

TREASURES OF TURKEY

Classic Tour | 17 Days | Physical Level 1

ISTANBUL - CANAKKALE - SELCUK - PAMUKKALE - ANTALYA - KONYA - CAPPADOCIA - ISTANBUL

The place where East meets West, modern-day Turkey is a treasure trove of fascinating history and archaeological wonders. From Istanbul's iconic landmarks and Gallipoli's bloody battlegrounds to Cappadocia's other-worldly landscapes and much more, this all-encompassing tour uncovers the extraordinarily rich culture of a country at the fulcrum of European and Asian history.

- Visit Istanbul's iconic landmarks
- Pay your respects at Gallipoli
- Discover the ancient city of Ephesus
- Unearth Magnesia's fascinating history
- Be mesmerised by a Whirling Dervish ceremony
- Marvel at Cappadocia's fantastical geology

TOUR MAP



TREASURES OF TURKEY TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Guide and Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Turkey on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 17 days in duration including overnight international flights in both directions as this is the most likely flight option from Australia. Please note, some flights may depart and arrive on Day 2.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Please email your international flight times to info@wendywutours.com.au so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Istanbul (Istanbul Airport) and end the tour on Day 16 in Istanbul. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

'Treasures of Turkey' falls under a Physical Level 1 category. This indicates a level of fitness that allows you to comfortably remain on your feet with occasional rests. Expect to effortlessly navigate boarding and disembarking from various modes of transport, including coaches, trains, and boats. You'll be walking around remarkable sites and ascending steps to capture those awe-inspiring views!

Some of the ancient sites, including Ephesus, Magnesia and Hierapolis, are spread across a large area therefore some walking is required although there are usually rest points along the way. Much of the sightseeing during the two days in Cappadocia involves walking, sometimes on rough and sloping terrain, but should you want to opt out your National Guide will be able to arrange this. Also in Cappadocia please be ready to walk through tunnels and narrow passageways, as well as climb wooden stairways, while exploring the ancient underground city of Kaymakli and other rock-carved sites. Please read this tour dossier carefully to assess the level of physical challenge involved. We have outlined the physical challenges in detail and urge you to discuss any concerns with us before you book. During the tour your guide is on hand to describe walks and other physical challenges in detail, also to explain the options if you choose to skip any of the sites.

Our National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey. However, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour. They are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travelers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Days 1-2: Fly to Istanbul Meals: D

Fly overnight to Istanbul, the 'city where East meets West'. You will be met on arrival and transferred to your city centre hotel ahead of this evening's welcome dinner and briefing.



Destination Information

Istanbul – Regarded as one of the World's greatest cities, and certainly one of the most influential in the history of the last two millennia, Istanbul (formerly Byzantium and Constantinople) is a melting pot of the old and new: a vibrant, modern metropolis built around a historical heart where Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman treasures compete for the limelight. The setting is equally dramatic: straddling the Bosporus and flanked by the Golden Horn, the city's imperious skyline is an imposing sight, especially from the water.

Day 3: Istanbul Meals: B, L, D

Explore Istanbul's landmark sites, mainly on foot but with plenty of rest breaks along the way. First visit the remains of the once mighty Hippodrome and view the Blue Mosque's exquisite cascade of domes and slender minarets before continuing to the Hagia Sophia, the crowning achievement of the Byzantine Empire, whose 31.7 metre dome was for a millennium the largest in the world. Then walk to one of ancient Byzantium's most remarkable engineering achievements: the vast, 6th-century Basilica Cistern. Descend the 52 stone steps into the cistern and marvel at the 336 marble columns supporting its vaulted ceiling.



After lunch, discover the mesmeric beauty of Topkapi Palace and its extraordinary treasures on a walking tour. The sprawling palace holds some fabulous examples of Ottoman architecture and Iznik tilework, plus the very best views out over the Bosporus and Golden Horn.

Later dine at Hamdi Restaurant, overlooking the Golden Horn, where some of Istanbul's finest kebabs have been served since 1970.

Your first full day in Istanbul is a busy one and full of highlights: expect to spend at least five hours walking and on foot. Your guide will arrange rest breaks and you can choose to skip some of the sightseeing if you prefer.

***Please note:** Hagia Sophia is undergoing a major restoration project, which is expected to continue for up to five years (until 2031). Temporary scaffolding has been installed both inside the building and around the main dome externally. The monument remains open to visitors, and its famous mosaics can still be viewed during the restoration.*

Destination Information

Hagia Sophia – Unquestionably the architectural jewel in the crown of the Byzantine Empire, the stunning Hagia Sophia has miraculously survived nearly 1,500 years and remains the heart of this city. The Hagia Sophia (Church of Divine Wisdom) was consecrated in 537, converted to a mosque by the Ottoman Turks in 1453, then declared a museum by Atatürk in 1935, only to be converted back into a working mosque in 2020.

Basilica Cistern – Called the Basilica Cistern because it was located under the ancient Basilica at the heart of the city, this engineering masterpiece provided a water filtration system to the city from its construction in the 6th century through to modern times. The cistern occupies nearly 10,800 square metres and is capable of holding 80,000 cubic metres of water. The ceiling is supported by 336 marble and granite columns, each 9 metres high, taken from the ruins of older buildings throughout the Byzantine Empire.

Topkapi Palace – Built by successive sultans between the 15th and 19th centuries, the opulent, sprawling Topkapi Palace is home to some of the most fabulous treasures of the Ottoman empire, including the jewel-filled Treasury, not to mention its beautiful views out across the Bosporus.

Day 4: Istanbul Meals: B, L, D



In the morning, immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world. During the day you will also get the chance to enjoy a traditional Turkish coffee at one of the city's historic coffee shops.

Then we stroll through one of the city's oldest and most evocative sites: the Spice Bazaar (also called the Egyptian Bazaar), famous for its amazing array of herbs and spices. This is still the best place to buy Turkish delight, dried fruit, exotic spices and herbs. Nearby is Tahtakale, the traditional hardware district, with its beautiful but little-visited 16th-century Rüstem Pasha Mosque, decorated with exquisite tilework.

Later after pausing for lunch, explore some of Istanbul's lesser-known locations with a chance to uncover the beating heart of the city on a walk through one of the city's hidden gems: the UNESCO-listed Fener and Balat districts. Stroll through the colourful, labyrinth-like streets of these historical neighbourhoods.

To round off the day, enjoy a private cruise along the Bosporus Strait, the waterway that divides Europe and Asia, to witness the city's minaret-studded skyline and its most famous sites from the water, including the dramatic Rumeli Fortress, Dolmabahce Palace and the sultan's former summer residence - Beylerbeyi Palace. In the evening enjoy your dinner at a fish restaurant overlooking the Bosporus.

Please note that today involves a lot of walking with around six or more hours on your feet. Your guide will arrange rest breaks where possible and you will have the option to skip some of the visits if you prefer. For example you could choose to wait in a cay bahcesi (tea-house) rather than walk the steep, cobbled streets and alleys of Fener and Balat.

Destination Information

The Grand Bazaar – Since it was founded in the 15th century the wonderfully busy and colourful Grand Bazaar has been the beating heart of the Old City. Dozens of labyrinthine covered lanes are lined with shops, stalls, cafés, restaurants, bathhouses and still-functioning workshops, where skilled artisans are still turning out hand-made masterpieces as they have been for centuries.

Fener and Balat districts – The colourful, labyrinth-like streets of these historical neighbourhoods dates back to Byzantine times, with Armenian, Jewish and Orthodox influences still present today. Here, modern and traditional mingle here in abundance, with trendy coffee shops and design boutiques sitting next more old school cay bahcesi (tea gardens) and artisan workshops.

The Bosporus Strait – Connecting the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara, which in turn connects via the Dardanelles to the Mediterranean, the Bosporus lies on the boundary between Asia and Europe. It also separates Thrace (European Turkey) from Anatolia, the country's much larger Asian side. This is the world's narrowest strait used for international navigation.

Day 5: Via Gallipoli to Canakkale

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast drive approximately 4 hours to reach the arid hills of the Gallipoli Peninsula. After a short break at the town of Gallipoli, visit the key battlefields and memorials from World War I. These include the Helles Memorial, built to commemorate the 20,956 missing British and Commonwealth soldiers. You will also visit Anzac Cove, where in the early hours of 25th April 1915, the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) made a landing and set up a base from which the front line was supplied over the next 10 months.



You will also explore Shrapnel Valley and the evocative Lone Pine Memorial, on a plateau 120 metres above sea level, from where there are wide-ranging views across the peninsula. Later visit Chunuk Bair Memorial, commemorating the New Zealand dead, then continue to the Gallipoli War Museum and see letters written by soldiers, along with displays of uniforms and armaments used by both sides.

Later travel from Europe to Asia either by ferry or across the quite extraordinary 1915 Canakkale Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in the world, with a suspended central span of over two kilometres.

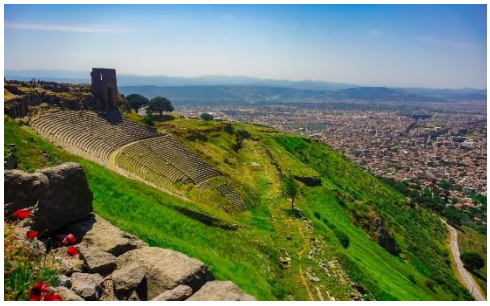
Destination Information

Gallipoli Peninsula – A narrow and strategic peninsula separating Thrace (European Turkey) from Anatolia, infamous for the Gallipoli campaign during World War I, which was intended to secure the peninsula for Allied ships to pass through the Dardanelles and take Constantinople (Istanbul) thereby defeating Ottoman Turkey.

The Dardanelles – One of the world's narrowest straits critically important for international navigation, the Dardanelles connects the Sea of Marmara with the Mediterranean. 61 kilometres long and in parts as narrow as just 1.2 kilometres, the Dardanelles have throughout history been strategically important - from ancient Troy, the Persian and Byzantine Empires to the modern-day.

Day 6: Via Troy and Pergamon to Selcuk Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, discover the fabled UNESCO World Heritage site of Troy, with its multi-layered history and wonderful legends. Continue to Bergama to visit the Greco-Roman city of Pergamon, perched on its acropolis, with far-reaching views of the plains all around. In Bergama enjoy a special lunch at typical village houses. You will be divided into smaller groups and hosted by a number of local families, a perfect chance to try Turkish home cuisine and meet your hosts in their homes. Later drive on to Selcuk and check-in to the hotel for two nights.



Destination Information

Troy – Cities have been built here one on top of the other for more than 5,000 years. The vast, ancient walls evoke the epic tales of the Iliad, which culminate in the story of the wooden horse which finally enabled the Greeks to conquer the might city.

Pergamon – A fabulous and well-preserved Greco-Roman city, famous for its Altar of Zeus, its Temples of Athena, Trajan, and Dionysus, plus its magnificent and unusually steep 10,000 seat theatre.

Day 7: Ephesus Meals: B, L, D

This morning you will explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved ancient sites in the world. The streets and buildings are so well preserved it isn't hard to imagine ancient life as it must have been, whether at the bath houses, the market, the theatre or the magnificent Celsus Library. Later enjoy a picnic lunch along with a chance to prepare and cook some of the food. In the afternoon sample locally produced wines and learn how hand-woven Turkish carpets are produced, then return to your hotel in nearby Selcuk.



Destination Information

Ephesus – Ephesus is believed to have been settled in the 10th century BC by Ionians, but then changed hands many times before becoming a Roman dependency in 133 BC during the reign of Emperor Augustus. It was also an important city during early Christian times as evidenced by St. Paul's visit and St. John being buried nearby. The ruins that remain here give us a clear picture of life in Ephesus, including the roads used by chariots; ancient bath houses; mosaic pedestrian walkways; even a brothel. Among the most spectacular sites are the famous facade of the Celsus Library, constructed from 117-125 AD, which contained rectangular niches to hold its papyrus scrolls, and a spectacular, well-preserved theatre that could seat 24,000 people.

Day 8: Via Magnesia to Pamukkale Meals: B, L, D



After breakfast set off to the little-visited ancient site of Magnesia, which dates back to 400-350BC and was an important city in the fertile Menderes (Meander) valley. Our partner in Turkey is a proud sponsor of the archaeological excavations here, which allows us special access to archaeological areas that are normally restricted.

Later continue to the extraordinary thermal waters and geological formations of Pamukkale (which literally translates as 'Cotton Castle') where you have the chance to relax and enjoy the hotel's facilities including the thermal pool.

Destination Information

Magnesia – Also known as Magnesia on the Maeander, this ancient Greek city was once a rival to nearby Ephesus, due to its fertile lands and strategic location. The size of Magnesia's stadium and well-preserved theatre tell of its former glory.

Travertines of Pamukkale – The picturesque, white terraces of Pamukkale have been created over millennia by the calcite-rich waters flowing from 17 thermal springs. The travertines are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along with the neighbouring ancient site of Hierapolis.

Day 9: Pamukkale to Antalya Meals: B, L, D



After breakfast set out to explore the Hellenistic site of Hierapolis, which was an important trading post on the routes connecting East to West. Later, during the Roman Period, Hierapolis became famous as a thermal centre, with its massive bath houses built to serve visitors from around the ancient world. Upon arrival at the site, you will be greeted by spectacular views of the calcium pools that have been formed by the spring waters of Hierapolis over thousands of years. Explore the ancient site, including its fabulous necropolis and one of the best-preserved Roman theatres in the world. Later drive south to the coastal city of Antalya for a two-night stay.

Destination Information

Hierapolis – Hierapolis has recently been appointed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wandering through the colossal tomb chambers of the Necropolis you will comprehend the wealth of a society that could afford such impressive tombs within the so-called “Sacred City” (the meaning of Hierapolis in ancient Greek).

Day 10: Antalya, with visit to Aspendos Meals: B, L, D



This morning you will visit the nearby city of Aspendos, famous for its incredibly well-preserved Roman theatre, said by many to be the best example in the Mediterranean world.

Enjoy a change of pace in the afternoon as you head out on a private boat tour from Antalya, lasting around two hours, with the chance to swim or just relax and take in the coastal scenery. Later there's the chance to eat at one of Antalya's traditional restaurants in the heart of the old city.

Destination Information

Aspendos – Aspendos was founded on the plains close to one of the biggest rivers of the region Köprüçay (ancient Eurymedon). Famous for its wonderfully preserved 7,000-seat theatre, which stands 96 metres wide with commanding views across the surrounding plains. The theatre is still in use today for music and ballet performances, nearly 2,000 years after it was built.

Day 11: To Konya Meals: B, L, D



Drive northeast from the coast onto the Anatolian Plateau, a sparsely populated region of rolling steppes bordered by the Taurus Mountains in the south. Arriving at the traditional town of Konya, you will have the chance to visit the Mausoleum of Mevlâna, the founder of Whirling Dervishes, before dinner and your overnight stay.

Please note that Konya is more traditional than most other locations visited on this tour; you are asked to dress conservatively and alcohol may not be available.

Destination Information

Konya – Konya was called Iconium during the Roman period and was an important outpost controlling many of the East - West trade routes crossing Anatolia. Konya also served as the capital of Seljuk Turkish Kingdom during the 13th century, while Istanbul (Constantinople) was still part of the Byzantine Empire.

Day 12: Via Sultanhani to Cappadocia Meals: B, L, D



Set off from Konya and drive first to Sultanhani Caravenserai, one of the most significant and best-preserved Seljuk caravanserais in Turkey. Enjoy time at this majestic building and imagine the camel caravans of old stopping here en route from China or Central Asia. Later continue to the other-worldly landscapes of Cappadocia, enjoying lunch and a short walk through the canyon of Ihlara, a fertile valley flanked by 150 metre cliffs and dotted with ancient rock-cut churches.

Later drive to the village of Urgup and check in to your hotel for a three-night stay. In the early evening, visit the beautifully restored 13th-century Saruhan Caravanserai to see the Sema Ritual performed by Whirling Dervishes, a deeply mystical experience where the dancers fall into a rhythmic trance-like state.

Please note that the Sema is a religious experience, revered by Sufis for centuries, therefore photography is allowed only for a special extra performance at the end.

Destination Information

Ihlara Valley – A remarkable valley, 15 kilometres long and up to 150 metres deep, dotted with more than 50 rock-cut churches and numerous other buildings carved from the surreal landscape. Many of the churches are decorated with frescoes, for example a striking representation of the Last Judgement can be seen in the IX Century Yilanli Kilise (Church with Snake). Our visit takes in just a small part of the canyon.

Sultanhani Caravanserai – The caravanserai was built in 1229 by the Seljuk sultan Alaeddin Keykubad I, when Aksaray was an important stopping point on the Silk Road that crossed through Anatolia. After suffering partial destruction in a fire, the building was restored and extended in 1278 under the reign of Sultan Kaykhusraw III. The monumental caravanserai is one of the best examples of Anatolian Seljuk architecture.

Day 13: In Cappadocia Meals: B, L, D



Enjoy a full day exploration of the region with a visit to the monastic centre of Goreme. The town was founded by St. Basil as the first Christian monastic centre during the 4th century. Now the area is described as an 'open-air museum', with rock-hewn churches and monastic dwellings dotting the landscape, often decorated with well-preserved Byzantine frescoes.

Later visit picturesque Pasabag Valley, where cone-shaped chapels and hermitages look as if they have been sculpted by contemporary artists! Finishing literally on a high, you will stop by the rock-carved natural citadel of Uchisar with its spectacular views of the whole region from the top.

On the way back to the hotel there will be the opportunity to stop at Avanos, an attractive town famous for its red clay, which has been used in pottery since the 2nd millennium BC. You will visit the studio of a local Cappadocian pottery artist and have the chance to the creation of traditional pottery and ceramic masterpieces.

Enjoy dinner at a popular local restaurant this evening.

Destination Information

Cappadocia – The looming volcanoes of Erciyes and Hasan used to be active thousands of years ago and erupted continuously, covering the whole region with a blanket of volcanic rock (tuff) that is easily eroded by wind and rain, also carved by human hands, due to its soft character. Cappadocia has been occupied by various civilisations for many centuries, including the Hittites, Greeks, Byzantines, Romans and Turks, often in dwellings carved out of the soft rock itself.

Goreme Open Air Museum – This UNESCO listed cluster of rock-cut churches and monastic dwellings is regarded as the jewel in the crown of Cappadocia's rich history. The compact area contains some of the finest churches in the region, whose architecture has inspired centuries of Christian buildings, and whose vividly painted murals are among the finest examples of Byzantine art.

Day 14: In Cappadocia Meals: B, L, D



On your second full day in Cappadocia, enjoy the picturesque village of Mustafapasa, the rock-cut churches of Soganlı Valley, the remarkable underground city of Kaymakli and a fabulous opportunity to experience Turkish home cooking!

Drive first to Mustafapasa, a perfectly preserved Greek village in the heart of Anatolia. The former Greek inhabitants left the village in 1923 during the population exchange between Turkey and Greece. Then continue to Soganli Valley, which has been inhabited since the earliest days of the Christian era.

The rock-cut churches here date from the 9th to 13th centuries. Soganli, like other valleys in Cappadocia, exemplifies the harmony between man and nature. We enjoy a short walk (one hour approx. with some moderate ascent and descent) through the valley, mainly on a wide and well maintained path, but with some short sections on loose gravel. If you choose not to walk, your driver can take you to a café at the end of the walk, to rest and wait for the others.

At lunch today you will be welcomed by your host and his family to enjoy authentic Turkish home cooking. The setting is an original stone house, decorated with Turkish textiles and local Cappadocian rugs. This is a wonderful opportunity not only to learn about Turkish cuisine but to experience traditional and genuine Turkish hospitality.

Your next stop will be Kaymakli Underground City, a subterranean settlement composed of troglodytic cave dwellings providing shelter for early Christians protecting themselves from invaders. Kaymakli had the capacity to house a total of 5,000 people at once with its eight different subterranean levels.

This evening once again we head out to a local restaurant for dinner.

Destination Information

Soganli Valley – Over 100 churches were carved into the soft 'tufa' walls of the valley between the 9th and 13th centuries, along with cloisters, storehouses and several distinctive dovecotes. In Soganli, for the first time, the exterior surfaces of some rock cones were carved to form unique churches with high drums and domes.

Kaymakli Underground City – Once home to an estimated 3,500 people the 'city' is built eight levels deep into a hillside, with rock-cut tunnels and stairways connecting the chapels, refectories, sleeping chambers and storerooms. Only the first four floors are open to the public and our visit will includes only the first level, with a chance to venture deeper into the city for those that wish (as it's not easy for a group to explore together). The tunnels and chambers are reasonably well lit, but you may find a torch useful. If you suffer from claustrophobia you are advised to skip this visit.

Day 15: To Istanbul Meals: B, L, D



Say goodbye to the magical landscapes of Cappadocia and fly to Istanbul. Check into your hotel then enjoy the rest of the afternoon in one of the world's great cities. You can either explore independently, do some souvenir shopping or indulge in the refined art of the Turkish Bath at the 16th century Hurrem Sultan Hammam, one of the very best and most traditional hammams in the city. Indulge in a deep cleanse and relaxing massage, your reward for the action-packed days you've just spent enjoying the best of western and central Turkey!

Please allow approximately AUD$210pp for the traditional Turkish Bath and massage.

On your final evening, eat at the atmospheric district of Sultanahmet at Galeyan Restaurant. Specialities here include typical Turkish meze, grilled meats and Turkey's national drink of choice: raki.

Days 16-17: Depart Istanbul Meals: B



After breakfast at the hotel transfer to the Istanbul Airport for your flight, arriving home the same or following day.

TURKEY TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Visas are not required for Australian passport holders for entry into Turkey for stays of up to 90 days, within a 180 day period. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours. We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time.

We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

EATING IN TURKEY:

Turkish food is full of variety and we hope will be a highlight of your tour. The choice of restaurants on your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. We aim to bring you the meals as described in the itinerary above but cannot guarantee this as changes may be necessary from time to time for operational or other reasons. For your convenience in general at the end of a long travelling day your meal will be at the hotel restaurant, and otherwise we have chosen atmospheric local restaurants with menus reflecting local specialities.

All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from dinner on the day of your group's arrival until breakfast on your day of departure. Your tour also includes cooking demonstrations at Selcuk and in Cappadocia. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions or allergies when booking your tour.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in a Classic group, although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and Turkey. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assure that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Solo travellers: If you are a solo traveller and willing to share a room, you will not have to pay a single supplement for any hotel rooms. Willing to share single travellers booking within 75 days of the first day of a group tour will be subject to availability. If no suitable match is available at time of booking you will be required to pay all single supplements.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Turkey is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of $300AUD per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. In your Final Documentation an Optional Excursion Sheet will be included outlining the activities available in each city and local cost associated. Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

CLIMBING STEPS:

There are a reasonable number of steps to climb, on the Cappadocia section of the tour especially. Please see the individual day descriptions on this dossier for details. We encourage you to contact us to discuss any concerns beforehand or speak with the guide to understand more accurately the steps involved on each visit or walk.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in Turkey. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. **However, mini buses may be used for smaller groups (under 10 passengers).** Roads in Turkey have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: November 2026