



CHRISTMAS IN TURKEY

2024 - Classic Tour | 13 Days | Physical Level 1

ISTANBUL - CANAKKALE - SELCUK - CAPPADOCIA - ISTANBUL

Enjoy Christmas with a difference in Turkey - the land where East meets West and the influences of Asia, Europe and the Middle East combine in a treasure trove of fascinating history and archaeological wonders. From Istanbul's iconic landmarks and Gallipoli's bloody battlegrounds to the mighty walls of ancient Troy and the wonderfully preserved Greco Roman city of Ephesus, Turkey has much to offer. Over Christmas itself you will be among the fairytale landscapes of Cappadocia, perhaps made all the more beautiful with a covering of snow. This all-encompassing tour uncovers the extraordinarily rich culture of a country at the fulcrum of European and Asian history.

- Visit Istanbul's iconic landmarks
- Pay your respects at Gallipoli
- Discover the ancient city of Ephesus
- Be mesmerised by a Whirling Dervish ceremony
- Marvel at Cappadocia's fantastical geology

To book call **0800 936 3998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit wendywutours.co.nz

TOUR MAP



CHRISTMAS IN TURKEY TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

See the classic sights in the company of expert guides so you can really understand the history and culture of the destination. On our classic tours we take care of everything, leaving you to sit back and enjoy the experience to the full. The tours are fully inclusive with all meals and a comprehensive touring programme.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Christmas in Turkey' is rated as a physical level 1 tour (5 being the highest). A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

Some of the ancient sites, including Pergamon and Ephesus, are spread across a large area and therefore some walking is required, although there are usually rest points along the way. Much of the sightseeing during the three days in Cappadocia involves walking, sometimes on rough and sloping terrain, but should you want to opt out your National Guide will be able to arrange this. In December there is a good chance of snow on the ground in Cappadocia, therefore be prepared with waterproof footwear with secure grip. Walking poles may also be useful for the short hikes in Cappadocia, if the terrain is slippery. In Cappadocia please be ready to walk through tunnels and narrow passageways, as well as climb wooden stairways, while exploring the ancient underground city of Kaymakli and other rock-carved sites. Warm clothing, including a wind and waterproof outer layer, is essential - especially if you choose to do the optional pre-dawn balloon flight on Christmas morning.

Please read this tour dossier carefully to assess the level of physical challenge involved. We have outlined the physical challenges in detail and urge you to discuss any concerns with us before you book. During the tour your guide is on hand to describe walks and other physical challenges in detail, also to explain the options if you choose to skip any of the walks or site visits.

Of course, our National Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 13 days in duration including overnight international flights in both directions as this is the most likely flight option from New Zealand. Please note, some flights may depart and arrive on Day 2.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Please email your international flight times to info@wendywutours.co.nz so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Istanbul and end the tour on Day 12 in Istanbul. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1-2: Fly to Istanbul

Meals: D

Up on arrival into Istanbul, the 'city where East meets West'. You will be met on arrival and transferred to your city centre hotel ahead of this evening's welcome dinner and briefing.

**Destination Information**

Istanbul – Regarded as one of the World's greatest cities, and certainly one of the most influential in the history of the last two millennia, Istanbul (formerly Byzantium and Constantinople) is a melting pot of the old and new: a vibrant, modern metropolis built around a historical heart where Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman treasures compete for the limelight. The setting is dramatic: straddling the Bosphorus and flanked by the Golden Horn, the city's imperious skyline is an imposing sight, especially from the water. We have two full days for guided visits to the key sights at the start of the tour, along with a boat trip on the Bosphorus, with a further half day at the end with the chance to explore further on your own.

Day 3: In Istanbul

Meals: B, L, D

Explore Istanbul's landmark sites, mainly on foot but with plenty of rest breaks along the way. First visit the remains of the once mighty Hippodrome and view the Blue Mosque's exquisite cascade of domes and slender minarets before continuing to the Hagia Sophia, the crowning achievement of the Byzantine Empire, whose 31.7 metre dome was for a millennium the largest in the world.



Then walk to one of ancient Byzantium's most remarkable engineering achievements: the vast, 6th-century Basilica Cistern. Descend the 52 stone steps into the cistern and marvel at the 336 marble columns supporting its vaulted ceiling.

After lunch, immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world. During the day you will also get the chance to enjoy a traditional Turkish coffee at one of the city's historic coffee shops. Later dine at Hamdi Restaurant, overlooking the Golden Horn, where some of Istanbul's finest kebabs have been served since 1970.

Your first full day in Istanbul is a busy one and full of highlights: expect to spend at least five hours walking and on foot. Your guide will arrange rest breaks and you can choose to skip some of the sightseeing if you prefer.

Destination Information

Hagia Sophia – Unquestionably the architectural jewel in the crown of the Byzantine Empire, the stunning Hagia Sophia has miraculously survived nearly 1,500 years and remains the heart of this city. The Hagia Sophia (Church of Divine Wisdom) was consecrated in 537, converted to a mosque by the Ottoman Turks in 1453, then declared a museum by Atatürk in 1935, only to be converted back into a working mosque in 2020.

Basilica Cistern – Called the Basilica Cistern because it was located under the ancient Basilica at the heart of the city, this engineering masterpiece provided a water filtration system to the city from its construction in the 6th century through to modern times. The cistern occupies nearly 10,800 square metres and is capable of holding 80,000 cubic metres of water. The ceiling is supported by 336 marble and granite columns, each 9 metres high, taken from the ruins of older buildings throughout the Byzantine Empire.

The Grand Bazaar – Since it was founded in the 15th century the wonderfully busy and colourful Grand Bazaar has been the beating heart of the Old City. Dozens of labyrinthine covered lanes are lined with shops, stalls, cafés, restaurants, bath houses and still-functioning workshops, where skilled artisans are still turning out hand-made masterpieces as they have been for centuries.

Day 4: In Istanbul

Meals: B, L, D

In the morning discover on a walking tour the mesmeric beauty of Topkapi Palace and its extraordinary treasures. The sprawling palace holds some fabulous examples of Ottoman architecture and Iznik tilework, plus the very best views out over the Bosphorus and Golden Horn.



Then we stroll through one of the city's oldest and most evocative sites: the Spice Bazaar (also called the Egyptian Bazaar), famous for its amazing array of herbs and spices. This is still the best place to buy Turkish delight, dried fruit, exotic spices and herbs. Nearby is Tahtakale, the traditional hardware district, with its beautiful but little-visited 16th-century Rüstem Pasha Mosque, decorated with exquisite tilework.

Later after pausing for lunch, explore some of Istanbul's lesser-known locations with a chance to uncover the beating heart of the city on a walk through one of the city's hidden gems: the UNESCO-listed Fener and Balat districts. Stroll through the colourful, labyrinth-like streets of these historical neighbourhoods, whose rich history dates back to Byzantine times, with Armenian, Jewish and Orthodox influences still present today.

To round off the day, enjoy a private cruise along the Bosphorus Strait, the waterway that divides Europe and Asia, to witness the city's minaret-studded skyline and its most famous sites from the water, including the dramatic Rumeli Fortress, Dolmabahce Palace and the sultan's former summer residence - Beylerbeyi Palace. In the evening enjoy your dinner at a fish restaurant overlooking the Bosphorus.

Note that today involves a lot of walking with around six or more hours on your feet. Your guide will arrange rest breaks where possible, and you will have the option to skip some of the visits if you prefer. For example, you could choose to wait in a cay bahcesi (tea-house) rather than walk the steep, cobbled streets and alleys of Fener and Balat.

Destination Information

Topkapi Palace – Built by successive sultans between the 15th and 19th centuries, the opulent, sprawling Topkapi Palace is home to some of the most fabulous treasures of the Ottoman empire, including the jewel-filled Treasury, not to mention its beautiful views out across the Bosphorus.

Fener and Balat districts – Modern and traditional mingle here in abundance, with trendy coffee shops and design boutiques sitting next more old school cay bahcesi (tea gardens) and artisan workshops.

The Bosphorus Strait – Connecting the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara, which in turn connects via the Dardanelles to the Mediterranean, the Bosphorus lies on the boundary between Asia and Europe. It also separates Thrace (European Turkey) from Anatolia, the country's much larger Asian side. This is the world's narrowest strait used for international navigation.

Day 5: Via Gallipoli to Canakkale

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast drive approximately 4 hours to reach the arid hills of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

After a short break at the town of Gallipoli, visit the key battlefields and memorials from World War I. These include the Helles Memorial, built to commemorate the 20,956 missing British and Commonwealth soldiers. You will also visit Anzac Cove, where in the early hours of 25th April 1915, the



Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) made a landing and set up a base from which the front line was supplied over the next 10 months. You will also explore Shrapnel Valley and the evocative Lone Pine Memorial, on a plateau 120 metres above sea level, from where there are wide-ranging views across the peninsula.

Later visit Chunuk Bair Memorial, commemorating the New Zealand dead, then continue to the Gallipoli War Museum and see letters written by soldiers, along with displays of uniforms and armaments used by both sides. The tree-less slopes of the Gallipoli Peninsula are open and exposed: the weather here in December can be cold and windy, so wrap up warm.

Later travel from Europe to Asia either by ferry or across the quite extraordinary 1915 Canakkale Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in the world, with a suspended central span of over two kilometres. After checking into the hotel in Canakkale enjoy a complimentary drink overlooking the Dardanelles - your chance to raise a toast in memory of the 111,000 lives lost (46,000 Allies, 65,000 Turkish) in one of the WWI's bloodiest campaigns.

Destination Information

Gallipoli Peninsula – A narrow and strategic peninsula separating Thrace (European Turkey) from Anatolia, infamous for the Gallipoli campaign during World War I, which was intended to secure the peninsula for Allied ships to pass through the Dardanelles and take Constantinople (Istanbul) thereby defeating Ottoman Turkey.

The Dardanelles – One of the world's narrowest straits critically important for international navigation, the Dardanelles connects the Sea of Marmara with the Mediterranean. 61 kilometres long and in parts as narrow as just 1.2 kilometres, the Dardanelles have throughout history been strategically important - from ancient Troy, the Persian and Byzantine Empires to the modern-day.

Day 6: Via Troy and Pergamon to Selcuk

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, discover the fabled UNESCO World Heritage site of Troy, with its multi-layered history and wonderful legends.

Continue to Bergama to visit the Greco-Roman city of Pergamon, perched on its acropolis, with far-reaching views of the plains all around.



In Bergama enjoy a special lunch at typical village houses. You will be divided into smaller groups and hosted by a number of local families, a perfect chance to try Turkish home cuisine and meet your hosts in their homes.

Later drive on to Selcuk and check-in to the hotel for two nights.

Destination Information

Troy – Cities have been built here one on top of the other for more than 5,000 years. The vast, ancient walls evoke the epic tales of the Iliad, which culminate in the story of the wooden horse which finally enabled the Greeks to conquer the mighty city.

Pergamon or Pergamum – A fabulous and well-preserved Greco-Roman city, famous for its Altar of Zeus, its Temples of Athena, Trajan, and Dionysus, plus its magnificent and unusually steep 10,000 seat theatre.

Day 7: Ephesus

Meals: B, L, D

Today enjoy a leisurely visit on foot to the outstanding UNESCO World Heritage site of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved Greco-Roman sites in the world. Here the streets and buildings are so well preserved it isn't hard to imagine ancient life as it must have been, whether at the bath houses, the market, the theatre or the magnificent Celsus library.



Later return to your hotel in Selcuk and take some time to relax before tomorrow's flight to Cappadocia.

Destination Information

Ephesus - Believed to have been settled in the 10th century BC by Ionians, but then changed hands many times before becoming a Roman dependency in 133 BC during the reign of Emperor Augustus. It was also an important city during early Christian times as evidenced by St. Paul's visit and St. John Ephesus being buried nearby. The ruins that remain here give us a clear picture of life in Ephesus, including the roads used by chariots; ancient bath houses; mosaic pedestrian walkways; even a brothel. Among the most spectacular sites are the famous facade of the Celsus Library, constructed from 117-125 AD, which contained rectangular niches to hold its papyrus scrolls, and a spectacular, well-preserved theatre that could seat 24,000 people.

Day 8: Christmas Eve - fly to Cappadocia

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast drive to Izmir and fly eastwards across the Anatolian Plateau to Kayseri, then transfer to Urgup in the heart of Cappadocia, for a three-night stay.

Enjoy a very different Christmas Eve, with a visit to the beautifully restored 13th-century Saruhan Caravanserai. Here witness the Sema Ritual performed by Whirling Dervishes, a deeply mystical experience where the dancers fall into a rhythmic trance-like state.



Note that the Sema is a religious experience, revered by Sufis for centuries. Photography is allowed only for a special extra performance at the end.

Afterwards enjoy Christmas Eve dinner at an atmospheric local restaurant in an old Cappadocian stone-built house.

Destination Information

Cappadocia – The looming volcanoes of Erciyes and Hasan used to be active thousands of years ago and erupted continuously, covering the whole region with a blanket of soft volcanic rock that is easily eroded by wind and rain, also carved by human hands, due to its soft character.

Cappadocia has been occupied by various civilisations for many centuries, including the Hittites, Greeks, early Christians and Byzantines, Romans and Turks, often in dwellings carved out of the soft rock itself.

Day 9: Christmas in Cappadocia!

Meals: B, L, D

For a literally uplifting start to your Christmas Day how about taking the opportunity (optional) to enjoy an unforgettable flight in a hot-air balloon over Cappadocia's extraordinary landscapes of volcanic cones, wind-eroded cliffs and quite possibly snow-covered valleys?

Note that this activity is not an included part of your tour and you participate at your own expense and your own risk.



Later, after breakfast at the hotel, start your Christmas Day by exploring the monastic centre of Goreme, one of the very earliest Christian settlements in the world. Goreme was founded by St. Basil during the 4th century and the area is now described as an 'open-air museum', with rock-hewn churches and monastic dwellings dotting the landscape, often decorated with well-preserved Byzantine frescoes.

Later visit picturesque Pasabag Valley, whose cone-shaped chapels and hermitages look as if they have been sculpted by artists. Finishing Christmas Day literally on a high, climb the pinnacle shaped rock-carved natural citadel of Uchisar, with its spectacular views of the whole region from the top.

On the way back to the hotel there will be the opportunity to stop at Avanos, an attractive town famous for its red clay, which has been used in pottery since the 2nd millennium BC. You will visit the studio of a local Cappadocian pottery artist and have the chance to watch the creation of traditional pottery and ceramic masterpieces.

Later enjoy a Turkish-style Christmas dinner at a popular local restaurant.

Destination Information

Goreme Open Air Museum – This UNESCO listed cluster of rock-cut churches and monastic dwellings is regarded as the jewel in the crown of Cappadocia's rich history. The compact area contains some of the finest churches in the region, whose architecture has inspired centuries of Christian buildings, and whose vividly painted murals are among the finest examples of Byzantine art.

Day 10: Local life in Cappadocia

Meals: B, L, D

It's Boxing Day and your second full day in Cappadocia! You will visit the picturesque village of Mustafapasa, the rock-cut churches of Soganli Valley, the remarkable underground city of Kaymakli and enjoy a fabulous opportunity to experience Turkish home cooking!



Drive first to Mustafapasa, a perfectly preserved Greek village in the heart of Anatolia. The former Greek inhabitants left the village in 1923 during the population exchange between Turkey and Greece.

Then continue to Soganli Valley, which has been inhabited since the earliest days of the Christian era. The rock-cut churches here date from the 9th to 13th centuries. Soganli, like other valleys in Cappadocia, exemplifies the harmony between man and nature. Enjoy a short walk (one hour approx. with some moderate ascent and descent) through the valley, mainly on wide and well-maintained paths, but with some short sections on loose gravel. Again, be ready for snow underfoot, with secure footwear and sticks for extra support if you choose. For non-walkers your driver can take you to a café at the end of the walk, to rest and wait for the others.

At lunch today you will be welcomed by your host and his family to enjoy authentic Turkish home cooking. The setting is an original stone house, decorated with Turkish textiles and local Cappadocian rugs. This is a wonderful opportunity not only to learn about Turkish cuisine but to experience traditional and genuine Turkish hospitality.

Your next stop will be Kaymakli Underground City, a subterranean settlement composed of troglodytic cave dwellings providing shelter for early Christians protecting themselves from invaders. Kaymakli had the capacity to house a total of 5,000 people at once with its eight different subterranean levels.

This evening we head out to a local restaurant for dinner.

Destination Information

Soganli Valley – Over 100 churches were carved into the soft 'tufa' walls of the valley between the 9th and 13th centuries, along with cloisters, storehouses and several distinctive dovecotes. In Soganli, for the first time, the exterior surfaces of some rock cones were carved to form unique churches with high drums and domes.

Kaymakli Underground City – Once home to an estimated 3,500 people the 'city' is built eight levels deep into a hillside, with rock-cut tunnels and stairways connecting the chapels, refectories, sleeping chambers and storerooms. Only the first four floors are open to the public and our visit will include only the first level, with a chance to venture deeper into the city for those that wish (as it's not easy for a group to explore together). The tunnels and chambers are reasonably well lit, but you may find a torch useful. If you suffer from claustrophobia you are advised to skip this visit.

Day 11: Fly to Istanbul

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast set off to Kayseri Airport for your flight back to Istanbul, then transfer to your hotel. With your time in Istanbul, you can either explore independently, perhaps do some souvenir hunting, or indulge in the refined art of the Turkish Bath at the 16th century Hurrem Sultan Hammam, one of the oldest and best hammams in the city. Indulge in a deep cleanse and relaxing massage, your post-Christmas reward for the action-packed days you've just spent enjoying the best of western and central Turkey!



Please allow approximately NZD240.00 pp for the traditional Turkish Bath and massage.

On your final evening eat at the atmospheric Cicek Pasaji (Flower Passage) which is a small, covered street of traditional restaurants that serve typical Turkish meze, grilled meats and Turkey's national drink of choice: raki.

Day 12-13: Tour ends Istanbul

Meals: B

After breakfast at the hotel transfer to Istanbul Airport for your flight back home



CHRISTMAS IN TURKEY - TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders currently do not require a visa to enter Turkey. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original

EATING IN TURKEY:

Turkish food is full of variety, and we hope will be a highlight of your tour. The choice of restaurants on your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. We aim to bring you the meals as described in the itinerary above but cannot guarantee this as changes may be necessary from time to time for operational or other reasons. For your convenience in general at the end of a long travelling day your meal will be at the hotel restaurant, and otherwise we have chosen atmospheric local restaurants with menus reflecting local specialities.

All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from dinner on the day of your group's arrival until breakfast on your day of departure. Your tour also includes cooking demonstrations at Selcuk and in Cappadocia.

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions or allergies when booking your tour.

**PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS
AT TIME OF BOOKING**

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. **However, mini buses may be used for smaller groups (under 10 passengers).** Roads in Turkey have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that your final documents will have the latest information, however your local guide will confirm this in destination. Boarding passes can be collected directly at the airport. The flights booked as part of your itinerary will always reflect the best timings to suit the touring itinerary, with direct flights wherever possible, however due to limited schedules some flights may require an early departure or late arrival.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that portering is not included on our tours in Turkey. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Turkey is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and Turkey.

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

EXCHANGING CASH:

The unit of currency in Turkey is the Turkish Lira. ATMs are common in major cities and tourist, and we recommend using an ATM inside a bank where possible. Most major credit cards are widely accepted in Turkey, though please bear in mind the charges of your provider.

Debit cards are also widely accepted but may have a limit to the amount of cash you can withdraw – consult your bank about this before travelling.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

CLIMBING STEPS:

There are a reasonable number of steps to climb, on the Cappadocia section of the tour especially. Please see the individual day descriptions on this dossier for details. We encourage you to contact us to discuss any concerns beforehand or speak with the guide to understand more accurately the steps involved on each visit or walk.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your Doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

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