



Turkey: Iconic Istanbul, Aegean Coast to Cappadocia

11 days, Istanbul to Istanbul

Trip code ETII

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Foodie Moment: Echoes of Coexistence Dinner, Istanbul
- Your OMG Day: Karaova Valley or Bike Ride to Gumusluk, Bodrum
- Your Foodie Moment: Cooking Class at the Winery, Selçuk
- Your Foodie Moment: Farm to Table Lunch, Cappadocia
- Complimentary arrival transfer
- Topkapı Palace walking tour
- Private Bosphorus cruise
- Kadıköy street food lunch
- Intercontinental Traveler Certificate
- Hippodrome, Hagia Sophia, and Basilica Cistern walking tour
- Grand Bazaar exploration
- Ancient Heraklia lakeside visit
- Guided tour of Miletus
- Didyma Temple of Apollo tour
- Ephesus ancient city tour
- Selçuk community project experience
- Ankara city tour
- Göreme Open Air Museum and Derinkuyu Underground City tour
- Hidden valley jeep safari
- Zelve Open Air Museum and Kaymaklı Underground City tour
- Traditional ceramics workshop
- Synchronized Red River gondola flotilla ride
- Farewell cave dinner experience
- Tips for all included meals and activities, except for CEO and Porterage
- Departure transfer
- 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 June 2nd, 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 Turkey

As you arrive, settle into the warm embrace of Turkish hospitality. Take in the sights, smells and sounds of the city as you are whisked to your hotel before meeting your fellow travellers in the evening. We welcome you to Istanbul, and invite you to prepare for an experience of a lifetime across Turkey's most iconic regions, from imperial monuments and ancient civilizations to the otherworldly landscapes of Cappadocia.

Arrive into Istanbul where you will be transferred to your hotel. 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 and CEO later this afternoon. Afterwards, enjoy an orientation walk and optional dinner with your CEO.



Meals included

Dinner



Accommodation

Grand Sirkeci Hotel Istanbul (or similar)

Hotel



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

Istanbul: Topkapi and Bosphorus Cruise

Wander through the opulent courtyards of Topkapi Palace as your CEO brings history to life. Next, glide along the Bosphorus on a scenic boat cruise, taking in grand waterfront architecture. Dock on the vibrant Asian side for a local Foodie Moment in Kadıköy, sampling authentic street food. Finally, cap off your active day by walking across the iconic suspension bridge from Asia back to Europe.

Spend a day exploring Istanbul where rich imperial history blends with lively modern culture across two continents. Start in the morning on the European side, uncovering majestic Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman monuments. In the afternoon shift to sensory discoveries, wandering through historic, bustling markets and vibrant neighborhoods, before ending with panoramic waterfront views along the beautiful Bosphorus Strait.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Accommodation

Grand Sirkeci Hotel Istanbul (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.

Private Cruise & Kadıköy Street Food Adventure

Istanbul

4h-4h

Step aboard your own private boat for a stunning glide across the Bosphorus Strait—the famous waterway dividing Europe and Asia. Continue on to the Kadikoy to experience the vibrant, mouth-watering energy of Istanbul's ultimate foodie neighbourhood during an included street food lunch.

Walk Across Bosphorus Suspension Bridge

Istanbul

1h-1h

Watch the city skyline unfold as we cross the spectacular Bosphorus Suspension Bridge, taking you from the Asian continent back into Europe. Every guest will be awarded a personalised

"Intercontinental Traveler Certificate"—the perfect keepsake to remember the day you walked between continents.

Step out for an active morning walk through Istanbul's history, exploring the ancient Hippodrome, majestic St-Sophia, and the subterranean Basilica Cistern alongside your CEO. After a lunch on your own, dive into a deeper cultural immersion, navigating the vibrant, historic labyrinth of the Grand Bazaar. Return to recharge before tonight's exclusive Foodie Moment: the "Echoes of Coexistence" dinner. Hosted by a local chef, this evening is a storytelling culinary journey, savoring a mosaic of traditional Armenian, Greek, Jewish, and Turkish small plates.

Soak up Istanbul's icons today and feel like you are time-traveling through centuries of empires. The overwhelming grandeur of towering domes and echoing cisterns inspires profound awe, while the vibrant energy of bustling bazaars enlivens the senses. It is a breathtaking, whirlwind journey that leaves you deeply captivated and spiritually moved.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Accommodation

Grand Sirkeci Hotel Istanbul (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Istanbul Walking Tour

Istanbul

3h-4h

5km

Begin the day in Istanbul with a walking tour in the old city, including a visit to the historic Hippodrome and the Blue Mosque. Be awed by the Blue Mosque's symmetry and internal tile work, and take the chance to learn more about the ceremony behind Islam, as it is a working mosque. Continue to the Basilica Cistern and then pass in front of the magnificent Hagia Sophia (or Aya Sofya), one of the great churches of the Byzantine Empire which was converted into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest. There will be time for an optional visit to the Hagia Sofia before continuing on to lunch.

Grand Bazaar Visit

Istanbul

1h

Walk through the Grand Bazaar, the area locals come to do their shopping, and down to Golden Horn. Enjoy a coffee break at Buyuk Valide Han while admiring the view of Bhosporus. Visit Rustempasa Mosque.

ACTIVITY

Join renowned Chef Elif Edes for an exclusive "Echoes of Coexistence" dinner, an intimate culinary journey through Istanbul's multicultural history. This immersive storytelling experience invites you to savor a rich mosaic of traditional Armenian, Greek, Jewish, and Turkish mezzes. Each expertly crafted dish showcases centuries of shared flavors, vibrant spices, and coastal olive oils. As you dine, Chef Elif shares the fascinating stories behind the recipes, transforming a spectacular meal into an unforgettable celebration of community. It is the ultimate feast for curious culture lovers.

Day 4

Bodrum: Heraklia and Aegean Seaside

Your journey takes flight this morning as you leave Istanbul behind and head to the sun-drenched coast of Bodrum. En route to your boutique seaside retreat in Yalıkavak, stop to stretch your legs among the ancient ruins of Heraklia, a captivating historical site nestled right along the shores of serene Lake Bafa. After settling into your coastal hotel, immerse your senses in local life with an unhurried stroll through the colorful stalls of a vibrant Aegean market. Conclude this beautiful day of discovery with a deliciously authentic culinary moment, savoring traditional, savory meatballs at a neighborhood eatery tucked just minutes from your accommodations.

Flying from bustling Istanbul, descend from the clouds to the sun-drenched Aegean shores, pausing where forgotten ancient ruins slumber beside tranquil, mirror-like lake waters. Settle into your breezy seaside sanctuary, then wander through the vibrant colors of a bustling local bazaar. Conclude your gentle arrival with a deeply comforting, authentic neighborhood feast.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Accommodation

Arts Hotel Bodrum (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Plane

Istanbul - Bodrum

1h-1h

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

Visit to Ancient Heraklia

Yalıkavak

1h-1h

Discover the captivating ruins of Ancient Heraklia, a hidden historical gem peacefully nestled along the shores of Lake Bafa. Shadowed by the dramatic granite peaks of the Latmos Mountains, this off-the-beaten-path site seamlessly intertwines with the tranquil Turkish village of Kapıkırı. Wander through silver olive groves where classical marble columns and ancient council chambers sit casually in local back gardens. Explore the spectacular Temple of Athena overlooking the water, marvel at exceptionally preserved Hellenistic city walls, and experience a raw, authentic slice of the Aegean where nature and ancient history unite.

Lunch in Yalıkavak Market

Yalıkavak

1h30m-2h

A visit to Yalıkavak's market offers a wonderful snapshot of coastal Turkish life. The lively covered bazaar features a colorful bounty of the Aegean harvest, from wild mountain herbs and regional olives to handwoven linens and artisan crafts. The definitive finale to your afternoon stroll is a classic, local lunch nearby. Pull up a bench to enjoy hand-pressed Aegean meatballs (köfte) sizzling straight off a charcoal grill, served with fire-roasted vegetables, traditional bean salad, and a refreshing glass of ayran.

Today is all about you. Opt for an easy E-Bike ride exploring local history and coastal scenery, or immerse yourself in rural traditions with a Karaova village and wine tasting experience—both including a delicious local lunch. Spend a relaxing afternoon at leisure back at your hotel. In the evening, stroll down to an unforgettable seaside dinner right on the water. Savor fresh Aegean seafood and mezes while watching a stunning sunset over the neighboring Greek island of Kos.

Awaken to a sun-drenched Bodrum morning, choosing between a scenic coastal e-bike journey through history or an immersive, wine-kissed escape into Karaova's rural heritage. After a tranquil afternoon at leisure, wander to the shoreline for an enchanting seaside feast, savoring Aegean delicacies as the sun dips behind distant Kos.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Accommodation

Arts Hotel Bodrum (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Option 1: Depart Bodrum for a serene Karaova Valley journey. Discover Garova Vineyards' natural winemaking, explore a local village market, observe traditional carpet root dyeing, and enjoy a farm-to-table wine-pairing lunch.

Option 2: Bike from Bodrum to bohemian Gümüşlük, pedaling past windmills and olive groves. Explore ancient Myndos ruins by wading to Rabbit Island, and conclude with a waterside Aegean seafood lunch.

Step into the ancient world today, departing Bodrum to wander through the monumental ruins and historic theater of ancient Miletus. Explore the awe-inspiring Temple of Apollo at Didyma before a relaxed lunch. In the afternoon, watch coastal scenery give way to rolling hills as you travel to Selçuk and check into the peaceful Vinifera Winery estate for a delicious, locally inspired dinner.

Leave behind the sparkling Aegean to journey through time, marveling at Miletus' ancient grandeur and the towering Temple of Apollo at Didyma. As afternoon shadows lengthen, retreat to Selçuk's serene, vine-draped countryside. Settle into your tranquil winery estate, concluding the day with a locally inspired dinner amidst the vineyards.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Accommodation

Vinifera Vineyards Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Staying at the Vinifera winery estate offers a peaceful countryside escape combining boutique vineyard living with rich historical charm. The estate's classical stone architecture beautifully reflect the ancient heritage of the Selçuk region. Guests can enjoy estate-grown wine tastings and fine dining.



Today's Activities

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.

Private Vehicle

Bodrum – Selçuk

3h-3h

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

Selçuk: Ephesus and Efesium Community

Dawn unveils the majestic whispers of ancient Ephesus, transitioning into heartfelt cultural exchanges with Selçuk's local guardians. After a tranquil afternoon cradled by Vinifera's timeless olive groves, share ancestral kitchen secrets with the estate owner. Night falls on an elegant garden feast, beautifully serenaded beneath the glowing, immortal ruins.

Uncover the wonders of antiquity during a morning exploration of the Ephesus archaeological site, followed by a meaningful connection with local heritage at the Selçuk community project. After a midday break for lunch on your own, unwind amidst the peaceful olive groves at Vinifera. Later, join the estate's proprietor for an interactive, hands-on culinary workshop. Your day culminates with an elegant outdoor feast showcasing your own creations, accompanied by live acoustic melodies and captivating views of the ancient ruins glowing after dark.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Accommodation

Vinifera Vineyards Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Staying at the Vinifera winery estate offers a peaceful countryside escape combining boutique vineyard living with rich historical charm. The estate's classical stone architecture beautifully reflect the ancient heritage of the Selçuk region. Guests can enjoy estate-grown wine tastings and fine dining.



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Selçuk

2h-2h

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

Ephesus Visit

Selçuk

2h-3h

Tour the ruins of ancient Ephesus to get a feeling of what life must have been like during Roman times. Take in its massive, well-preserved theatre, which dominates the view down Harbour Street. See the two-story library, whose façade has been carefully reconstructed from all original pieces. Built in AD 125, it once held nearly 12,000 scrolls.

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

Tonight, immerse yourself in Aegean culture during an exclusive cooking class with the owners of your winery hotel. You will learn to prepare traditional regional dishes using fresh, estate-grown ingredients and local olive oil. Afterward, enjoy the glamorous dinner you helped prepare, served in the olive garden. Two musicians will stroll around the tables, serenading guests as they face the beautifully illuminated ancient city of Ephesus in the distance. It is an unforgettable evening pairing exquisite local wine and heritage.

Cappadocia: Ankara and Volcanic Valleys

Watch the landscapes transform today as you catch a quick domestic flight to Ankara . Upon arrival, dive straight into the heart of the capital city with an orientation walk that brings its vibrant streets to life, pausing to savour a delicious lunch of regional specialties. In the afternoon, watch the horizon unfold from your window during a scenic drive through the changing Anatolian countryside, heading toward the surreal, fairy-tale landscapes of Cappadocia. After settling into your cave-style accommodations, the evening is yours to unwind, soak in the magical atmosphere, and discover a cozy local spot for dinner on your own.

Fly to Ankara, where the echoes of ancient empires resonate through the grand capital. From there, journey across the rugged, sun-drenched Anatolian steppes as they give way to the mystical realm of Cappadocia. Wind-sculpted volcanic valleys rise like stone waves, welcoming you to a peaceful sanctuary wrapped in twilight wonder.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Plane

Izmir - 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 Ataturk'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.

Private Vehicle

Ankara - Cappadocia

3h-4h

290km

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

Cappadocia: Subterranean Mysteries and Jeep Safari

Begin your day marveling at the historic rock-cut churches of the Göreme Open Air Museum and exploring the fascinating depths of the Derinkuyu Underground City. Afterward, connect with local traditions during a hands-on farm experience, followed by a delicious, authentic farm lunch. Your afternoon features an exhilarating jeep safari through Cappadocia's hidden valleys, culminating in a scenic sunset picnic. Finally, enjoy a relaxing free evening to explore the magical local area at your own pace.

Dawn illuminates Göreme's historic rock churches before you delve into Derinkuyu's subterranean mysteries. Next, ancestral farming traditions come alive over an authentic, earth-to-table lunch. As afternoon fades, an exhilarating valley safari sweeps you toward a breathtaking sunset picnic, leaving the starlit evening free for your own enchanted wanderings.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Experience rural Cappadocia on a traditional valley farm in Göreme. Discover how volcanic ash nurtures regional crops, then participate in daily chores like gathering organic eggs or harvesting fresh produce. Finally, conclude your interactive morning with an authentic outdoor lunch featuring savory seasonal Anatolian stews and fresh traditional local flatbreads.

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.

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.

Dawn reveals ancient cave dwellings and subterranean mysteries before clay transforms beneath your hands in a traditional workshop. Later, glide along the Red River within a majestic water flotilla as the sun dips low, culminating your timeless journey with an intimate, earth-born farewell feast deep inside a candlelit cave.

Begin your morning exploring the historic cave dwellings of Zelve Open Air Museum and the fascinating subterranean tunnels of Kaymaklı Underground City. Following lunch on your own, participate in a traditional ceramics workshop. Later, enjoy a visually stunning gondola ride along the Red River as part of a private flotilla. Conclude your memorable journey with an exclusive "From the Land to the Table" cave dinner farewell experience.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Kaymakli Underground City

Kaymaklı

1h30m

Visit the ancient and expansive subterranean complex of the Kaymakli Underground City. Thought to have been built between the 8th and 7th Century BC, Kaymakli was carved out of the rock and consists of nearly a hundred tunnels with vast amounts of storerooms, ventilation shafts and a church.

Zelve Open Air Museum

Cappadocia

1h30m-1h30m

Explore the historic cave city of Zelve Open Air Museum. Wander through three rugged valleys to discover one of Cappadocia's largest ancient troglodyte communities. This striking site showcases a multi-layered history of cultural coexistence, featuring incredible rock-cut homes, churches, and a mosque carved directly into the cliffsides.

Gondola Ride on the Red River

Cappadocia

1h30m-2h

Experience a serene gondola cruise along Cappadocia's Red River in Avanos. These boats offer a picturesque glide past willow-lined banks. The journey takes place on Turkey's longest internal river. The calm, slow-moving currents are lined with green riverbanks, weeping willows, and local waterfowl, offering a peaceful, low-tempo break from active hiking. This peaceful journey provides a relaxing contrast to the rocky valleys, deeply connecting you to the region's ancient pottery-making heritage.

Pottery Center Visit

Göreme

1h-2h

Learn more about the famous local art of pottery making and take advantage of the opportunity to create your own masterpiece.

Day 11

Cappadocia to Istanbul

Today your adventure comes to an end, but the memories made during your time in Turkey will live on.

As the morning sun casts its final golden glow over the fairy chimneys of Cappadocia, you board your flight to Istanbul full of delightful memories. The timeless spirit of Turkey remains forever woven into your soul.



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 CEO and Group
- Your Foodie Moment: Echoes of Coexistence Dinner, Istanbul
- Your OMG Day: Karaova Valley or Bike Ride to Gumusluk, Bodrum
- Your Foodie Moment: Cooking Class at the Winery, Selçuk
- Your Foodie Moment: Farm to Table Lunch, Cappadocia
- Complimentary arrival transfer
- Topkapı Palace walking tour

- Private Bosphorus cruise
- Kadıköy street food lunch
- Intercontinental Traveler Certificate
- Hippodrome, Hagia Sophia, and Basilica Cistern walking tour
- Grand Bazaar exploration
- Ancient Heraklia lakeside visit
- Guided tour of Miletus
- Didyma Temple of Apollo tour
- Ephesus ancient city tour
- Selçuk community project experience
- Ankara city tour
- Göreme Open Air Museum and Derinkuyu Underground City tour
- Hidden valley jeep safari
- Zelve Open Air Museum and Kaymaklı Underground City tour
- Traditional ceramics workshop
- Synchronized Red River gondola flotilla ride
- Farewell cave dinner experience
- Tips for all included meals and activities, except for CEO and Portage
- Departure transfer
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Discover Istanbul Iconic Sights, Enjoy a Private Bosphorus Cruise, Kadıköy local street food scene, Stop at Heraklia and visit the Aegean market in Bodrum, Choice of activities in Bodrum, Ankara panoramic tour, Ancient Ephesus guided tour, Tours of Göreme Open Air Museum & Derinkuyu Underground City, Gondola Ride on the Red river, Farewell dinner at a cave restaurant

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Discover Istanbul Iconic Sights, Enjoy a Private Bosphorus Cruise, Kadıköy local street food scene, Stop at Heraklia and visit the Aegean market in Bodrum, Choice of activities in Bodrum, Ankara panoramic tour, Ancient Ephesus guided tour, Tours of Göreme Open Air Museum & Derinkuyu Underground City, Gondola Ride on the Red river, Farewell dinner at a cave restaurant

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

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 view a final copy of your Trip Details a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

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 important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

ACCOMMODATION NOTE:

Please be aware that properties we stay in with only two stories may not have elevators installed and climbing the stairs with your luggage will be necessary.

RAMADAN

According to the lunar cycle, Ramadan will fall between Mar 11th - Apr 8th 2024, and Mar 1st - Mar 29th 2025. Please note that Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world, during which time the followers of Islam should not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. There may be some limitations to services and disruptions to schedules during Ramadan, but generally our tours still operate effectively during this period and food is available to non-Muslims throughout the day. It is very important to display increased cultural sensitivity during Ramadan. Please wear loose fitting clothes, that cover knees and shoulders, and try to avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public out of respect for those who can't at that time.

EXTRAS

Looking to add to your experience? Check out our Extras! Specially designed for travellers with unique interests, Extras are optional add-ons to your G adventures trip that make your adventure more you-centric. Extras must be booked prior to departure, please see details in our optional activities field and ask your sales GCO or travel agent about booking.

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

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders, otherwise known as a Chief Experience Officer (CEO). The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects.

We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

What is the maximum and typical number of participants on this tour?

Max 16, avg 12

What meals are included in this trip?

10 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 6 dinners

What are the meals like on this trip?

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

Breakfast

Turkish breakfasts are very different from your usual cereal and toast morning fare - when was the last time you had olives for breakfast? They pretty much universally consist of large slices of fresh "french style" white bread accompanied by slices of tomato, cucumber, white and yellow cheeses, olives, jam and honey. This is accompanied by tea (which a Turk would always choose!) or coffee (which is pretty much always instant coffee) You will of course want to sample the famous Turkish coffee, but it is usually taken after a big lunch or dinner, or in the late afternoon with a pastry. While we think these breakfasts are absolutely delicious, some travellers do find them a bit repetitive and enjoy buying market fruit the day before and eating this for breakfast.

Lunches

Will usually be simple and on the run. They are a great chance to try Turkey's delicious and healthy array of "fast foods". This may include, "gozleme", a type of Turkish savory crepe, "chorba", delicious lentil soup, and of course doner kebabs in both beef and chicken varieties. You won't want to miss the chance to try "pide", Turkish pizza, and lahmacun - thin crust pizza you fold greenery into. You may also find "kumpir", Turkish stuffed potatoes.

Dinner

Most Turks start their dinners with a couple of mezes - small taster dishes such as grilled octopus, aubergine salad, and many more. You could also choose a soup made of fresh local ingredients. Main courses tend to be based around fresh seafood if you are near the coast (expect to pay around 500 - 600 lira for a whole fish) or the ubiquitous kebab - skewers of charcoaled meat which comes on bread with salad. There are plenty of variations of the kebab; many regions have their own speciality so be sure to ask your leader.

Desserts

Yum - it's all about the sugar. Baklava (about 65 TL a piece for the good stuff) is something of a national obsession and it is believed the best comes from the East. There are endless varieties of pastries and milk-based deserts available and you are sure to spend at least some time in a Turkish bakery taste testing.

Snacks

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

Drinks

Tea, served in small tulip glasses, is the number one beverage of choice in Turkey. It is freshly brewed and a tea bag is a rare thing. Turkish coffee is wonderful thing to try. The national beer is named Efes and is very good (usually 160 - 170 TL a bottle). Wine is made in Turkey and is getting better every year. Expect to pay around 250 - 300 liras for a glass in a restaurant. Water is approximately 35 TL for a 1.5 litre bottle, soft drinks and juices are around 70 - 80 TL.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Private vehicle, ferry, gondola, jeep, plane, walking.

Are local flights included in the cost of the trip?

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

This tour includes internal flights. Please note domestic flights in Turkey have the following carriage allowance:

Check-in: 15 kg (33 lbs)

Carry-on: 8 kg (17.5 lbs)

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels (8 nts), Winery (2 nts).

If I choose to purchase My Own Room, are there any exceptions during the trip?

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

What should I expect from the accommodations on this trip?

On this trip you can expect to stay in small family-run hotels or pensions (with the exception of the start and finish hotels, which are often larger city hotels), which will vary a little in standard and facilities: some may not have elevators, air-conditioning or English-speaking staff, but most importantly all are locally-run, with some traditional character, and in excellent central locations to give you maximum time for exploring the sights. You can expect to find clean, safe, simple accommodation in convenient locations.

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 G Adventures in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous.

Our driver will be waiting for you with a G Adventures sign, and they will be waiting for you outside the luggage hall. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

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 CEO. 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 CEO 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 CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

What should I do if I can't find my airport transfer or experience arrival issues?

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 do I contact for arrival issues or in the event of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

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

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change 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: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

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

What should I pack for this trip?

Conservative Dress:

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- 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, band-aids/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

Health & Safety:

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

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

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](#)

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?

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

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

Cash is recommended for times when ATMs are not accessible. Euros, British Pounds and US Dollars are all easy to exchange to the Local currency. Please note that you should bring some cash with you for emergency situations but carrying only cash is a high safety risk. ATM card/s and some cash is the ideal mix.

If you are bringing US Dollars, please make sure that the notes are new and in good condition. Notes older than 1996, or with any tears or blemishes may not be accepted. Be fussy with your bank when buying cash!

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

What emergency funds do I need access to on this trip?

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

Do I need to pay a departure tax?

Normally included in departure flight tickets.

What are the tipping guidelines for this trip?

It is customary in Turkey to leave a small tip for service providers, such as waiters, if you are pleased with the service (%10 of your bill). Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping drivers would range from €15-20 per week depending on the quality of the service.

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO (in Turkey as they are also the tour guides for any ancient sites visited) or skipper did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline €6-8 per person, per day can be used.

What activities are optional on this trip?

- No optional activities

Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

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

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.

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

What general safety tips and free-time guidelines should I follow?

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 Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good 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 CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

What are the mandatory group rules regarding laws and behaviour?

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

What are the mandatory travel insurance requirements for this 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 should I dress to respect local customs during the tour?

While visiting mosques and other religious monuments you should dress modestly, cover your shoulders and you shouldn't wear short shorts or skirts. Outside of capital cities and the more touristic centres, local dress is often more conservative and as a matter of respect we ask that both men and women are aware of this and recommend loose-fitting clothes with your shoulders covered. Ask your CEO for more specific advice.

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.

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

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

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

What are the age restrictions for this trip?

Minimum age of 18 years for this trip.

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.