

# 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

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 February 27th, 2026 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

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**

"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.

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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 Selçuk 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.

Hattuşa Visit

Cappadocia

2h-2h

Hattuşa 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



## ACCOMMODATION

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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.

## 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
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- Bodrum community enterprise village weaving workshop
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- Miletus Visit
- Orientation Walk of Kemeralti Old Bazaar İzmir
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- Ankara Guided Tour
- Visit to the Mausoleum of Atatürk, Ankara
- Private dinner at a Historic Mansion in the Ankara Castle District, Ankara
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- 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

## 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?

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

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

This compiled itinerary represents our thoughtfully designed plan, provided in good faith and correct at the time of publication. However, to ensure we deliver the most rewarding experience possible, our itineraries remain dynamic; we continuously refine our routes based on research, field insights, and guest feedback, meaning details may evolve between the release of our annual directory and your departure. Flexibility is a cornerstone of our travel philosophy, and while we intend to follow the path described, the nature of exploring unpredictable environments means alterations may occur, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife encounters cannot be guaranteed. We invite you to view these travel times and details as an approximate guide rather than a strict contract, and we kindly ask that you review a final copy of your Trip Details a few days prior to departure to ensure you have the most current information for your upcoming expedition.

## **What is the role of the group leader during this trip?**

Every National Geographic Signature departure is accompanied throughout by a dedicated National Geographic Expedition Leader, whose purpose is to ensure a seamless experience so you can fully immerse yourself in the destination. Your Expedition Leader offers deep insight into the landscapes you traverse, suggests enriching independent activities, recommends exceptional local dining venues, and connects you with our community friends along the way. Rather than acting as conventional guides, they possess a broad, sophisticated understanding of the historical, cultural, religious, and social tapestry of the region. To offer the ultimate perspective, we complement their expertise with specialist local guides whose deep regional knowledge adds profound depth to specific sites—delivering a masterfully balanced exploration.

## **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?

To review the specific details of your starting property, please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

A seamless arrival transfer is included for guests landing on the first day of the itinerary, or up to three days prior if your pre-trip accommodations were arranged directly through G Adventures at our starting property. To maintain the exceptional quality and continuity of your experience, all scheduled services must run consecutively.

Upon arriving at the starting property, where check-in begins typically by 3:00PM, please look for a dedicated notice from your National Geographic Expedition Leader at the reception desk. This message will outline the specific details for our evening welcome reception and meeting—typically held between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.—where you will gather with your Expedition Leader, Expedition Expert, and fellow travellers to look ahead at the days to come. Should you arrive later in the evening and miss this initial gathering, your Expedition Leader will leave a comprehensive briefing note for you at reception detailing the next morning's schedule.

Please note that the joining day of the itinerary can vary, please refer to your specific itinerary for further details.

## What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

While we anticipate a seamless arrival, your peace of mind is our utmost priority. Should any unforeseen circumstances prevent you from beginning your expedition as scheduled, please refer to the essential emergency contact details provided in your documentation and contact us as soon as possible.

Upon landing, if you do not connect with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend making your own way to the starting point property by following the Joining Instructions. Rest assured, you may submit a request to your travel professional upon your return to secure a refund for any transport costs incurred during this time.

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

Should you require urgent assistance during your travels, your first point of contact should be our local representative or regional office. If your call is not answered immediately, please leave a detailed message with your contact information so our team can return your call and assist you as quickly as possible. The numbers can be found below.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER

G Adventures Berlin office: +441858378000

In addition, a dedicated toll-free line is available for guests within North America, connecting you directly to our global operations team during regular business hours. For support outside of standard hours, an emergency mobile line is actively monitored day and night to ensure you are never out of reach. In the rare event that your call is not answered immediately, please leave a detailed message along with your contact information so our team can return your call and assist you as swiftly as possible.

Toll-free (North America only): 1-800-465-5600

From the United Kingdom: 0870 080 1756

International (Outside North America and the UK): +1 416 260 0999

Emergency Mobile: (416) 305-6139

Your included arrival transfer has been meticulously arranged based on the flight details you provided. If you experience a flight schedule change or cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival, please contact our emergency number immediately with your updated details. Prompt notification ensures we can adjust your transfer; otherwise, you will need to arrange your own transportation to the starting property. Upon arrival, if your transfer representative does not connect with you within 30 minutes of exiting the arrivals area, please take a local taxi directly to the starting property.

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

You will be met at your hotel property and transferred to the airport for your onward travels at the end of your expedition. Please refer to your individual itinerary for more details.

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.

## Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?

When deciding what to pack, considerations will vary based on your specific itinerary, the regions you are visiting, and the season in which you are travelling. Generally speaking, we recommend packing thoughtfully and keeping your luggage to one checked bag at a manageable weight to facilitate seamless transitions throughout your expedition.

In addition to your primary luggage, you will also require a small day pack or shoulder bag. This smaller bag is essential for keeping your camera, water, and personal items close at hand during day walks, excursions, and daily explorations.

# 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?

Securing the necessary visas and travel documentation is an essential step in preparing for your upcoming expedition, and remains the responsibility of each individual traveller. Entry requirements fluctuate depending on your nationality and destination; while we strive to provide the most current information, immigration regulations change frequently. We strongly advise verifying all entry protocols directly with the relevant embassy or consulate well in advance of your departure. Please also ensure your passport remains valid for at least six months beyond your scheduled departure date from the country.

For tailored details specific to your nationality and destination, please consult our dedicated pre-departure resource page at

[here](#).

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

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

While personal spending habits naturally vary, we recommend factoring in your individual preferences for shopping, tipping, and beverages to ensure a seamless experience. In addition to these day-to-day comforts, we kindly ask that you maintain access to a minimum of USD \$200 (or its equivalent) as a dedicated emergency fund; though exceptionally rare, unpredictable circumstances such as changing weather patterns or natural events may occasionally necessitate a shift from our planned route, and this reserve ensures we can navigate any path ahead with peace of mind.

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

To ensure a seamless and elevated experience throughout your National Geographic Signature departure, gratuities have been fully taken care of for all included meals, activities, and luggage portage.

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. Tipping is neither required nor expected for your National Geographic Expedition Expert.

For the independent moments on your itinerary, tipping is generally not expected across Central Asia. However, should you wish to reward exceptional service during independent dining or activities, a modest gratuity of 3-5% is entirely appropriate and warmly received by local community members.

## What activities are optional on this trip?

- No optional activities

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

Please note that health requirements and recommended inoculations vary by destination. To ensure your well-being, it is your responsibility to consult with a specialized travel physician for up-to-date medical guidance well before departure.

We highly recommend carrying a personal first aid kit, hand sanitizer, and any essential prescription medications. Because our itineraries frequently trace paths through remote regions far from advanced medical facilities, legal regulations prohibit our National Geographic Expedition Leaders from administering any medication, including standard over-the-counter pain relievers. While local pharmacies along our route may stock familiar remedies, they are often produced under regional names, so we advise bringing the generic chemical name of any critical prescription. Before finalising your plans, please carefully review the itinerary and physical requirements to ensure your personal fitness aligns with our style of exploration. To safeguard the well-being of the group, we reserve the right to excuse any traveller from all or part of an itinerary if, in the professional judgment of our Expedition Leader, continuing would pose an undue risk to themselves or their fellow travellers.

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

To ensure your well-being and security throughout our explorations, we recommend consulting your home government's regularly updated international travel advisories prior to departure. For peace of mind while on the move, we strongly advise using a concealed neck wallet or money belt to secure your passport, travel documentation, and currency. We suggest leaving exceptional jewelry at home, as it is unnecessary for our style of travel; instead, make use of the safety deposit boxes available at most of our accommodations. Securing your luggage with a reliable lock is also highly recommended.

When travelling on a departure, your National Geographic Expedition Leader maintains the authority to modify or adapt any portion of the itinerary should environmental conditions or safety considerations require it. Your Expedition Leader accompanies the group on all scheduled activities, but you will also enjoy unstructured time to pursue personal interests, relax, or discover locales at your leisure. While your leader is delighted to suggest local options for these independent periods, please note that these optional choices do not form part of our curated itinerary, and we make no representations regarding their operating standards; we encourage you to exercise your own discerning judgment.

While the destinations we visit are welcoming during the daytime, navigating urban environments at night requires mindfulness. We recommend exploring in small groups and utilizing local taxis when dining out or moving about after dark. Furthermore, should you encounter public demonstrations or political gatherings, please prioritize your safety by leaving the vicinity immediately rather than remaining for photographs, as these situations can evolve rapidly.

Water-based experiences carry inherent risks. To ensure your protection, we recommend participating in aquatic activities only when accompanied by professional guides. Our commitment to safety means that our Expedition Leaders are strictly prohibited from facilitating unguided water activities on your behalf. Please note that swimming and snorkelling are always undertaken at your own risk. For further insights on enhancing your personal safety during your voyage, please visit [www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/](http://www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/).

## What are the trip specific safety considerations?

For peace of mind while on the move, we strongly advise using a concealed neck wallet or money belt to secure your passport, travel documentation, and currency. We suggest leaving exceptional jewelry at home, as it is unnecessary for our style of travel; instead, make use of the safety deposit boxes available at most of our accommodations. Securing your luggage with a reliable lock is also highly recommended.

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

Our philosophy of travel is rooted in deep respect for the people, cultures, and lands we encounter. To ensure the safety of our travellers, staff, and the communities that welcome us, the possession or use of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited on all departures. While certain substances may be woven into local traditions in some regions, they are not permitted within our groups. Furthermore, any form of exploitation, including the solicitation of sex workers, directly contradicts our values. To protect the integrity of the experience and the well-being of the group, our National Geographic Expedition Leader retains the right to remove any traveller who violates these standards.

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Comprehensive travel insurance is a mandatory prerequisite for participation in all our departures. To safeguard your well-being, your National Geographic Expedition Leader will kindly request to verify your physical policy details before you may officially join your fellow travellers.

When choosing your coverage, please ensure your policy includes full medical protection, featuring a strict minimum requirement of \$200,000 USD for emergency rescue and medical repatriation. For complete peace of mind while exploring, we also strongly advise securing comprehensive coverage for personal liability, trip cancellation or curtailment, and the loss of luggage and personal belongings. If you intend to rely on insurance provided through your credit card, you must supply formal proof of purchase—such as a credit card statement or receipt in your name—along with explicit confirmation from your banking institution regarding the participating insurer, exact policy limits, and their dedicated 24-hour emergency contact 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?

Upon your return, we invite you to share your insights with us. Your valued feedback shapes the future of our itineraries and ensures we continue to deliver meaningful experiences. As a token of our appreciation for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% savings (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) toward your next expedition with us. Simply submit your evaluation within four weeks of completing your travels to unlock this benefit and join our global community of returning travellers.

\*This offer is valid for new bookings only, limited to one per person, and cannot be combined with other promotions or applied to independent itineraries. Maximum value of \$100 USD (or local currency equivalent). This program may be amended or withdrawn at any time.

## 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.