



## **Turkey Delights – 9N / 10D – (CODE – AT TKY 11)**

**FROM R25,950 Per person sharing – LAND ONLY**

The Turkey Delights travel offer sounds like an incredible opportunity to explore the captivating beauty and rich history of Turkey.

Beginning in Istanbul, a city straddling two continents, you'll be immersed in its diverse culture and mesmerizing historical landmarks. The blend of East and West creates a unique tapestry of experiences, from the iconic Hagia Sophia to the bustling markets and architectural marvels.

The stunning coastlines around Antalya promise picturesque vistas and a chance to unwind amidst nature's beauty. The allure of the Mediterranean shores adds another layer of charm to this journey.

The visit to Pamukkale is truly enchanting, with its striking white terraces and the opportunity to bathe in the thermal pools, a natural wonder that offers relaxation and rejuvenation. In Kusadasi, exploring the ancient Roman city of Ephesus transports travellers back in time, allowing them to walk the streets once trodden by ancient civilizations. The well-preserved ruins paint a vivid picture of life in antiquity.

This comprehensive tour encompasses a diverse range of experiences, from historical legacies to natural wonders, offering travellers a chance to delve deep into Turkey's cultural richness and breathtaking landscapes. It's a journey that promises to leave lasting memories and a profound appreciation for the splendour of this remarkable country.

### **At a glance**

- Day 1 Arrive in Istanbul. Meet and transfer to your hotel
- Day 2 Full day Istanbul tour and Flight to Izmir
- Day 3 Istanbul at leisure
- Day 4 Leave for Gallipoli and visit the battlefields
- Day 5 See Troy and Pergamum. Overnight in Kusadasi
- Day 6 Full day tour to Ephesus incl. lunch
- Day 7 Onwards to Pamukkale for a visit and overnight
- Day 8 Transfer to the Pearl of the Med - Antalya
- Day 9 Morning city and waterfall tour
- Day 10 Last day in Turkey. Transfer to Antalya Airport

### Highlights

- > See Istanbul's major sites during a full-day guided tour
- > Learn more about the Trojan Horse
- > Visit the Ancient city of Ephesus including lunch
- > Travel to Pamukkale, best known for its mineral-rich thermal waters
- > Explore Antalya Old City and its waterfalls

### Inclusions

- Meet and assist on arrival and departure by our local representative
- Transfer and transportation as per itinerary in AC vehicle
- Accommodation in selected hotels in a double/twin room sharing
- Meal plan as per itinerary
- Excursions with 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
- Visa fee
- Tips
- Services not stated in the itinerary

### Validity

Rate valid for travel between 01 MAY and 31 OCT 24

Contact us for any other date of travel required

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## Itinerary

<b>Day City</b>	<b>Day to Day Itinerary</b>
Day 1 Istanbul - Arrival Day	Welcome to Istanbul and transfer to your hotel  There are two Airports in Istanbul. Ataturk Airport is 20km away from the city center. Sabiha Gokcen is about 55km outside the city center. Transfers from Ataturk is included in your tour program. Contact us for transfer rate if you arrive at Sabiha Gokcen Overnight in Istanbul
Day 2 Istanbul (B)	After breakfast, your tour guide will pick you up from your hotel A full day tour is planned to visit Istanbul's Ottoman Relics and Byzantine Sites Lunch is included in your tour program After the tour, transfer to Istanbul Airport for onward flight to Izmir Overnight in Kusadasi
Day 3 Istanbul (B)	Free day in Istanbul for you to explore more and at your leisurely pace this fascinating city
Day 4 Istanbul - Gallipoli - Canakale (B-D)	Around 06:30am we depart for Gallipoli to visit the battlefields. Arrive in Gallipoli around 12:00 am for lunch break. Afterwards, visit the battlefields, the Gabatepe Museum, Ariburnu Cemetery and Anzac Cove After the tour continue to your hotel in Cannakale for overnight
Day 5 Troy - Pergamum - Kusadasi (B-D)	Leave the hotel around 08:30 for Troy. Visit the famous archeological and mythological site of Troy, home of the Trojan Horse and Helen of Troy. Continue to Pergamum for lunch break. Continue your tour to the magnificent acropolis of Pergamum. Its impressive temples and library made it a renowned cultural and political center in the past Pergamum is a famous city for its jewelery, stones and silver. So on the way, we will stop at a jewelry center for 30 minutes. Continue to your hotel in Kusadasi
Day 6 Ephesus (B-L-D)	Pick up from your Kusadasi hotel and your journey to the House of the Virgin Mary will include scenic views of the Byzantine fortress in Selcuk and the Temple of Artemis. A long and winding road offers wonderful views of the valley en route 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. 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. See 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. The dramatic Great Theater is one of the few structures still used today. It seats twenty-five thousand and was once an arena for gladiator games Return to your hotel in Kusadasi for overnight
Day 7 Pamukkale (B-L-D)	Leave this morning to Pamukkale, the center of natural thermal spring waters with healing properties. Due to its chemical water properties pure white colored travertines and stepped water terraces have been created on the mountain slope. It is for its resemblance to cotton piles that it is called "Cotton Castle" in Turkish. Visit the travertines and the ancient city of Hierapolis and the Sacred Pool, the highlights of the site (entrance is 35 TL per person extra payment). Here the shallow thermal waters ripple over a wonderful scattering of ancient Roman ruins. After the tour check-in at your hotel in Pamukkale

Day 8 Pamukkale - Antalya (B-D)	Leave Pamukkale after breakfast and travel to Antalya Check in at your hotel The remainder of the day is at leisure
Day 9 Pamukkale - Antalya (B-D)	Leave your hotel around 09:30 am for a visit to the famous Duden Waterfalls. Travel to the Old part of Antalya for some free time to explore its narrow streets. return to your hotel
Day 10 Depart Antalya (B)	After breakfast, check out of your hotel Services end with a transfer to Antalya Airport for your return flight to Istanbul

## 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 breads, 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

## Antalya

The best view of Antalya is from Mount Tahtali. A cable car ride will take you to the top and just take some time to admire the panoramic views of the coastline

### **Pamukkale**

Note that you may not walk on the surface with shoes. Take a plastic bag with you to store your footwear. If you want to go to the Antique Pool, take a towel with you as they are not provided here