EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Historical Treasures of Turkey + Blue Cruise (TAC 2016)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TRIPDURATI
15
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate

Tour Type: Small Groups
Accommodation Grade: Standard

Trip Code: TAC

Trip Highlights - Historical Treasures of Turkey + Blue Cruise

- ✓ Ephesus - One of the ancient world's most iconic and important archaeological sites
- ✓ Pamukkale and Hierapolis - Admire the hillside of white travertines and explore historic Hierapolis
- ✓ Aphrodisias - Discover the lesser visited but amazingly well-preserved Greco-Roman stadium
- ✓ Sardes - Visit to the extraordinary site rarely featured on other tours and stay in a thermal spa hotel
- ✓ Lake Bafa - Stay in accommodation set amongst olive groves on the shore of the picturesque lake
- ✓ Sailing on a traditional style wooden gulet - Seven nights cruising along the beautiful shoreline of Turkey's Turquoise Coast

Trip Essentials

Accommodation:	6 nights Standard Hotel 1 night Premium Hotel 7 nights Simple Boat
Included Meals:	14 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 8 dinners
Start Point:	Join trip: Dalyan
End Point:	Trip ends: Fethiye
Transport:	Bus, Boat
Countries:	Turkey

Aegean Sites + Blue Cruise

This trip combines the Greco-Roman sites of South West Turkey with a week-long cruise along the Aegean Coast. You'll discover Ephesus, Aphrodisias and the impressive Temple of Apollo at Didyma. We also visit the less well known sites of Sardes and Priene. In Pamukkale, like the ancients before us, we can enjoy a dip in the hot mineral waters of the spa or visit the ruins of ancient Hierapolis. We also tour the historic harbour city of Caunos, relax at a thermal spa hotel and beside the waters at Lake Bafa and there's the chance to visit the turtle conservation centre at beautiful Iztuzu Beach. At the end of our first week we board our traditional wooden gulet in the old seaport town of Fethiye. We cruise along the beautiful Turquoise Coast and explore the small bays and islands, discover ancient relics, and swim and snorkel in the warm clear waters that give the coastline its name. We visit the hillside village of Kalkan, the harbour town of Kas and the submerged ancient city of Kekova.

Why Book this trip

On this two week trip you'll get to discover some of Turkey's best known historical sights along with lesser visited but equally impressive ancient monuments. You'll also stay on the shores of Lake Bafa and in a thermal spa hotel. You'll spend a week cruising by traditional gulet along the beautiful Turquoise Coast with amble time to relax and swim along the way.

Wildlife

Iztuzu Beach, situated near Dalyan, is a narrow strip of land which forms a natural barrier between the Mediterranean Sea and the delta of the Koycegiz River. It is one of the main breeding grounds in the Mediterranean for the loggerhead sea turtle and has been protected since 1988 by introducing a number of restrictions so that the nests and turtles are disturbed as little as possible. Some of the key restrictions are that building development at Iztuzu has been banned and an overnight curfew has been placed on the beach, as this is when the female turtles come ashore to lay their eggs.

Since 2009, there has also been a turtle centre at the beach which assists with locating, counting and protecting the nests. Injured turtles that are found in the estuary and on the beach can be bought in for treatment and rehabilitation until they are able to be released back into the wild. There is also an education programme working with local fisherman which attempts to instil the importance of using propeller guards so that there is less risk of the turtles being injured.

We have the opportunity to visit here in the afternoon of day 2 of our trip.

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.

Accommodation Grade: Standard

Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

Tour Pace: Moderate

These moderately paced tours provide some busy days with plenty of experiences to enjoy, as well as time to relax along the way.

Your trip 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

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

DAY 1 Join trip in Dalyan

Our trip begins in Dalyan and after checking in to our hotel and meeting the group, this evening is free for you to relax. Once a fishing village on the edge of the Dalyan River it's now grown into a small town that is known for its meandering reed bed waterways that lead to the beautiful golden sand Iztuzu Beach, and for the Lycian rock tombs that can be viewed in the cliffs above the town. The ancient city of Caunos is also only a short walk or boat ride away.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 River boat to Caunos and Iztuzu Beach

This morning we take a small boat through the reed beds to the ancient ruins of Caunos, an important city circa 400 BC. Here, we can hike up to the higher points of the citadel from where there are fine panoramic views to the distant Aegean. We continue by boat to Iztuzu Beach, which is perhaps the best beach in all Turkey, for an afternoon of relaxation and the chance to visit the Turtle Conservation Centre (DEKAMER) before returning to Dalyan in the late afternoon. The conservation centre works to protect the turtle nesting areas on Iztuzu Beach, cares for and rehabilitates injured turtles and also attempts to educate the local fisherman on the importance of using propeller guards.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 Drive to Lake Bafa via historic Stratonikeia and Milas

Today we make our way north to our lakeside accommodation on the shores of beautiful Lake Bafa. En route we'll stop at Stratonikeia where there's time to enjoy a picnic lunch and explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stratonikeia has been continually inhabited from the Bronze Age and was an important city in ancient Caria. At the site today you can see the gymnasium, bouleuterion, theatre and Augustus-Imperial Temple amongst other ruins. We continue to Milas where we discover the old town area on foot as well as visiting the Jewish Cemetery and the Gumuskesen Monument, which is large Roman tomb dating from the 2nd century AD. Later this afternoon we continue to the neighboring town of Euromos where we visit the Temple of Zeus. It's one of the best preserved classical designed temples in the country and dates back to the 6th century BC. Following our visit we drive on to Lake Bafa, where we'll stay in lakeside chalet style accommodation set amongst olive groves. You may like to enjoy a peaceful lakeside walk or swim before we have dinner here this evening. Lake Bafa was once connected to the Aegean Sea and a number of important harbor towns were set along this gulf. Now it's separated from the ocean and is part of a nature reserve which is home to over 220 bird species including fish eagles, pelicans and pigmy cormorants. You can also find 20 different types of orchid and in the lake itself there are many fish including eels, sea bass and sea bream. The surrounding Latmos Mountains are the habitat of wild cats, boar and badgers.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 Visit to ancient Didyma and Priene en route to Selcuk

We drive firstly to Didyma and visit the Temple of Apollo, which was an oracle held as important as the one at Delphi, in Greece. Today the massive scale of the fallen columns and the wealth of the intricate carvings bear testimony to the power of the ancient cult of Apollo. Slightly further down the coast we'll make a beach stop where there's the opportunity to swim, enjoy a picnic or relax in one of the beachside restaurants. This afternoon we'll visit Priene, which is one of the smallest but most picturesque sites in the area. It's perched on a hillside overlooking the Menderes Valley and was once a thriving Ionian city. It's one of only a few that wasn't built over

by the Romans, so archaeologists have been left with a vivid picture of the scale and layout of a typical city from the 4th century BC. Following our visit we continue to Selcuk, which is home to a prominent Byzantine fortress, impressive mosque and remains of the huge Temple of Artemis, once considered to be one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, but sadly now totally destroyed. Every year from mid-March to mid-August white storks return to Selcuk to mate and their nests can be seen on the top of posts and pillars all around the town. On arrival this afternoon you may like to visit the Ephesus Archaeological Museum or the Basilica of Saint John.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 Visit to Ephesus and Birgi; overnight at a thermal spa hotel

We depart early from our hotel this morning to try and beat the crowds for our visit to the great Greco-Roman city of Ephesus, once visited by Mark Anthony and Cleopatra, and also by the evangelist Saint Paul, which was the inspiration for the tenth book of the New Testament, Epistle to the Ephesians. This famous old Asia Minor seaport reached its peak in the 2nd century AD and declined after the 7th century. It was one of the main cultural and economic centres and boasted an excellent gymnasia and a stadium with seating for 70,000 spectators. Other highlights include the Baths of Constantine, the brothel, the Temple of Hadrian with its beautiful facade, the theatre (a giant with 24,000 seats) and the odeon (a 2000 seat music and poetry centre), the Arcadian Way (where Cleopatra entered from the harbour) and the Marble Avenue featuring the 2-storey Library of Celsus, which is one of the most photographed Greco-Roman buildings in the world. After free time back in Selcuk for lunch we drive to UNESCO listed historical town of Birgi. It was once an Ottoman regional capital and here we'll see the traditional stone houses, mosque and the very impressive painted mansion. The mansion is one of the few surviving examples of this richly coloured and ornate style. Built in 1761 you enter the mansion through two very large wooden doors and within each room you'll find beautifully painted walls and intricately wood carved ceilings. Later this afternoon we drive onto Salihli where we stay at a thermal spa hotel for the night. Here you may choose to take advantage of the hotel facilities which include an outdoor pool, thermal pool, Turkish bath, sauna and massage room. Situated on the edge of a hill you can take in the lovely views from the hotel terrace and restaurant.

Overnight: **Premium Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 Drive via Sardes and Buldan to Pamukkale and Hierapolis

This morning we make the quick 10 minute journey to Sardes, a fascinating ancient site rarely featured on other tour operator's itineraries to the area. Here amongst the fascinating ruins you'll be able to see the restored gymnasium, synagogue and the old main road. Sardes was once the ancient capital of the kingdom of Lydia. The synagogue here is one of the most impressive ever excavated with over 80 Greek and seven Hebrew inscriptions found along with sections of a beautiful mosaic floor. The reconstructed gymnasium gives you a real feel for what these colossus ancient buildings would have looked like in their prime. We drive on to the weaving and textile town of Buldan where there's free time for lunch and to explore. Buldan is famed for a type of thin cheesecloth fabric which is edged with lace and commonly used as bed spreads; they also produce a lot of hanger chiefs and curtains, as well as the 'kaplama', the brightly coloured traditional head dresses of the region. This afternoon we reach one of Turkey's most amazing natural wonders, the 'frozen waterfall' of Pamukkale. Situated on a high escarpment, Pamukkale has been an attraction since Roman times. Stalactites of a bright white petrified waterfalls cascade from basin to basin. We visit the incredible travertine pools, where you can opt to swim and enjoy the views overlooking the Menderes Valley. Above the terraced pools you'll find the ancient spa town of Hierapolis where the ruins date back to 2nd century BC and the time of Eumenes II. Earthquakes have rocked the area throughout history and the site was finally abandoned in 1334 following a particularly strong quake. Here you can visit the theatre, Temple of Apollo, Frontinus Gate and see a number of sarcophagi as well as having the chance to go into the Archaeology Museum housed in the former Roman baths.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 Visit the Greco-Roman site of Aphrodisias en route to Fethiye

Today we depart for the very impressive Greco-Roman site of Aphrodisias, where the goddess of love once bestowed her sensual favours on her willing devotees. This site is in many ways as spectacular as Ephesus but far quieter by comparison and there's also an excellent museum on site that you may like to visit. The tetrapylon is a wonderfully ornate example of a huge gateway which would have once welcomed you into the main street leading to the Temple of Aphrodite. The well-preserved odean and theatre are also well worth seeing as is the Sebasteion which is carved with reliefs depicted Aphrodite and her worshippers. The piece de resistance has to be the stadium which measures 270 metre long by 60 metres wide and would have held 30,000 spectators. On the seats you'll find carvings into the rock which have been graffitied during the athletic events that took place here. Following our visit we'll drive to Fethiye where you're final evening is at leisure. Fethiye is a market town on the Aegean coast that can trace its history back to the ancient Lycian city of Telmessos built around the harbour in the 5th or 6th century BC. Reminders of the town's past include Lycian rock tombs on the hillside and a Hellenistic theatre.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Board the gulet in Fethiye for our Blue Cruise

Today is the end of our 'Historical Treasures of Turkey' trip and the start of our 'Blue Cruise' which begins at Fethiye harbour where we board our gulet and meet the crew. Fethiye is a market town that can trace its history back to the ancient Lycian city of Telmessos built around the harbour in the 5th or 6th century BC. Reminders of the town's past include Lycian rock tombs on the hillside and a Hellenistic theatre. If circumstances allow we leave Fethiye harbour in the late afternoon and head for a local bay for dinner and to overnight.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9 Set sail to Kalkan with the chance to visit Patara and Saklikent Gorge

We sail this morning to the attractive port of Kalkan, a small fishing village built into the steep slopes of the seacliff. Kalkan offers a perfect chance to explore an old village and harbour front. From here there is the chance of an optional excursion to see the ancient city of Patara and amazing Saklikent Gorge. Patara is the birthplace of Saint Nicholas (Father Christmas) and is situated on the largest sandy beach in Turkey. After the visit to the site you might like to have a swim in the refreshing surf. Saklikent Gorge, situated high in the mountains above Fethiye was created by icy cold water cutting through the mountains over thousands of years. A natural wonder, the resulting canyon is 300 metres deep and 18 km long. Saklikent in Turkish means 'Hidden City'. The walls are so high they cut out most of the sunlight and the fresh spring waters that flow through are freezing cold! A great refuge on a hot summer day.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10 Sail to Kekova with the option to walk to Simena Castle

Sailing east along the coast towards the deserted island of Kekova, we come across a picturesque scene where ancient ruins line the coast. Overlooking these stunning views is Simena castle, set in beautiful surroundings. We can take a walk up to explore its tiny theatre, hollowed out of the rock, and the surrounding medieval walls and tombs. This afternoon there's the chance to join your Explore Leader for an optional walk to discover the ancient coastal trails. Afterwards, heading the short distance to Gokkaya Island, a sheltered bay dotted with small islands, channels and several anchorages. In the port area there are a group of islands and small coves, where we'll find a good place to anchor.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11 Cruise to Demre Cayagzi; opportunity to visit ancient Arycanda or Myra

Sailing eastwards, we reach Cayagzi harbour. We recommend a side trip to Arycanda, one of southern Turkey's most dramatic sites, with a magnificent setting on the slopes of the Taurus mountains. The ruins are extensive, with a city stadium, large and small theatres, aqueducts and public baths. On our return, we will moor in Camlica cove, another peaceful and blissful spot in the region.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 12 Heading for Kas via Ucagiz there's the chance to go sea kayaking

Today we start sailing west to Ucagiz village. This morning we highly recommend doing a sea kayaking trip at Kekova. Here, submerged streets and buildings are visible in the crystal waters. Lycian sarcophagi (tombs) lie in the harbour bottom at Simena. This afternoon we continue sailing west to the harbour of Kas. This picturesque coastal town is one of the most beautiful of the Turkish Riviera, backed by steep cliffs covered with dense green forest. You'll have time to enjoy soaking up the atmosphere at one of the many lively cafes near the picturesque harbour.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13 Sail to Soguksu Cove; option to visit ruins devoted to Father Christmas

We sail from Kas to Soguksu Cove then Gemiler island. In the afternoon, we will have an opportunity to land on Gemiler Island where we visit the extensive ruins dedicated to Father Christmas. In the early ages of Christianity, the island was an important shelter for the pilgrims on the way to Jerusalem. The top pf the island offers superb views over the lovely Mediterranean coast.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 14 Cruise to Tarzan Bay to relax and swim in the turquoise waters

As we sail to Tarzan bay getting close to Fethiye, we will admire the wonderful views of turquoise seas. A last chance to relax and unwind before the trip ends. Please note that there may be situations where, due to operational reasons, we have to motor to Fethiye Harbour and moor up there.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 15 Continue to Fethiye where the trip ends

Early in the morning we return to Fethiye. Our trip ends in Fethiye harbour. If your flight is departing later in the day then it will be possible to leave your baggage either on board the boat or at the boat office in Fethiye. Please speak to your Explore Leader or the boat captain to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that the itinerary may vary due to weather and sailing conditions.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 14 breakfasts, 6 lunches,8 dinners included in the price of this trip. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Local Fees

Tea and coffee will be provided on board the gulet at meal/tea times and water is provided at meal times also. You cannot bring your own drinks on board the gulet, but they can be purchased on the boat at the following approximate rates:

Wine (70cl): £10.00
Water (small): £0.35
Beer (small): £2.00
Soft Drinks: £1.10
Raki: £2.65
Spirits: £2.65

It's not possible to pay by credit/debit card or travellers cheque on board. Cash machines also aren't easily found during this trip. Please also note that if you would like to offer tips for the Explore staff, it is probably best to bring this amount before you travel as cash machines are not easily found on this trip.

Budgeting for your Trip

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the trip 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

Pammukale - swim in sacred pool £10.00
Selcuk - Turkish Bath £8.00
Iztuzu Beach - Turtle Conservation Centre (DEKAMER) entrance £5.00
Patara and Saklikent Gorge - excursion by minibus/taxi from Kalkan £16.00
Kas - sea kayaking £25.00-80.00 dependent on numbers
Arycanda - attractive ancient site in the Taurus foothills £14.00 (transport and entrance)
Simena Castle - hike to Simena Castle near Kekova £3.50

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 recognized 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 £30.00 for tipping.

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

Please note that if you would like to offer tips to the local staff and/or your Explore Leader during the Bluew Cruise then it is best to bring this with you in cash before you board the gulet as cash machines are not easily found during this section of the trip.

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 Trip

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.

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

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.

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

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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$20.00 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 Trip

Climate

Turkey

Evenings and early mornings can be cool in the early and late season (before mid May and after early October). During the winter, temperatures usually hover between 0 and 10 degrees, but are usually wet, particularly around the coast. 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.

Clothing

The long Turkish summer can be hot, though much of the Mediterranean coastline is freshened by a sea breeze. A warmer sweater or light fleece and long trousers are advisable for the evenings in early and late season.

Late September to November tend to be cooler so bring layers and some warmer clothes. A light rainjacket may also be useful.

Make sure you bring your swimming costume and a towel with you.

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.

Dress on the gulet is informal.

Equipment

We recommend you bring a water bottle, torch (for power cuts and emergencies), sun cream, sun hat, sunglasses, insect repellent and a snorkel and mask for keen swimmers. Most importantly don't forget your camera.

Qualified scuba divers wishing to dive should bring their diving certificate and log book.

Footwear

Trainers or comfortable walking shoes are required for exploring the ancient sites and sandals for relaxing.

Footwear is generally not worn on the boat, which is recommended as you get much better grip with bare feet. A pair of old or plastic shoes is useful for walking on rocks and wet beach landings.

Luggage: On Tour

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

Space is limited in the gulet cabins so luggage should be kept to a minimum. A soft holdall is recommended rather than a hard suitcase.

Luggage allowance on trip: 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, 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, 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 2016 and 31st December 2017.

Trip 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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