

EXPEDITIONS



SIGNATURE: TURKEY'S ISTANBUL, EPHESUS & CAPPADOCIA

10 days, Istanbul to Istanbul

Trip code ETICNS

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group, Istanbul
- Your Welcome Moment: Byzantine Cistern Welcome Dinner, Istanbul
- Signature Moment: Bodrum Museum Of Underwater Archaeology, Bodrum
- Your Foodie Moment: Local Farm Visit, Bodrum
- Your Foodie Moment: Bodrum Area Vineyard Visit, Bodrum
- Signature Moment: Ephesus Guided Visit and Exclusive Dinner, Selcuk
- Your Foodie Moment: Cooking Class and Lunch, Cappadocia
- Arrival and Departure Transfer
- Hagia Sophia including special access exclusive visits to hidden rooms
- Istanbul Private Evening Bosphorus Strait Cruise
- Istanbul Walking tour
- Istanbul Topkapi Palace Visit
- Ancient site of Halicarnassus visit
- Bodrum community enterprise village weaving workshop
- Apollo Temple of Didyma Visit
- Miletus Visit
- Orientation Walk of Kemeralti Old Bazaar İzmir
- Selçuk
- Ankara Guided Tour
- Visit to the Mausoleum of Atatürk, Ankara
- Private dinner at a Historic Mansion in the Ankara Castle District, Ankara
- Stop at Hattuşa a UNESCO World Heritage Site guided visit of the ancient city
- Cappadocia Göreme Open Air Museum Guided Tour
- Tour of Derinkuyu Underground City
- Cappadocia Gentle Jeep tour among the fairy chimneys around sunset
- Cappadocia private farewell dinner hosted at the Güray Museum, Cappadocia
- Internal flights
- Engaging Discussions with the National Geographic Expedition Expert Throughout
- Porterage at hotels and when getting on and off of vehicles
- Tips are included for all activities, meals and porterage, except for your Expedition Leader

- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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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 February 27th, 2026 and onwards

ITINERARY



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

Welcome to Istanbul. Your expedition begins in a city that spans two continents and three millennia of history. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. In the evening, descend a stone staircase into the golden-lit depths of the Binbirdirek Cistern, a 4th-century Byzantine marvel.

Amongst a forest of marble columns, join your National Geographic Expedition Leader and National Geographic Expedition Expert for a private welcome dinner. Savour traditional dishes and fine wine in this hidden underground world, feeling the vastness of history embrace you as you toast the start of your Turkish odyssey.



Meals included

Dinner



ACCOMMODATION

The Ritz-Carlton Istanbul (or similar) Hotel

"Overlooking the shimmering waters of the Bosphorus in Istanbul's prestigious Dolmabahçe district, The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul blends contemporary luxury with the city's rich Ottoman heritage. Positioned at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, the hotel offers sweeping waterfront views while placing guests moments from Dolmabahçe Palace, Taksim Square, and the historic Old City.

Interiors combine refined modern design with subtle Turkish influences, incorporating artisanal details and warm materials that reflect the region's cultural depth. Spacious rooms and suites provide a tranquil retreat above the city, many featuring panoramic Bosphorus views and private terraces that capture Istanbul's ever-changing skyline.

A highlight of the property is its traditional Turkish hammam, where centuries-old bathing rituals are reinterpreted in an elegant, contemporary spa setting. The wellness facilities, along with the hotel's acclaimed rooftop terrace and infinity pool overlooking the Bosphorus, create a distinctive sense of place and relaxation. Dining venues showcase both regional flavors and international cuisine, underscoring the hotel's cosmopolitan spirit.

The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul has earned recognition through international travel and hospitality awards, frequently cited among the city's leading luxury hotels for its service, location, and guest experience.

Guests choose The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul for its prime waterfront setting, celebrated spa and hammam, and globally recognized standards of excellence – a sophisticated base from which to experience a city shaped by empire, culture, and modern energy."



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Arrival Transfer **Atatürk Airport - Istanbul**

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel to start your adventure.

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your Expedition Leader and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. 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. There will be an included group welcome dinner after the meeting.

ACTIVITY

Descend into a 4th-century underground reservoir for a welcome feast among marble columns

Day 2

ISTANBUL

Istanbul reveals another layer of its history this morning, beginning with the Hagia Sophia and special access to hidden rooms rarely seen by the public. Continue to the ancient Hippodrome and its underground cistern before marveling at the iconic Blue Mosque. After a local lunch, choose to wander the labyrinthine stalls of the Grand Bazaar or enjoy a quiet afternoon at your leisure. As evening falls, board a private boat for a passage across the Bosphorus, watching the city's minarets and palaces flicker to life from the water before a sophisticated dinner served beside the shimmering strait.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



ACCOMMODATION

The Ritz-Carlton Istanbul (or similar) **Hotel**

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TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Hagia Sophia Exclusive Visit **Istanbul** 1h-2h 1km

A visit to Hagia Sophia is a journey through a dual-world experience. Following major policy shifts, the site now functions with a strict separation between tourism and worship, but this has actually unlocked new ways to visit "unseen" parts of the structure that were previously ignored.

Private Bosphorus Strait Cruise **Istanbul** 1h-1h18m

This evening, board a private luxury boat for passage across the Bosphorus where dinner is served beside the water where history, design, and gastronomy meet in quiet sophistication. Afterwards return to your hotel.

Istanbul Walking Tour **Istanbul** 1h-2h 2km

Visit the hippodrome, including the underground cistern. See the Blue Mosque and other iconic buildings of Istanbul. Afterwards, you may join your expedition leader for a walk to the The Grand Bazaar or return to your hotel for free time

Day 3

ISTANBUL/BODRUM

Step into the administrative heart of the Ottoman Empire with a private tour of Topkapi Palace. Accompanied by the Museum manager and the Expedition Expert, explore the ceremonial halls and opulent chambers that housed sultans for four centuries. This afternoon, fly south to the Aegean coast and the vibrant town of Bodrum. Settle into your hotel and enjoy a leisurely dinner, feeling the coastal breeze replace the energy of the city as you prepare to uncover the secrets of ancient maritime history and the turquoise coast.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



ACCOMMODATION

Divan Bodrum Hotel (or similar) Hotel



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Topkapi Palace Visit

Istanbul

1h-2h

1km

Take a step back in time with a visit to the Topkapi Palace. Once home to the Ottoman sultans and their harems, it's now a museum hosting a number of collections, ranging from porcelains found in Europe, Asia and China to Ottoman-era weaponry.

Plane

Istanbul - Bodrum

1h-1h

Leave Istanbul behind and fly south toward the Aegean Sea, where the sun-drenched coast of Bodrum awaits.

Day 4

BODRUM

Bodrum's ancient past and maritime secrets take centre stage today. Visit the Halicarnassus site before heading to the Bodrum Underwater Archaeology Museum, located within the Castle of St. Peter, where we have private access to the research and conservation laboratories. Join a maritime archaeology specialist to learn about the preservation of the world's oldest known shipwreck. The afternoon shifts to the land, with a visit to a local farm, a community weaving workshop, and a wine tasting at a renowned vineyard as the sun softens over the vines.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



ACCOMMODATION

Divan Bodrum Hotel (or similar) Hotel



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Visit Ancient Halicarnassus Bodrum 1h-1h 1km

A visit to Ancient Halicarnassus in modern-day Bodrum is a journey into the heart of the Carian Empire and a masterclass in how ancient ruins can be woven into a vibrant, modern Mediterranean city.

ACTIVITY 1km

Join a Senior Archaeologist or a specialist from the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) for an exclusive visit to the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology. The "behind-the-scenes" experience focuses on the world-class conservation labs that make this museum the global gold standard for maritime heritage.

ACTIVITY

A visit to a local jam and olive oil farm is a complete sensory shift from the turquoise coast to the silver-green heart of the Aegean. Here, you meet the family at their stone farmhouse surrounded by ancient, gnarled olive trees for a short tour led not by a guide, but by the owners themselves, followed by a tasting of these regional produce.

Village Weaving Cooperative Bodrum 1h-1h

A visit to the Weaving Cooperative starts in the cool shade of stone walls, you sit beside master weavers whose fingers fly across vertical looms, turning wool and root-dyes into a coded language of Anatolian symbols. You leave not just with a sense of history, but with the taste of Aegean hospitality and the quiet satisfaction of having touched the "living" culture of Turkey.

ACTIVITY

Experience the pinnacle of Turkish viticulture with an immersive "earth-to-glass" journey at a renowned local vineyard. This curated escape begins with a peaceful stroll through rolling, ancestral vines, followed by an educational tasting and presentation that unveils the estate's rich heritage. The afternoon culminates on the terrace, where guests savour world-class wines against the backdrop of a cinematic Aegean sunset

Day 5

BODRUM/İZMİR

Take to the Turkish countryside on a scenic drive toward Izmir. Stop at Didim to stand before the monumental Temple of Apollo, once one of the largest sacred structures of the ancient world. Learn how this site functioned as a powerful oracle centre before enjoying lunch in town. Continue to Miletus to hear the legends of the Seven Sages. Upon arrival in Izmir—the ancient city of Smyrna—join your National Geographic Expedition Leader for a tour of the city’s layered civilizations. The evening is yours to explore the vibrant waterfront and local culinary scene at your own pace.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



ACCOMMODATION

Swissotel Izmir (or similar) Hotel



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle Bodrum - İzmir 4h-4h

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

Apollo Temple of Didyma Aydın

Visit the Apollo temple at the ancient Greek sanctuary of Didyma. Said to have been destroyed by Persians in 494 BC, it was later restored by Alexander the Great during the 3rd century BC where it flourished for centuries thereafter.

Miletus Visit Aydın

Visit Miletus, located near the mouth of the Maeander River. The history of Miletus goes back to 3500 BC when the ancient city was an important trading outpost for goods coming out of the interior of the country. The site and the impressive theater we will see are from the Roman period.

Expedition Leader Led Walk of Kemeralti Old Bazaar İzmir 1h

Set out on foot with your Expedition Leader on an orientation walk of the Kemeralti Old Bazaar, in Izmir. Wander amongst the traditional food stores before taking some free time in Izmir to explore.

Day 6

İZMİR

The ancient city of Ephesus dominates the day, beginning with a visit to a community-focused initiative in Selçuk that highlights local handicrafts and supports women's empowerment. After a traditional lunch, a specialist lecturer leads an immersive exploration of this ancient city, once home to 200,000 people. As the crowds depart, the experience reaches its peak with a private dinner set against the iconic remains of the Library of Celsus – accompanied by live classical music under the stars.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



ACCOMMODATION

Swissotel Izmir (or similar) Hotel



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Efesium Selcuk Community Experience

Selçuk

2h-2h

Visit Efesium Handicrafts, a community-focused initiative that highlights local culture, history, and, in particular, handicrafts produced by local women. This is a project supported by the Selçuk Municipality where local women create and sell handmade, specially designed, and authentic souvenirs. The products reflect the 8,600-year history of the region

ACTIVITY

Experience the "City of the Romans" in virtual exclusivity as the crowds depart and your tour begins. Set off to explore the site with a specialist that weaves stories and breathes life into these ruins, followed by a walk through the marble-paved streets of Ephesus. The evening reaches its zenith with an extraordinary private dinner set directly in front of the moonlit Library of Celsus.

Day 7

İZMİR/ANKARA

A morning flight brings you to Ankara, Turkey's modern capital, where ancient and contemporary history sit side by side. Witness the changing of the guard at Anıtkabir before a private tour of the Anatolian Civilisation Museum, led by a historian who brings the region's ancient artefacts to life. After a free afternoon, the historic Ankara Castle district provides an intimate setting for an exclusive dinner in an Ottoman-era mansion – where layers of Roman and Byzantine history form the backdrop for an evening of refined local hospitality.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Divan Ankara (or similar) Hotel



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Plane İzmir - Ankara 1h30m-1h30m

Leave the shores of Izmir behind and fly toward the rugged heart of Anatolia, where the sweeping landscapes of Ankara await.

Ankara Guided Tour Ankara 1h-2h

Visit the Roman and Ottoman quarters of town and Atatürk's mausoleum to learn more about the fascinating history of this comparatively contemporary capital and its relationship to modern Turkey. Finish at the magnificent Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, which contains an outstanding collection of artifacts documenting this region.

The Mausoleum of Atatürk Ankara 1h-1h30m

Visit a mausoleum commemorating the founder of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The Mausoleum of Atatürk is located in Turkey's capital of Ankara and has become one of the sprawling city's must-see locations.

Visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations Ankara 2h-2h

Step back into the "Zero Point of History" with an elite academic visit to the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. Led by an esteemed historian, enjoy a high-level private lecture with an exclusive guided

exploration of Turkey's most significant archaeological finds. From the 8,000-year-old murals of Çatalhöyük to the golden treasures of the Phrygian kings, this is a sophisticated narrative journey through the dawn of human society, housed within a magnificent 15th-century Ottoman landmark.

Private Dinner at a Historic Mansion [Ankara](#)

Experience the storied past of Turkey's capital with an exclusive hosted dinner at a beautifully restored historic mansion within the Ankara Citadel. Surrounded by centuries-old timber architecture and panoramic city views, guests enjoy a sophisticated evening of Anatolian haute cuisine and fine local wines. This intimate gathering combines the privacy of a noble estate with the rich cultural narrative of a city that has served as a crossroads for empires, making it the ultimate venue for high-level hosting.

Transition from the urban landscape into the vast, spiritual heart of the Anatolian Plateau. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hattuşa, the legendary Bronze Age capital of the Hittite Empire. Embark on a guided exploration of the ruins before continuing your journey into the "alien" world of Cappadocia. Watch the terrain shift into a surreal patchwork of volcanic peaks and honeycombed hills. Upon arrival, travel straight to your hotel to settle in and enjoy a dinner of regional specialities, surrounded by the unique geology that has defined life in this region for millennia.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



ACCOMMODATION

Seraphim Cave Hotel Cappadocia (or similar) **Hotel**

Carved into the soft volcanic rock of Cappadocia's otherworldly landscape, Serafino Cave Hotel offers an intimate stay within centuries-old cave dwellings thoughtfully transformed into boutique accommodations. Welcoming guests in a historic mansion originally constructed in 1853, Seraphim Cave Cappadocia offers expansive grounds covering over an acre of gardens and rock formations. Set amid the region's iconic fairy chimneys and stone valleys, the hotel combines authentic Anatolian heritage with contemporary comfort.

Each room is uniquely designed, preserving original stone arches, niches, and textured cave walls while introducing modern amenities and warm, natural finishes. The result is an atmosphere that feels both historic and refined – a quiet retreat that reflects Cappadocia's layered past.

Guests choose Serafino Cave Hotel for its immersive sense of place and panoramic valley views, particularly at sunrise when hot air balloons drift across the sky. Its location provides easy access to Göreme's rock-cut churches, underground cities, and scenic hiking trails, making it an ideal base for exploring the region's UNESCO-listed landscapes.

Intimate, atmospheric, and deeply connected to its surroundings, Serafino Cave Hotel offers a stay defined by geology, history, and the quiet magic of Cappadocia



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle

Ankara – Cappadocia

3h-4h

290km

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

Hattuša Visit

Cappadocia

2h-2h

Hattuša is not merely an archaeological site; it is a sprawling, wind-swept testament to one of the "Great Powers" of the ancient world. The city is famous for its massive, cyclopean stone walls that stretch for miles across a rugged plateau.

Discover the subterranean secrets of Cappadocia at the Göreme Valley and the deep tunnels of the Derinkuyu Underground City. For lunch, join a local host for a cooking class, mastering the art of Anatolian cuisine before enjoying your creations. In the late afternoon, embark on a jeep drive through the valley, weaving amongst fairy chimneys as the landscape takes on the golden hues of sunset. Conclude your expedition with a private dinner at the Güray Museum. Enjoy a briefing from a museum official within these underground galleries before celebrating your journey with a menu inspired by ancient traditions.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



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TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Göreme Open Air Museum Guided Tour

Göreme

1h-2h

Be inspired by the natural beauty of the historic Göreme Open Air Museum, a complex of medieval painted cave churches carved out by Orthodox monks. Tour the more than 10 caves on site, and enjoy the color and vibrancy of many of the churches that are up to 1,000 years old.

Derinkuyu Underground City Visit

Göreme

1h30m-1h30m

To enter Derinkuyu is to leave the world of light behind and descend into one of the most sophisticated engineering marvels of the ancient world. Located in the heart of Cappadocia, this subterranean metropolis reaches a depth of approximately 85 meters (280 feet) and was capable of sheltering up to 20,000 people along with their livestock and food supplies.

ACTIVITY

Experience the true spirit of Turkish hospitality with a private cooking class and lunch. This intimate cultural exchange offers a hands-on journey into the secrets of Anatolian village cuisine, from the delicate folding of Mantı to the firing of traditional clay-pot dishes.

Cappadocia Jeep Tour

Cappadocia

1h-2h

Trade the rugged for the refined with a gentle Cappadocia jeep tour. This curated sunset expedition takes you off the beaten path in a private 4x4 to discover the region's most iconic hidden valleys at a serene, panoramic pace.

Farewell Dinner at the Güray Museum

Cappadocia

2h-2h

Conclude your Anatolian journey with a masterpiece event at the Güray Museum. This exclusive farewell dinner takes place within a magnificent underground rock-cut complex, surrounded by thousands of years of ceramic history. Combining a private museum tour with a high-concept dinner in the historic surroundings.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your included flight to Istanbul airport where your expedition concludes. Reflect on the memories made—from the silent laboratories of Bodrum to the echoing halls of Ephesus — as you connect with your onward flight home. Carry with you a deeper understanding of the empires that shaped this land and the enduring warmth of the Turkish people you met along the way.



Meals included

Breakfast



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Plane

Cappadocia - Istanbul

1h15m-1h30m

675km

Leave the wind-sculpted landscapes of Cappadocia behind and fly back to Istanbul.

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- Signature Moment: Bodrum Museum Of Underwater Archaeology, Bodrum
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- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Descend into a 4th-century underground reservoir for a welcome feast among marble columns at a Byzantine cistern dinner, Enjoy a private dinner by the Library of Celsus at Ephesus, Join a museum historian for a private exploration of Turkey's ancient civilizations at the Anatolian Museum, Gain special access to research laboratories to learn the secrets of maritime history at the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology, Traverse the "alien" landscape of Cappadocia by jeep as the sun sets over the fairy chimneys

What are the main highlights of this trip?

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Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?

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.

What is the group leader like?

All National Geographic Signature group trips are accompanied by one of our National Geographic Expedition Leaders throughout. The aim of the Expedition Leaders 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. 22, Avg. 16

What meals are included in this trip?

9 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 8 dinners

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Private Vehicle, Walking, Jeep, Plane, Boat

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

Yes, for those travelling solo there is a single supplement.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotel (9 nights)

What are the joining instructions?

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

An arrival transfer is included when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through National Geographic Signature Journeys in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous.

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your Expedition Leader. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your Expedition Leader and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run.

If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details! If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your Expedition Leader will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

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, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you 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 Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

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 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. Included arrival transfers are provided from the nearest airport to your starting location. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. 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)

Emergency number: +441858378000

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: 1 800 394 5416

Calls from UK: 0800 041 8146

Calls from Germany: 0800 181 9454

Calls from Australia: 1 800 204 905

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 424 389

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

What information should I be aware of as the itinerary draws to a close?

Your tour will finish on arrival at Istanbul (IST) Airport. We recommend departure flights to be no earlier than 2pm.

If your departure flight is from Sabiha Gökçen (SAW) Airport, you will need to make your own way there from Istanbul (IST) Airport and recommend departure flights to be no earlier than 4pm.

What should be on my packing list?

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

What are 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](#)

For other nationalities, travelling in Europe has been simplified with the introduction of the Schengen visa. As a visitor to the Schengen area (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal, Finland, Italy, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland) you will enjoy the many advantages of this unified visa system. Generally speaking with a Schengen visa, you may enter one Schengen country and travel freely throughout the Schengen region during the validity of your visa. There are limited border controls at Schengen borders, if any at all.

Please note that the UK and Ireland are NOT part of the Schengen agreement.

A Schengen visa is applied for at the Embassy or Consulate of the Schengen country in which you will be spending the most nights on your trip to the Schengen space. If you are only visiting one country on your trip then you apply for your visa at the Consulate of this Schengen country.

As of 2025, various European countries are introducing ETIAS travel authorisation as an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals.

We highly recommend you checking in advance how your nationality and country/s you are visiting may be affected. Further details can be found [here](#)

Last updated: January 27th 2025

What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

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?

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances. Visa cards are the most widely accepted cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work. Check with your bank. You should be aware when purchasing products or services on a credit card, that a fee usually applies. Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of Euros and cards is best. Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates:
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!

Should I be tipping on my trip?

On our National Geographic Signature tours, tipping is included for all included activities and meals, and portage. Tipping is not included for the Expedition Leader. Should you want some basic guidelines on tipping for the activities you do on your own, please see below. At the end of each trip if you felt your National Geographic Signature Expedition Leader did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline would be \$10-\$15 per person per day.

In addition, please note that tipping is not required or expected for the Expedition Expert.

What activities are optional on this trip?

- No optional activities

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.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well 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 quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our Expedition Leaders if they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

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 group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Expedition Leader 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 and explore at your leisure. While your Expedition Leader 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 judgement 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. 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 Expedition Leaders 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. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

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 Expedition Leaders 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 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 leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. 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 can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

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.