EXPLORE! Tour Notes

Highlights of Turkey (DTU 2016)

TOURDURAT
15
DAYS

Tour Style: Premium
Tour Pace: Busy
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Comfortable
tour Code: DTU

Tour Highlights - Highlights of Turkey

- ✓ Cappadocia - Explore this unique landscape of enchanting valleys, 'fairy chimneys' and cave dwellings
- ✓ Ephesus - Walk the marble streets where Saint Paul preached to the Ephesians
- ✓ Pamukkale and Hieropolis - Admire the white, travertine terraced hillside and explore the remains of the Roman spa town above
- ✓ Turquoise Coast - Swim in the warm waters that give this stunning coastline its name
- ✓ Istanbul - Discover the magic of 'Old Stamboul' on foot, including the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	14 nights Comfortable Hotel
Included Meals:	14 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: Ankara
End Point:	Tour ends: Istanbul
Transport:	Bus, Boat, Ferry
Countries:	Turkey

Highlights Of Turkey

From the modern capital of Ankara to the ancient ruins of Ephesus we explore the very best of Turkey's sites, whilst staying in premium hotels. We travel to the volcanic landscape of Cappadocia to discover the underground city of Kaymakli and explore Goreme with its 'fairy chimneys' and rock-cut houses. We also visit the white travertines of Pamukkale, walk around historic Istanbul and admire the spectacular scenery of the Turquoise Coast.

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Tour Comfort: Comfortable

Hand-picked and chosen for their character, location or local importance, these properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

Tour Style: Premium

These tours are perfect if you want to combine an original, off-beat classic adventure with the added comfort of hand-picked accommodation chosen for its character, location or local importance. Revel in adventurous days followed by relaxing nights.

Tour Pace: Busy

There may be early starts, long journeys and tiring days along the way, but you'll return home feeling you've really experienced as much as you possibly could.

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced Tour Leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your Tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Join trip in Ankara

Arrive Ankara and check-in at hotel. Ankara has been the capital of Turkey since the War of Independence and the creation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923. However the area was known to have been inhabited since before 1200 BC when the Hittites named it Ankuwash.

Risiss Hotel
This hotel in Ankara combines traditional Turkish hospitality with the comforts of modern living such as Wi-Fi access throughout. Its characterful design and modern touches will truly make you feel like past and present have been tastefully combined. The buffet restaurant provides both Turkish and western food including a mixed buffet for breakfast. There is also an a la carte restaurant and bar, 24-hour reception, currency exchange and safety deposit boxes available. Rooms are en suite and air-conditioned and are equipped with a phone and television.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations; drive to Cappadocia

This morning our first visit is to the famous Museum of Anatolian Civilisations whose exhibits demonstrate the very rich cultural history of this area. Leaving the capital behind us we drive via Hacibektas on our way to Cappadocia. The museum here once housed the famous Bektasi desvish sect and is now set up as it might have looked during the 13th century. Later we continue east to the lunar landscapes of Cappadocia This area is famous the world over for its unique geological formations and a history that stretches back to the Hittites (2000 BC) and earlier. We will visit the underground city at Kaymakli, built by Christians escaping Arab oppression. More of this incredible underground maze of catacombs is being discovered every year.

Alfina Hotel
The Alfina Cave Hotel in Cappadocia is simply a unique cave hotel that combines cave dwellings of centuries gone by with the luxurious comforts of today. You can relax on multi level terraces and explore this historic and romantic landscape. Each room has private bath with jacuzzi, kettle and herbal teas, mini-bar, heating during the winter months, television and Wi-Fi access.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 Sightseeing in Cappadocia including the Goreme Open Air Museum

We spend most of the day visiting the major points of historical and topographical interest, including Uchisar and Goreme. This morning we have the option of taking a walk (approximately three hours) through the Red and Rose Valleys to better appreciate the remarkable landscape. Goreme lies at the foot of three extinct volcanoes. Centuries ago, volcanic eruptions covered the Goreme valley with mud, ash and sometimes with blocks of hard rock. Over the ages this volcanic tufa was sculpted by erosion into strange and improbable shapes; cones, needles of stone, pyramids of soft stone - some 30 m high. Into this remote spot came the Byzantine hermits, who carved churches, houses, fortresses and even complete underground cities into the cones. Entire troglodite villages and subterranean churches are hewn out of the soft volcanic rock and make the whole place a spectacular sight to behold. We shall wonder at the 'fairy chimneys' - tall needles of stone with rocks perched on top, caused by erosion, which fill entire valleys. Goreme contains the area's largest concentration of rock carved churches. We will also visit the underground city at Kaymakli, built by Christians escaping Arab oppression. More of this incredible underground maze of catacombs is being discovered every year.

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Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 Drive to Konya and visit the 'Whirling Dervishes' Mevlana Museum

Leaving Cappadocia this morning we drive to Konya. En route we stop to visit the well preserved 13th century Caravanserai of Sultanhani, an impressive reminder that we are travelling along one of the great trade routes which linked Europe to Asia. We then continue on to Konya; Turkey's holiest city and the home of the Mevlana sect, better known as the Whirling Dervishes. Konya, known as 'Iconium' in Roman times, was also the capital of the Seljuk Turks from the 12th to 13th centuries and home of Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, who founded a mystic Sufi order of the 'Whirling Dervishes'. This afternoon is free to explore some of the city's highlights or relax back at the hotel.

Bera Hotel
Located in the heart of Konya, the Bera Hotel offers simple yet comfortable guest rooms with complimentary Wi-Fi, a phone and television. The hotel features a lobby bar and a choice of three restaurants serving Turkish and International dishes.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 See the Roman theatre at Aspendos en route to Antalya

This morning we head over the mountains, leaving the high Anatolian plateau behind us and descend towards the glittering turquoise seas of the Mediterranean. The journey takes approximately 5 hours, although we'll break our trip with a visit to the spectacular Roman theatre of Aspendos. The theatre has been well restored and still hosts performances to this day. We'll also stop at the nearby Roman aqueduct that brought fresh drinking water into the city from the mountains, an incredible feat of engineering, even today. Continuing on to Antalya, there should be time to enjoy a walk around the old harbour and narrow cobbled streets of the old town before heading out for an evening meal.

Mediterra Art Hotel
Opened in 2007, this beautifully restored Ottoman house in the centre of the old part of Antalya (known as Kaleici) retains many of its original features including Greek murals painted on the interior walls. The tastefully decorated 19 rooms are situated around a beautiful courtyard and outdoor pool area. All the rooms have modern amenities such as a television, phone, Wi-Fi access and a safe.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 Visit ancient Phaselis before enjoying a free afternoon to explore Antalya

Today we drive the short distance out of the city, heading west along the Mediterranean coast to the secluded and little-visited site of Phaselis. The harbour city began life as a colony of Rhodes in about 690 BC and quickly grew to become and important trading centre. The city was visited by Alexander the Great and continued to be busy city port even under the Byzantines. The ruins that remain today are beautifully located among fragrant pine forests with the sea lapping all around. The old harbour area also makes a great place for a swim, so don't forget your swimming things today! We return to Antalya at lunchtime and the rest of the afternoon is free for you to explore more of the city or perhaps take a boat trip from Antalya's harbour out to see Duden Waterfalls which cascade dramatically over the cliffs straight into the sea.

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Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 Explore the mountain citadel of Termessos and a Greek ghost town en route to Dalyan

Heading out of Antalya today we climb up into the hills and the mountain citadel city of Termessos. Not much is known about the early history of the city however we do know that it was one of the few cities to hold out against Alexander the Great and that the inhabitants had a fearsome reputation as warriors. The ruins that remain today are scattered over the mountain, so expect some walking as we visit the key sites. The highlight of which is probably the theatre, which enjoys spectacular views of the plains below. Continuing on, we cross the high mountain plateau, known as the 'yayla' in Turkish. The 'yayla' provide a retreat from the hot summer temperatures and are centres of local agriculture, also at certain times of year it is still possible to spot semi-nomadic families with their goat-hair tents set up in the fields. We descend from the 'yayla' towards the coast, pausing at the deserted Greek village of Kayakoyu which makes for a haunting reminder of the 'population exchanges' that took place between Turkey and Greece in the early 1920s. Finally we continue along the coast to Dalyan, which still retains is sleepy atmosphere, nestled in the river delta and surrounded by agricultural land and small villages.

BC Spa Hotel
This hotel is modern and stylish and perfectly located next to the Calbis River and Dalyan town centre. Guests at the hotel have full use of the spa facilities including the gym, sauna, steam room and indoor and outdoor swimming pools. All rooms are air-conditioned and are equipped with a phone, television, mini-bar and safe box and some have a balcony. The only spa hotel in Dalyan offers a great location and great facilities.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Boat trip to the rock tombs at Caunos; chance to relax at Iztuzu Beach

This morning we take a riverboat trip through the reeds to the ancient site of Caunos. Here we can explore the ruins, which date back to 400 BC. Bring along your swimming gear as this afternoon there's a chance to continue on to Iztuzu beach and have a dip in the inviting turquoise sea and, time allowing, head up to the mud baths for a deep cleanse.

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Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Drive to Pamukkale and explore the terraces and ancient Hierapolis

Today we drive to Pamukkale and, depending on the time of year, we will either spend the early afternoon (and main heat of the day) relaxing by the hotel pool (swim hats required), and then head to Pamukkale site or we will head straight to the site to make the most of it before the sun sets. Situated on a high escarpment and home to one of Turkey's most amazing natural wonders, the 'frozen waterfall', which has been an attraction since Roman times (as Hierapolis - the Sacred City, a health spa) Pammukale is a wonder to be seen.

Ayapam Hotel
The Ayapam is a boutique hotel in Pamukkale with views of the travertines at this famous UNESCO World Heritage Site. It's only a short walk from Hieropolis. The hotel has garden, terrace, restaurant, bar and a relaxing spa area including hammam, jacuzzi, sauna and outdoor swimming pool. All en suite bedrooms have private balconies, a television, mini bar and hairdryer. This really is a lovely spot to unwind at.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 Visit the remarkable site of Aphrodisias on the way to Kusadasi

Today we visit the Greco-Roman site of Aphrodisias, one of the most interesting and earliest sites in the region. The cult of Aphrodite, the Goddess of love, had its most important temple here and the city also established itself as an artistic centre inspiring some of the finest Carian sculptures. Many of these can be seen in the small but very impressive museum on the site. The athletics stadium is one of the largest and best preserved from the classical world. Later we continue to Kusadasi and check into our hotel on the coast.

Efe Boutique Hotel
The hotel is situated between the Guvercin Ada Peninsula and the harbour with a view of the coastline. It's also within walking distance to the centre of Kusadasi. The hotel is of contemporary design and has modern style rooms. Facilities include a restaurant, bar/lounge and fitness centre. All rooms have a sea view and are equipped with air conditioning, a television, internet access, telephone, mini bar, safe, hairdryer and balcony.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11 Explore the famed Greco-Roman city of Ephesus

Today we visit the great Greco-Roman city of Ephesus (Efes). Once visited by Mark Anthony and Cleopatra, and also by the evangelist St. Paul (which inspired the Epistle to the Ephesians), this famous old Asia Minor seaport reached its zenith in the 2nd century AD. Efes became one of the main cultural and economic centres of the ancient world until it went into decline after the 7th century.

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Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12 See ancient sights at Pergamon and Troy en route to Canakkale

Continuing our journey north past endless olive groves we come to the Greco-Roman remains of Pergamon (now the typical Turkish town of Bergama). This is the place that gave its name to the word 'parchment', for which it was famous throughout the Middle East. We will visit the ancient Acropolis and later continue to the ancient site of Troy where, according to legend, the artful Ulysses devised the Wooden Horse strategy and thereby ended the 10 year Trojan War. Nine ruined cities, one on top of the other, have been uncovered, going back some 5000 years. Troy VI is the assumed walled city of King Priam (1800-1275 BC), celebrated by the blind Greek poet Homer in the Iliad and all but lost in legend until unearthed by amateur archaeologist Schliemann in 1871.

Grand Anzac Hotel
Located in the centre of Canakkale, the Grand Anzac Hotel is of modern design. Every room has a mini bar, television, kettle, safe, hairdryer and free Wi-Fi access or cable internet. The hotel has a garden cafe and bar and a lovely restaurant where you can try some of the local delicacies. A comfortable and centrally located hotel that will be a great base for your stay in Canakkale.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13 Travel to Istanbul via the World War I memorials at Gallipoli

We board a ferryboat to cross the Dardanelles Straits to the Gallipoli (Gelibolu) Peninsula. It was here that the ill-fated Allied campaign, after much bloody hand-to-hand fighting and loss of life, was forced to concede victory to the Turks and withdraw (1916). Involved in the fighting on the Turkish side was Mustafa Kemal - later known as Ataturk, the 'Father of the Turks'. Following the shoreline of the Sea of Marmara to Tekirdag, we arrive in cosmopolitan Istanbul, with time for a night out on the town.

Venera Hotel
This hotel offers modern comforts and great service in the heart of Istanbul. It's situated just a short walk from the Sultanahmet district. The rooms are all air-conditioned and en suite and feature a phone, television, mini bar, safe box and hairdryer. The hotel also boasts a small pool and sauna. From the top floor bar and restaurant you can enjoy great views over the city. There's Wi-Fi access throughout.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14 Walking tour of Istanbul including the Blue Mosque

Today we have a full day to explore the city. Formerly Constantinople, Istanbul was the old capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. Nearly all the main sites of historic interest are in Old Stamboul. We include a morning tour, taking in the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and Sultanahmet Square. The afternoon is left free, you may choose to visit the famous Sunken Palace cisterns, or the great Aya Sofia - crowning glory of Byzantium. Alternatively there is the chance to take a boat trip on the Bosphorous - which offers stunning views of the Istanbul skyline. To appreciate the wonderful skyline of domes and minarets, climb up the Galata Tower.

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Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 15 Trip ends in Istanbul

Our trip ends this morning in Istanbul.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 14 breakfasts, 0 lunches,0 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide.Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Turkey

Lunch £: 7.00

Dinner £: 13.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Turkey

Bottle of Beer £: 2.70

Water £: 1.00

Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Optional Excursions

Cappadocia - Whirling Dervish Ceremony 13 Pounds; Turkish Bath 50 Turkish Lira (approximately 20 Pounds). Hot Air Balloon ride - please see below.
Antalya - Boat trip to Duden Waterfalls 8 to 10 Pounds
Istanbul - Ferryboat rides on the Bosphorus 10 Pounds; Aya Sofia Pounds.
Cappadocia - Hot Air Balloon
Man originally conquered the air with the hot air balloon and it is still possible to recreate that sense of wonder those first aviators enjoyed - and what a location! There can be few places around the world that can rival the incredible, eroded landscapes of Cappadocia as you float almost silently above the strange moonscape below - a wonderful, lighter than air experience! Two different flights are on offer - Classic Flight (on average 100 minutes): 220 Euros per person. Budget Flight (on average 65 minutes): 155 Euros per person. Clients may pay in cash or with credit cards. On both the Budget and Classic Flights, you will be offered fruit and champagne (or soft drink if preferred) on completion, as well as a Flight Certificate. We would remind you that in the interests of safety and your enjoyment all balloon flights are subject to suitable flying conditions. Please ensure you wear warm clothing and secure footwear. (Please note that all bookings for this activity must be booked direct with the provider - please visit http://www.rainbowballoons.net/en/)
Iztuzu Beach - Sea Turtle Hospital 5 Pounds

Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Explore Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow 15 Pounds for tipping.

In order to make things easier for you, the Explore Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Foreign Exchange

Turkey

ATM Availability: ATMs are widely available throughout Turkey. To avoid large queues at the airport exchanges, you may wish to xchange some lira before arriving.

Credit Card Acceptance: In major restaurants.

Travellers Cheques: Not recommended.

Local Currency: Turkish Lira.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Major foreign currencies such as US Dollars, £Sterling and Euros can easily be changed. We advise against travelling with Travellers Cheques as commission rates are high. Other currencies can be exchanged in larger cities. We advise you to change money in Turkey as rates tend to be better.

Where to Exchange: Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a ‘flight inclusive’ package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific ‘Joining Instructions’ prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

EXPLORE!
The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

Explore Worldwide is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Visa Information

Turkey: Visas are required by UK citizens. We recommend that you obtain your visa online, prior to arrival at https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/
This will cost US$20 and you will need a blank page in your passport for the stamp.

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure

Vaccinations & Protection

Turkey

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, typhoid, infectious hepatitis and polio. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/ and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Turkey

Evenings and early mornings can be cool in the early and late season (before mid May and after early October). Summers are hot and dry with refreshing sea breezes. It is often cooler on higher ground and in the mountains and can be cold at night, even in the summer. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up to date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Clothing

The long Turkish summer can be hot, although much of our route follows the Mediterranean coastline and is freshened by sea breezes. If you're travelling early or late in the season lightweight rainwear is advisable and a warmer sweater is recommended for the evenings. In the winter months the temperatures may drop below freezing at night.

When visiting mosques, women should cover their head, shoulders and knees, so it's handy to pack a scarf. Men should also ensure there knees are covered.

Equipment

For those who are keen, we recommend a mask and a snorkel for the time spent on the coast. Also recommended are a waterbottle, torch, sunhat and sunscreen, towel and swiss army knife for picnics.

Footwear

Walking boots or trainers with ankle supports are recommended for walks. Comfortable walking shoes will be useful for exploring some of the ancient sites and sandals. Plastic sandals are useful for protecting your feet against sea urchins on the rocks and you can also swim with them on.

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Turkey

Population: 66,000,000

Size of Country: 779,452 sq km

Major Language: Turkish

Religion: Muslim, Christian

Time Difference to GMT: +3

Electric Supply & Plugs

Turkey

2 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.

- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport . Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditional, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

  Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- Tourism Concern

  Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2015.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2016 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2016. 2017/18 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2017.

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