

# **Highlights of Turkey (DTU 2014)**



TOUR **DURATION** 15



Tour Style: Premium Tour Pace: Busy

Tour Type: Small Groups Tour Comfort: Comfortable Tour Code: DTU

- 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, tavertine 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 comfortable 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**

### 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**

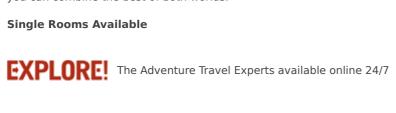
A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced Tour Leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand 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.

# 1 Join tour 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.

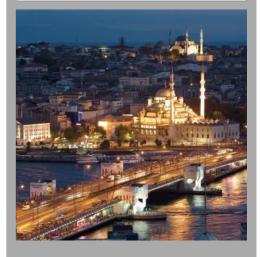
#### **Risiss Hotel**

This Hotel in Ankara combines Turkish Hospitality and the comforts of modern living such as wifi. Designed with Turkish character and modern touches, you will really feel like you have combined past and present during your stay here. The restaurant provides both Turkish and Western food including a mixed buffet for breakfast so you can combine the best of both worlds.















### Visit 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 (2000BC) and earlier. Time allowing, in the afternoon we have the option of taking a walk (approx 3hrs) through the Red Rose Valley to better appreciate the remarkable landscape.

#### Alfina Hotel

The Alfina Cave Hotel in Cappadocia is simply a unique cave hotel that combines cave dwellings of the centuries with the luxurious comfort of today. You may relax on multi level terraces and explore this historic, fascinating and romantic landscape. Each room has private bath with jacuzzi, kettle and herbal teas, mini bar, heating during the winter months, television and wireless internet. A perfect location to explore the surrounding area.

#### **Single Rooms Available**



Included Meals: Breakfast



### Sightseeing in Cappadocia

We spend most of the day visiting the major points of historical and topographical interest, including Uchisar and Goreme. 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 30m 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.

The Alfina Cave Hotel in Cappadocia is simply a unique cave hotel that combines cave dwellings of the centuries with the luxurious comfort of today. You may relax on multi level terraces and explore this historic, fascinating and romantic landscape. Each room has private bath with jacuzzi, kettle and herbal teas, mini bar, heating during the winter months, television and wireless internet. A perfect location to explore the surrounding area.

#### Single Rooms Available



Included Meals: Breakfast



#### Drive to Konya

Leaving Cappadocia this morning we drive to Konya. En-route we stop to visit the wellpreserved 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 popularly known as 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 and cable television. The hotel features a lobby bar, and a choice of three restaurants serving Turkish and International dishes.

#### **Single Rooms Available**



Included Meals: Breakfast



### Drive Antalya via Aspendos

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 pool area. All the rooms have modern amenities such as flat screen TV, wi-fi and a safe.

#### **Single Rooms Available**



Included Meals: Breakfast



### In Antalya; visit Phaselis and free afternoon

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 690BC 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.

#### **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 pool area. All the rooms have modern amenities such as flat screen TV, wi-fi and a safe.

#### **Single Rooms Available**



Included Meals: Breakfast



### Drive via Termessos and deserted Greek village 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**

The BC Spa 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. A great location and great facilities in the only Spa hotel in Dalyan.

#### Single Rooms Available



Included Meals: Breakfast



### In Dalyan; boat excursion to Caunos

This morning we take a riverboat river boat trip through the reeds to the ancient site of Caunos. Here we can explore the ruins, which date back to 400 B.C and clamber up to the citadel. 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.

#### **BC Spa Hotel**

The BC Spa 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. A great location and great facilities in the only Spa hotel in Dalyan.

### **Single Rooms Available**



Included Meals: Breakfast



### Drive to Pamukkale

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 emake the most of it before 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 brand new boutique hotel in Pamukkale only a short walk from Hieropolis and with views of the travertines at this famous world heritage site.

The hotel has a relaxing spa area including hammam, jacuzzi, sauna and swimming pool whilst all bedrooms have private balconies, LCD televsion, mini bar and bathrooms have hairdryers. This really is alovely spot to unwind in.

#### Single Rooms Available



Included Meals: Breakfast



### Visit Aphrodisias; drive 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 Guvercinada 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 styled rooms. Facilities include a restaurant, bar/ lounge and fitness centre. All rooms have a sea view and are equipped with air conditioning, a TV, internet access, telephone, minibar, safe, hairdryer and balcony.

#### **Single Rooms Available**



Included Meals: Breakfast



In Kusadasi; visit 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.

#### **Efe Boutique Hotel**

The hotel is situated between the Guvercinada 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 styled rooms. Facilities include a restaurant, bar/ lounge and fitness centre. All rooms have a sea view and are equipped with air conditioning, a TV, internet access, telephone, minibar, safe, hairdryer and balcony.

#### Single Rooms Available



Included Meals: Breakfast



## Drive to Canakkale via Pergamon and Troy

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.

#### Kervansarav Hotel

Recently voted as one of the 'Best Small Hotels in Turkey', Kervansaray Hotel is probably going to be the most fascinating hotels of our journey. Painstakingly restored over 2 years, this former Greek-style building is quite unique. The simply furnished rooms with their high ceilings and modern comforts give a great feeling of space and the hotel's gardens make the ideal place to unwind.

#### Single Rooms Available



Included Meals: Breakfast



### Drive via Gallipoli to Istanbul

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

The Venera Hotel offers modern comfort and great service in the heart of Istanbul - just a short walk from the Sultanahmet area. The rooms offer good facilities, whilst the hotel also boasts a small pool and sauna. From the top floor bar and restaurant you can enjoy great views over the city.

#### **Single Rooms Available**



Included Meals: Breakfast



### Morning city tour of old Istanbul

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.

#### Venera Hotel

The Venera Hotel offers modern comfort and great service in the heart of Istanbul - just a short walk from the Sultanahmet area. The rooms offer good facilities, whilst the hotel also boasts a small pool and sauna. From the top floor bar and restaurant you can enjoy great views over the city.

#### **Single Rooms Available**



Included Meals: Breakfast



Tour ends Istanbul

Our tour 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.

#### 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; Turkish Bath 50YTL (approx £20). Hot Air Balloon ride - Classic Flight (on average 100 minutes) - EUR220pp or Budget Flight (on average 65 minutes) - EUR155pp. (Please note all bookings for this activity must be booked direct with the provider - please visit http://www.rainbowballoons.net/en/)

Antalya - Boat trip to Duden Waterfalls £8-10.

Istanbul - Ferryboat rides on the Bosphorus £10.00; Aya Sofia £7.00.

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, both bookable through Goreme Balloons. Classic Flight (on average 100 minutes): EUR220 pp. Budget Flight (on average 65 minutes): EUR155 pp. 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.



#### Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour 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 for tipping.

In order to make things easier for you, the Tour 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. However, if travelling to Cirali, there are no banks or ATMs in the town thus it is advised to bring cash and credit cards. Although it is possible to buy Turkish Lira at the airport in Antalya there will probably be queues which will cause delays to the group transfer thus it is preferable if Lira is arranged 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**

For passengers making their own travel arrangements, please ensure you join the group as described on day one of the tour itinerary. If you are considering purchasing your own airline tickets, you can book these through any travel agent, directly with an airline or through an online flight consolidator. In all cases, we would be happy to arrange transfers to and from the joining point of your tour if required.

### **Joining Tour Abroad**

Clients booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the joining point. Please refer to separate 'Joining Instructions' for time and place of rendezvous with tour leader

### 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 joining any of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour. Your insurer may charge an additional premium for certain activities.

If you require travel insurance for your tour, Explore Worldwide is an appointed representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Our travel insurance policy is specially tailored to the needs of the adventure traveller and will cover you for any included activity on any Explore trip. You can either purchase this at the time of booking or call us on 0844 499 0903 after you have booked.



#### 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/

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. 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.

### 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**

#### **Food**

The prices for meals and 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. 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**

#### Turkey

Bottle of Beer £: 2.70

Water £: 1.00



#### 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**

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 & 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: The Sunshine Orphanage (which cares for abandoned children in Luxor, Egypt), Education for All (sponsoring children through their secondary education in Morocco), The Hope Foundation (helping an Indian Village to recover from the 2004 Tsunami) and the Mufindi Orphanage, which support AIDS orphans in Tanzania.

We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation, Travel Operators for Tigers (helping save the Bengal Tiger from extinction) and Friends for Conservation. We have also adopted a beautiful Sri Lankan Elephant called 'Serendip'.

We are delighted to have received a Five Star sustainable tourism status from the Association of Independent Tour Operators in recognition of our on-going commitment to sustainable tourism.

#### **Cool Earth**

Explore are delighted to support Cool Earth to reduce carbon emissions through preventing the illegal deforestation of the South America rainforest. One of the top sources of global carbon emissions, rainforest deforestation equivalent to the USA's annual emissions, it also destroys flora and fauna, sometimes to the point of extinction. It also degrades the lives and communities of the 350 million residents of the rainforest.

Cool Earth prevents the deforestation through its support of local communities as forest guardians and by focussing on areas in immediate danger of deforestation. It has so far protected over 350,000 acres of rainforest, with each acre saving an emission of 260 tons of CO2, as well as protecting rare animals and plants. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year. In addition to mitigating emissions, when you travel with Explore, you are helping to protect the source of 20% of the world's fresh water and oxygen, as well as the livelihoods of the 1.6 billion people who are reliant on the rainforest. www.coolearth.org

#### **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 http://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 http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/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 Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. 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.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% nonrefundable 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 2013 and 31st December 2014.

### **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: 2014 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2014. 2015/16 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2015.

These tour notes were printed on 16/04/2014 13:49:20