



# Treasures of Turkey

Classic Tour | 18 Days | Physical Level 1

Istanbul – Canakkale – Selcuk – Pamukkale – Antalya – Konya –  
Cappadocia – Ankara – Istanbul

The place where East meets West, modern-day Turkey is a treasure trove of fascinating history and archaeological wonders. From Istanbul's iconic landmarks and Gallipoli's bloody battlegrounds to Cappadocia's other-worldly landscapes and much more, 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
- Unearth Magnesia's fascinating history
- Be mesmerised by a Whirling Dervish ceremony

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

Visit [wendywutours.co.nz](http://wendywutours.co.nz)

## TOUR MAP



## TREASURES OF 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
- Turkey visa fees for non-New Zealand passport holders (see visa section below)
- 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:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Turkey on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

### PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

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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. Treasures of Turkey is rated as a physical level 1 tour. 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.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- There are steps, tunnels and narrow passages to navigate at Cappadocia.

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.

### JOINING YOUR TOUR:

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The tour is 18 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](mailto: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 17 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

**Days 1-2: Fly to Istanbul**

Meals: D

Fly overnight to 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



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 equally 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 either on your own or on one of our optional excursions.

**Day 3: In Istanbul**

Meals: B, L, D

Explore Istanbul's landmark sites. Visit the remains of the once mighty Hippodrome and marvel at the Blue Mosque's exquisitely tiled walls before continuing to the Hagia Sophia, the crowning achievement of the Byzantine Empire. Discover the mesmeric beauty of Topkapi Palace and its extraordinary treasures, then immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the Grand Bazaar, one



of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world, with a chance to enjoy a traditional Turkish coffee at one of its original coffee shops. Later dine at the atmospheric Cicek Pasaji (Flower Passage) which is a small, covered street of traditional restaurants that serve typical Turkish mezes with raki.

**Day 4: In Istanbul**

Meals: B, L, D

In the morning explore some of the city's lesser-known locations, a chance to uncover the real beating heart of the city away from its most famous sights. First visit one of Istanbul's hidden gems in the UNESCO-listed Fener and Balat districts. Walk 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. You will also visit the Egyptian Bazaar, the second largest covered market in Istanbul and 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.



This afternoon, 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. Later you have the chance (optional) to experience a traditional Turkish Bath in one of the city's oldest and most prestigious hammams, or if you prefer you can save this for the last afternoon of the tour when you return to Istanbul. In the evening enjoy your dinner at a fish restaurant overlooking the Bosphorus.

**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. Later travel from Europe to Asia across the Dardanelles - either by ferry or across the 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 as the sun sets across the water - 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.



**Day 6: Via Troy and Pergamum 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.

**Day 7: Ephesus**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning you will explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved ancient sites in the world. Later travel into the hills behind Ephesus, to visit the chapel built on the spot where the Virgin Mary is believed to have spent the last days of her life, in the company of Saint John to whom she was entrusted by Jesus Christ before he was crucified. Enjoy a picnic lunch today along with a cookery class experience. Watch some Turkish cooking techniques and then take the chance to prepare and cook some of the food. Later learn how hand-woven Turkish carpets are produced, then continue to the beautiful old village of Sirince, set on the forested hillside. This region is known for its olive oil, fruit and wine production, and you can take the opportunity to visit one of the vineyards or olive oil producers. In the evening Dinner at a traditional koftecisi, specialising in grilled kebabs and meatballs.

**Day 8: Via Magnesia to Pamukkale**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast set off to the little-visited ancient site of Magnesia, which dates back to 400-350BC and was an important city in the fertile Menderes (Meander) valley. Our partner in Turkey is a proud sponsor of the archaeological excavations here, which allows us special access to archaeological areas that are normally restricted. Later continue to the extraordinary thermal waters and geological formations of Pamukkale (which literally translates as 'Cotton Castle') where you have the chance to relax and enjoy the hotel's facilities including the thermal pool.





**Day 9: Pamukkale to Antalya**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast set out to explore the Hellenistic site of Hierapolis, which was an important trading post on the routes connecting East to West. Later, during the Roman Period, Hierapolis became famous as a thermal centre, with its massive bath houses built to serve visitors from around the ancient world. Upon arrival at the site, you will be greeted by spectacular views of the calcium pools that have been formed by the spring waters of Hierapolis over thousands of years. Explore the ancient site, including its fabulous necropolis and one of the best-preserved Roman theatres in the world. Later drive south to the coastal city of Antalya for a two-night stay.

**Day 10: In Antalya, visit Perge and Aspendos**

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will visit the impressive ruins of Perge and Aspendos, as well as the picturesque waterfalls of Manavgat, rounded off with a boat trip along Antalya's attractive shoreline. The ancient Greek city of Perge, located close to Antalya, was capital of the region of Pamphylia. While there is a wealth of historical remains to see here, the theatre, memorial fountain, city gate, agora, baths and gymnasium especially stand out. Next, you will visit the nearby city of Aspendos, famous for its



incredibly well-preserved Roman theatre, said by many to be the best example in the Mediterranean world. En route back to Antalya you will have a chance to see the beautiful Manavgat waterfalls, as they cascade over a wide area surrounded by channels and terraces. Enjoy a change of pace in the afternoon as you head out on a private boat tour from Antalya, lasting around two hours, with the chance to swim or just relax and take in the coastal scenery. Later there's the chance to eat at one of Antalya's traditional restaurants in the heart of the old city, a fitting end to a varied and busy day.

**Day 11: To Konya**

Meals: B, L, D

Drive northeast from the coast onto the Anatolian Plateau, a sparsely populated region of rolling steppes bordered by the Taurus Mountains in the south. Arriving at the traditional town of Konya, you will have the chance to visit the Mausoleum of Mevlâna, the founder of Whirling Dervishes, before dinner and your overnight stay.



**Day 12: Via Sultanhani to Cappadocia**

Meals: B, L, D

Set off from Konya and drive first to Sultanhani Caravanserai - one of the most significant and best-preserved Seljuk caravanserais in Turkey. Enjoy time at this majestic building and imagine the camel caravans of old stopping here en route from China or Central Asia. Continue to the other-worldly landscapes of Cappadocia and check in to your hotel for a three-night stay. After dinner at the hotel, visit the historic Saruhan Caravanserai to see the Sema Ritual performed by Whirling Dervishes, a deeply mystical experience where the dancers fall into a rhythmic trance-like state.

**Day 13: Via Sultanhani to Cappadocia**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning at sunrise you have the opportunity (optional) to enjoy an unforgettable experience: to float in a hot-air balloon over Cappadocia's extraordinary landscapes of volcanic cones, cliffs and rich green valleys.



Later, start a full day exploration of the region with a visit to the monastic centre of Goreme. The town was founded by St. Basil as the first Christian monastic centre during the 4th century. Now the area is 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, where cone-shaped chapels and hermitages look as if they have been sculpted by contemporary artists! 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. Finishing literally on a high, you will stop by the 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 see the creation of traditional pottery and ceramic masterpieces.

In addition, today you will have the chance to visit a local family in their traditional stone-built home to meet the family and learn about everyday life in this part of Turkey, aspects of which have hardly changed in generations. Expect to be offered the most authentic of Turkish welcomes: a glass of 'cay' or traditional 'kahve' (coffee). Enjoy dinner at a popular local restaurant this evening.



**Day 14: In Cappadocia**

Meals: B, L, D

On your second full day in Cappadocia, enjoy the scenic beauty of Ihlara Valley, the picturesque village of Mustafapasa, the rock-cut churches of Soganlı and a fabulous opportunity to learn the art of Turkish home cooking!



Drive first to Ihlara Valley, a long gorge cut into the volcanic rock, honeycombed with rock-cut underground dwellings and churches from the Byzantine period. Then visit 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.

At lunch today you will have the chance to enjoy a demonstration of authentic Turkish home cooking. The setting for lunch is an original stone house, decorated with Turkish textiles and local Cappadocian rugs, to give you a real flavour of traditional Turkish hospitality.

In the afternoon 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.

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

**Day 15: To Ankara**

Meals: B, L, D

Say goodbye to Cappadocia and drive around 3 to 4 hours to Ankara. Historically known as Angora, Ankara is the capital of Turkey and the country's second-largest city after Istanbul. Upon arrival, you will visit the Anatolian Civilizations Museum, a museum that has drawn worldwide acclaim for its unparalleled collection of artifacts from all the civilisations that have occupied Anatolia throughout history and prehistory, including the Hittites, Urartians and Phrygians. Afterwards, visit the colossal Mausoleum of Ataturk, the burial place of the national hero who founded the modern Republic of Turkey.



**Day 16: Fly to Istanbul**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast in Ankara drive to the airport and fly to Istanbul. Here transfer to the hotel for lunch and then enjoy a free afternoon in one of the world's great cities. You can either explore independently or choose from one of our optional excursions outlined below.



You could take a guided tour to explore traditional Cukurcuma, a wonderful neighbourhood famous for its many antique shops. Also visit the Museum of Innocence, created by famed Turkish novelist and Nobel prize winner Orhan Pamuk. The museum is based on his novel of the same name and evokes the everyday life of Istanbul during the last 30 years of the 20th century, the period in which the novel is set.

Alternatively, you may want to try your hand at an Ebru painting workshop. Ebru painting is a centuries old Turkish art, where natural dyes mixed with ox gall are sprinkled with brushes made of horse tails on the surface of water in an ebru tray. When the design is ready paper is left on top to absorb the dyes and shapes. A third option is to experience the refined art of the Turkish Bath at the 16th century Hurrem Sultan Hammam, one of the very best and most traditional hammams in the city. Indulge in a deep cleanse and relaxing massage, your reward for the action-packed days you've just spent enjoying the best of western and central Turkey!

Each of the optional excursions requires minimum two participants and cost €50pp for the guided tour of Cukurcuma, €80pp for the Ebru painting experience, and €110pp for the traditional Turkish Bath and massage.

For your final evening visit the bustling and historical district of Kumkapi, on the Sea of Marmara, where fishermen have lived and worked for centuries. Enjoy your meze starters with fish or seafood main courses, often with traditional live music and belly-dance performances going on around you.

**Day 17: Depart Istanbul**

Meals: B

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Istanbul airport for your onward flight, arriving back in New Zealand the following day.

*Please note: Only breakfast is provided on the group's day of departure.*

## TURKEY - TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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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:

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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:

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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 refer to your travel guide for more information on Turkish cuisine, including information for travellers with restricted diets.

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:

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**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers between destinations. Roads in Europe are extremely well maintained and are comparatively smooth.

**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:

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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:

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Tipping in Turkey is customary for some services, though it isn't obligatory. Services where it's customary to tip are restaurants / tavernas, tours, hotel personnel and delivery people. If you feel you have received an excellent service, please feel free to tip at your discretion.

### ACCOMMODATION:

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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 may exist between New Zealand and Turkey. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning where needed. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort. 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:

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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:

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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:

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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.

### VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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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](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz)

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://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:

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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:**

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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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