only work with one brand of card. Please note, your bank will charge a fee for overseas withdrawals.

Cash is recommended for times when ATMs are not accessible. Euros, British Pounds and US Dollars are easy to exchange into Turkish Lira. Please note - while you should bring some cash with you for emergency situations, carrying cash only is a high safety risk. Money on ATM card/s and some cash is the ideal mix.

Travellers' cheques can be tricky, timely and expensive to exchange. While we do not recommend that you bring them as your primary source of funds, it is great to have one or two cheques handy in case of emergency.

Thomas Cook or American Express Travellers' Cheques in US currency are the easiest to exchange.

Cash advances can also be made with some banks but are time consuming and tend to have high fees attached.

Credit cards are in general not very useful in Turkey - they can be used at some larger stores if shopping for big items such as carpets.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com

Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Departure Tax

Usually included in international flight tickets.

Tipping

It is customary in Europe to leave a small tip for service providers, such as waiters, if you are pleased with the service (€1-2). Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides. You may do this individually, or your Tour Leader will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping local guides would range from €3-5 per day depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your tour leader for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Tour Leader or skipper did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline €20-25 per person, per week can be used.

Optional Activities

CUSTOMIZE YOUR ADVENTURE

Our trip designers work very hard to assemble the life-altering experiences that fill this brochure. That said, our travellers are a diverse group driven by all sorts of different tastes, motivations and interests. What's a trip designer to do? The solution? Theme Packs! Specially designed for travellers with unique interests, theme packs are optional add-ons to your G adventures trip that make your adventure more you-centric. Theme Packs must be booked prior to departure.

Theme Packs available on this trip:

CAPPADOCIA BALLOON RIDE

Cappadocia, Half-day

When travelling, perspective is everything. Get a god's-eye view of ancient civilizations and rugged landscapes with this unique balloon tour extension.

Cappadocia is captivating from the ground, but that's just the half of it. See the seemingly hand-painted landscapes of cappadocia as they deserve to be seen: From the air aboard a hot-air balloon.

Other optional activities:

Istanbul:

Archaeological Museum 10TRL

Topkapi Palace 20TRL

Topkapi Palace Harem 15TRL

Aya Sofya Museum 20TRL

Mosaic Museum 8TRL

Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts 10TRL

Rumeli Fortress 3TRL

Dolamabahçe Palace 20TRL

Galata Tower 15 TRL
Entrance to (touristic) hamam 35 EUR

Cappadocia:

Hot air Ballooning
Short flight (1h00) 165 Euro PP cash
Short flight (1h00) 175 Euro PP with Credit Card
Long flight (1h45) 230 Euro PP Cash
Long flight (1h45) 250 Euro PP with Credit Card
Turkish Night 35 Euro inc drinks
Göreme Open air museum 10 Euro
Horse riding 20 Euro/h
Quad bike 30 Euro/h
Mountain bike 20 Euro/h
Turkish bath 25 Euro
Whirling Dervishes 25 Euro

Konya:

Mevlana Museum 2 TRL

Antalya:

Suna and Inan Kirac Kaleici Museum 2 TKL

Pamukkale:

Entrance fee for the travertines and Hierapolis 20 TRL
Hierapolis Archeological Museum 3 TRL
Ancient pools swim 20 TRL (approx.)

Selçuk:

Entrance to Ephesus 20 TRL
Ephesus Museum 5 TRL
St John's Church 5 TRL
Slope Houses (Ephesus) 15 TRL
Virgin House (Ephesus) 15 TRL
Local dolmus to Sirence one way 3 TRL
Local dolmus to Kusadasi one way 5 TRL

Ayvalik:

Two-hour private boat trip approx 200-300 TRL depending on the season

Gallipoli:

Gallipoli museum 3 TRL

All prices are per person in Euro amounts(unless stated otherwise), and are subject to change as services are provided by third party operators.

Health

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

DRINKING WATER: It is advisable to drink bottled water in Turkey.

There are no specific health requirements for this trip. However, you should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities for some time during this trip, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics,

etc.

Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

Medical Form

Our small group adventures bring together people of all ages. It is very important you are aware that, as a minimum, an average level of fitness and mobility' is required to undertake our easiest programs. Travellers must be able to walk without the aid of another person, climb 3-4 flights of stairs, step on and off small boats, and carry their own luggage at a minimum. Travellers with a pre-existing medical condition are required to complete a short medical questionnaire, which must be signed by their physician. This is to ensure that travellers have the necessary fitness and mobility to comfortably complete their chosen trip. While our CEOs work hard to ensure that all our travellers are catered for equally, it is not their responsibility to help individuals who cannot complete the day's activities unaided. Please refer to the physical ratings in this Trip Details document for more information. Please note that all passengers traveling to Antarctica are required to fill out this questionnaire.

The medical questionnaire can be found online at:

www.gadventures.com/medical-form.

A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

Responsible Travel

Being a responsible tour operator is at the heart of what G Adventures is all about. From the start, G Adventures has been committed to offering low-impact tours that benefit traveler and host alike. While our sustainable tourism policies are constantly evolving, our commitment to socially conscious, grassroots style travel has never changed. We work with local communities, businesses and individuals to develop sustainable tourism opportunities that help local economies while minimizing negative environmental and cultural impacts.

We would like to give you a couple of tips to start you thinking about traveling sustainably.

-Please bring rechargeable batteries, a battery charger (and plug adapter if necessary). Batteries are incredibly toxic and many places that we travel do not have proper disposal facilities. Rechargeables are best but if this is not possible we recommend that you bring any used batteries back home with you for proper disposal.

-Please ask before taking pictures. Just as you would not like to have a stranger come up to you and take a picture of you while sitting on your front porch either do the locals of the places that we visit. As you can imagine pictures of their children are also not appreciated.

For more information about our commitment to responsible travel, please visit the Sustainable Tourism section of the G Adventures website: www.gadventures.com

Planeterra-The G Adventures Foundation

Through our commitment to responsible tourism we have developed the Planeterra Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of people and communities around the world through support of international charities, local organizations and community projects in the places that we visit on our tours. G Adventures matches all individual donations and pays all administration costs, which means that 100% of each donation is doubled and goes directly to support our projects. For more information about Planeterra and the projects we support, or to make a donation, please visit www.planeterra.org

Planeterra Dollar-A-Day Program

Our Dollar-A-Day Program provides travellers with the opportunity to help us give back to the people and places visited on our tours by donating one dollar per day for the duration of their tour. 100% of these proceeds will go directly to support our Planeterra projects.

To participate in this program please indicate at the time of booking that you would like to participate in G Adventures' Dollar-A-Day program, either by clicking the check box online, or by advising your G Adventures specialist or travel agent. (Note: Donation will be charged in the currency of your booking)

Local Dress

While visiting mosques and other religious monuments you should dress modestly, cover your shoulders and you shouldn't wear short shorts or skirts.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that you'll receive a special discount code for free online prints and we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Please visit <http://www.gadventures.com/evaluations>

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletter_signup

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

Travel Forum - The Watering Hole

Be sure to stop by [The Watering Hole](#), our adventure travel forum. If you're interested in meeting others booked on your upcoming trip, check out the [Departure Lounge](#) section of our forum and introduce yourself. Otherwise, just drop in at anytime to share some travel tips, ask questions, meet other travellers and quench your thirst for travel. Our forum is located at wateringhole.gadventures.com.

Keeping in Touch

If you need to be contacted while travelling we recommend that you set up an email address that can be accessed on the road, rather than relying on postal mail. Email cafes are becoming increasingly commonplace and cheap throughout the regions we visit, and have quickly become the preferred way for our CEOs and travellers to stay in touch. If someone wishes to contact you in an emergency while you are on one of our trips we recommend that they contact your local booking agent, or refer to our Emergency Contact. We recommend that family and friends don't try to contact you through phoning hotels en route, as our hotels are subject to change, and our hotel receptions often don't have English speaking staff.

Recommendation

Why not complete your Middle Eastern odyssey by travelling from Istanbul to Cairo, through Syria and Jordan, on our [ETIC](#) tour?