

adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

TURKEY

History and Culture of the Past and Present



May 9 - 19, 2024



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TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Visit the famous historical sites in Istanbul
- ▶ Enjoy a private cruise along the Bosphorus Strait
- ▶ Take part in the annual rose petal harvest in the Isparta province
- ▶ Explore the ancient city of Ephesus

TRIP ROUTE



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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1 arrive in Istanbul, welcome dinner
- Day 2 walking tour of the famous sites of Istanbul, private cruise along the Bosphorus
- Day 3 fly to Cappadocia, explore memorable landscapes
- Day 4 visit the Goreme Outdoor Museum, pottery experience
- Day 5 set out on a long day of driving to Isparta with several interesting stops along the way
- Day 6 take part in the annual rose petal harvest
- Day 7 visit an excavation site with a local professor, view majestic thermal springs
- Day 8 visit Aphrodisias, meet a local female entrepreneur
- Day 9 explore the ancient city of Ephesus
- Day 10 fly to Istanbul, visit the Hagia Sophia, farewell dinner
- Day 11 depart Istanbul

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$4,895
Optional Single Accommodations: \$500
Internal Air: \$500

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in depth

DAY 1
Thursday
5/9/24

Arrive Istanbul

Welcome to Turkey! From the beauty of Istanbul's mosques to the fairy to the spectacular ruins of Ephesus. The mystery and magic of extraordinary Turkey are yours to discover in this memory-making vacation.

Arrival Information

Arrive in Istanbul, Turkey (IST) by 1:00PM today.

Arrive in Istanbul

Arrive in Istanbul where you'll be met by your guide and transferred to the hotel. There will be one group transfer provided (time TBD based on flights). Transfers for other arrival times can be purchased for an additional fee.

Check-in and Relax

Check into your hotel and relax before dinner tonight.

Welcome Dinner

Enjoy a lively welcome dinner at a local restaurant as you get to know your fellow travelers this evening. Share stories and learn about why everyone is excited to explore the Turkish sites (and sights!).

Accommodations
Hotel Arcadia Blue

Meals Included
dinner

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DAY 2
Friday
5/10/24

Istanbul

At the crossroads of East and West and straddling two continents, it's no surprise that Istanbul is a cultural and ethnic melting pot steeped in historical legends that reach back thousands of years. The soaring tips of minarets define the city skyline while below, bustling marketplaces, ancient monuments, and non-stop water traffic are part of Istanbul's daily scene.

Visit the Famous Sites of Istanbul

Today, you'll walk throughout the city of Istanbul, stopping for lunch along the way as you take in some of the ancient sites:

Topkapı Palace, the home and administrative headquarter of Ottoman Sultans for 400 years, where you'll see the Harem, the Treasure and the other sections of the Palace.

Basilica Cistern which was the largest underground cistern of Byzantine Istanbul erected in the 530's.

Spice Bazaar that dates back to the 1600's when it was the last stop for the camel caravans that travelled the Silk Road from China, India and Persia. Spices were also brought by ships set off from Alexandria in Egypt and docked just in front of the Bazaar.

Bosphorus Cruise

In early evening, you'll take a private boat trip along the Bosphorus, the natural strait that forms part of the boundary between Asian and European continents. Along the shores of the Bosphorus are old Ottoman villas, old palaces, fortresses and parks that contribute the beauty of the strait. Enjoy dinner on your own tonight after the cruise.

Accommodations
Hotel Arcadia Blue

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch

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DAY 3
Saturday
5/11/24

Istanbul to Cappadocia

Once an active volcanic region, Cappadocia claims a landscape of surreal beauty—where strange and fanciful rock formations, known as the fairy chimneys, rise from the surrounding countryside. Entire underground villages carved out of tuff, soft volcanic stone, are tucked into this region and we explore the underground passageways, chambers, and monasteries that have sheltered thousands of people through the centuries.

Fly to Cappadocia

After breakfast, head to the airport where you will board your 90-minute flight to Cappadocia, a historical region in Turkey.

Drive to Pashabag

Upon arriving in Cappadocia, drive for about 90 minutes to Pashabag, an old monastic settlement with a unique landscape filled with fairy chimneys. Continue on to Devrent where you will explore the lunar surroundings on foot and take in the interesting rock formations of the area. Enjoy lunch with the group in a local restaurant today.

Hike in Red Valley

Set off on an afternoon hike through Red Valley, another captivating landscape dotted with hidden rock-carved churches. After the hike, make your way to the hotel and check in. Enjoy dinner as a group this evening.

Accommodations
Alfina Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 4
Sunday
5/12/24

Cappadocia

One of the few completely land-locked regions of Turkey, Cappadocia covers an area of approximately 116 square miles. The volcanic material deposited by the eruption of Mount Erciyes and Mount Hasan made this an extremely fertile area for agriculture. Cherries, grapes, apricots, and chickpeas are among the many crops exported throughout the world.

Visit Goreme Open Air Museum

After breakfast this morning, you will visit the Goreme Open Air Museum, a collection of churches and monasteries set amidst the rocky landscape for which this area is famous. Take in the beautiful frescoes and art displayed in the churches that are a part of this UNESCO World Heritage site.

Lunch

Enjoy a delicious lunch in a local home in the village of Ayvali.

Pottery Experience

The art of Turkish ceramic pottery has evolved over time by the many civilizations that have inhabited the country. The technique used when crafting the ceramics allows the pieces to retain their strength and color for centuries. You will see some beautiful examples of Turkish pottery this afternoon before you head back to the hotel for dinner.

Accommodations
Alfina Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 5
Monday
5/13/24

Cappadocia to Isparta

Today will be a long travel day as you make your way to Isparta, a province located in the southwestern part of Turkey that is home to extremely fertile land that produces such items as apples, grapes, and roses.

Travel Day

Today will be a long travel day, as you travel just over 300 miles to Isparta with several stops along the way.

First visit the Sultanhanı Caravanserai, which was one of the major medieval inns that sheltered caravans and travelers along the famous Silk Road trade route. Built in 1229, this massive structure is decorated in ornamental marble and stonework.

After driving for about 90 minutes, you will stop in Konya, where you will visit the Mausoleum of the mystic Rumi, who is famous for founding the Order of the Whirling Dervishes. Then enjoy lunch as a group in a local restaurant.

After lunch, you will travel for just under 3 hours to the town of Egirdir.

Walk around Egirdir

Arrive in Egirdir, a town that is home to a beautiful fresh water lake. You'll explore the old monuments of the town by the lake and walk around the Yesilada (Green Island) which once had a monastery of women. After your walking tour, you'll drive just over 20 miles to Isparta.

Check-in and Dinner

Arrive at your Isparta hotel and check in before dining at the hotel as a group.

Accommodations
Barida Hotels

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 6
Tuesday
5/14/24

Rose Harvest

Isparta, aptly named "The Land of the Roses", flourishes with roses and accounts for 65% of the country's annual rose production. The annual rose harvest takes place in May each year, and the rose petals are distilled to produce such products as rose water and rose oil.

Rose Harvest

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel this morning before starting your 25-mile drive to Güneykent Village in the mountains, one of the many rose growing places in Isparta province. Try your hand at harvesting roses in the field alongside a village woman who will demonstrate the proper method to pick and handle the flowers. Afterwards, visit a traditional distiller where you'll see the distillation process first-hand and have the chance to buy rose products like rose oil, rose water, and a variety of cosmetics that contain roses.

Lunch

After the harvest, enjoy a lunch at a local restaurant in the village.

Hike around Golcuk

Following lunch, you'll pass through Isparta on your way to Golcuk, a volcanic lake in the middle of the caldera. Set out on a 2.5-mile hike around the flat ground surrounding the lake and take in the scenic views.

Dinner

Join your fellow travelers for dinner at the hotel tonight.

Accommodations
Barida Hotels

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 7
Wednesday
5/15/24

Isparta to Pamukkale

It will feel like you've stepped onto another planet when you first lay eyes on the bright white travertine thermal pools at Pamukkale. This area has been renowned for its healing baths of brilliantly blue, mineral-rich waters. Nearby are the impressive ruins of Hierapolis.

Explore Cibyra Today you will explore the ancient city of Cibyra along with Associate Professor Sukru Ozudogru who will give an informative talk about the many excavations that are underway in the area. You can try your hand at excavation under the watchful eye of local archeologists.

Lunch After lunch in a local restaurant, drive for about 90 minutes to Pamukkale. This town is famous for the thermal waters which flow over the breathtaking travertine terraces that line the hillside.

Check In and Dinner Check into your hotel before enjoying dinner with the group tonight.

Accommodations
Colossae Thermal

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 8
Thursday
5/16/24

Pamukkale to Selcuk

1923 saw what came to be known as the population exchange between Greece and Turkey, as over 1.5 million people were forced to become refugees of their native country. Tonight, you will hear a granddaughter retelling the story of her grandparents who were forced to leave Greece and come to Turkey during this time.

Visit Aphrodisias

Named after Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodisias was an ancient Greek city that today is home to an archeological site and a marble quarry. The proximity to such abundant and high-quality marble ensured that Aphrodisias was well-known for both marble production and artistic sculpture. Take some time to explore the ruins and stretch your legs.

Lunch and Music

Lunch today is at a rustic local restaurant where you can enjoy traditional Turkish folk instrument while you eat. After lunch, you can rest during the 2.5 hour drive to Selcuk where you will check into the hotel that will be your home for the next two nights.

Dinner

After enjoying dinner at the hotel tonight, you will be joined by the woman who owns the hotel. She will talk about the experiences of her grandparents who migrated to Turkey from Greece during one of the great periods of relocation between the two countries.

Accommodations
Kalehan Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 9
Friday
5/17/24

Selcuk

A true highlight, the amazing wonders of Ephesus— the greatest Greco-Roman site in the world—await exploration. In the First Century B.C.E., the population of Ephesus topped a quarter million people, and the scope of this archaeological wonderland is, simply, remarkable.

Explore Ephesus

After breakfast, you'll tour glorious Ephesus, one of the best preserved ancient cities in the world. Marble paved avenues, wonderfully preserved homes, temples, theaters, baths, markets, brothels, libraries, and gymnasiums bring us back to the splendor of the ancient world.

Visit the House of the Virgin Mary and Artemision

After lunch in a local restaurant, you'll visit an ancient cottage on the slopes of the mountains that is believed to be Mary's last home. Then visit Artemision, the Temple of Artemis, which dates back to the 4th century BC. While only two columns remain of the original structure, you can get a good sense of the magnitude of the original temple.

Sirince Village

Walk along the stone-paved streets of Sirince Village, which was abandoned by the Greeks during the population exchange of 1923. The settlement is now occupied by Turks who continue the Greek tradition of wine production.

Dinner

Return to the hotel after your day of exploration, and enjoy dinner.

Accommodations
Kalehan Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 10
Saturday
5/18/24

Selcuk to Istanbul

Head back to Istanbul and enjoy one last day of exploration in the city before the farewell dinner this evening.

Fly back to Istanbul

After breakfast at the hotel, you'll head to the airport for your morning flight back to Istanbul for a final day of exploration in this majestic city.

Visit Hagia Sophia and the Grand Bazaar

Visit Hagia Sophia, one of the most extraordinary buildings in the history of architecture and a monument to the golden age of the Byzantine Empire, dating from 537 CE. Then venture on to the Grand Bazaar which was built in 1460 and is home to thousands of shops and workshops.

Farewell Dinner

Share stories about your week of exploration in Turkey with your traveling companions during a celebratory farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

Accommodations
Hotel Arcadia Blue

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 11
Sunday
5/19/24

Depart Istanbul

All great adventures must one day come to an end. This morning, enjoy your last breakfast in Turkey and say “hoşça kalın” to your new friends before departing for the airport.

Depart Istanbul After breakfast at the hotel, you'll transfer to the airport with the group for your flight home.

Departure Information Depart Istanbul, Turkey (IST) any time after 1:00PM today.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

Meals Included
breakfast

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Accommodation Details

Hotel Arcadia Blue

The Hotel Arcadia Blue is a centrally located hotel that is within walking distance to many of the city's famous sites, including the Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sophia.

Amenities: safe, air conditioning, hair dryer, WiFi

Alfina Hotel

The Alfina is located in the heart of Cappadocia and dates back 300 years. Known as the first "cave hotel," the Alfina underwent a major renovation before it started accepting guests. Take some time to explore the property where you will find stone and rock carvings, hand-crafted furniture, and ironworks produced by local blacksmiths.

Amenities: hair dryer, electricity, WiFi

Barida Hotels

Located in Isparta's city center, the Barida Hotels are comfortably elegant. The property features a spa with both a sauna and a Turkish bath as well as an indoor pool.

Amenities: safe, hairdryer, Wifi

Colossae Thermal

Just adjacent to the UNESCO World Heritage Pamukkale Hierapolis, the Colossae Thermal features a spa and pool.

Amenities: soap, shampoo, hair dryer, electricity, air conditioning, WiFi

Kalehan Hotel

The Kalehan Hotel is family-owned property that was built in the style of a traditional Ottoman Inn.

Amenities: hair dryer, air conditioning, WiFi

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Included:

- ▶ Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- ▶ All meals as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ All ground transportation
- ▶ One group transfer on arrival and departure
- ▶ Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- ▶ All gratuities except for head guide

Not Included:

- ▶ International airfare
- ▶ Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- ▶ Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- ▶ Gratuities for head guide

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Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

Our deposits are nonrefundable and nontransferable. If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you, but switching is not guaranteed.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

At AdventureWomen, we want everyone to understand that our excursions are adventure travel vacations and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one **actively participates**, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to **experience an active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends**. Most of all, we want our trips to be **fun!**

good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. **Being on time** is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a