

# Aegean Heritage Trail: Izmir, Pergamon & Ephesus 6-Night

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination  
**Turkey**



Duration  
**6 Nights 7 Days**



Starting from  
**Rs. 86,000 / person**

## ITINERARY ROUTE

↙ **Izmir · 2N**

↙ **Bergama · 1N**

↙ **Kuşadası · 2N**

↙ **Selçuk · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/turkey/turkey-6-nights-7-days-package-988>

## Overview

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An immersive Turkey tour package that combines ancient ruins, Aegean coast charm, and pilgrimage sites. This 6-night / 7-day Turkey Pilgrimage tour package is ideal for travelers seeking history, faith, and scenic towns along the Aegean. Perfect as part of 6 and 7 Turkey Pilgrimage tour package options.

### Highlights:

- Izmir: Cosmopolitan coastal city and gateway to the Aegean
- Pergamon (Bergama): Hilltop Acropolis & Asclepion healing sanctuary
- Ephesus: One of the best-preserved Roman cities and the House of the Virgin Mary
- Selçuk & Şirince: Charming Ottoman-era village and local wine tasting
- Agora of Smyrna, Kadifekale, and the Kordon waterfront

Note: This Turkey Pilgrimage package includes guided visits and transfers; internal flights are not included.

#### ✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 6 nights accommodation in 3-4 hotels (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Daily breakfast (B)
- ✓ Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- ✓ All ground transportation in air-conditioned coach
- ✓ English-speaking local guides for site visits
- ✓ Entrance fees to listed archaeological sites and museums
- ✓ Wine tasting in Şirince
- ✓ Farewell dinner in Izmir
- ✓ Special note: Single supplements and room upgrades available on request.

#### ✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ International flights to/from Turkey
- ✗ Turkish entry visa and travel insurance
- ✗ Meals not specified (lunches and some dinners)
- ✗ Personal expenses, tips, and portorage
- ✗ Optional excursions and performances (unless specified)
- ✗ Any services not mentioned in 'Inclusions'
- ✗ Tip: Carry a daypack, hat, water, and comfortable walking shoes for archaeological sites.

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

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Day

1

### **Arrival in Izmir & Orientation**

Arrive at Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport; transfer to your hotel in Izmir. Afternoon orientation walk: visit Konak Square and the iconic clock tower, explore the historic Kemeraltı Bazaar, and stroll the Kordon waterfront. Welcome dinner with introductory briefing about the Turkey Pilgrimage tour package.

Tip: If you arrive early, consider a short ferry ride across the Gulf of Izmir for panoramic views.

Day

2

### **Full Day: Pergamon (Bergama) Ancient City & Asclepion**

Drive north to Pergamon (Bergama). Explore the dramatic Acropolis with its steep theatre overlooking the plain, followed by the Asclepion—an ancient healing center of great spiritual significance. See the Red Basilica (Kızıl Avlu) and the archaeological museum.

This stop is a highlight for those interested in ancient medicine and classical architecture.

Day

3

### **Transfer to Kuşadası — Coastal Relaxation & Local Sights**

Depart Bergama and drive to the Aegean coast, arriving in Kuşadası. Afternoon at leisure to relax on the beach or explore Kuşadası Castle and the lively seafront bazaar. Evening optional Aegean seafood dinner.

For pilgrims, Kuşadası offers a restful coastal contrast between two intensive archaeological days.

Day

4

### **Full Day: Ephesus — Ancient City & Pilgrimage Sites**

A full-day guided exploration of Ephesus: walk the Marble Road past the Library of Celsus, the Grand Theatre, and public baths. Visit the House of the Virgin Mary on nearby Bulbul Mountain and the Temple of Artemis (site). Finish with the Ephesus Archaeological Museum in Selçuk.

Important: Wear comfortable shoes and sun protection. Ephesus involves extensive walking on uneven stone.

Day

5

### **Şirince Village & St. John Basilica in Selçuk**

Visit the picturesque Şirince village for narrow lanes, local crafts, and a wine-tasting experience. Return to Selçuk to see the ruins of Basilica of St. John on Ayasuluk Hill and the İsa Bey Mosque.

Tip: Şirince is excellent for buying handmade olive-oil soaps and local fruit wines.

Day

6

### **Return to Izmir – Agora of Smyrna & Kadifekale**

Drive back to Izmir. Explore the ancient Agora of Smyrna, then ascend to Kadifekale (Velvet Castle) for panoramic city views. Afternoon free for last-minute shopping or optional cultural shows. Farewell dinner featuring Aegean specialties and recap of the Turkey Pilgrimage package highlights.

Note: Evening may include optional Whirling Dervish performance subject to schedule.

Day

7

### **Departure from Izmir**

After breakfast, transfer to Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport for your onward flight. Assistance provided with airport check-in and luggage.

End of your Aegean Heritage Trail: Izmir, Pergamon & Ephesus 6-Night Turkey tour package.

## **🔍 Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **🔍 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).

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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).

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## 🔍 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, Iskender), 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!

## ⚡ Why Choose TourGrids?

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