

Short Break in Istanbul with a Visit to Cappadocia - 6 days

TR-02



This six day holiday combines the ancient city of Istanbul with the natural beauty of Cappadocia. Beginning in Istanbul at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, you'll visit bucket list worthy sites such as the Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque. In Cappadocia, discover a world of fairy chimneys, cave dwellings, ancient churches hewn from the rock and underground cities.

DEPARTURE DATES: 25.05.2024; 01.06.2024; 08.06.2024; 15.06.2024; 22.06.2024; 29.06.2024; 06.07.2024; 13.07.2024; 20.07.2024; 27.07.2024; 03.08.2024; 10.08.2024; 17.08.2024; 24.08.2024; 31.08.2024; 07.09.2024; 14.09.2024; 21.09.2024; 28.09.2024; 05.10.2024; 12.10.2024; 19.10.2024; 26.10.2024; 02.11.2024; 09.11.2024; 16.11.2024; 23.11.2024; 30.11.2024; 07.12.2024; 14.12.2024.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Istanbul

Today, we'll be waiting to meet you at the airport as you arrive in wonderful Istanbul. There's an included transfer to your hotel where you'll be able to relax and settle in ahead of tomorrow's packed sightseeing programme. Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 2 - Istanbul

We begin exploring this fascinating city with a visit to Topkapi Palace. Perched on a promontory overlooking the Golden Horn, you're perfectly placed to get a handle on the city's physical geography from this vantage point where the Marmara Sea meets the Bosphorus. The Ottoman sultans lived in Topkapi Palace from the 15th to the 19th century but for almost a century it's been open to the public as a museum, allowing visitors a glimpse of its harem and courtyards. With a varied history as a mosque, church and museum, Hagia Sophia is no less compelling. Its ornate calligraphy is nothing short of magnificent. Nearby the Blue Mosque, so called for the Iznik tiles that grace its interior, is another must-see. You'll also visit the Byzantine Hippodrome, which once hosted chariot races, and the atmospheric Basilica Cistern, an abandoned reservoir hidden in plain sight beneath the streets of the Old Town. We'll round off today's sightseeing in the Grand Bazaar. This famous market first set up in 1461, making it one of the world's oldest and it's impossible not to find some kind of souvenir to take home with you. Overnight in Istanbul. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 3 - Istanbul

On our second day, we spread our wings and discover more of this captivating city. We'll take you to the Egyptian Bazaar which dates from the 17th century and is home to spice traders selling fresh mint, cardamom and cinnamon alongside boxes of Turkish Delight. Though popular with tourists, locals also come to restock their cupboards. Across the square, fishermen will be casting their rods off the Galata Bridge just as their fathers and grandfathers did. Board a sightseeing cruise to travel up the Bosphorus. Elegant palaces and mansions occupy riverside spots, including the Dolmabahçe Palace, Beylerbeyi Palace, Çırağan Palace and Rumeli Fortress. Relax as this historic panorama glides slowly by, giving you plenty of time to take in the fresh air from your deck chair. Overnight in Istanbul. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 4 - Istanbul - Cappadocia

We begin our day with a short flight from Istanbul's Ataturk Airport to Kayseri, the gateway to Cappadocia. After the 45 minute transfer to Goreme, we'll stop at a viewpoint from which Pigeon Valley, Rose and Red Valleys, Goreme and Uchisar Villages are all visible. It's a snapshot of what's to come in one of the most breathtaking regions of Turkey. A half hour further on, we pay a visit to Kaymakli Underground City, one of the reasons Cappadocia gained recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage. This impressive feat of construction extends eight storeys below ground, though only four are open to visitors. Returning to ground level, we continue on to another scenic overlook to see Uchisar Castle and the Avcilar Valley, where poplars and fruit trees contrast with the bleached tuff rock. After lunch in Avanos there's a pottery demonstration. Later we head to Pasabag and to Devrent Valley, both renowned for their distinctive fairy chimneys. Overnight in Cappadocia. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 5 - Cappadocia

Viewing the fairy chimneys from above is a magical sight. Treat yourself to an optional sunrise hot air balloon tour for what will surely be one of the most memorable mornings of your life. Our included sightseeing programme kicks off at 9.30am after those who have been ballooning return. We'll explore the rock-hewn churches and pigeon lofts of the Red and Rose Valleys on foot before driving to Cavusin to view an abandoned village with amazing views. After lunch, your guide will show you the Goreme Open Air Museum which features the best preserved rock churches in Cappadocia. Though it's best known for its natural beauty, Cappadocia also has a rich cultural heritage. Girls still weave carpets for their wedding dowry the traditional way and we'll have the privilege of a visit to a local cooperative so you can see the process close up. Overnight in Cappadocia. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 6 - Cappadocia

Today we bid you farewell and transfer you to the airport for your onward flight. (Breakfast)

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

[International flights](#)

[Domestic flights in Turkey](#)

[Accommodation](#)

[Guided tours & cultural programme](#)

[English - speaking guides](#)

[Half board meals](#)

[Ground transportation](#)

[Airport transfers](#)

Not included

[Personal travel insurance](#)

[Optional excursions](#)

Practical information

[About Best of Caucasus company](#)

[Book with confidence - covid FAQs](#)

[Contact our travel consultants](#)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

COMFORT - 3* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
25/05/2024 - 30/05/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
01/06/2024 - 06/06/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
08/06/2024 - 13/06/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
15/06/2024 - 20/06/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
22/06/2024 - 27/06/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
29/06/2024 - 04/07/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
06/07/2024 - 11/07/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
13/07/2024 - 18/07/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
20/07/2024 - 25/07/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
27/07/2024 - 01/08/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
03/08/2024 - 08/08/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
10/08/2024 - 15/08/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
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31/08/2024 - 05/09/2024	£1095	£1495	£345
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14/12/2024 - 19/12/2024	£1095	£1495	£345

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

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22/06/2024 - 27/06/2024	£1295	£1695	£495
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06/07/2024 - 11/07/2024	£1295	£1695	£495
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07/09/2024 - 12/09/2024	£1295	£1695	£495
14/09/2024 - 19/09/2024	£1295	£1695	£495
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14/12/2024 - 19/12/2024	£1295	£1695	£495

ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Best of Caucasus" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please [contact us for a quote](#).

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > [Short Break in Istanbul - 3 days \(TR-01\)](#), Price from £445, 3 days
- > [Best of Istanbul - 5 days \(TR-04\)](#), Price from £745, 5 days
- > [Best of Turkey Tour - 13 days \(TR-05\)](#), Price from £3,495, 13 days
- > [Classical Turkey Tour: Istanbul, Cappadocia, Ephesus, Pamukkale, Izmir - 8 days \(TR-03\)](#), Price from £1,495, 8 days
- > [Great Armenian Discovery - 10 days \(AM-03\)](#), Price from £1,695, 10 days
- > [Best of Azerbaijan - 8 days \(AZ-02\)](#), Price from £1,295, 8 days
- > [Discover Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan - 16 days \(CT-02\)](#), Price from £2,895, 16 days
- > [Best of Georgia and Azerbaijan - 12 days \(CT-03\)](#), Price from £2,195, 12 days

HOW TO BOOK

Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Best of Caucasus holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form

Online: log on to www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Best of Caucasus, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@best-of-caucasus.co.uk, or

Phone: call us on **+44 (0)20 30 51 76 40**

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel category), and available upgrades.

Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

Step 4 - Payment

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum £100) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

