

Timeless Türkiye

The Grand Tour of Anatolia

Not the whole of Türkiye. The part that explains the rest.

16 DAYS · 15 NIGHTS · ENTIRELY OVERLAND · 25 TO 39 TRAVELLERS

REFERENCE	TRANSPORT	DISTANCE	OVERNIGHT STOPS
TG-TT-ITIN-01	One coach throughout	Approx. 3,200 km	Eight cities

One coach, one crew, the whole way. There are no internal flights. The same vehicle, the same driver, the same guide and the same Travione representative stay with the group from the airport on the first day to the airport on the last. Luggage stays in the hold between hotels — nobody repacks for a flight halfway through.

Day by day

- Day 1** **Arrival in Istanbul**
Met at the airport and transferred to the hotel. The evening is yours to recover from the flight. **Welcome dinner** with the group.
OVERNIGHT **ISTANBUL** · 50 KM
- Day 2** **Sultanahmet — the old city**
Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque and the Hippodrome, all within a few hundred metres of one another, and the **Basilica Cistern** beneath them — the forest of columns Justinian sank under the city to hold its water. **Topkapı Palace** in the afternoon — the treasury, the relics, and the terrace over the Golden Horn where the sultans watched their own city.
OVERNIGHT **ISTANBUL** · 40 KM
- Day 3** **Up the Golden Horn**
Süleymaniye, Sinan's own favourite among his mosques, with the tombs behind it and the whole inlet below. The **Chora** and its fourteenth-century mosaics — the finest Byzantine painting left anywhere, and a place most visitors never reach. Down into **Fener and Balat**: the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the iron church of St Stephen, and streets of wooden houses in every colour. **Eyüp**, and the hill above it for the view Pierre Loti came for — the Golden Horn from its head, with the whole city laid out beneath.
OVERNIGHT **ISTANBUL** · 45 KM
- Day 4** **North to the straits**
Out of the city and down the Marmara coast to the Dardanelles, with **lunch on the way**. The Gallipoli peninsula and the narrows that decided more than one war, then the ferry across to Çanakkale.
OVERNIGHT **ÇANAKKALE** · 340 KM
- Day 5** **Troy and Pergamum**
Troy in the morning — nine cities stacked on one hill, and the one Homer wrote about somewhere in the middle. South to **Pergamum**: the acropolis on its hilltop, and the Asklepion below it, where the sick were treated with water, theatre and sleep.
OVERNIGHT **İZMİR** · 330 KM
- Day 6** **Ephesus**
A full morning at **Ephesus** — the Library of Celsus, the marble street, the theatre that seated twenty-five thousand. The **Basilica of St John**, and the House of the Virgin Mary on the hill above. In the afternoon, inland to Pamukkale.
OVERNIGHT **PAMUKKALE** · 280 KM
- Day 7** **Hierapolis, the terraces and Laodicea**
Hierapolis above the white travertine terraces, with its theatre and the martyrion of Philip. **Laodicea**, one of the seven cities of Revelation, ten minutes from our own office. Evening: **a dinner of this region**, which is not the food most people expect from Türkiye.
OVERNIGHT **PAMUKKALE** · 60 KM
- Day 8** **Over the mountains to the coast**
Sagalassos on the way — a Roman city at fifteen hundred metres, with its fountain restored and running, and almost nobody there. Down through the Taurus range to Antalya.
OVERNIGHT **ANTALYA** · 330 KM
- Day 9** **Pamphylia**
Perge and its colonnaded street, then **Aspendos**, whose theatre is the best preserved of the Roman world and still in use. The **Antalya Museum**, and the old harbour quarter of Kaleiçi in the late afternoon.
OVERNIGHT **ANTALYA** · 130 KM

- Day 10 Across the lakes and the steppe**
The long day, broken properly. Over the Taurus to **Lake Beyşehir**, the largest freshwater lake in the country, for **lunch on the shore** — and beside it the Eşrefoğlu Mosque, a Seljuk hall of wooden columns that feels like standing in a forest. On across the plain to the **Sultanhanı caravanserai**, then into Cappadocia at dusk.
OVERNIGHT **CAPPADOCIA** · 560 KM
- Day 11 The valleys**
Göreme and its rock-cut churches, Devrent, Paşabağ, and the potters of Avanos on the Red River.
OVERNIGHT **CAPPADOCIA** · 90 KM
- Day 12 Underground and above**
An **underground city** — eight levels of it, dug for people who needed to disappear. The Ihlara valley, Uçhisar and Ortahisar. A second full day here is deliberate: Cappadocia rewards the time, and the weather does not always co-operate on the first morning.
OVERNIGHT **CAPPADOCIA** · 140 KM
- Day 13 North to the capital**
Anıtkabir, and the **Museum of Anatolian Civilizations** — Hittite, Phrygian, Urartian, the deep past of this peninsula laid out in one building. It is the museum that explains everything seen in the previous twelve days.
OVERNIGHT **ANKARA** · 290 KM
- Day 14 Back to the Bosphorus**
West through the hills, with **lunch on the shore of Lake Sapanca**. Into Istanbul in the afternoon, and the rest of the day is yours.
OVERNIGHT **ISTANBUL** · 450 KM
- Day 15 A free day**
No coach, no schedule. The **Grand Bazaar** and the Spice Bazaar, or the modern shopping districts, or nothing at all. **Farewell dinner** in the evening.
OVERNIGHT **ISTANBUL** · 30 KM
- Day 16 Departure**
Transfer to the airport, at whatever hour the flight requires.
DEPARTURE · 50 KM

What the price covers

Included

- **15 nights** in quality hotels, breakfast daily
- **All ground transport** — one full-size coach throughout, airport transfers included
- **Professional guide** for the whole journey
- **A Travione representative** travelling with the group
- **Museum Pass Türkiye** for every traveller
- **Entrance to the Chora, the Basilica Cistern and the House of the Virgin Mary** — the three places on this programme the pass does not cover
- **Three dinners** — welcome, Denizli, farewell
- **Three lunches** on the long driving days — the Dardanelles road, Lake Beyşehir and Lake Sapanca
- All road tolls, ferry crossings and parking

Not included

- International flights
- Meals other than those listed above
- Travel insurance
- Drinks, tips and personal spending
- Anything on the optional list

Optional, arranged on request

- Hagia Sophia visitor gallery
- Dolmabahçe Palace
- A boat on the Bosphorus
- A balloon flight over Cappadocia
- Additional dinners and evening programmes

Every entrance on this programme is paid. Each traveller is given a Museum Pass Türkiye, valid fifteen days, and we buy the few entrances the pass does not cover. **You will not be asked for money at any gate on this trip.** The pass also opens every other state museum and archaeological site in the country for the fifteen days you hold it — the table overleaf shows what that means in the cities you will be in.

Group size: 25 to 39 travellers. This is a sixteen-day road journey with a coach, a guide and a Travione representative travelling with the group throughout. Below twenty-five, the cost of that crew spread across fewer people stops making sense, and we would rather tell you so than quote a figure nobody is happy with. Above thirty-nine, luggage and hotel blocks change the shape of the trip. If your group falls outside that range, write to us anyway and we will look at it properly.

About the hotels. We choose hotels for their quality and for their ability to take the whole group under one roof. We do not split a group between two hotels. In some cities that means the best choice is not the most central one, and we would rather be in a good hotel slightly out of the centre than in two hotels in it.

If Çanakkale is full. It happens rarely, but Çanakkale has a small stock of good hotels and two weeks of the year when the town fills completely. If we cannot place the whole group there under one roof, we do not split it and we do not drop to a hotel we would not stay in ourselves. Instead the group stays **one more night in Istanbul**, with a further day of the city that the first two did not reach, and travels down to İzmir the following day — with **lunch on the road as our guest**. Nothing else in the programme changes.

Where the Museum Pass takes you

Everything in the first column is **on this programme and paid for**. Everything in the second is **also open to you on the same pass**, at no extra cost, if you have a free morning or want to go back to something on your own. The pass is valid nationwide at more than three hundred and fifty state museums and archaeological sites; the table shows only the cities on this route.

CITY	ON THE PROGRAMME	ALSO INCLUDED ON YOUR PASS
Istanbul	Topkapı Palace and the Harem	Istanbul Archaeological Museums · Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts · the Great Palace Mosaic Museum · Hagia Irene · Galata Tower · Rumeli Hisarı · Fethiye Museum
Çanakkale	Troy and the Troy Museum	Çanakkale Archaeological Museum · Assos · Apollon Smintheion
İzmir	Ephesus · the Terrace Houses · the Basilica of St John · Pergamum Acropolis and Asklepion	Ephesus Museum, Selçuk · Pergamum Museum · İzmir Agora · İzmir Archaeological Museum · Sardis · Metropolis · Teos · Klaros
Denizli	Hierapolis and the travertines · Laodicea	Hierapolis Archaeology Museum · Aphrodisias · Denizli Museum · Tripolis
Burdur	Sagalassos	Burdur Museum · Kibyra · Kremna
Antalya	Perge · Aspendos · the Antalya Museum	Side and the Side Museum · Termessos · Phaselis · Olympos · Patara · Xanthos · Myra and the Church of St Nicholas · Karain Cave
Konya · Aksaray	Sultanhanı Caravanserai	Aksaray Museum · İhlara Valley · Konya Karatay and İnce Minareli Medrese
Cappadocia	Göreme Open Air Museum · an underground city	The Dark Church · Zelve and Paşabağ · the second underground city (Kaymaklı or Derinkuyu) · Özkonak · Nevşehir Museum · Hacibektaş Museum
Ankara	Museum of Anatolian Civilizations	Gordion and the Gordion Museum · the Roman Baths · the Temple of Augustus · Ankara Ethnography Museum

Not on the pass, and why we say so. Four places people ask about are not state museums: the **Chora**, the **Basilica Cistern**, the **House of the Virgin Mary** and the **Hagia Sophia visitor gallery**. We pay the first three for you. Only the Hagia Sophia gallery stays on the optional list, because we would rather name a charge than bury it in the tour price. Anıtkabir is free to everyone.