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Sorry! There are no remaining departures for "Eastern Turkey Adventure" (ETET), [but here are some similar trips](#).



## **Eastern Turkey Adventure**

8 days, Istanbul to Istanbul

Trip code ETET

### **What's included**

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Stone ruins of Ani visit

- Akdamar Island boat trip
- Hasankeyf visit
- Mardin orientation walk and sights
- Nemrut Dagi excursion including Karakus Tumulus, Severan Bridge and Arsameia
- Harran beehive houses visit
- Golbasi park and Sanli Urfa bazaar guided walk
- Internal flights
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**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, 2015 and onwards

# Itinerary

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**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## Istanbul

Arrive at any time.

There are no activities planned until our evening welcome meeting. After the meeting, opt to join your CEO and fellow travellers for dinner.



## Today's Activities

### ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2

## Istanbul/Kars

Fly to Kars and visit the pinkish stone ruins of Armenian cathedrals, homes, fortresses, and palaces at nearby Ani, the former capital of the Armenian Empire. Opt to visit the Kars Castle for panoramic views of the city.

Located near the Armenian border, the city of Kars offers a mixture of cultures and a wealth of stone structures and colourful houses.

Enjoy a visit to Ani, once the capital of the Armenian kingdom. The city was renowned for its sizeable population and variety of religious structures.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Plane

Istanbul - Kars

1h30m

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Ani Visit

Kars

1h-2h

Be transported to centuries past visiting historical Ani. Once the capital of the Armenian Empire, Ani was located at the crossroads of many important trade routes. When the medieval city was flourishing, the buildings were some of the most complex and beautiful around. Walk among hundreds of churches that rest in ruin today - the abandoned city creates a dramatic setting against the surrounding landscape.

Day 3

## Kars/Van

See Ishak Pasha Palace and Mount Ararat en route to Van, the cultural centre of the area's Kurdish majority. Opt to visit the ruins of the Fortress of Van.

See Ishak Pasha Palace, perched high on a hilltop, and soak in the views of Mt Ararat en route to Van.

The afternoon is free to explore this dusty frontier town. Opt to visit the women's co-op or purchase one of the beautiful carpets the region is known for.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Kars - Van

6h-7h

The journey includes a stop at the Ishak Pasha Palace.

Free Time

Van

Spend some time on arrival visiting the women's co-op or shopping for carpets.



### Optional Activities - Day 3

Women's Cooperative Visit

Van

Visit the local women's co-op and browse their wares. Learn about local living, and find a unique souvenir to bring home.

Day 4

## Van/Mardin

Travel to Mardin early in the morning. En route, enjoy an Akdamar Island boat trip and church visit before exploring Hasankeyf.

Mardin is a great place to experience a local hammam, or Turkish communal bathhouse. In the evening, opt for a local dinner in a beautifully restored caravanserai, an ancient inn for traders and their animals.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Van - Mardin

6h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Akdamar Island Boat Trip

Gevaş - Akdamar Adası

30m

Come aboard for a memorable boat trip to Akdamar Island on beautiful Lake Van. Tour the island's historic sites, and see the Armenian Cathedral of the Holy Cross, built between AD 915-921.

Hasankeyf Visit

Hasankeyf

2h-3h

Visit this ancient town in the Batman Province of Turkey. Take some time to learn about the region - with dozens of archaeologically significant sites, there's much to take in.



### Optional Activities - Day 4

Mardin Hammam Visit

Mardin

60-70TRY

2h-3h

Take along a towel, soap, and shampoo, and enjoy a scrub like no other. Get some tips from the friendly locals - they'll show you the correct protocol. Make sure to check the hours as the bathhouses are strictly segregated, usually being used by men in the morning and evenings, and women in the afternoons.

Day 5

## Mardin

Take an orientation walk in old Mardin. Visit Deyrulzafaran Monastery before spending some time getting to know the city.

The beautiful and ancient hilltop town of Mardin is a real treasure. The stone houses and castle ruins set the scene. Wander the bazaar, sample some local treats, and soak in the views.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Today's Activities

Deyrulzafaran Monastery Visit

Mardin

1h-2h

Take a tour of the impressive Deyrulzafaran Monastery, a main attraction in Mardin, and well worth a visit. Soak in its remarkable history. Founded in 493 AD 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.

Free Time

Mardin

Enjoy some time to explore this beautiful city.

Day 6

## Mardin/Kâhta

Travel to Kahta and explore the area around Mt Nemrut. Visit the Karakus Tumulus (Women's Monument), Severan Roman bridge, and the site of ancient Arsameia at the giant burial monuments.

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### Meals included

Breakfast



## Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Mardin - Káhta

4h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Private Vehicle

Káhta - Mt Nemrut

1h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Karakus Tumulus, Severan Bridge and Arsameia Visit

Mt Nemrut

1h-2h

1km

Take a tour of historical sites in Kahta and the surrounding area. See the Karakus Tumulus (Women's Monument), relics of a supposed ancient burial site. While it was common that males of the royal family had their tombs in their ancient capital city, the funerary mounds found on top of Mt Nemrut are believed to be the burial monuments for the royal women.

Visit the Severan Bridge, at 34.2m (112 ft) it is the second-largest arched bridge built by the Romans, and still remains in very impressive shape for being 2,000 years old. Also, take in the ancient city of Arsameia, once the capital of the ancient Commagene kingdom, its rulers built the giant temple and tomb at the top of Mount Nemrut.

Nemrut Dagi Excursion

Mt Nemrut

3h-4h

1km

Visit one of the must-sees in Turkey - Nemrut Dagi and the many statues at its peak. Walk about 15-20 mins to reach the mountain's summit, and learn about the fascinating history behind this site -- it's basically one man's (King Antiochus I Theos of Commagene) celebration of himself. Watch the sunset amid the giant fallen heads of 2,000-year-old statues, and enjoy a simply unforgettable experience.

Private Vehicle

Mt Nemrut - Káhta

1h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 7

## Kâhta/Sanlıurfa

Visit beehive houses at Harran. Enjoy a guided walk to Golbasi Park and the covered bazaar of Urfa, the supposed birthplace of Abraham and an important Islamic place of pilgrimage.

A world away from Istanbul, exotic Şanlıurfa gives you the chance to experience some true Middle Eastern flavour. Visit Harran, famous for its beehive houses.

Later, back in Urfa, visit Golbasi Par. After, 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.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Harran Beehive Houses Visit

Harran

2h-3h

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

Private Vehicle

Kâhta - Sanliurfa

4h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Golbasi Park and Sanliurfa Bazaar Visit

Sanliurfa

3h-4h

Tour Golbasi Park, a beautiful park that's steeped in legend and historic symbolism. Explore the surrounding mosque complex, then enter the cave that is thought to be the birthplace of biblical Abraham. Join 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.

Don't miss wandering the stalls of Sanliurfa's bustling covered bazaars. Meet locals, take in everyday life in this vibrant town, and shop and stroll until your heart's content.



### Optional Activities - Day 7

Göbekli Tepe Archaeological Site Visit

Sanliurfa

5TRY

Explore the world's oldest temple on a visit to Gobekli Tepe. Built approximately 11,600 years ago, the site is composed of large limestone pillars erected in a series of rings. Stroll around the site, check out the animal bas-reliefs that adorn the pillars, and contemplate the feat of constructing these impressive structures millennia ago.

Day 8

## Sanliurfa/Istanbul

Fly back to Istanbul where the tour ends on arrival at the airport. Onward travel can be booked for 5pm or later.

We highly recommend booking pre- or post-accommodation to fully explore this vibrant city.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Plane

Sanliurfa - Istanbul

1h30m

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

## What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
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- Hasankeyf visit
- Mardin orientation walk and sights
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- Harran beehive houses visit
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● Internal flights

● All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

## **What are the main highlights of this trip?**

Explore ancient mud brick cities, bargain in bazaars, taste regional specialties, visit the mysterious stone heads of Mount Nemrut

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## **Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?**

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## **Is there an 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.

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

## What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

### ACCOMMODATION

This is a Basic Level tour. Please be aware Eastern Turkey may not have the same infrastructure you are used to.

Accommodation 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 hotels tend to be bigger and the rooms more simple. You can expect all rooms to have ensuite bathroom facilities with western style shower and toilet. Often there will be no shower curtain. Soap and towels are provided.

Reception staff will speak very little or no English but will try their very best to help you. If you expect something very, very simple and plain, you will be well prepared. All part of the Eastern Turkey experience!

### 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 throughout this tour will be of the Asian squat variety. You are advised to carry tissues for times when toilet paper is not be 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.

### RAMADAN

According to the lunar cycle, Ramadan will fall between May 15th and June 14th, 2018. 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. It is very important to display increased cultural sensitivity during Ramadan. Please wear loose fitting clothes, that cover knees and shoulders, and try to avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public out of respect for those who can't at that time.

## What is the group leader like?

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.

## How large will the group be?

Max 15, avg 10

## What meals are included in this trip?

7 breakfasts

# What are the meals like on this trip?

## 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 lahmuca- thin crust pizza you fold greenery into

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

You can expect to spend around 5-15 TRL for lunch

## 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.

You can expect to pay between 15-25 TRL for dinner

## 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 (0.5-0.75 TKL) , a Turkish pretzel or perhaps some grilled sweet corn (2TKL) 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.

Please note it is very difficult to get espresso or filter coffee in Eastern Turkey but of course you can get your caffeine fix with a thick and delicious Turkish coffee.

Alcohol is not readily available at restaurants in Eastern Turkey - do not expect to have a beer with your dinner- but can be purchased from liquor shops or at hotel bars.

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 CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip.

## **What are the modes of transportation on my trip?**

Private air-conditioned van, ferry, plane

## **What transportation will we take on this trip?**

On this trip we will travel mainly by road, by private air-conditioned minivan. Two local flights are also included for journeys between Istanbul and Sanli Urfa (approx 2hrs flight time) and Van to Istanbul (approx 3hrs flight time). Please consider limited space for luggage both in our van and luggage weight limits on domestic flights (usually 15-20kg per person), when deciding what to pack. Either a medium wheelee bag or backback would be suitable for this tour.

## **Are local flights included in the cost of the trip?**

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.

## **Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?**

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.

## **Where will we stay during the trip?**

Hotels (7 nts).

## **Will I get 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

## What kind of accommodation can I expect on this trip?

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. You can expect all rooms to have ensuite bathroom facilities with western style shower and toilet. Often there will be no shower curtain. Soap and towels are provided.

Reception staff will speak very little or no English but will try their very best to help you.

Please do inform your CEO if there are any problems with your room to enable them to help you as quickly as possible.

## What is the joining hotel?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

## What are the joining instructions?

A taxi from the airport to the hotel will cost around 35 Turkish Lira (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. Get off at the stop "GULHANE". You will see Port Shield Pub just on the corner. Take a right, walk straight through the Ebusuut Street and this time take the third right. You'll see our hotel.

If you have paid in advance for an arrival transfer, Istanbul Airport (IST): Istanbul Airport is no longer permitted to present branded/company signs. G Adventures has been allocated the characters 'M55'. After collecting your luggage, proceed through Exit Door 14 and look for an individual holding an "M55" sign. This person will transfer you to your first accommodation.

If you are unable to locate your transfer, please contact the local transfer company emergency number: +90 539 424 42 48.

If you are unable to reach them or require further assistance, please contact the G Adventures Emergency Line: +44 1858 378 000

If you are arriving at Sabiha Gokcen (SAW) Airport, G Adventures has been allocated the sign "M55" for your airport pickup. After exiting the terminal, proceed straight across the road to the 10th column. At the end of the walkway, you will find an individual holding an "M55" sign. This person will be responsible for transferring you to your first accommodation.

If you are unable to locate your transfer, please contact the local transfer company emergency number: +90 539 424 42 48.

If you are unable to reach them or require further assistance, please contact the G Adventures Emergency Line: +44 1858 378 000.

### 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=2)

[http://www.istanbul-ulasim.com.tr/en/default.asp?menu\\_id=1&sayfa\\_id=4](http://www.istanbul-ulasim.com.tr/en/default.asp?menu_id=1&sayfa_id=4)

## What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

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 CEO (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.

## Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our 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.

### AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Representative (Turkey)

During office hours: + 90 212 296 80 36

After hours emergency number +90 532 481 51 73 (Yavuz)

G Adventures Turkey Manager - Yaviuz (Istanbul Turkey)

Emergency number: +90 532 481 51 73

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## What instructions should I follow at the finishing point?

Please note that you will not be accompanied by the CEO on the return transfer to Van and flight to Istanbul on Departure Day. Your tour will finish on arrival at Istanbul Airport.

We are able to organise extra nights' accommodation post-trip in Istanbul should you require them. Please enquire at the time of booking.

## What should I take on my trip?

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.

## What should be on my packing list?

### Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

## When can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge or ask your CEO 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.

## What the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

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 the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

## How much spending money do I need for my trip?

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.

## What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

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.

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](http://www.xe.com)

## How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

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!

## Do I need to pay a departure tax?

It is normally included in your tickets, check with your air travel agent.

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

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 CEO 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 CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO 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.

## What activities are optional on this trip?

### Van

- Women's Cooperative Visit

### Mardin

- Mardin Hammam Visit  
(60-70TRY per person)

### Sanliurfa

- Göbekli Tepe Archaeological  
Site Visit (5TRY per person)

## Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

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.

# What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

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/](http://www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/)

## What are the trip specific safety considerations?

Like anywhere in the world, major cities have areas safer than others, use common sense, be aware of your surroundings and mind your personal belongings.

## What rules should I know before joining this trip?

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 people in the sex trade 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 utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

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.

## What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## How should I dress to respect local customs during the tour?

While visiting mosques and other religious monuments you should dress modestly, cover your shoulders and you shouldn't wear short shorts or skirts. Outside of Istanbul and the more touristic centres in Turkey, local dress is more conservative and as a matter of respect we recommend that both men and women dress modestly in loose-fitting clothes with shoulders covered.

## How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that 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. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at [customersolutions@gadventures.com](mailto:customersolutions@gadventures.com) and we will send it on to you.

## Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

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/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

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.

## How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

## Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

## What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

## Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**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.

## 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.