

# 10-DAY ANATOLIAN DISCOVERY LUXURY COST SAVER TOUR

PRESENTED BY TANER, YOUR LOCAL DESIGNER

## OVERVIEW

Get ready for an exhilarating journey through the captivating landscapes and rich history of Turkey! We begin our adventure in Istanbul, a city where East meets West, as we explore the iconic Topkapi Palace, the majestic Blue Mosque adorned with stunning Iznik tiles, and the awe-inspiring Hagia Sophia—a testament to Istanbul's diverse heritage. Our exploration continues with a visit to the historic Roman Hippodrome and the bustling Grand Bazaar, filled with treasures of the Orient.

Next, we venture to Canakkale, stopping at the poignant World War I memorials of Gallipoli, including Anzac Cove and Lone Pine Cemetery, before heading to the ancient city of Troy, famous for the legendary Trojan Horse. From there, we journey to Bergama to discover the impressive Ancient Acropolis.

Continuing southward, we visit the magnificent Ephesus, marveling at its Library, Marble Street, and grand theater. We also pay homage to the House of St. Mary—a site of spiritual significance.

Our travels then lead us to Pamukkale, where we walk among the snow-white terraced ponds of Hierapolis before heading to Konya, once the capital of the Seljuk Empire. Here, we visit the Mevlana Museum, dedicated to Rumi and the Whirling Dervishes.

The adventure reaches new heights as we drive to Cappadocia, exploring the ancient Tepesidelikhan Caravanserai and Saratli Underground City. In Cappadocia's lunar-like landscape, we marvel at the Devrent Valley's whimsical formations, visit a pottery workshop in Avanos, and explore the fascinating Goreme Open Air Museum. We wander through Pasabag (Monks' Valley) and Pigeon Valley, soaking in the surreal beauty of this unique region.

Day 1: Arrival in Istanbul: Embracing the Magic

Day 2: A Day in Istanbul: From Palaces to Bazaars

Day 3: Journey to Canakkale: Gallipoli Memorials and Historic Remembrance

Day 4: Journey from Troy to Pergamum: Echoes of Ancient Legends

Day 5: Exploring Ephesus: Jewel of Asia Minor

Day 6: Pamukkale: Nature's Wonderland and Ancient Treasures

## DURATION

10 days, 9 nights

## DESTINATIONS

Turkey: Beyoğlu, Istanbul, Çanakkale, Kusadasi, İzmir, Pamukkale, Denizli, Selçuklu, Konya, Ürgüp, Aksaray, Nevşehir, Avanos

## TRAVELLERS

2 travellers

Presented by Jennifer  
from Connected Travel

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☎ +61411332172

- Day 7: Journey to Konya: Discovering Sufi Mysticism
- Day 8: Enchanting Journey to Cappadocia: Caravanserai and Underground Wonders
- Day 9: Discovering Cappadocia's Enchanting Landscapes
- Day 10: Farewell to Cappadocia: Journey to Istanbul

## INCLUDED

- 9 nights accommodation
- 23 activities
- 9 breakfasts and 8 dinners
- Airport transfer
- Domestic flights
- Entrance fees
- Ground transportation
- Licensed English speaking guides

## EXCLUDED

- Travel insurance
- International flights
- Entry visas / airport departure tax
- Alcohol beverages
- Gratuities
- Personal expenses
- Laundry
- Trekking permits

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN ISTANBUL: EMBRACING THE MAGIC



Welcome to Istanbul, a city steeped in history and charm! Get ready for an extraordinary experience as you arrive at the airport, where I'll be waiting to greet you with a warm smile. Together, we'll embark on a seamless transfer to your hotel, where you can settle in and prepare for the adventures that await. Overnight in Istanbul promises to be the start of an unforgettable journey filled with fascinating sights, delicious cuisine, and the vibrant energy of this enchanting city. Get ready to immerse yourself in the magic of Istanbul—the gateway to a world of wonders!.

🚗 -



**Private Driver**  
13:00 to 14:00

From: Istanbul Airport  
To: Ramada by Wyndham Istanbul Taksim



**Ramada by Wyndham Istanbul Taksim**  
14:00 check-in  
10:00 check-out (Day 3)  
2 nights

Immerse yourself in the bustling energy of Istanbul at this modern hotel, just a stone's throw away from lively Taksim Square. Conveniently located within walking distance of Taksim metro station and a short drive from iconic attractions like the Grand Bazaar, this hotel is your gateway to the city's

rich history and vibrant culture.

Relax in contemporary rooms featuring complimentary Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, and minibars. Upgrade to suites with luxurious amenities like soaking tubs and private balconies. Kids stay free, making it ideal for family getaways.

Indulge in a breakfast buffet and savor local and international cuisine at the hotel's restaurant. Rejuvenate in the indoor pool, steam room, and sauna, or stay active in the fitness room. With a business center on-site, work seamlessly while exploring Istanbul's charm.

Or comparable hotels

Address: Kocatepe, Ramada by Wyndham Istanbul Taksim, Recep Paşa Caddesi, Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

## DAY 2: A DAY IN ISTANBUL: FROM PALACES TO BAZAARS



Experience the magic of Istanbul with a full day of exploration starting at Topkapi Palace, the opulent residence of Ottoman Sultans. Admire the beautiful Iznik tiles at the Blue Mosque and delve into history at the Hagia Sophia, once a grand Orthodox cathedral. Discover the ancient Roman Hippodrome before immersing yourself in the bustling atmosphere of the Grand Bazaar, a treasure trove of exotic goods. Conclude the day with a delightful welcome dinner, savoring the rich flavors of Turkish cuisine. Overnight in Istanbul, where every step reveals the city's fascinating blend of culture, heritage, and vibrant life.

🍴 Breakfast and dinner.



### Topkapi Palace

09:00 to 10:00

1 hour

Now a large museum in Istanbul, Topkapi Palace once served as the main residence and headquarters of the Ottoman sultans during the 15th century. Palace construction began in 1459 and was originally called the 'new palace' to differentiate it from the palace in Beyazit Square.

It was expanded throughout the centuries and renovated in 1509 and 1665 due to an earthquake and fire respectively. As well as four courtyards and many small buildings, the palace contained a harem where the sultan's family lived. After the 17th century, the palace lost its importance and the sultans moved the court to the Dolmabahçe Palace.

During the early 20th century, the Topkapi Palace was turned into a museum in which visitors can explore the most important rooms and chambers including the Ottoman harem and the treasury. The museum houses many artefacts from the Ottoman period including clothing, weapons, armour, religious relics and Topkapi manuscripts. It was added to the

UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1985.

🏠 guided

Address: Cankurtaran Mh., 34122 Fatih/Istanbul, Turkey

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### Sultan Ahmed Mosque

10:15 to 12:30

2 hours 15 minutes

Commonly known as the Blue Mosque, the Sultan Ahmed Mosque is a popular tourist site in Istanbul which continues to function as a mosque. It was constructed between 1609 and 1616 during the rule of Sultan Ahmed I hence the name; the mosque contains the sultan's tomb.

The Blue Mosque stands out over Istanbul, its central dome being 23.5 metres in diameter and 43 metres high, surrounded by several smaller domes giving it a square shape. It was designed as a show of strength and to compliment the Hagia Sophia, another popular tourist site in Istanbul.

Its name 'the Blue Mosque' was given to it due to the 20,000 ceramic Iznik tiles, traditional tiles made in Turkey and known for their turquoise and red patterns, that decorate the interior which is lit by 260 windows.

The mosque was built with six minarets whereas most of the city's other mosques only had 4 minarets. This misunderstanding between the architect and the sultan caused a huge uproar as the only other mosque with six minarets was the prophet's in Mecca. The sultan solved this problem by ordering a seventh minaret to be added to the prophet's mosque in Mecca.

🏠 guided

Address: Sultan Ahmet Mahallesi, Atmeydanı Cd. No:7, 34122 Fatih/Istanbul, Turkey

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### Hippodrome of Constantinople

13:00 to 14:00

1 hour

The Hippodrome of Constantinople, a grand arena of spectacle and thrill, was the beating heart of social and sporting life in the capital of the Byzantine Empire. Imagine a place where tens of thousands of spectators gathered, the air filled with the thunderous roar of chariots and the cheers of an excited crowd. This was the stage for chariot races, political rallies, and imperial ceremonies. The Hippodrome's U-shaped track echoed with the clatter of horse hooves and the rush of charioteers vying for glory. Its spina, the central divider, was adorned with magnificent monuments, including an obelisk from Egypt and the famous Serpent Column, remnants of which still whisper tales of the past in today's Sultanahmet Square. The Hippodrome wasn't just a sports ground; it was a canvas of history, where the drama of an empire unfolded under the gaze of emperors and commoners alike.

🏠 guided

Address: Binbirdirek, At Meydanı Cd No:53 D:68, 34122  
Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye



### Grand Bazaar

14:15 to 15:15

1 hour

As one of the oldest and largest covered markets in the entire world its no wonder that 250,000-400,000 people visit the Grand Bazaar every day. The construction of this bazaar began during the Ottoman period in 1455 and is situated on the crossroads of some very important trade routes in Istanbul.

Bazaars have been a longstanding feature of Turkish culture filled with all types of items from sellers from all over the world. Today, this tradition continues and the Grand Bazaar continues to thrive along with many other bazaars and markets within the city of Istanbul.

Originally consisting of two separate warehouses, the Grand Bazaar grew to the point where a domed roof was built to connect the two buildings together. Today, the bazaar covers an area of 33,000 square metres home to over 3,000 shops, several inns, water fountains, wells, a police station, two mosques and many cafes and restaurants.

For a first-time visitor, this matrix of shops with over 22 entrances can be a little overwhelming at first, but soon the market become familiar and you start to see how it is arranged on a grid plan with shops grouping themselves into what they sell.

🗺️ guided

Address: Beyazıt Mh., 34126 Fatih/İstanbul, Turkey

## DAY 3: JOURNEY TO CANAKKALE: GALLIPOLI MEMORIALS AND HISTORIC REMEMBRANCE



Embark on a poignant journey to Canakkale, tracing the footsteps of history along the way. En route, stop to pay tribute at the World War I memorials of Gallipoli, where you'll visit Anzac Cove and the solemn Lone Pine Cemetery. Reflect on the sacrifices made and the stories of courage etched into this historic landscape. Arrive in Canakkale for an overnight stay, surrounded by the echoes of the past and the enduring spirit of remembrance. Prepare to continue your exploration of Turkey's rich history and cultural heritage in the days ahead.

🍽️ Breakfast and dinner.



### Private Driver

10:00 to 16:45

From: İstanbul

To: Çanakkale



### **Gallipoli Battlefields**

12:00 to 13:00

1 hour

The Gallipoli Battlefields, where one of the bloodiest conflicts of World War I took place, stand still today preserved as a national historic park with thousands upon thousands of marble and bronze monuments dedicated to those who lost their lives and were affected by this battle.

The battle between the Ottoman Empire and the Allied powers (British Empire and France) spanned nine months from 1915 to 1916 and took place on Turkey's Gallipoli peninsula. The battle, which was for control of the Dardanelles (Hellespont) strait, resulted in 100,000 deaths with over 400,000 people injured.

Today, the park is beautifully silent and remains one of the most historically important and emotionally-touching places in Turkey. For Turkish, Australian and New Zealand nationals, the peninsula is viewed as an important place of pilgrimage where many people flock to each year to pay their respects.

🗣️ guided

Address: Gallipoli Peninsula, 17502  
Pazarlı/Gelibolu/Çanakkale, Turkey

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### **Anzac Cove**

13:30 to 14:30

1 hour

Anzac Cove, or Anzak Koyu Beach as it's also known, is by far the most poignant point for Australians and New Zealanders of World War I battle sites. A small cove only 600 metres long on the Gallipoli Peninsular, Anzac Cove was the site of the famous War I landing of the ANZACs on 25 April 1915.

The troops intended to land on the broad beach further up the coast but darkness and drifting meant they landed on this tiny cover which made fighting the campaign on a narrow beach surrounded by steep cliffs even harder.

The eight-month conflict that ensued was bloody and devastatingly resulted in the 130,000 Turkish and Allied troops, including 8700 Australians. Today, the peninsular is lined with over 60 cemeteries and monuments where trenches and shrapnel can still be seen.

🗣️ guided

Address: Anzak Koyu Beach, Turkey

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### **Lone Pine**

14:45 to 15:45

1 hour

Lone Pine Cemetery, located on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey, is a poignant reminder of the brutal battles that took place during World War I. Established in 1915, this cemetery is the final resting place for many soldiers of the Commonwealth forces, particularly from Australia and New Zealand, who fought in the Gallipoli Campaign. The Lone Pine Memorial, situated within the cemetery, commemorates over 4,900 servicemen who died in the sector and have no known

grave. This site not only marks the sacrifices made during the infamous Battle of Lone Pine but also serves as a historical testament to the courage and resilience of those who fought in one of the most challenging campaigns of the war.

🗺️ guided

Address: 17902 Kocadere/Eceabat/Çanakkale, Türkiye



### Oytun Park Hotel

16:30 check-in  
10:00 check-out (Day 4)  
1 night

Nestled along a vibrant main road, discover this welcoming hotel just moments away from Çanakkale's top attractions. Explore the nearby Trojan Statue and Military Marine Museum, each just a short drive away, while enjoying easy access to Çanakkale Airport.

Relax in the comfort of the hotel's down-to-earth rooms, featuring essential amenities like Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, minifridges, and kettles. Upgrade to spacious rooms with sitting areas for added comfort. Families will appreciate the option of interconnecting rooms.

Indulge in delicious meals at the warm restaurant and unwind at the relaxed cafe/bar. Wake up to a delightful breakfast buffet to start your day right. Plus, enjoy the convenience of on-site parking during your stay.

Or comparable hotels

Address: İsmetpaşa, Oytun Park Hotel, Troya Caddesi, Çanakkale Merkez/Çanakkale, Türkiye

## DAY 4: JOURNEY FROM TROY TO PERGAMUM: ECHOES OF ANCIENT LEGENDS



Embark on a captivating journey as we drive to the legendary city of Troy, renowned for the iconic Trojan Horse and timeless myths. Explore the ancient ruins that whisper tales of ancient civilizations. Continuing our expedition, we venture to Bergama, once the vibrant ancient city of Pergamum. Discover the impressive Ancient Acropolis, adorned with historical treasures including a magnificent theater and temples. End the day in Kusadasi, where we'll unwind at our hotel with a delicious dinner and overnight stay. Reflect on the rich tapestry of history woven through Turkey's landscapes, with more adventures awaiting in the days ahead.

🍽️ Breakfast and dinner.



### Ancient Site of Troy

10:30 to 11:30  
1 hour

Both a place and mythical legend of which most will be familiar with, the ancient site of Troy is an archaeological site on the northwest coast of Turkey which, since antiquity, has been identified as the Troy known from the legend.

As the legend goes, Troy was a city besieged for 10 years and eventually conquered by a Greek army led by King Agamemnon. This 'Trojan War' was spurred on by the abduction of the queen of Sparta by the song of Troy's king. Today, whether this war actually took place and whether this site is the same Troy as discussed in the legend, remains up for debate.

The notion that this city was Troy dates back 2,700 years when ancient Greeks colonised the west coast of Turkey. Today, the site is a UNESCO-listed attraction where travellers from all over the world come to imagine the history that has taken place here over several millennia.

🗺️ guided

Address: 17100 Kalafat/Çanakkale Merkez/Çanakkale, Turkey

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### **Pergamon Ancient City**

11:45 to 13:15

1 hour 30 minutes

Pergamon, an ancient city in Turkey, is a testament to the grandeur of the Hellenistic period and a fascinating site for history enthusiasts. Located in the modern town of Bergama, Pergamon stands as a cultural beacon that once rivaled the great cities of Athens and Alexandria in its splendor. The city's acropolis, set upon a lofty hill, offers a panoramic view of the surrounding valley, where the Caicus River meanders through. Pergamon's rich history is evident in its ruins, from the majestic Altar of Zeus, which is considered one of the most significant works of Greek art, to the remnants of its once-great library, second only to Alexandria's in the ancient world. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Pergamon continues to captivate those who visit, allowing them to step back in time and experience the glory of an ancient civilization.

🗺️ guided

Address: Ulucami, Akropol Cd. No:6, 35700 Bergama Osb/Bergama/İzmir, Türkiye

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### **Casa Del Sole**

14:00 check-in

10:00 check-out (Day 6)

2 nights

The Casa Del Sole Hotel appears to be a delightful destination for travelers seeking both leisure and business services. Located within a short 7-minute walk from the city center, this boutique hotel in Timisoara stands out as the only 4-star establishment in the area, promising an exclusive experience. Guests can indulge in the luxury of two highly-regarded restaurants and a pizza place on-site, ensuring a variety of dining options. With a motto of "Accept to be spoiled," it's clear that the hotel aims to provide a pampering experience that could make any stay memorable. The hotel has also earned recognition as a 2020 Travelers' Choice Award Winner, highlighting its commitment to excellence in hospitality.

Or comparable hotels

Address: Ege, Casa Del Sole, Turgut Özal Bulvarı,  
Kuşadası/Aydın, Türkiye

## DAY 5: EXPLORING EPHEBUS: JEWEL OF ASIA MINOR



Immerse yourself in the splendor of Ephesus, hailed as one of Asia Minor's greatest archaeological wonders. Our guided tour takes us through this ancient city, where we'll marvel at the grand Library of Celsus, stroll along the historic Marble Street, and stand in awe before the vast theater boasting 24,000 seats. Our journey continues with a visit to the House of St. Mary, a sacred site steeped in history and spirituality. After a day filled with discovery, we return to Kusadasi for a delightful dinner and an overnight stay, reflecting on the magnificence of Ephesus.

🍴 Breakfast and dinner.



### Ephesus Ancient City

08:15 to 09:15

1 hour

Ephesus, an ancient Greek city located in what is now Turkey, was once a bustling metropolis and a significant center of trade and commerce in the Mediterranean. Founded in the 10th century BC, it flourished under Roman rule from the 1st century BC. The city is renowned for its grand structures, such as the magnificent Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the Library of Celsus, a testament to the city's rich cultural heritage. Ephesus also played a pivotal role in the spread of Christianity and is mentioned in the Bible. Today, the ruins of Ephesus are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, attracting visitors from around the globe who come to marvel at the well-preserved monuments that stand as a tribute to the city's glorious past.

🗺️ guided

Address: Acarlar, Efes Harabeleri, 35920 Selçuk/İzmir, Turkey



### Library of Celsus

09:45 to 10:45

1 hour

The Library of Celsus is a magnificent library which dates back to the early 2nd century and its one of the most famous monuments in Ephesus. This ancient Roman building has been extensively restored and was originally built as part of a complex.

The facade, which heightens the central elements, holds statues of the four virtues; Sophia (Wisdom), Arete (Goodness), Ennoia (Thought) and Episteme (Knowledge). These statues are replicas and the originals sit in Vienna's Ephesus Museum.

The library is said to one of the most impressive buildings of the Roman empire and was originally built to store over 12,000 scrolls and to house the tomb of Celsus who is buried in a crypt beath the library.

For many centuries the library was left to ruins after being destroyed by earthquakes and invasions, then in the 1970s it was restored and re-erected by archaeologists.

🗣️ guided

Address: Acarlar Mahallesi, 35920 Selçuk/İzmir, Turkey

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### **The Great Theatre of Ephesus**

11:00 to 12:00

1 hour

Perhaps the most spectacular structure in the whole of the Ephesus ancient city, The Great Theatre wows its visitors with its size and magnificent preservation considering it was first built in the 3rd century BC.

Although it was remodelled several times during the Roman Period, the Grand Theatre took 60 years to complete in total. It was capable of accommodating 25,000 spectators with 24,000 seats and 1,000 standing places. The Great Theatre was not only for dramatic theatre performances but also for social, political, economic and religious demonstrations as well as for gladiator games.

The stage is three storeys high with a facade decorated with columns, windows and statues facing the audience. Today the theatre carries the same grand atmosphere it would have had all those years ago. Several world-famous performers have performed in this theatre such as Elton John in 2001.

🗣️ guided

Address: Acarlar Mahallesi, 35920 Selçuk/İzmir, Turkey

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### **House of Virgin Mary**

12:15 to 13:15

1 hour

The House of Virgin Mary was discovered in the 19th century following descriptions that were published in the book of a Roman Catholic nun and visionary, Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, who died in 1824; the book was published shortly after her death.

The bedridden German nun, of whom's book lead to the discovery of the house, was able to describe the house in great detail including the domes on the top of the house and the fireplace. The book was read by a French clergyman who came to the site and found the house matching the description, sending word back to Rome.

Since its discovery this Catholic and Muslim shrine located on Mount Koressos near to Ephesus has maintained a steady stream of pilgrims visiting the site believing Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken there by Saint John to live out the remainder of her life.

The shrine has merited many visits from popes including Pope Leo XIII in 1896 as one of the earliest and Pope Benedict XVI in 2006 as one of the most recent. The flowers that surround the house are said to have healing properties and inside the

house you'll see crutches and canes said to have been left behind by the healed.

👤 guided

Address: Sultaniye Mahallesi, 35922 Selçuk/İzmir, Turkey

## DAY 6: PAMUKKALE: NATURE'S WONDERLAND AND ANCIENT TREASURES



Embark on a captivating journey to Pamukkale, where we'll discover the ancient city of Hierapolis and its renowned necropolis—the largest in Anatolia. Experience the unique sensation of walking on the snow-white terraced ponds, formed by mesmerizing hot spring waters cascading down the hillside. Immerse yourself in the natural beauty and historical significance of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. After a day filled with exploration and wonder, unwind with a delightful dinner and enjoy a restful overnight stay in Pamukkale. Prepare for more enchanting discoveries as we delve deeper into Turkey's fascinating landscapes and history.

🍴 Breakfast and dinner.



**Private Driver**  
10:00 to 12:45

From: Kuşadası  
To: Pamukkale



**Hierapolis**  
12:45 to 13:45  
1 hour

Today we continue to Pamukkale to explore Hierapolis ancient city hosting the greatest necropolis in Anatolia. Enjoy walking on the hot spring waters on the snow white terraced ponds. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale.

👤 guided

Address: Hierapolis, 20280 Pamukkale/Denizli, Turkey



**Pamukkale**  
14:00 to 15:00  
1 hour

Also known as the Cotton Castle, Pamukkale carves azure terraces into the landscape. When you first see Pamukkale, it's hard to believe it is not a mirage.

The limpid pools jut out from the steep valley, forming warm, shallow pools of crystal clear waters that look out into the southern countryside. Literally translating to "Cotton Castle", Pamukkale is a geological phenomenon of white stalactites that could only be comparable to a champagne waterfall of thermal springs, topped by the Ancient Greek city, Hierapolis.

Please note that in order to preserve this phenomenon, you are not permitted to swim in it.

👤 guided

Address: Pamukkale/Denizli, Turkey



### Lycus River Thermal Hotel

15:15 check-in  
10:00 check-out (Day 7)  
1 night

Nestled within a picturesque landscape surrounded by lush farmland, discover this elegant spa hotel offering a peaceful retreat just moments from ancient Hierapolis and convenient access to the D-320 highway.

Unwind in relaxed rooms equipped with complimentary Wi-Fi, TVs, minifridges, and tea and coffeemakers. Upgrade to bi-level rooms or suites with spacious living areas, or indulge in upgraded suites featuring fully equipped kitchens. Enjoy the convenience of room service and complimentary stay for kids age 6 and under with an adult.

Delight in included amenities such as parking, daily breakfast, and dinner served at the airy restaurant with a terrace. Immerse yourself in relaxation with indoor and outdoor pools filled with geothermal water, complemented by four bars offering refreshing drinks. Experience rejuvenation at the spa, stay active at the gym, or enjoy sports at the tennis and volleyball courts.

Or comparable hotels

Address: Karahayıt, Lycus River Thermal Hotel,  
Pamukkale/Denizli, Türkiye

## DAY 7: JOURNEY TO KONYA: DISCOVERING SUFI MYSTICISM



Embark on a scenic drive to Konya, the former capital of the Seljuk Empire, steeped in mystical traditions. Upon arrival, delve into the spiritual realm with a visit to the Mevlana Museum, home to the tomb of Rumi (Mevlana) and the revered center of the Whirling Dervishes sect. Experience the serenity and wisdom of Sufi teachings as you explore this historic site. After a day of enlightenment, savor a delicious dinner and unwind with an overnight stay in Konya, where the echoes of Rumi's poetry and the dervishes' mesmerizing rituals linger in the air.

🍴 Breakfast and dinner.



### Private Driver

10:00 to 15:45

From: Pamukkale

To: Konya



### Mevlana Museum

16:00 to 17:00  
1 hour

The fluted dome of azure tiles of the Mevlana Museum is one of Turkey's most distinguishable sights. For muslims and non-muslims, one of the main reasons for visiting this area is to set sights on the Mevlana Museum and Tomb; it is one of the biggest pilgrimage centres in Turkey. This huge museum covers an area of 18,000 metres squared.

The incredible complex known as Mevlana Museum is famous for encompassing the tomb of the great dervish, poet and pioneer of the Islamic mysticism, Mevlana Jelaleddin Rumi. The structure contains many spectacular sections including Dervish cells, a kitchen, courtyard, mosque, library, chant room, water-tank with a fountain, semahane and cerag door.

Originally a gift of a rose garden given to the father of Mevlana by a sultan, the mausoleum was added after and includes the graves of Mevlana, Mevlana's father and other family members. In 1926, it was turned into the museum it is today.

After entering a flower garden, you'll follow on through a courtyard featuring water fountains. Upon reaching the entrance to the mausoleum, you'll see the Ottoman silver door bear the inscription, 'Those who enter here incomplete will come out perfect'. You'll see many tombs inside, the largest and most beautifully decorated being that of Mevlana's.

☞ guided

Address: Aziziye Mah, Mevlana Cd. No:1, 42030  
Karatay/Konya, Turkey



### **Bair Diamond Hotel & Convention Center**

17:00 check-in  
10:00 check-out (Day 8)  
1 night

Conveniently situated near shops and restaurants, this luxurious hotel offers a prime location just 2 km from the Kratay Madrasa, 5 km from the Mevlana Museum, and a short 14 km from Konya Airport.

Step into refined elegance in the hotel's upscale rooms, each featuring comfortable sitting areas, flat-screen TVs, Wi-Fi access, minibars, and tea and coffee makers. Upgrade to rooms with whirlpool tubs for an added touch of indulgence, or opt for suites offering spacious living areas with sofas. With 24/7 room service available, every comfort is at your fingertips.

Indulge your taste buds at the hotel's two restaurants, one of which boasts panoramic rooftop views, and satisfy your sweet cravings at the on-site cake shop. For ultimate relaxation, unwind at one of the hotel's two gender-segregated spas, each offering indoor pools, gyms, hammams, saunas, and massage rooms. Additionally, a conference center capable of hosting up to 3,000 delegates makes this hotel an ideal choice for business events and conferences.

Experience unparalleled luxury and convenience at this upscale hotel, where every aspect of your stay is designed to exceed your expectations.

Or comparable hotels

Address: Musalla Bağları, Bair Diamond Hotel & Convention

Center, Mahallesi, Ahmet Hilmi Nalçacı Caddesi,  
Selçuklu/Konya, Türkiye

## DAY 8: ENCHANTING JOURNEY TO CAPPADOCIA: CARAVANSERAI AND UNDERGROUND WONDERS



Embark on an enchanting drive to Cappadocia, a land of fairy chimneys and ancient mysteries. Along the way, we'll pause to explore the historic Tepesidelikhan Caravanserai, once a bustling stop along the Silk Road where merchants and travelers converged. Continue our adventure with a visit to the Saratli Underground City, a fascinating labyrinth carved deep into the earth, offering insights into Cappadocia's unique history and architecture. End the day in Cappadocia with a delightful dinner and an overnight stay, ready to uncover more of this captivating region's secrets tomorrow.

🍴 Breakfast and dinner.



**Private Driver**  
10:00 to 15:00

From: Konya  
To: Cappadocia



**Tepesidelikhan Caravanserai**  
12:00 to 13:00  
1 hour

The Tepesidelikhan Caravanserai, also known as Öresun Han, is a fascinating historical site that dates back to the Seljuk period. It's renowned for its unique architectural features, such as the absence of a typical courtyard and its rectangular structure that measures approximately 25 meters in width and 34 meters in length. This caravanserai was an important hub for trade and travelers during its time. Interestingly, it's often referred to as "The Han with a hole in the roof" due to the collapsed roof it once had. The restoration efforts that began in 2007 have since transformed the caravanserai, preserving its historical significance and allowing visitors to step back in time to appreciate the ingenuity of Seljuk architecture.

🗺️ guided

Address: 68000 Bebek/Aksaray Merkez/Aksaray, Türkiye



**Saratlı Kırkgöz Yeraltı Şehri**  
13:15 to 14:15  
1 hour

The Saratlı Kırkgöz Underground City, nestled in the historical region of Cappadocia in Turkey, is a remarkable subterranean complex that once served as a sanctuary for early Christians. This underground marvel is not just a testament to human ingenuity but also a portal to the past, where visitors can walk through corridors carved out of volcanic rock, explore ancient living quarters, and marvel at the sophisticated ventilation systems that sustained life beneath the earth's surface. The city, with its five main sections, offers a glimpse into the resourcefulness of its inhabitants, who designed it to survive for months on end without emerging above ground. Today, it stands as a fascinating destination for history enthusiasts and

curious travelers alike, eager to uncover the mysteries that lie beneath the rolling hills of Aksaray Province.

🏠 guided

Address: Karşıyaka, 68902 Saratlı/Gülağaç/Aksaray, Türkiye



### Nujel'm Cappadocia Hotel

15:00 check-in

10:00 check-out (Day 10)

2 nights

Located in Mustafapaşa, Nujel'm Private Accommodation is a certified facility. This facility, which was built by examining the architectural structures in Mustafapaşa, formerly known as Sinasos, stands out with its architectural originality.

Or comparable hotels

Address: Yukarı mahalle, Nujel'm Cappadocia Hotel, Dere Sokak, Mustafapaşa/Ürgüp/Nevşehir, Türkiye

## DAY 9: DISCOVERING CAPPADOCIA'S ENCHANTING LANDSCAPES



Embark on an unforgettable exploration of Cappadocia's lunar-like terrain. Begin at Devrent (Camel Rock) Valley and Avanos, where traditional pottery craftsmanship thrives. Immerse yourself in the artistry at a regional pottery workshop, learning ancient techniques passed down through generations. Next, marvel at the Goreme Open Air Museum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring ancient cave churches adorned with exquisite frescoes. Explore the surreal rock formations of Pasabag (Monks' Valley) and wander through the scenic Pigeon Valley, dotted with historic pigeon houses. End the day with a delightful dinner and overnight stay, captivated by Cappadocia's natural wonders and rich heritage.

🍽️ Breakfast and dinner.



### Devrent Valley

08:15 to 09:15

1 hour

Let your mind run wild in the 'Imagination Valley', with no cave churches or temples to be found, the valley has never been inhabited. Perhaps, while we are imagining things, it could be because of the perplexing shape of the rocks that are found here.

Sticking out of the landscapes, the rock appears as if they have been carved, however, this is the good work of mother nature, forming what has been referred to as a lunar landscape. Walking around, see what you can see; leave your expectations behind!

🏠 guided

Address: devrent mevkii no:1, 50500 Aktepe Köyü/Avanos/Nevşehir, Turkey



### Avanos

09:45 to 10:45

1 hour

Walking along the cobbled streets of this charming town you'll feel as though you have been transported back in time.

Avanos is a town rooted in tradition that dates back to Hittites in 1600 BC. The people of the town make earthen pottery using red silt Kızılırmak; the oldest ceramic practice known today but still remains the most profitable trade in the community. As you walk through the town, you'll see the red material everywhere.

Surrounding the city, there are many attractions, including old churches, ancient underground cities and cave houses that offer a unique insight into life here over the centuries.

🗣️ guided

Address: Avanos, Nevşehir, Turkey

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### Göreme

11:00 to 12:00

1 hour

On the outskirts of the charming village of Goreme, monasteries stand side-by-side in a hand-hewn complex, centred by a church.

As you walk through the passages you'll be encompassed by vast murals that are filled with vibrant colours, igniting the sandstone walls. Dating back to the Seljuk period, there are 11 structures in total, including the nunnery, interconnected by simply being from the same rock face.

🗣️ guided

Address: Merkez, Goreme Open Air Museum, Müze Caddesi, Göreme Belediyesi/Nevşehir Merkez/Nevşehir, Turkey

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### Pashabag Valley

13:00 to 14:00

1 hour

Located in the beautiful Cappadocia region, Pashabag Valley is home to the most spectacular earth pillars which are also known as fairy chimneys. These mushroom-style chimneys are unique for Cappadocia as they boast twin and sometimes, triple, rock caps. Pasabag means 'Pacha's Vineyard' as the earth pillars stand in the middle of a vineyard.

The valley is also commonly known as Monk's Valley due to the Byzantine hermit monks who lived here. In particular Saint Simeon, a hermit monk that lived at the top of one of the 15-metre high columns, only occasionally descending for food and drink bought to him by his disciples.

The hermits of Cappadocia resided here distancing themselves from the outside world by carving caves into fairy chimneys, some being 10-15 metres high, as opposed to living at the top of the columns.

These remarkable pillars are a mystical sight that many people come to see every day for their lunar-like atmosphere

and to explore the cave dwellings.

👤 guided

Address: Pasabag, 50180 Göreme Belediyesi/Nevşehir Merkez/Nevşehir, Turkey



### **Pigeon Valley**

14:15 to 15:15

1 hour

Located in the stunning Cappadocia region of Turkey, between the towns of Goreme and Uchisar, Pigeon Valley is a beautiful area for hiking and discovering the interesting land formations.

Known in Turkish as Guvercinlik Vadisi, Pigeon Valley earned its name from the many manmade dovecotes that have been carved into the soft volcanic rock. The dovecotes were made to encourage pigeons to live and land here in the valley so that their dung could be collected.

Whilst not so common any more, in ancient times Pigeons played a large role in food and soil fertiliser for the area which was used for winemaking. Nowadays, locals continue to maintain their cave houses and dovecotes on top of the rock pillars.

There are a number of ways that the beauty of Pigeon Valley can be explored, and perhaps one of the best is by hiking or trekking. There are a number of trails throughout the valley with varying levels of difficulty. You'll have rock-hewn Christian churches, abandoned cave homes, witness stunning views over the Cappadocia region and see the abundant numbers of pigeons in the area.

👤 guided

Address: Aşağı Mahallesi, Adnan Menderes Cd. No:50, 50240 Uçhisar Belediyesi/Nevşehir Merkez/Nevşehir, Turkey

## **DAY 10: FAREWELL TO CAPPADOCIA: JOURNEY TO ISTANBUL**



Bid farewell to the enchanting landscapes of Cappadocia as we transfer to Cappadocia Airport for a short flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival in Istanbul, transit to the international airport for your outgoing flights, filled with memories of Cappadocia's unique beauty and the warmth of Turkish hospitality. Reflect on the wonders explored during your time in Cappadocia and carry the spirit of adventure as you embark on the next leg of your journey. Until we meet again, safe travels and cherished memories of Turkey's captivating landscapes.

🍳 Breakfast.



### **Private Driver**

10:00 to 10:45

From: Nujel'm Cappadocia Hotel

To: Nevsehir Kapadokya Airport

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**Plane**

10:45 to 11:45

From: Cappadocia

To: İstanbul