

Grand Turkey Explorer 10-Night: Istanbul, Gallipoli, Ephesus, Pamukkale & Antalya

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination
Turkey

Duration
10 Nights 11 Days

Starting from
Rs. 1,75,000 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↗ Istanbul · 4N

↗ Gallipoli / Canakkale Region · 1N

↗ Ephesus · 2N

↗ Pamukkale · 1N

↗ Antalya · 2N

Overview

A comprehensive 11-day Turkey tour package crafted for travelers seeking history, culture, and natural wonders. Explore the imperial heritage of Istanbul, walk the solemn battlefields of Gallipoli, wander the ancient streets of Ephesus, soak in the travertine terraces of Pamukkale, and relax along the Mediterranean coast in Antalya. Highlights include visits to Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, ANZAC Cove, Library of Celsus, Hierapolis, and the Duden Falls. This Turkey Pilgrimage tour package is ideal for both history buffs and leisure travelers looking for a balanced mix of guided sightseeing and free time.

Highlights:

- Istanbul Old City: Hagia Sophia & Blue Mosque
- Gallipoli battlefields: ANZAC Cove & Lone Pine
- Ancient Ephesus: Library of Celsus & Virgin Mary's House
- Pamukkale: Travertines & Hierapolis
- Antalya: Kaleiçi, Duden Falls & Mediterranean beaches

Note: This 10-night / 11-day Turkey Pilgrimage package can be tailored for departures from Istanbul or Antalya. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for archaeological sites.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation for 10 nights in 3-4 star hotels (upgrade options available)
- ✓ Daily breakfast; select lunches and dinners as specified
- ✓ All transfers and intercity transportation by private air-conditioned coach
- ✓ Professional English-speaking local guides for all guided tours
- ✓ Entrance fees to listed sites (Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Harem optional depending on local rules)
- ✓ Bosphorus short cruise (daytime) and local taxes
- ✓ Airport transfers on arrival and departure (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Note: Some visits may be subject to local opening hours and seasonal schedules.

✗ Not Included

- ✗ International flights to/from Turkey
- ✗ Visa fees and travel insurance
- ✗ Meals not specified in the itinerary and personal expenses (tips, laundry, minibar)
- ✗ Optional activities (full Bosphorus dinner cruise, Cleopatra Pool entrance if not included)
- ✗ Single-room supplement (if traveling solo and wanting single occupancy)
- ✗ Any items not mentioned under inclusions

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Istanbul & Welcome Orientation

Arrive at Istanbul Airport or Sabiha Gökçen and transfer to your hotel in Sultanahmet/Taksim. After check-in and a short rest, enjoy a welcome orientation and an optional evening Bosphorus sunset cruise (seasonal). Arrival transfer and light orientation included.

Day

2

Istanbul Old City: Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque & Topkapi

Full-day guided sightseeing of Old Istanbul. Visit the iconic Hagia Sophia, the stunning Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmet Mosque), the Basilica Cistern, and the imperial Topkapi Palace with its Harem (optional). Finish with panoramic views and a stroll through the historic Sultanahmet Square. Dress modestly for mosque visits.

Day

3

Grand Bazaar, Spice Market & Bosphorus Highlights

Explore the bustling Grand Bazaar and the aromatic Spice Bazaar. After lunch, take a scenic Bosphorus cruise (short daytime cruise included) to see the waterfront palaces, Rumeli Fortress, and the grand Bosphorus bridges. Evening at leisure to enjoy Istiklal Street and Taksim Square.

Day

4

Istanbul to Gallipoli: Travel & Gallipoli Battlefields

Early transfer to the Gallipoli peninsula. Guided tour of the ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair, and key memorials and cemeteries. Learn about the history of the WWI Gallipoli campaign and take time for reflection at the viewpoints. Overnight in the Canakkale / Gallipoli area.

Day

5

Gallipoli to Troy and Transfer to Ephesus Area

After breakfast, visit ancient Troy with its famous ruins and replica wooden horse. Continue along the Aegean coast to the Kusadasi/Selçuk area (Ephesus region). Evening at leisure in Kusadasi or Selçuk—perfect time to sample Aegean cuisine.

Day

6

Ephesus: Ancient City & House of Virgin Mary

Full-day guided exploration of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved ancient cities. Highlights include the Library of Celsus, the Grand Theatre, the Temple of Artemis ruins, and the House of the Virgin Mary. Evening option: attend a traditional Turkish night or relax in Kusadasi harbor.

Day

7

Sirince Village & Leisure in Kusadasi

Morning visit to the picturesque hillside village of Şirince, known for fruit wines and Ottoman architecture. Afternoon at leisure in Kusadasi for shopping, beach time, or an optional boat trip to nearby coves. Şirince offers excellent local handicrafts and tasting experiences.

Day

8

Ephesus Area to Pamukkale: Travertines & Hierapolis

Drive inland to Pamukkale. Visit the dazzling white travertine terraces and the ancient spa city of Hierapolis. Walk the travertines (barefoot where allowed), see the ancient necropolis, and enjoy the optional swim in the Cleopatra Pool (entrance at guest's expense or included if specified). Overnight in Pamukkale.

Day

9

Pamukkale to Antalya: Scenic Transfer & Coastal Arrival

After breakfast, depart for Antalya along the scenic route. Arrive in Antalya in the afternoon and begin with a visit to the historic Kaleiçi (Old Town), the ancient harbor, and panoramic viewpoints. Evening free to explore Antalya's restaurants and waterfront promenade.

Day

10

Antalya: Perge, Aspendos & Duden Falls

Full-day excursion to the region's classical sites: Perge (ancient city ruins), the remarkably preserved Aspendos Theatre, and the scenic Duden Falls. Return to Antalya for time in the old harbor or optional Antalya Museum visit.

Day

11

Leisure Day & Departure from Antalya

Morning at leisure for shopping, beach time, or a short boat excursion. Transfer to Antalya Airport for your onward flight. If your international flight departs from Istanbul, ask about an internal flight transfer option (supplement may apply).

🔗 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!

⚡ Why Choose TourGrids?

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