

Pamukkale & Ephesus Heritage Tour: Ancient Ruins & Thermal Terraces

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Turkey



Duration
5 Nights 6 Days



Starting from
Rs. 72,000 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↩ **Kuşadası / Selçuk · 3N**

↩ **Pamukkale · 2N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/turkey/turkey-5-nights-6-days-package-970>

Overview

A carefully curated 5 nights / 6 days Turkey tour package that combines the dazzling white travertine terraces of Pamukkale with the unrivaled ancient city of Ephesus. Ideal as a cultural and spiritual journey, this Turkey Pilgrimage tour package also caters to history lovers and wellness seekers. This itinerary is optimized for travelers searching for a Turkey Pilgrimage package and fits perfectly in the category of 5 and 6 Turkey Pilgrimage tour package offerings.

Highlights:

- Ephesus Ancient City – Walk the marble streets and visit the iconic Library of Celsus
- House of the Virgin Mary – Revered pilgrimage site near Selçuk
- Pamukkale & Hierapolis – Soak in thermal terraces and explore the ancient spa city
- Aphrodisias (optional stop) – A well-preserved archaeological site dedicated to Aphrodite
- Sirince Village – Charming hillside village known for wine and local crafts

Tips: Bring comfortable walking shoes for archaeological sites, swimwear for thermal pools, and a hat/sunscreen during summer months.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ Private airport transfers (arrival & departure)
- ✓ Accommodation for 5 nights: 3 nights in Kuşadası/Selçuk and 2 nights in Pamukkale (3-star / 4-star hotels; upgrade options available)
- ✓ Daily breakfasts and 2 lunches as noted
- ✓ Professional English-speaking guide for Ephesus and Pamukkale days
- ✓ All intra-destination private coach transfers as per itinerary
- ✓ Entrance fees to Ephesus, House of the Virgin Mary, and Pamukkale terraces and Hierapolis
- ✓ Local taxes and service charges
- ✓ Bottled water during transfers
- ✓ Note: Customized pilgrimage or private group pricing available on request.

✗ Not Included

- ✗ International flights to/from Turkey
- ✗ Turkish visa and travel insurance
- ✗ Meals not mentioned in inclusions (most dinners and some lunches)
- ✗ Optional extras (Aphrodisias visit, Cleopatra Pool swim, hamam, domestic flights)
- ✗ Tips/gratuities for guides and drivers (recommended)
- ✗ Personal expenses, optional tours, and any items of a personal nature

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival to Izmir — Transfer to Kuşadası & Orientation

Arrive at Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport. Meet your guide and private coach, then transfer to Kuşadası (approx. 1 hour). Check in at the hotel and enjoy an orientation walk along the waterfront. Evening at leisure with an optional stroll to the lively Kuşadası Marina and local bazaar.

Included activities: airport transfer, check-in assistance, welcome briefing.

Important: If you arrive early, consider an optional half-day trip to nearby Pergamon (extra cost).

Day

2

Full Day: Ephesus — Library of Celsus, Great Theatre & Terrace Houses

Spend a full day exploring Ephesus, one of the best-preserved Roman cities in the Mediterranean. Walk the marble streets past the Library of Celsus, the Great Theatre, and the magnificent Terrace Houses with their vivid mosaics and frescoes. In the afternoon visit the House of the Virgin Mary, an important pilgrimage site believed to be the final residence of Mary. Finish at St. John's Basilica in nearby Selçuk.

Meals: Breakfast included. Lunch at a local restaurant (included).

Special note: Ephesus can be hot and crowded in summer — early starts ensure cooler temperatures and softer light for photos.

Day

3

Half Day: Şirince Village — Free Afternoon in Kuşadası

After breakfast, visit the picturesque hillside village of Şirince, famous for its traditional stone houses, local wines, and handicrafts. Enjoy sampling regional flavors and stroll narrow lanes. Return to Kuşadası for an afternoon at leisure — options include a beach visit, shopping at the bazaar, or an optional Turkish bath (hamam).

Included: Breakfast and guided visit to Şirince.

Tip: Bring a small reusable bag for purchases and try the local fruit wines.

Day

4

Transfer to Pamukkale – En Route Stop at Aphrodisias (Optional)

Early departure for Pamukkale. En route, stop at Aphrodisias (optional visit), an extraordinary ancient city known for its marble workshop and spectacular stadium. Continue to Pamukkale/Hierapolis and check in to your hotel. Evening free to enjoy the views across the travertines.

Travel time: Approx. 3–4 hours (depending on stops).

Included: Breakfast, private transfer.

Important: Aphrodisias is an optional extension and may be offered for an additional fee – confirm at booking.

Day

5

Full Day: Pamukkale & Hierapolis – Travertine Terraces & Ancient Spa

Explore Pamukkale's stunning white travertine terraces and take a guided walk through the ancient spa city of Hierapolis. Visit the Roman Theatre, Necropolis, and the Antique Pool (Cleopatra's Pool) where you can swim among submerged ancient columns (optional, extra fee). Spend time soaking in the thermal waters and photographing the terraces at sunset for magical lighting.

Meals: Breakfast included. Lunch at a local restaurant (included).

Special note: Walking on the travertines requires shoes off in many areas – bring a dry bag for your belongings.

Day

6

Laodicea & Departure – Transfer to Izmir or Denizli Airport

After breakfast, visit the ancient city of Laodicea (optional short stop) or enjoy a relaxed morning in Pamukkale. Transfer to Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport (or Denizli Cardak Airport on request) for your onward flight.

Included: Breakfast, departure transfer to airport.

Note: If your flight departs late, consider adding an evening domestic flight from Denizli to Istanbul or Izmir – assistance available on request.

🔍 Frequently Asked Questions

❓ **What is the best time to visit Turkey and what weather can I expect?**

The best time to visit Turkey is during the shoulder seasons: April–June and September–October, when temperatures range from 18–28°C with pleasant weather ideal for sightseeing. Summer (June–August) is perfect for coastal areas but can be hot inland, with temperatures reaching 30–38°C. Winter (December–March) is excellent for skiing and fewer crowds, but central regions like Cappadocia can be very cold (–5 to 5°C) with snow. Istanbul experiences a temperate climate year-round. Spring offers blooming tulips and mild weather, while autumn provides clear skies perfect for photography and hot-air ballooning. Coastal areas remain warm through October, making it ideal for extended beach time.

❓ **How can I reach Turkey from India and what are the main airports?**

Most Indian travelers reach Turkey by air, with frequent direct and one-stop flights from major Indian cities. The main gateway is Istanbul Airport (IST) on the European side, with Sabiha Gökçen (SAW) on the Asian side as an alternative. Other key airports include Antalya (AYT) for beach destinations, Izmir (ADB) for Ephesus, and Kayseri (ASR) or Nevşehir (NAV) for Cappadocia. Airlines like Turkish Airlines, Air India, and Gulf carriers offer good connections via Dubai, Doha, or direct routes. Flight time is typically 6–8 hours direct or 8–12 hours with one stop. Book in advance for better deals, especially during peak seasons (summer and festivals).

❓ **What are the visa requirements for Indian citizens visiting Turkey?**

Indian passport holders generally need a visa to enter Turkey. Many Indians apply through VFS Global centers in major Indian cities for a tourist visa. Some may be eligible for an e-Visa if they hold valid US, UK, or Schengen visas, but eligibility criteria change frequently. The process typically takes 5–10 working days and requires documents like passport photos, bank statements, hotel bookings, and return flight tickets. Visa fees vary based on duration and type. It's crucial to check the official Turkish Embassy website or consulate for current requirements, as policies update regularly. Apply well in advance of your travel dates to avoid any delays.

❓ **What are the best local transportation options within Turkey?**

Turkey offers excellent transportation networks. In Istanbul, use the rechargeable Istanbulkart for metro, tram, buses, and ferries, including the cross-continental Marmaray train. Dolmuş (shared minibuses) are economical for short distances. For intercity travel, comfortable buses with reclining seats connect all major destinations. High-speed trains (YHT) link Istanbul–Ankara–Konya efficiently. Domestic flights are affordable for longer distances, especially to Cappadocia. Taxis are metered in cities; use official stands and ensure the meter runs. Car rental is popular for coastal drives, but requires an International Driving Permit. Ride-hailing apps operate in major cities. For scenic routes like the Turquoise Coast, consider renting a car for maximum flexibility.

❓ **What are the best accommodation options and areas to stay in Turkey?**

Turkey offers diverse accommodation from luxury resorts to boutique cave hotels. In Istanbul, stay in Sultanahmet for historic sites, Beyoğlu/Galata for nightlife, or Kadıköy for local culture. Luxury options include Çırağan Palace Kempinski and Four Seasons Sultanahmet. Cappadocia is famous for unique cave hotels like Museum Hotel and Argos in Cappadocia, offering authentic experiences in Göreme or Uçhisar. Antalya's Belek area features all-inclusive beach resorts like Maxx Royal and Regnum Carya. For coastal charm, Bodrum offers boutique hotels and beach clubs. Budget travelers can find quality pensions and hostels throughout. Book cave hotels in Cappadocia well in advance, especially for balloon season (April–October).

❓ **What are the must-visit attractions and places in Turkey?**

Turkey's top attractions span ancient history and natural wonders. Istanbul's highlights include Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapı Palace, Grand Bazaar, and a Bosphorus cruise. Cappadocia offers surreal landscapes, cave churches at Göreme Open–Air Museum, and hot–air balloon rides. Pamukkale's white travertine terraces and ancient Hierapolis are UNESCO–listed. Ephesus near Izmir showcases magnificent Roman ruins including the Library of Celsus. Antalya combines beach relaxation with historic Kaleiçi old town. The Turquoise Coast features Ölüdeniz's blue lagoon and Butterfly Valley. Don't miss Göbekli Tepe near Şanlıurfa, the world's oldest temple complex. Each region offers distinct experiences, from Byzantine churches to Roman theaters and Ottoman palaces.

❓ **What Turkish food and cuisine should I try during my visit?**

Turkish cuisine offers incredible variety, especially for vegetarians. Must-try dishes include various kebabs (Adana, İskender), pide and lahmacun flatbreads, and extensive meze platters with hummus, ezme, and stuffed vine leaves. Vegetarian favorites include gözleme (stuffed flatbread), menemen (tomato–egg scramble), mercimek çorbası (lentil soup), and imam bayıldı (stuffed eggplant). Coastal areas excel in fresh seafood like grilled sea bass. Don't miss Turkish breakfast with cheese, olives, honey, and fresh bread. Sweet treats include baklava (especially from Gaziantep), künefe, and Turkish delight. Drink strong Turkish coffee, endless çay (tea), and refreshing ayran (yogurt drink). Many dishes are naturally vegetarian, and Turkish hospitality ensures dietary needs are accommodated.

★ **Traveller Reviews**



Nishant Narayan

★★★★★ 5/5

A Wonderful Culinary Exploration

The culinary exploration was fantastic! I fell in love with Turkish delights!



Yashwant Jain

★★★★☆ 4/5

Art & Culture Snapshot

Great for those who want a snapshot of Turkey's arts and culture! Definitely worthwhile.



Sakshi Verma

★★★★★ 5/5

Lovely Weather and Scenery

The weather during my trip was perfect. The scenery just made everything better!



Bhupendra Singh

★★★★★ 5/5

Unmatched Architectural Wonders

The architectural wonders of Istanbul are simply unmatched. Each mosque tells a different story.



Tanvi Soni

★★★★★ 5/5

Aleppo Pepper and Spices Tour

The spice bazaar was delightful! Came back with an assortment of spices. Can't wait to cook!

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