

Grand Tour of Turkey



Get an up-close view of the fascinating Blue Mosque, an icon of Istanbul.

DAY 1: FLIGHT TO ISTANBUL

Your trip begins with a regularly scheduled overnight flight to Istanbul aboard an internationally recognized airline.

DAY 2: ARRIVAL IN TURKEY

Welcome to Istanbul, crossroads of East and West as well as the world's only city that spans two continents. A Go Ahead representative greets you at the airport after you clear customs and then escorts you to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax or begin acquainting yourself with Istanbul. At an included dinner this evening, meet your fellow travelers.

Included meals: breakfast (in flight), dinner

DAY 3: SIGHTSEEING OF ISTANBUL

Your Tour Director, who is also a licensed guide, introduces you to Istanbul's major sites on this morning's sightseeing tour. Discover the ancient Hippodrome, which once served as the public center of Byzantium for more than 1,000 years. Then behold the breathtaking Blue Mosque, built by Sultan Ahmet and decorated with exquisite blue Iznik tiles. Continue to magnificent Topkapi Palace, once the residence of the Ottoman sultans. You'll also visit the Church of Divine Wisdom, better known as Aya Sophia. About 1,000 years older than St. Peter's in Rome, this awe-inspiring building was

the pride of Christendom until the city fell to the Turks in 1453. Your tour concludes with a stop at Istanbul's legendary Grand Bazaar, where you can browse and barter for treasures from brassware to spices. Tonight, enjoy our Istanbul by Night optional excursion, which features traditional Turkish food and entertainment.

Included meals: breakfast

Included entrances: Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Aya Sophia

DAY 4: TROY

Journey today to Troy, the city from which the beautiful Helen incited the Trojan War. Tour the ancient site, where the remains of nine civilizations dating back 5,000 years were excavated only 120 years ago. Then, make your way along the Aegean coast to Canakkale, a town coveted in centuries past by warring forces because of its strategic location at the entrance to the Dardanelles. Dinner is included tonight.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

DAY 5: PERGAMON AND KUSADASI

Travel south along the Aegean coast to Pergamon. A stronghold of the Greek Attalid dynasty, this was at one time one of the world's most magnificent cities. Here, you'll visit the Acropolis before continuing on to Kusadasi, a

15-DAY TOUR INCLUDES

- Round-trip air transportation with a major airline, airport transfers
- The services of a bilingual Go Ahead Tour Director/licensed Turkish guide
- 13 nights accommodations in comfortable, well-located hotels with twin beds and private bath or shower
- All hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling and local taxes
- Buffet breakfast daily; 11 three-course dinners
- Private deluxe motorcoach
- Sightseeing and entrance fees to select sights as described
- Go Ahead travel gift and membership in our World Traveler Club, which includes credit toward your next tour

SIGHTSEEING

DAY 3: Istanbul

DAY 4: Troy

DAY 5: Pergamon and Kusadasi

DAY 6: Ephesus

DAY 8: Pamukkale

DAY 10: Antalya

DAY 12: Göreme

Tour Highlight

Visit the ancient but well-preserved ruins of Ephesus. Amid temples and theaters, you'll get an authentic sense of what life was like thousands of years ago in a classical Mediterranean city.

Insider's Tip

Turkey is inarguably the capital of relaxation and royal luxury. Take a dip into history at Istanbul's Cemberlitas Hamami, a Turkish bath built for the sultan's wife in 1584; the Tayla Hotel in Antalya; or the Sacred Pool of Hierapolis at the Pamukkale Thermal.

resort town on Turkey's west coast for an included dinner this evening.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

DAY 6: EPHEBUS

Today's excursion introduces you to one of the Mediterranean region's best-preserved classical cities, Ephesus, once a sacred center for the cult of Artemis. Your guided tour highlights all the major landmarks: the elaborate Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian and the Great Theatre, which is still in use today. Leaving Ephesus, you'll then travel to the house where the Virgin Mary is said to have spent her final days. Afterwards, join a special optional excursion to the town of Sirince for a firsthand look at rural village life in Turkey. Dinner is included tonight.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Included entrances: Ephesus ruins, St. Mary's House

DAY 7: MILETUS & DIDYMA

Departing Kusadasi, stop first at the ruins of Miletus. In ancient times, this harbor held 200 Greek warships. The Roman theater and baths of Faustina are particularly impressive. Then continue on to the ancient Temple of Apollo in Didyma, started in A.D. 300 and used for approximately 1,400 years. This was once considered home to the gods and solely inhabited by priests. Arrive later in Pamukkale, where dinner is included tonight.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

DAY 8: PAMUKKALE

On this morning's guided tour, discover why Pamukkale was a popular spa town during Roman times with a visit to its travertines—petrified waterfalls of white stone that create multilayered natural basins filled with warm mineral water. Afterwards, journey to the well-preserved ruins of Hierapolis nearby. Hierapolis was established as a thermal spa at the end of the 2nd century B.C., and the ruins of the baths, temples and other Greek monuments can be seen at the site. Enjoy a free afternoon to soak in the Pamukkale hot springs or join an optional excursion to Aphrodisias, another of Turkey's best-preserved archaeological sites. Dinner is included tonight.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

DAY 9: DEMRE & PHASELIS

Traveling inland today, cross fertile plains to Demre, located on the fertile Kale River Delta. Visit the 4th-century church named for Bishop Nicholas. A philanthropist renowned for his anonymous gifts to poor girls without dowries, this same bishop is the historical figure who evolved into the legendary St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus. Continue to the

ruins of Phaselis. Although not the most extensively excavated site, the setting of this ancient Lycian city is magical, encompassing three tiny bays and shaded by fragrant pine trees. Reaching the Mediterranean coast, arrive in the great city of Antalya, where you'll spend the night. Enjoy an included dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

DAY 10: ANTALYA

Antalya has for the past millennium been Turkey's major Mediterranean port. In recent decades, it has become a popular resort town as well. Take a tour of Antalya, focusing on the Old Town with its gracious Ottoman houses, the Roman Harbor and the marble arch erected by the Emperor Hadrian in A.D. 120. You'll also visit Antalya's archaeological museum, which has an excellent collection of Turkish crafts, costumes and artifacts. Join an optional excursion to ancient Perge and Aspendos this afternoon. Dinner is included tonight.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Included entrances: Antalya Museum, Hadrian's Gate

DAY 11: KONYA

Crossing the Taurus Mountains, reach the Plain of Pamphylia. Visit the mystical center of Konya, where you'll find the spiritual home of Sufism and the Whirling Dervishes (part of a religious sect that originated in the 13th century). Learn more about the Dervishes on your tour of the Mevlana Museum, which was once their monastery. Then traverse the windswept Anatolian Steppes before reaching Cappadocia, known for its unique landscapes made of soft volcanic rock. This evening, after an included dinner, join an optional excursion to see a Whirling Dervishes performance (seasonal).

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Included entrances: Mevlana Museum

DAY 12: GÖREME

Tour the famous Göreme Open Air Museum, comprising beautifully frescoed rock churches dating back to the 4th century. Continue next to the charming towns of Pasabag, a bustling trading center, and Avanos, where the local economy thrives on the production of pottery created from the distinctive red clay of the Kizilirmak River. This evening, you may opt to attend a folklore show. Dinner is included tonight.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Included entrances: Open Air Museum

DAY 13: CAPPADOCIA

This morning is free for your own explorations of Cappadocia. You might choose to visit the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts or the Mosaic

Museum. Alternatively, join an optional excursion to explore an underground city where you'll experience the mysterious inner-workings of this ancient subterranean complex. Later today, catch your afternoon flight back to Istanbul.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 14: ISTANBUL

Enjoy a free day to explore Istanbul or join an optional excursion to Bosphorus, also known as the Istanbul Strait. This boundary between the European part of Turkey (Thrace) and its Asian part is the world's narrowest strait and is used for international navigation as it connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara. This evening, reflect on your journey at an included Farewell Dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

DAY 15: DEPARTURE

If you are not staying for our tour extension in Istanbul, a Go Ahead representative escorts you to the airport early this morning for your return flight home.

Included meals: breakfast

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

Istanbul

2 nights

DAY 15: Choose your own explorations of Istanbul. View the architecture of Istanbul University or leave the city and take a short ferry ride to the peaceful Princess Islands. Or join an optional excursion to a Hammam, a traditional Turkish bath.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 16: Enjoy free time to explore on your own. Tonight, opt to join a delectable Turkish Delight Dinner.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 17: Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Included meals: breakfast

Extension is available on select departure dates and space is limited. Please call early to hold your spot. Extension also requires a minimum of 10 travelers.



Travel Pace: 4

Travel pace levels are based on criteria such as length of tour, number of cities visited, number of included activities, as well as length of flights and land transfers.

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 - leisurely | 3 - active |
| 2 - comfortable | 4 - challenging |

Walking on Tour

Turkey, like Greece, lends itself to walking. Travelers should be in reasonable health and prepared for uneven, sometimes rocky terrain, although most difficult transfers and long sightseeing tours are conducted by private motorcoach. Take care when exploring ruins and pace yourself with breaks during free time.

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Climate

The following guide provides the average temperatures for a sampling of the regions on your itinerary.

ISTANBUL

Jan-Feb	37°-47°F / 3°-8°C
Mar	40°-51°F / 4°-11°C
Apr	47°-60°F / 8°-16°C
May	54°-70°F / 12°-21°C
June	61°-79°F / 16°-26°C
July-Aug	66°-82°F / 19°-28°C
Sep	61°-77°F / 16°-25°C
Oct	55°-67°F / 13°-19°C
Nov	47°-59°F / 8°-15°C
Dec	41°-52°F / 5°-11°C

ATHENS

Jan-Feb	44°-56°F / 7°-13°C
Mar	47°-60°F / 8°-16°C
Apr	53°-66°F / 12°-19°C
May	60°-75°F / 16°-24°C
June	68°-83°F / 20°-28°C
July-Aug	73°-88°F / 23°-31°C
Sep	67°-82°F / 19°-28°C
Oct	59°-73°F / 15°-23°C
Nov	53°-66°F / 12°-19°C
Dec	48°-59°F / 9°-15°C

Pre-departure information for “Grand Tour of Turkey”

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

In order to enter Turkey (and Greece, on extension), U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport. The expiration date must extend at least six months beyond the date of your return home. A visa is also required. The visa charge for entering Turkey is now \$20 (payment in U.S. dollars only; subject to change without notice), and visas can be obtained upon arrival at the airport. Also, you can apply for your visa in advance through Zierer Visa Service, using the application that will be mailed with a confirmation letter. Call 1-800-788-1100 or visit www.zvs.com to apply.

If you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact each country's consulate for your specific entry requirements.

AIRPORT AND DEPARTURE TAXES

All airport and departure taxes for your tour are included in the total trip cost printed on your invoice.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Airlines have varying weight restrictions on luggage. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. Bear in mind that your luggage will probably weigh more on your return trip due to souvenir shopping. We allow only one suitcase per person. One carry-on bag is also permitted, provided that it does not exceed 45 inches (length + width + height). There may be times when you will have to handle your own bags, and you'll find that lightweight luggage provides a distinct advantage. Make sure you label your baggage and carry valuables, medication and documents in your carry-on luggage.

CLOTHING AND PACKING TIPS

Light, loose-fitting clothing that provides comfort when exploring the sights is essential for your tour. A sun hat, sunglasses and a sturdy pair of walking shoes are recommended for sightseeing. It's always a good idea to be ready for any eventuality—a lightweight sports jacket and emergency rainwear are advised. If you plan to visit an especially elegant restaurant or attend the opera or theater, you will probably feel more comfortable in something more formal. Also, remember that it is preferable not to visit churches or other religious sites with bare legs and shoulders (entrance may be denied on this basis).

HEALTH

There are no major health risks when traveling to Turkey or Greece (on extension). Especially during the summer months, take proper care for sun exposure. While no vaccinations are required for entry, it is always advisable to check with your doctor or health-care provider for the latest updates and overseas travel recommendations.

CUISINE

Turkish food is invariably fresh and very carefully prepared. Sourdough bread with sheep's cheese and olives, as well as jam or honey, is typically eaten for breakfast. A midday meal or dinner often starts with a meze, a plate of varied appetizers, such as cheese pastry rolls, pickled vegetables and potato fritters. You will also see salads served with dips made of eggplant, beans or red caviar. On the coast, fish is an excellent choice, where fresh tuna, turbot and sardines are very good. Meat eaters should try lamb kebabs, in a wide variety of types, each with a different sauce or dressing. The national drink is tea, which comes in various flavors. Turkish coffee is extremely strong and thick. Avoid drinking the tap water in Turkey.

TRANSPORTATION

Round-trip flights arrive in and depart from Istanbul. There is also an included flight from Cappadocia to Istanbul. All other included transportation on your tour is by private motorcoach. In your free time, you may wish to explore the main cities by public transportation.

Istanbul has an extensive—and remarkably inexpensive—transport system of bus, tram, train and metro lines. Purchase all-inclusive passes for the best deal and try to avoid peak periods of travel, when walking is probably your best bet. Taxis are also very inexpensive in Istanbul.

ELECTRICITY

Turkey Greece operate on the European standard 220 volts.

TIME ZONES

Turkey is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and seven hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST). When it is noon in New York, it's 7 p.m. in Istanbul.

CURRENCY

The Turkish lira (and the euro, on extension to Greece) is the currency you will be using on your tour. Better rates of exchange are usually available in Turkey rather than in the United States, although it is worth ordering some currency from your local bank to use when you first arrive. We advise that you take credit cards and dollar bills in small denominations. We suggest informing your bank and credit card company of your travel plans, so they don't confuse your international purchases for fraudulent charges. Exchange small amounts of Turkish lira at one time in order to compensate for inflation. It can be difficult to exchange traveler's checks in Turkey.

TIPPING

At the conclusion of your tour, it is customary to offer your Go Ahead Tour Director and driver a gratuity. We recommend tipping in your tour country's currency, the equivalency of \$3USD/CAD per person per day for your driver and \$6USD/CAD to \$9USD/CAD per person per day for your Tour Director. If applicable, we also recommend the equivalency of \$2USD/CAD per local guide. Tips can only be paid in cash. Please keep current local currency exchange rates in mind when tipping.

PURCHASING OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS ON TOUR

If you have not yet purchased your optional excursions, you may be able to do so while on your tour. Your tour director will only accept cash (in U.S. dollars only), Visa, MasterCard or American Express as payment for optional excursions. Please be advised that if you pay for an excursion by credit card while on tour, it may take up to three months for your card to be charged. Some optional excursions may only be purchased in advance. See the separate “Optional Excursions” sheet for more information.

International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We must therefore reserve the right to change this itinerary without advanced notice to meet with local conditions at the time of travel. We appreciate your understanding. Please refer to the current catalog for terms & conditions, dates and prices.