



TURKEY - Eyes of Turkey Tour – 7N / 8D – (CODE - AT TKY 09)
FROM R21,490 Per person sharing – LAND ONLY

The Eyes of Turkey Tour sounds like an incredible 8-day adventure, offering a perfect combination of cities, beaches, and historical sites. Here's what makes it stand out:

First-Class Guided Tours: The inclusion of first-class guided tours ensures that travellers have a knowledgeable guide to provide insights into the rich history and culture of each destination. This enhances the overall experience and helps visitors appreciate the significance of the sites they're exploring.

Istanbul, Cappadocia, Ephesus, and Pamukkale: The tour covers a diverse range of destinations, showcasing the cultural and historical richness of Turkey. From the bustling city of Istanbul to the surreal landscapes of Cappadocia and the ancient wonders of Ephesus and Pamukkale, travellers get a comprehensive view of the country's highlights.

Modern AC Coaches: Traveling in modern air-conditioned coaches adds a level of comfort to the journey, making it more enjoyable for tourists as they move between destinations.

Full-Day Tours to Ephesus and Pamukkale: Spending full days exploring Ephesus and Pamukkale allows for a thorough appreciation of these incredible historical sites. Ephesus, with its well-preserved ancient ruins, and Pamukkale, with its unique terraces of thermal pools, offer unforgettable experiences.

South Cappadocia: Exploring South Cappadocia and the possibility of a hot air balloon ride (weather permitting) add an adventurous touch to the tour. The lunar moonscape of Cappadocia is mesmerizing, and a balloon ride provides a breathtaking perspective of this otherworldly terrain.

The Eyes of Turkey Tour appears to offer a well-rounded and enriching experience, combining history, culture, natural beauty, and a bit of adventure for travellers seeking a comprehensive exploration of Turkey.

At a glance

- Day 1 Welcome to Istanbul. Transfer to your hotel
- Day 2 Full-day Istanbul city tour
- Day 3 Full-day Bursa tour
- Day 4 Bosphorus Cruise. Flight to Izmir
- Day 5 Full-day Pamukkale tour
- Day 6 Full-day Ephesus tour. Flight to Cappadocia
- Day 7 Full-day South Cappadocia tour
- Day 8 Transfer to the Airport for return flight

Highlights

- > Daily Departures
- > 5 full-day and 1 Half-day Guided tours with English speaking guides & entrance fees
- > See Istanbul, the Mediterranean region, and central Anatolia (Cappadocia)
- > Cruise down the Bosphorus in Istanbul and visit the Spice Bazaar
- > Visit to the Underground Cities is included in your itinerary in Cappadocia
- > See Ephesus, once the 4th largest city of the Roman Empire
- > Spend the day in Pamukkale with an option to spend some time at the Sacred Pool

Inclusions

- Meet and assist on arrival and departure by our local representative
- Transfer and intercity transportation as per itinerary in AC vehicle
- Accommodation in selected hotels in double/twin-sharing
- Meals: as mentioned
- Local English-speaking Guide
- Entrance fees

Exclusions

- International/Domestic flights – Departure & Fuel taxes (Contact us for best airfares)
- Personal expenses, meals and drinks unless otherwise specified
- Travel Insurance
- Turkey Visa fee
- Tips
- Services not stated in the itinerary

Validity

Rate valid for travel between 01 MAY to 31 OCT 24

Contact us for alternative travel dates

Itinerary

Day City	Day to Day Itinerary
Day 1 Istanbul - Arrival Day	Meet at the airport Transfer to your hotel. You will be given your room key and the rest of the day is yours to explore Istanbul. Early check-in is subject to availability. Overnight in Istanbul.
Day 2 Istanbul City Tour (B-L)	You will be picked up around 8:00 am and taken to the Sultanahmet district, the oldest, most historic part of the city. The first stop of the day will be the Hagia Sophia . Your tour guide will explain the significance of this massive building that was once a Christian church, then a mosque, and now a museum. Drive past the Hippodrome of Constantinople , where we will see the impressive obelisk, before reaching the Blue Mosque . Continue to the Grand Bazaar , a massive, bustling complex to find clothing, decorative furnishings, food, and more. On the way to the bazaar, see other historical monuments such as the Tomb of Sultan Ahmet I , the Firuz Aga Mosque , and the exterior of the Tomb of Mehmed II . After your visit to the Grand Bazaar, a stop is made for lunch In the afternoon, visit Topkapi Palace , the primary residence of the Ottoman sultans for nearly 400 years. A final stop is made at Little Hagia Sophia before returning to your hotel <i>Please Note: St. Sophia Museum is closed on Mondays, Topkapi Palace is closed on Tuesdays and The Grand Bazaar is closed on Sundays</i>
Day 3 Istanbul - Bursa Tour (B-L)	Visit the city of Bursa, once the capital of the Ottoman Empire, on this day trip from Istanbul that starts with a 2-hour ferry ride. Enjoy the views during the trip, and visit Tophane for a panoramic look at Bursa. Enjoy a local lunch, and ascend Mt. Uludag, the ancient Olympus, by cable car to take in the scenery. Other activities include a silk market and covered bazaar.
Day 4 Istanbul- Izmir/Kusadasi (B/L)	Breakfast at your hotel and check-out You will be picked up from your Hotel and your first visit is the Spice Bazaar , one of the city's most colorful and bustling attractions, in operation since the 17th century and still remaining a very popular attraction for locals and visitors alike. You will have some time to explore and shop at the Bazaar. Next, head to the shores of the Bosphorus Strait for a cruise, learning more about this important, strategic waterway that straddles the Asian and European continents. On your voyage, see an impressive showcase of many historic Istanbul buildings: the façade of Dolmabahce Palace ; 15th-century fortress Rumelihisari ; the Beylerbeyi Palace , the summer home of Ottoman sultans; and many more. After the tour, you are transferred to airport and board your flight to Izmir On arrival, transfer to your hotel in Kusadasi
Day 5 Full day Pamukkale tour (B/L)	You will be picked up from your hotel around 08:00 for the tour of Pamukkale, the center of natural thermal spring waters with healing properties. Because of its water's chemical properties, pure white colored travertines and stepped water terraces have been formed on the mountain slope. Its resemblance to cotton piles is also known as " Cotton Castle " in Turkish. Visit the travertines and the ancient city of Hierapolis the biggest Necropolis in Anatolia. Also stop at the Sacred Pool , one of the highlights of the site (entrance 35 TL

	<p>pp is payable directly). Here shallow thermal waters ripple over a wonderful scattering of ancient Roman ruins</p> <p>After the tour return to your hotel in Kusadasi</p>
<p>Day 6 Ephesus Tour (B/L/D) - Flight to Cappadocia</p>	<p>Pick up from your hotel and travel to the House of the Virgin Mary which includes scenic views of the Byzantine fortress in Selcuk and the Temple of Artemis.</p> <p>A long and winding road takes you to the Shrine of St. Mary. The diminutive house, beautifully situated in the Solmissos Mountains, is considered by the Vatican to be the final resting place of the Virgin Mary.</p> <p>Your tour continues to ancient Ephesus, where you'll pass through the arched Magnesia Gate and begin a slow, downhill walk to the ruins of the Roman provincial capital.</p> <p>Your knowledgeable guide will highlight sights such as the beautifully preserved Temple of Hadrian, the magnificent Trajan Fountain, the Odeon Theater, once used for both political and entertainment purposes, and the beautiful Celsus Library with its imposing façade and two-story Corinthian-style columns.</p> <p>The dramatic Great Theater is one of the few structures still in use today. It seats twenty-five thousand and, although it was once an arena for gladiator games, it is now home to annual spring festivals.</p> <p>The Temple Of Artemis (Diana), is one of the seven wonders of the Ancient World.</p> <p>After the tour, transfer to the Airport for onward flight to Cappadocia</p> <p>Transfer to your hotel for dinner and overnight</p>
<p>Day 7 South Cappadocia tour (B/L/D)</p>	<p>Today will be another mystical day, we will start with a visit and walk in the Red Valley and discover rock-cut churches and hike 5 km through the Valley of Gulludere.</p> <p>Then keep going on with a visit to Cavusin village. Ancient Cavusin was already abandoned several about the 11th Century. Lunch will be a selection of Turkish Cuisine. In the afternoon drive to the Pigeon Valley for a panoramic view, Underground City, dated back to the Hittites than used by the early Christians. Under Ground city specially carved to be used during wartime to save their lives as well as early Christians hide from the Roman pressure, you can still see stables kitchen living room bedroom and more. After the tour, return to your hotel</p> <p>Dinner and overnight in Cappadocia.</p>
<p>Day 8 Cappadocia departure (B)</p>	<p>After breakfast check out from the hotel and transfer to the Airport for return flight to Istanbul</p>

Thank you for choosing **Sure Mirage Travel** for your **Turkey experience**. We value your patronage & look forward to serving you again in the near future.

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Country information

Best time to go

The best times to visit Turkey's archaeological sites and cities are in spring (Apr-May) and autumn (Sep-Oct) as the temperature is warm, but not too hot.

High summer (Jun-Aug) can be hot: best time for beach holidays. Winters can be cold and many hotels though city breaks are still an option. Turkey does offer ski options during the winter months

Turkey food & drink

Turkish food is varied and delicious. It's often meze style – lots of small dishes to sample, including aubergine dips, calamari, borek (stuffed pastries), mashed broad beans and stuffed vine leaves – plenty of options for vegetarians, too. Local food involves a lot of meat, often in kebab form – the smell of charcoal-grilled beef, lamb and chicken permeates Turkey.

A Turkish menu includes wonderful slices of bread, super-sweet baklava (pistachio and syrup pastry) and salty white cheeses. Despite being a Muslim country, alcohol is easy to find in Turkey, especially in the touristy coastal regions.

Efes is the Turkish beer of choice. Raki, grape spirit, is potent.

Turkish coffee is pitch black, very strong and often sweet. Tea is widely drunk and served black

Culture and Language

Turkish is the official language, however, English, French and German are widely spoken in all major cities and tourist areas. Shaking hands is the common form of greetings. Hospitality is a top priority. Pointing fingers at a person is considered rude. Declining an offer is done by putting your hand over your heart. Observe dress code when visiting Islamic sites

Getting around

Train travel is a very popular mode of transport between the major cities. It may be slow but can sometimes offer you some inspiring scenic moments. Coach travel is the most used way of getting around Turkey. Bus routes are relatively cheap and are most comfortable. Just about any city is connected by coach. On certain upmarket coaches, extra legroom and Wi-Fi is offered. If your journey is more than 5 hrs, a 30-minute stop is made about every three hours. Taking a taxi is by far the most convenient way of travel in major cities, but not always the quickest way. Taxis can easily be hailed on the street. Important: only take the official bright yellow taxis. If they do not have a meter, then it is a no go

Tipping

The basic rule is: tip 5-10% in restaurants, cafes and bars. Hotel staff does, however, expect a tip between 5 and 20 Turkish Lira. Do not tip taxi drivers but round up the fare. Tour Guides do not depend on tips, however, if a tour has really gone beyond what you expected, a tip of between 20 and 30 TL will be greatly appreciated

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ISTANBUL

Originally named Byzantium and later Constantinople, Istanbul is the only city in the world to span two continents. It sits on the Bosphorus River. The strait of water that divides the continents of Europe and Asia. It encompasses the natural harbour of the Golden Horn. Its illustrious past leaves a rich legacy of churches, mosques, palaces and museums. All this complemented by the behemoth Grand Bazaar with over 6,000 shops, the aromatic Egyptian Spice Market and colourful street life.

Sultanahmet, the compact old city of Istanbul, is full of parks, gardens and stunning sights. The Blue Mosque is famed for its blue Iznik tiles and unique six minarets. The Hagia Sofia, constructed in the 6th century, reigned as the grandest and biggest church in Christendom. During the conquest of Constantinople in 1453 it became a mosque. Just around the corner is Topkapi Palace, a fascinating insight into the sultans that once ruled Turkey. From the opulent pavilions to the incredible jewels housed in the Treasury.

Istanbul was a capital city for many empires from the Romans to the Byzantines and Ottomans. It may not be a capital today but it is still a thriving, eclectic city with a fascinating mix of architectural styles including Islamic, Baroque, Rococo and Art Nouveau, as well as famed nightlife and excellent cuisine options.

CAPPADOCIA

Cappadocia is one place on the planet that is guaranteed to blow your mind. Situated in Central Turkey and consisting of thousands of bizarre conical shaped rocks with pointed tips. This fascinating landscape is utterly unique in the world. The rugged plains stretch out for miles all around and are a reddish hue in colour. While nature has certainly done her bit to make this region one of the most spectacular on earth, man has contributed to its impressiveness. By carving a network of caves and tunnels in to the surprisingly soft rock.

The main attraction within the Cappadocia region is Goreme, a UNESCO World Heritage listed village that boasts a staggering 30 Byzantine rock churches. This little town, nestled within the imposing rocks, feels like it has stepped straight out of a fairytale. Goreme is also the home of a vast open air museum, which is where the churches and their accompanying frescoes are located. The structures date back to the 10-12th century AD, yet the vivid colours used in the paintings still retain their original splendour.

There are numerous ways to explore this rocky region but the most exciting is, without a doubt, taking a hot air balloon ride over the plains. The aerial view afforded to those who float is breathtaking and unrivalled in sheer beauty.

KONYA

Konya is an eclectic mix of antiquity and modernity and is believed to be one of the oldest settlements in Anatolia. The juxtaposition of then old and new is prevalent throughout the entire city and contributes significantly to its allure. It is possible that this region has been inhabited since 7000 BC, meaning that Konya has a long past and an incredibly rich cultural heritage. Nowadays, the city is an economic stronghold within Turkey and is gaining in importance by the day. Situated along the famous Silk Road, it is renowned as a trade centre.

The single most important thing that defines the city of Konya is the fact that it is the home of the world-famous whirling dervishes. The religious ritual of 'whirling' dates back to the 13th century and is attributed to Rumi, a devoted Sufi Muslim and poet who preached messages of love and tolerance. Stepping in perfect synchronisation, the dervishes have perpetuated Rumi's unique method of demonstrating his admiration and love for the divine. Konya has numerous other attractions in addition to the spiritual dervishes. One of these is the Melvana Museum, wherein lies the tomb of Rumi. The Azizye Mosque is another place of interest and is a spectacular sample of beautiful Ottoman Art. Both inside and outside, the mosque is gloriously decorated with rich colours. There is also a bazaar that takes place outside of it, which is worth perusing leisurely if you are looking for some knick knacks to take home with you.

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