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Turkey Uncovered

14 days, Istanbul to Istanbul

Trip code ETIJ

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Gallipoli battlefields entrance and guided visit

- Troy entrance and guided visit
- Ephesus entrance and visit
- Ancient Hierapolis and Pamukkale entrance and guided walk
- Internal flight
- 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 25th, 2025 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

Arrive at any time. Arrival transfer is included.



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.

Day 2

Istanbul

Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before walking to Topkapi Palace. Built between 1460 and 1478, Topkapi Palace is one of the world's largest surviving palaces and served as the home of the Ottoman Sultans for almost 4 centuries. A unique mix of Islamic, European and Ottoman architecture, the palace contains over 400 rooms, including opulent pavilions, a jewel-filled treasury and a sprawling harem. In the afternoon, opt for a visit to the Archaeological Museum or the Basilica Cistern on your own. Then, set out on a guided visit of the Old City, the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and the Hippodrome, an arena used for chariot racing throughout the Byzantine period. In the evening, enjoy dinner at your leisure.



Meals included

Breakfast



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.

Istanbul Guided 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, the Blue Mosque, and the magnificent Hagia Sophia (or Aya Sofya). When you step inside, you'll see why the Hagia Sophia is one of the great churches of the Byzantine Empire; it was converted into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest. 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.

Day 3

Istanbul/Gallipoli Peninsula

In the morning, transfer from Istanbul to Gallipoli, where you'll visit the WWI site of the Battle of Gallipoli and learn the somber story behind its war monuments. After lunch in town, travel to Anzac Cove and join your Chief Experience Officer at Lone Pine Memorial, which commemorates the 4,932 Australian and New Zealand servicemen who died in the Anzac area. Stop at the Dardanelles—a narrow 60-mile-long (97 km) strip of water dividing Europe from Asia—and admire a location that has been of great strategic significance for centuries. End the day in Çanakkale, a busy harbor town with a thriving student population. Enjoy dinner, then perhaps take an evening stroll along the lovely waterfront.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Gallipoli Peninsula - Çanakkale

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

Private Vehicle

Istanbul - Gallipoli Peninsula

4h

260km

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

Gallipoli Battlefields Guided Tour

Gallipoli Peninsula

2h30m-3h

Visit this moving and beautiful site, a great complement to any trip to Turkey, even for those not familiar with the Battle of Gallipoli. Tour the grounds to see ANZAC Cove, the war cemeteries, and Lone Pine. Learn how the Turks fought off the numerically superior, but badly commanded, Allied forces who were forced to withdraw nine months later; this battle holds special significance for Australians and New Zealanders, as both nations lost many soldiers.

Following breakfast, head out for a visit to the city of Troy with your Chief Experience Officer. With its 4,000 years of history, Troy is one of the most renowned archaeological sites in the world. Upon its discovery in the mid-19th century, the site became culturally important due to its profound influence on literary works and the arts for more than 2 millennia. After the tour, attend a Trojan War and Mythology talk with the author of the book, Troja, where you'll learn about the Trojan War and how legend has been woven into history's understanding of this event. Next, travel from Troy to Bergama—a renowned town in Hellenic and Roman times, known for its great library—and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Afterwards, visit the Pergamon Acropolis with your Chief Experience Officer for a tour of its monumental temples, theatres, porticoes, gymnasium and library. In the evening, arrive in Selçuk, where dinner will be at your leisure.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Çanakkale - Troy

45m

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

Pergamon Museum

Bergama

1h-1h15m

Visit the acropolis of Pergamon, once the capital of the Hellenistic Attalid dynasty, a major centre of learning in the ancient world. See ancient monumental temples, theatres, and a library set into the sloping terrain.

Private Vehicle

Bergama - Selçuk

2h30m

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

Private Vehicle

Troy - Bergama

3h

190km

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

Trojan War and Mythology Talk

Çanakkale - Troy

1h

Trojan War and Mythology talk

On the way to visiting Troy, the author of the book Troja will be getting into the depths of the Trojan war and legend. He will be explaining the reasons of the war, what happened during the war, how it finished and the effects of it on the civilisations. Also the relation of it with the Greek Mythology. Then answer the questions raised by travelers in a quick Q&A session before arriving to the archaeological site.

Troy Visit

Troy

1h-2h

1km

See historic Troy, made famous by Homer's "Iliad," (and more recently by Orlando Bloom and Brad Pitt). Tour the city that, for centuries, was regarded as just a myth, until its ruins were found in in the mid-19th century. Imagine what a great city this must have been, while taking a tour of the remains. Don't miss the chance to have a photo taken with the Trojan horse.

Begin your morning with a tour of the ruins of Ephesus, an ancient Greek city on the coast of Ionia. The city was famous for its Temple of Artemis, which was completed around 550 BC and named one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The Temple was destroyed in AD 268 in a raid by the Goths. Within the temple's ruins, you'll visit the Terrace Houses, the museum, the Monastery of St. John and the library, which was built in AD 124 and once held nearly 12,000 scrolls. From Ephesus travel to Şirince, where you will participate in a cooking class to learn about and savor traditional Aegean cuisine, prepared with fresh, seasonal ingredients from a local market. After your class, dine on your delicious creations for lunch. In the afternoon, spend time exploring Şirince. Walk through the peaceful streets, enjoy the green scenery of the olive and grape farms in the distance, and have a cup of Turkish tea at a local coffee house. Travel back to Selçuk for dinner on your own and an evening to explore this historical town at your leisure.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

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.

Ephesus Museum Visit

Selçuk

1h

This museum houses an impressive collection of artifacts discovered in the excavation of the ancient Greek city of Ephesus.

Free Time

Selçuk

Enjoy free time in Selçuk to walk through the quaint streets and visit some of the sites on your own.

Cooking Class Şirince

Sirince

2h

Aegean cuisine is the shared Turkish and Greek culture of the region's past. The climate is suitable for growing a wide range of vegetables and contains an abundance of olive trees for olive-oil production.

During your visit to Şirince the group will join a cooking class and learn all about the traditional dishes in the region. Prepare a range of village-style vegetable dishes using seasonal fresh ingredients from the local market. Begin the class with a walking tour of the market where your guide will provide plenty of tips for picking the best, local, seasonal products. Then, return to the open garden kitchen where you will learn how to cook Aegean dishes with your fresh produce. Toast your new knowledge over lunch and try your delicious dishes.

Day 6

Selçuk/Pamukkale

This morning after breakfast, leave Selçuk and travel to Laodikeia for a Chief Experience Officer-led visit of this landmark. Within the settlement lies the church of Laodicea, which is the last of the 7 churches of Asia Minor that St. John addresses in the Bible. Wander the ruins before continuing on to Pamukkale for lunch in the village. Then, set out on a guided walk of Pamukkale and the ancient city of Hierapolis, which was founded by one of Alexander the Great's generals for the purpose of using the mineral hot springs in the area. View the unreal landscape of mineral forests, petrified waterfalls and a series of terraced basins known as Pamukkale (Cotton Palace). Learn about these striking natural formations and the development of a complex system of canals, which brings the thermal water to nearby villages and fields. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at your leisure and opt for a mineral bath in Pamukkale.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Free Time

Pamukkale

Enjoy the remainder of your day here on your own with free time to take a mineral bath or to keep wandering around Pamukkale.

Private Vehicle

Selçuk - Pamukkale

4h

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

Hierapolis and Pamukkale Visit

Pamukkale

2h-3h

Tour the white cliffs of Pamukkale to learn about this World Heritage-listed site and natural wonder. Made up of 17 hot water springs, the cliffs are formed when the calcium carbonate hardens with time. Explore the ancient site of Hierapolis built on top of the white "castle." See the large, ancient baths within the city (thought to be evidence that the hot springs of Pamukkale were used as a spa since second century BC).

Laodicea Visit

Laodikeia

2h

Visit Laodikeia with your Expedition Leader. A place that is one of the important archaeological remains for the region, possessing biblical importance as one of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor that St. John addresses in the Bible.

Day 7

Pamukkale/Antalya

After breakfast, leave Pamukkale and transfer to Termessos for a Chief Experience Officer-led visit of this ancient city that was founded by the Solims who lived in the Psidia Region. Termessos sits over 3,280 ft (1,000 m) above sea level and is known as the Eagle's Nest. Visit the amphitheater and take in the stunning panoramic views of the Pamphylia region and Taurus Mountains as you enjoy a picnic. Arrive at Antalya, a lovely seaside town, in the late afternoon and wander the charming hillside streets on a walk with your Chief Experience Officer.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Antalya Orientation Walk

Antalya

Enjoy an orientation walk around Antalya to get your bearings and see more of the city.

Termessos Visit

Termessos

2h30m

Take in the splendour of the ancient city of Thermessos. Found by the Solims who lived in the Psidia Region and born from the legend of Bellerophon. This mountaintop city is one of the best preserved sites in Turkey. It sits over 1,000 metres above sea level and the amphitheatre has stunning panoramic views of the Pamphylia region and the Taurus Mountains.

Private Vehicle

Pamukkale - Antalya

4h30m

257km

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

Day 8

Antalya

Enjoy a full day on your own to partake in the optional activities offered in the area. Choose to visit Ancient Perge or the Archaeological Museum in Antalya to learn more about the ancient architecture of the area or explore the Old Harbor along the marina. You may also go for a refreshing swim in the aquamarine waters at Lara Beach.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Free Time

Antalya

Take advantage of a full free day to enjoy the optional activities available in Antalya.



Optional Activities - Day 8

Antalya Park Visit

Antalya

Sit back, relax, and soak up some sun and great people watching in one of Antalya's lovely parks. Bring a picnic, and make it an afternoon!

Antalya Archaeological Museum Visit

Antalya

15EUR

1h-2h

Take in some culture at the Antalya Museum, home to 13 exhibition galleries. See a wide range of exhibits, including great reconstructions of life under the Ottoman Empire.

Travel from the coast of Antalya inland to Konya, stopping along the way to visit the ancient city of Aspendos in Southern Turkey. Ruled by Greeks, Persians and Romans, Aspendos was once an important trade center. Today, a number of ancient structures survive, including the basilica and the Aspendos Theatre, considered to be the best preserved ancient theatre in the world. From here, travel onwards to the town of Beysehir for lunch and a visit to the 13th-century Esrefoglu Mosque. Arrive in Konya in the late afternoon and go to the Mevlana Museum and Garden. Once a lodge, the museum now houses a mausoleum known as “Mevlânâ Tomb,” the resting place of 13th-century Persian poet, Islamic theologian and Sufi mystic Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī (or Mevlânâ). The remainder of the evening is yours to explore the area.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Aspendos Visit

1h30m

Your CEO will lead the group on a visit to Aspendo Theater, a monument among the biggest of its kind. The theater's capacity was between 7,300 and 7,600 people. Both the archaeological remains and historical sources confirm that Aspendos was standing by the 5th century BC with the arrival of the Persians to Pamphylia. The site continued to retain importance until Alexander's control of Asia Minor.

Eşrefoğlu Mosque Visit

Beyşehir

Eşrefoğlu Mosque was built in the 13th century and named after the rulers of the area called Eshrefids. It includes all the main elements of early Anatolian Turkish architecture and is the biggest, most well-preserved, wooden-columned mosque in the Islamic World.

Private Vehicle

Antalya – Konya

4h

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

Mevlana Museum and Garden Visit

Konya

1h

Mevlana Museum and Garden has been operating since 1926 in Konya. Enjoy a visit here with your group and learn about the complex's history in this area of the world.

In the morning, visit the Sultanhan Caravanserai. Built in 1229, it was once an important stopover along the Silk Road. From there, you'll travel to Derinkuyu where you'll have lunch on your own, then explore the Underground City of Derinkuyu—famously used as hiding places for Christians escaping the persecution of the Roman Empire between the 5th and 10th centuries. As you walk around, see the new life people created in this underground world, including cellars, rooms for food storage, kitchens, churches, stables, wine presses and shafts for ventilation. Upon arrival in Cappadocia, you'll see a Whirling Dervish performance. Originally practiced as a weekly remembrance of God by the Mevlevi tekke community, this outstanding example of pure dance has been practiced since the 13th century and is part of a Muslim ceremony to glorify God and seek spiritual perfection. It is also believed that while revolving from right to left, the dervish embraces all humanity with love. After the performance, dinner will be at your leisure.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Sultanhan Caravanserai

45m

Visit the largest and best preserved Seljuk caravanserai in Turkey. It was built in 1229 and became a very important stopover along the Silk Road crossing through Anatolia. The caravanserai lost its importance during the Ottoman era, but its more recent restorations have opened it to visitors and created a resurgence of interest in the structure.

Underground City Visit

Derinkuyu

1h-2h

1km

Visit one of the underground cities (there are approximately 30 in the region) that were famously used as hiding places for Christians escaping the persecution of the Roman Empire between the fifth and tenth centuries. See how people transferred their surface lives to this underground world – there are cellars, rooms for food storage, kitchens, churches, stables, wine and oil presses, and shafts for ventilation.

Private Vehicle

Konya - Cappadocia

3h

233km

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

Whirling Dervishes Performance

Cappadocia

Witness this spellbinding dance-like worship, practiced by followers of the Mevlevilik Sufi order and clap along to the beat of dance, steps, and merriment.

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before visiting the Göreme Open-Air Museum on a Chief Experience Officer-led tour of these vibrant painted cave churches, which were carved out by Orthodox monks nearly 1,000 years ago. From here set out on a hike through the UNESCO World Heritage Site-listed “fairy chimneys”—a surreal moonscape created by a series of volcanic eruptions. Over the years, wind and rain sculpted the area into thin valleys, curvy cliff faces and pointy rock formations. The Cappadocians chiseled homes into the soft rock. In the afternoon, enjoy time on your own to visit the Turkish Baths, to see Uchisar Castle or to further explore the main streets of town. Dinner this evening will be enjoyed with a local family around their table in Zelve Village. Try dishes made with local ingredients like eggplant and minced meat as you share stories with the host family.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Cappadocia Hiking

Cappadocia

1h

4km

Lace up those hiking boots and wander through the fairy chimneys with your CEO as you begin the walk down to Goreme Valley. This surreal moonscape was created by a series of volcanic eruptions and over the years, wind and rain have sculpted the area into thin valleys with curvy cliff faces and pointy rock formations.

Free Time

Cappadocia

Free time to settle in and enjoy the optional activities available in Cappadocia.

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.

Day 12

Cappadocia/Istanbul

Start the day by flying to Istanbul, where you'll spend time on your own getting to know this amazing city. You may opt to visit Dolamabahçe Palace, Galata Tower, the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts or the Basilica Cistern. In the evening, set out on a cruise along the Bosphorus Strait, where you'll enjoy stunning views of the Ottoman palaces and the city skyline.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Free Time

Istanbul

Set off for free time in Istanbul. You may opt to visit Dolamabahçe Palace, Galata Tower, the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts or the Basilica Cistern.

Private Evening Bosphorus Strait Cruise

Istanbul

2h

Set out on a private evening cruise on the Bosphorus Strait. Enjoy stunning views of Ottoman palaces and the city's skyline while on board.

Plane

Cappadocia - Istanbul

1h15m-1h30m

675km

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



Optional Activities - Day 12

Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts

Istanbul

10EUR

This museum is home to treasures from the Ottoman and Seljuk periods, and boasts one of the world's largest collection of Turkish carpets.

Great Palace Mosaic Museum

Istanbul

10EUR

See the intricate mosaics on display from the Byzantine period, excavated from the site of The Great Palace of Constantinople.

Galata Tower

Istanbul

30EUR

Climb up the Galata Tower - one of Istanbul's oldest architectural landmarks - for an amazing panoramic view of the city. To get the full experience, time your visit with the call to prayer that happens at sunset.

Basilica Cistern

Istanbul

900TRY

Built in 532 AD, the Basilica Cistern is the largest cistern (underground water storage) of Istanbul. Spot the pillar bases carved in the likeness of Medusa.

Archaeological Museum

Istanbul

15EUR

Opened in 1891, the Istanbul Archaeological Museum is a must-visit for history buffs. Home to a classical statuary, artifacts, and sarcophagi - including the stunning sarcophagus from the Royal Necropolis of Sidon - this museum presents one of the best opportunities to catch a glimpse into the life of ancient Turks.

In the morning, explore the iconic Grand Bazaar in Istanbul. Along with a specialist guide, you'll listen to a lecture about the Ottoman Empire's ties to the bazaar and learn about its modern secular Turkish founder, Kemal Ataturk. The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul is one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world and is comprised of 61 covered streets and over 4,000 shops. The tour will finish at an old Ottoman inn for coffee, tea and a chat with your guide. In the afternoon, take advantage of time on your own with a visit to the atmospheric Spice Bazaar. Stroll down one of the most popular streets in Istanbul on the Istiklal Walk—exploring shops, cafés and historic sites along the way. Or visit Galata Tower, which was built as a watchtower over the walls of Galata, and is now an exhibition space and museum. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Grand Bazaar and Lecture

Istanbul

2h

Walk to and explore the iconic Grand Bazaar in Istanbul with a specialist guide. Enjoy a lecture on the historical, cultural, and modern importance of the Grand Bazaar as you wander through one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world. Stop by some of the 4,000 shops along the 61 covered streets and marvel at the first shopping mall of the world. Finish the walk at an old Ottoman Inn where coffee and tea will be served. Enjoy the refreshments and have a conversation with your expert guide about the Grand Bazaar.

Free Time

Istanbul

Opt to visit the Spice Bazaar, or stroll down one of the most popular streets in Istanbul and visit shops, cafes, and historic sites as you go. You can also opt to see Galata Tower or other museums, the choice is all yours. Ask your CEO for recommendations.

Depart at any time.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Gallipoli battlefields entrance and guided visit
- Troy entrance and guided visit
- Ephesus entrance and visit
- Ancient Hierapolis and Pamukkale entrance and guided walk
- Internal flight
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Discover Istanbul's rich history as you tour its most renowned landmarks: Hagia Sophia the Blue Mosque and the Grand Bazar, Travel into the spectacular underground cities of Cappadocia and marvel at the iconic "fairy chimneys" now designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Explore the remains of the legendary city of Troy and enjoy a history lesson in Greek mythology, Savor the true spirit of Turkish cuisine with a hands-on cooking demonstration.

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Discover Istanbul's rich history as you tour its most renowned landmarks: Hagia Sophia the Blue Mosque and the Grand Bazar, Travel into the spectacular underground cities of Cappadocia and marvel at the iconic "fairy chimneys" now designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Explore the remains of the legendary city of Troy and enjoy a history lesson in Greek mythology, Savor the true spirit of Turkish cuisine with a hands-on cooking demonstration.

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

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 important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our Chief Experience Officers (CEO). The aim of the CEO 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 group leader like?

If you would like to book an airport Departure transfer for your tour, please contact our Sales Team or your Travel Agent in advance of travel.

How large will the group be?

Max 16.

What meals are included in this trip?

13 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 5 dinners

What are the meals like on this trip?

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.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Private van, plane, walking.

What transportation will we take 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.

Are local flights included in the cost of the trip?

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

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

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

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels (13 nts).

Will I get my own room?

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.

Do any exceptions apply to Rooming or “My Own Room” on my 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 kind of accommodation can I expect on 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 USD 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 \$40-45 USD per person, per week can be used.

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 from Istanbul International Airport (IST) or Sabiha Gökçen International Airport (SAW) when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior to your tour start date, provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through National Geographic Journeys with G Adventures in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous.

At Istanbul Airport (IST), it is no longer permitted to present branded/company signs, so National Geographic Journeys with G Adventures has been allocated the characters "M55". After collecting your luggage, proceed through Exit Door 14 and look for an individual holding an "M55" sign. This person will transfer you to your first accommodation.

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

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

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

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

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

What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call 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

Arrival Transfer Company Viport: 90 544 642 80 66

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

Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible. We highly recommend using a backpack or light sports bag, whichever you find easiest to carry, plus a small daypack. Luggage limit for the domestic flight is 20 kgs for check in luggage and 8 kgs hand luggage.

What should be on my packing list?

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, 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

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

When can I do my laundry on this trip?

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

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?

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How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

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.

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What activities are optional on this trip?

Antalya

- Antalya Park Visit
- Antalya Archaeological Museum Visit (15EUR per person)

Istanbul

- Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts (10EUR per person)
- Basilica Cistern (900TRY per person)
- Great Palace Mosaic Museum (10EUR per person)
- Archaeological Museum (15EUR per person)

Istanbul

- Galata Tower (30EUR per person)

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

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your 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 rules should I know before joining this trip?

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

How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

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

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

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

How old must I be to join this trip?

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

Are international flights included in this trip?

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

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

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

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

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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.