

TURKEY

PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE

traveltalk
adventure travel company



Travel Talk tours will take you on a pilgrimage of culture, history, adventure, fun and relaxation. You will visit sites of antiquity, explore the treasures of Turkey, venture into the surreal region of central Cappadocia and experience sun-kissed days on pristine beaches... Before you leave for your adventure, it is important that you read this pre-departure information to ensure that your trip begins and proceeds, as smoothly as possible. While we appreciate that you are embarking on an "adventure holiday" that will produce its own share of surprises, it is also true that forewarned is forearmed. This information is not written with the intention of being anything other than general information that we hope will help you come more prepared for your holiday. The philosophy of Travel Talk is simple: to provide excellent value for money for budget-conscious and adventurous travellers without compromising their experiences, and providing quality transportation, accommodation, sight-seeing and information services. We hope that our philosophy will exceed your expectations and the following information will help you enjoy a memorable journey in Turkey.

VISAS

British, Irish, Australian, Canadian and United States passport holders can obtain a 3-month tourist visa upon arrival in Istanbul at the following current costs: UK GBP 10, Canada USD 60, Australia USD 20, New Zealand, no visa required.

ESSENTIALS

Before you leave your country, we recommend you to make sure you have the followings with you;

- Passport
- Airline or transportation ticket
- Tour voucher
- Insurance policy
- Visas (if necessary)
- Label on your travel bag
- Pre-departure information
- Money (cash and/or travellers cheques)
- Credit card

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is essential for all passengers travelling on Travel Talk tours to have personal insurance to cover all medical and repatriation costs. Please take your insurance policy with you. While there are no mandatory vaccinations for travellers to Turkey, it is advisable to ensure inoculation is up to date. Some travellers feel more confident with hepatitis and meningitis inoculations as well. Rabies exists in Turkey in rural areas, although it is very unlikely that you will come in contact with a rabid animal. Immunisation is available in either a series of

three injections over a period of one month (lasts 3-5 years) or a single visit booster dose that lasts only 6-12 months. Please consult a medical practitioner for advice.

Each year, thousands of visitors return home from Turkey with nothing but happy memories.

Turkey is a safe country compared to most of the world. Street crime is not a big problem - yet. You should always take the normal travel precautions. It is wise not to accept gifts or food or drink from any strangers for the risk of possibly being a victim of theft by drugging. Take care with your passport, credit cards and money - a money belt to fit beneath your clothes is highly recommended. It is also recommended that at least one set of modest clothing is taken with you. It is a sign of respect to cover your shoulders and legs when visiting mosques and also attracts less unwanted attention. A headscarf for women is necessary when visiting mosques in Turkey.

WHAT TO WEAR...

Depending on the season; from November to February it can be very cold, so remember to pack the woollies for the Christmas tour! In March, April or October it is cooler, so pack a few layers including a jacket. For the rest of the year, pack summer clothing but remember to bring something warmer for the evenings. You need to bring comfortable footwear with you, so we recommend trainers and flip-flops/thongs for the summer months & Ugg or hiking boots for the cooler seasons.

MONEY

We recommend you carry a mixture of cash and a debit/credit card. The Turkish Lira is fully convertible and can be obtained before departure or upon arrival. ATM facilities, banks and Exchange booths are available in all major cities and towns. Avoid changing the bulk of your money at the airport; the exchange rates are usually more favourable in the city. GBP £1=2.8 TL USD \$1= 1.8 TL EUR €1=2.4 TL

WEATHER

Turkey is a destination that can be visited year-round. Temperatures in Turkey during the Northern Hemisphere summer are generally high, particularly during the summer months from June through September. April can spring up surprising results. Days can be amazingly warm, though temperatures do drop at night, so pack some warmer clothes. Summer in Turkey for the most part is hot and dry. For the beach worshipper, June through September is best, when you'll enjoy glorious Mediterranean sun. Turkey is a lovely winter destination; the weather is usually temperate, although from December through to February you may enjoy a little snow in Istanbul, Anatolia or Cappadocia.

EATING & DRINKING

During your journey, we will give lunch breaks at these types of restaurants to save your money and time. Main dishes are generally on display; you choose and the meat or fish is taken away to be prepared. Fish is usually charged by the weight. Shish and doner kebabs are served everywhere. Turkish tea, Turkish coffee and apple tea are the most popular drinks in Turkey.

SHOPPING

Shopping in Turkey is one of the great experiences of travelling in this country. Many things are still bargains to be had, although you have to be very careful to ensure that the products are authentic. Turkish carpets are world-famous and can vary from a few pounds or dollars to thousands of pounds or dollars, depending on size, quality, dyes, materials, etc. Together with naturally dyed woollen carpets, there are machine-made carpets from man-made fibres. Cappadocia has the widest range of carpets by virtue of buying carpets from all over Turkey, and they are the cheapest.

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OPENING HOURS

There are no hard and fast rules for opening hours in Turkey, but banks and main post offices are generally open from 8.30am to 12.00 midday and 1.30pm to 5.30pm Monday to Friday. Shops are generally open from around 9.00am to 6.00pm, later in bazaars and shopping malls. They are usually closed on Sunday.

ELECTRICITY

All appliances require a double round pin type plug for 220 volts AC, 50- hertz.

TIPPING

Tips are a common rewards for service staff in Turkey like everywhere in the world. Your guide and crew can especially be honoured with this kind of traditional appreciation at the end of the trip. If you join a belly dancing show, the dancer will expect a tip of around £2.

DISTANCES

The following information will give you a better idea of the times travelled to help you plan your day:

- Istanbul-Gallipoli: 295 kms 5 hours
- Gallipoli-Troy-Pergamum-Selcuk: 382 kms 11 hours.
- Selcuk-Pamukkale: 193 kms 3.5 hours
- P.kale-Cappadocia: 630 kms 11 hours
- Cappadocia-Ankara : 287 kms 3.5 hours
- Ankara-Istanbul : 443 kms 5 hours
- Pamukkale-Fethiye: 230 kms 4.5 hours
- Fethiye - Kas : 120 kms 2 hours
- Kas-Olympos: 180 kms 2.5 hours
- Olympos-Antalya : 82 kms 1.5 hours
- Antalya- Cappadocia : 562 kms 11 hours.
- Pamukkale- Istanbul : 664 kms 9 hours.
- Marmaris- Istanbul : 800 kms 13 hours.
- Marmaris- Fethiye : 126 kms 2 hours.

ARRIVAL

The arrival airport transfer from Ataturk International Airport (IST) and Sabiha Gokcen Airport (SAW) is included in the price of the tour (on day 1 of the tour). You'll be met by our local representative at the airport who arranges the transfers from the airport to your hotel.

Please find below the address details of your arrival hotel in Istanbul :

Hotel Prince (For Below Departures)

09th June, 16th June, 23th June, 30th June,
07th July, 14th July, 21th July, 28th July,
4th Aug, 11th Aug, 18th Aug, 25th Aug,
01st Sep, 15th Sep, 6th Oct, 3th Nov,
24th Nov, 08th Dec, 18th Dec

Nobetbahce Cad.No:5
Sirkeci-Istanbul-Turkey
Tel : 0090 212 513 25 50
www.hotelprince.com

Hotel Romance (For Below Departures)

19th May, 2nd June, 8th Sep, 22th Sep, 29th Sep,
13th Oct, 20th Oct

Hudavendigar Cad.No:5
Sirkeci-Istanbul-Turkey
Tel : 0090 212 5120 86 76
www.romancehotel.com

Guide Meeting

Please note that your guide will meet and brief you about the next days of your tour at the arrival hotel at 06:30 p.m. on day one.

SELF TRANSPORTATION

Ataturk Airport is only a short trip from the centre of Istanbul.

The cheapest method is;

Take the metro from the airport Ataturk Havalimani to Zeytinburnu where you should get off and take the connecting tram to Gulhane, total cost will be approx 5 TL. The arrival hotel is just a couple of minutes walk from Gulhane tram station.

You should expect to pay no more than 40 TL.

The journey from Sabiha Gokcen (SAW) is very straightforward and inexpensive.

On exiting the terminal building you will see the Havas (pronounced Havash) bus which will take you to TAKSIM for 12 TL approx £5 journey time approx an hour. You can a taxi to Sabiha Gokcen Airport costs you around 110 TL.

ACCOMMODATION

The hotel selection on Travel Talk tours is 4 and 5 star locally rated and the main criteria in the hotel selection process is cleanliness, private bath-room facilities, usually but not always centrally located.

If you are travelling on your own, you'll be allocated a twin or triple room with other group members of the same gender.

Travellers who have paid a single supplement will stay in single rooms except Gulet cruise if booked.

We can not guarantee the availability of double beds for couple travellers.

Your Tour Leader will organise the rooming arrangements when checking into the hotels according to the rooming lists sent by the operation department.

Therefore we can also not guarantee any last minute changes to suit personal requirements of our passengers.

SERVICES INCLUDED

- Arrival Airport Transfer
- Accommodation in 5 and 4 star hotels
- Meals ; 8 Breakfasts, 5 Dinners
- Transportation in air - conditioned Non-smoking coaches or mini-buses
- Services of experienced guides licenced by the Ministry of Tourism.
- Excursions as per the itinerary

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED

- Any flights, insurance
- Meals not stated in the itinerary
- Drinks
- Tips, visa fees
- Entrance fees to the sights and museums
- Other services not stated in the "services included" section, optional activities and excursions.



ESSENTIAL TURKEY 9 Day - Itinerary

Day 1: Istanbul

At the terminal keep your eyes open for the Travel Talk sign, as we pick you up from the airport and take you to our Istanbul hotel. Gather round in the hotel lobby at 6:00pm as we meet both the other tour members and the guide. Listen up for a fast and informal meeting with the leader including registration and a short brief about the adventures ahead and some country info.

Day 2: Istanbul

After breakfast we begin to experience the magnificence of Istanbul. We stroll through the old town visiting Blue Mosque, Hippodrome, majestic Topkapi Palace and the Hagia Sophia Museum.

Day 3: Gallipoli

Today we depart Istanbul for the shores of Gallipoli. We visit all the important memorial sites in the region including the Kabatepe War Museum, Anzac Cove, Chunuk Bair and Lone Pine.

Day 4: Troy, Pergamum, Selcuk

After breakfast we head to the ancient city of Troy, the setting of Homer's epic, Iliad, involving a giant wooden horse. We then continue to Pergamum, and the remains of the Asklepion. In the evening we arrive in Selçuk.

Day 5: Ephesus, Pamukkale

The best preserved ancient town in Turkey, Ephesus, will be our first stop. In the afternoon we depart for Pamukkale and visit the ancient city of Hierapolis, which was the cure centre founded in around 160 BC by the king of Pergamum. Our day continues as we take in the unusual and beautiful landscape of the "Cotton Castle".

Day 6: Pamukkale, Cappadocia

Today we depart for Cappadocia where we visit the world famous Underground City. A region of exceptional natural and man-made wonders, characterized by fairy chimneys and unique historical and cultural heritage. Overnight stay in Cappadocia.

Day 7: Cappadocia

After breakfast we begin exploring all the important sights in Cappadocia including the Goreme Open Air Museum, Cavusin, Uchisar, Pigeon Valley. Ending in a visit to local handicraft manufacturers and learn about traditional art.

Day 8: Cappadocia, Ihlara, Istanbul

This morning we visit the dramatically beautiful Ihlara Valley before departing for Istanbul where we arrive late in the evening.

Day 9: Istanbul

Our trip will end after we say goodbye to our new friends over breakfast, bid you safe travels, and check-out of the hotel (11:00am)



ENTRANCE FEES

- ➔ Topkapi Palace 20 TL
- ➔ Hagia Sophia Museum 20 TL
- ➔ Blue Mosque Free, Hippodrome Free
- ➔ Kabatepe War Museum 3 TL
- ➔ Troy 15 TL
- ➔ Pergamum (Asklepion) 15 TL
- ➔ Ephesus 20 TL
- ➔ Hierapolis 20 TL
- ➔ Goreme Open Air Museum 15 TL
- ➔ Underground City 15 TL

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ➔ Hot-air ballooning 150 Euro
- ➔ Turkish Bath 40 TL
- ➔ Turkish Night 60 TL

THE TOUR PRICE AND LOCAL PAYMENT

We ease your cash needs by dividing the tour cost into two payments : tour price and local fund. You just need to pay the tour price to purchase your travel. The compulsory local payment will be done when you join the trip. The local payment is a part of the tour cost (a tool to ease your cash need on booking date) and it does not cover any extra costs like meals, entry fees, drinks, tips, personal expenses or other type of travel costs.