



ACADEMY
TRAVEL

TAILORED
SMALL GROUP
JOURNEYS

TÜRKIYE

CLASSICAL, BYZANTINE & OTTOMAN

Blue Mosque, Istanbul

OVERVIEW

For centuries, Türkiye has been a crossroads of religions and cultures, connecting the East with the West. Layers of Neolithic, Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman history have endowed it with a wealth of unique historical and archaeological sites, often found in places of breathtaking natural beauty.

This 18-day journey, led by Dr Jennifer Lawless, takes us on a comprehensive but unhurried tour through Türkiye's rich past, covering a large cross section exploring some of the best Greek and Roman sites on the Aegean.

Beginning in the religious and historically significant city of Istanbul, the tour travels through the unique landscapes of Cappadocia, the fascinating neolithic city of Çatalhöyük and the travertine terraces of Pamukkale. Continuing to the azure Aegean Coast, ancient Roman temples and the tragic ANZAC sites of Gallipoli are explored, as well as glittering Byzantine and Ottoman palaces and mosques.

From the thriving modern culture of Istanbul to walking through ancient sites in the footsteps of Alexander the Great, discover the multilayered history of this remarkable country.



TOUR LEADER

Dr Jennifer Lawless has led tours to Türkiye, Greece, Crete and Iran. A scholar of ancient history with a doctorate on the POWs at Gallipoli, she has co-authored over ten books.

TOUR DATES

October 11-28, 2024

TOUR PRICE

\$11,870 per person, twin share
\$2,370 single supplement

TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$1,000** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

ITINERARY

Istanbul (4 nights), Cappadocia (3 nights), Konya (1 night), Pamukkale (1 night), Kuşadası (3 nights), Assos (3 nights), Çanakkale (1 night), Istanbul (1 night)

INCLUSIONS

17 nights' accommodation in centrally located 4 and 5-star hotels. All breakfasts, 13 lunches and 15 dinners. Services of an expert tour leader and tour manager throughout. All internal economy flights. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

DETAILED ITINERARY



Start & Finish

The tour starts at 6.00pm on Friday 11 October, at the Sura Hagia Sophia Hotel, Istanbul

The tour ends after breakfast on Monday 28 October, at the Sura Hagia Sofia Hotel, Istanbul.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

Friday 11 October

Arrive Istanbul

The tour commences at the hotel in Istanbul at 6.00pm. Meet your tour leader and fellow travellers in the lobby of the hotel for an introductory talk and drinks, followed by dinner in the hotel. Overnight Istanbul [D]

Saturday 12 October

The Byzantine City & Hagia Sophia

After a talk on Byzantine Türkiye this morning, we begin with a walking tour of Istanbul's Byzantine past, exploring the cathedral-sized Basilica Cistern, the Hippodrome, and the Mosaic Museum displaying mosaics from the Great Palace complex. After a welcome lunch away from the hustle and bustle in the Green House garden restaurant, we then visit the beautiful Hagia Sophia, considered the epitome of Byzantine architecture. It was constructed as a church and was the religious focal point of the Eastern Church for nearly 1,000 years, before being converted into a mosque following the fall of Constantinople in 1453. After being designated as a museum for much of the last century, it once again became a mosque in 2020. The evening is at leisure. Overnight Istanbul [B, L]

Sunday 13 October

Ottoman Türkiye & The Blue Mosque

We begin the day with a talk on Ottoman Türkiye before a visit to the many-domed Sultan Ahmed Mosque. Built in the early 17th century, it is known as the Blue Mosque for its hand-painted Iznik tiles which cover its awe-inspiring interior. After filling our senses with a stroll through the nearby Spice Bazaar, we then head to the Bosphorus for a private afternoon ferry cruise. Finally, we stop by the Sadberk Hanım Museum to admire its collection of antiquities and works of art. Tonight we dine in a restaurant located in fashionable Ortaköy. Overnight Istanbul [B, D]

Monday 14 October

Topkapi Place & Grand Bazaar

Our talk this morning moves to 20th-century Türkiye before our touring takes us to the vast and intriguing Topkapi Palace, once

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Ottoman Empire

Discover the architectural and historical legacy of this great city, which was once the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire and a centre of Christian and Greek Culture.

Cappadocia

Explore this striking volcanic landscape, marked by clefts, caves and pinnacles known as fairy chimneys along with frescoed churches and subterranean refuges.

Amazing Museums

Delve into a wealth of Turkish history, culture and art with visits to the Hagia Sophia, Mosaic Museum, Museum of Anatolian Civilisations and many others.

Ephesus

Visit this Roman harbour city, once the trading centre for the ancient world, with exceptionally well-preserved ruins including the Library of Celsus and the 25,000 seat open-air theatre.

Gallipoli

Learn about this peninsula's importance to our history through a visit to Lone Pine Memorial, which captures the tales of courage and despair of the ill-fated landing at ANZAC Cove in 1915.

Hagia Sophia



Cappadocia

home to the Ottoman sultans and now to important collections of precious objects and artworks. After lunch in the outer gardens of the palace, there is time to explore the six-century-old Grand Bazaar, composed of around 60 narrow laneways holding 4,000-odd shops with everything from handmade ceramics to kilims in every colourway. The evening is at leisure. Overnight Istanbul (B, L)

Tuesday 15 October
Istanbul - Ankara - Cappadocia

Departing Istanbul this morning, we fly to Türkiye's capital Ankara. On arrival we visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations and the Atatürk Memorial, which acknowledges the 70th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. Kemal Atatürk commanded the Turkish forces at Gallipoli and later became the founder and first president of modern Türkiye. This memorial honours him, as well as the heroism and sacrifice of both the Anzac and Turkish troops who took part in the bitterly fought campaign. Following our visit, we drive to our cave hotel in Ürgüp, our base for the next three nights as we explore Cappadocia. Dinner this evening is in the hotel. Overnight Cappadocia (B, L, D)

Wednesday 16 October
Exploring Cappadocia

For early risers, there is the option of joining a balloon ride (extra cost of approximately €300 per person) to view Cappadocia from the air. This unique landscape of "fairly chimneys" has been shaped by erosion, volcanic activity, and centuries-old human occupation, and today we learn about the geology and anthropology of the region. We begin our exploration at the Göreme Open Air Museum. Now a UNESCO World-Heritage site, the rock churches, cave refectories and houses carved into hillsides showcase a golden period of Byzantine art and bear testimony to a settlement that has flourished at Göreme since the 9th century. We then enjoy lunch together in a restored old stone house and visit the terracotta factory in nearby Avanos, where the local ceramics are made from red local clay, a practice dating back to the Hittites. Returning to the hotel, the afternoon is at leisure, before our included group dinner. Overnight Cappadocia (B, L, D)

Thursday 17 October
Underground City & Caravanserai

Today's varied itinerary begins at Kaymakli, a cave city excavated by Christian communities in the 6th and 7th centuries. We then follow the scenic backroads to lunch at the village of Mustafapaşa. This afternoon we visit Kara Mustafa Paşa Kervansarayı, a remarkable complex built in 1667 for the Ottoman Vizier. It includes a large barracks, a bath house, a mosque and a row of shops still in use. Before dinner this evening, we'll attend a performance of the famous Whirling Dervishes, a mystical dance performed by members of the Sufi sect of Islam. Overnight Cappadocia (B, L, D)



Didyma

Friday 18 October**Çatalhöyük**

Departing Cappadocia this morning, we first make our way to Çatalhöyük for a guided tour of this important Neolithic settlement. The site provides significant evidence of the transition from settled villages to urban agglomeration, which was maintained in the same location for over 2,000 years. Discovered in the late 1950s, it has been under renewed excavation since 1993. Following a picnic lunch together, we continue to Konya, centre of 12th- and 13th-century Şelçuk architecture and famous for the Tomb of Mevlana. Dinner tonight is in our hotel. Overnight Konya (B, PL, D)

Saturday 19 October**Pamukkale**

Today we make our way to Pamukkale, a geological wonder and one of Türkiye's most significant geological sites. Turkish for "cotton castle", Pamukkale is a shimmering series of white limestone terraces, as hot water emerges from a spring and slowly drips into a chain of pools below, depositing calcium carbonate on its downward journey. After lunch, we visit the ruins of the nearby Roman spa city of Hierapolis, which became one of the most prominent cities in the Roman Empire in the fields of the arts, philosophy, and trade. Founded as a curative centre around 190 BCE by Eumenes II of Pergamum, the extensive ruins, excavated since the 19th century, include a Roman theatre, baths, a gymnasium, an agora and a Byzantine church. There will also be the chance to swim in the Cleopatra Pool, one of many baths used by the Romans centuries ago. Arriving at our hotel, we enjoy dinner together before an evening at leisure. Overnight Pamukkale (B, L, D)

Sunday 20 October**Aphrodisias**

We depart for Kuşadası this morning, a resort town on Türkiye's western Aegean coast and our base for the next three nights. On route we stop at Aphrodisias, a Roman city named for the Greek goddess of love Aphrodite. The site consists of many examples of the civil architecture for which the Romans are renowned, such as baths, an agora, odeon, and a theatre. The city's stadium is one of the most magnificent from antiquity, with a capacity of close to 30,000 people. After a relaxed alfresco lunch in a nearby outdoor setting, we continue to the bustling seaside town of Kuşadası, with the afternoon at leisure. Dinner tonight is in the hotel. Overnight Kuşadası (B, L, D)

Monday 21 October**Ephesus**

This morning we explore Ephesus, one of the world's largest and best-preserved ancient Roman cities. Ephesus was home to a quarter of a million people in the first century BCE and was one of the very first cities to have street lighting as well as one of the most advanced aqueduct systems in the Roman world. The site is home to marble streets, agoras, villas, a



Pergamum

theatre for 28,000 and an extraordinary library. We then make the short drive to Meryemana, a chapel on a site considered by some to be the last home of the Virgin Mary. After enjoying a traditional Turkish lunch near the village of Sirince, we then visit the Ephesus Museum and its excellent display of artefacts from the ancient city, including scales, jewellery and cosmetic boxes, as well as coins, funerary goods and ancient statuary. On the way back to our hotel we stop briefly at the Artemesion, the site of the famed Temple of Artemis, designated one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Tonight, we meet together for a group dinner. Overnight Kuşadası (B, L, D)

Tuesday 22 October
Priene - Miletus - Didyma

Today's excursion takes us south to the sites of the important ancient cities of Priene, Miletus and Didyma, places associated with the conquests of Alexander the Great in the 4th century BCE. Priene was chosen by Alexander as a "model" city, and he personally took responsibility for its development, including funding the construction of the Temple of Athena. These ruined cities, along with significant sites such as the Sanctuary of Apollo at Didyma, provide clear evidence of the region's prosperous Hellenistic and Roman past. We enjoy lunch in Didyma before returning to the hotel in the late afternoon. Dinner tonight is in the hotel. Overnight Kuşadası (B, L, D)

Wednesday 23 October
Kuşadası - Pergamum - Assos

Departing Kuşadası today, we spend much of the day at Bergama, site of the ancient city of Pergamum. The spectacular acropolis was home to the famed Altar of Zeus before its controversial removal to Museum Island in Berlin. It boasts the remains of temples, palaces, a library, theatre, and the Aesclepiion, a famous medical centre. After lunch in Bergama, we then travel north to the stunning waterfront village of Assos, arriving in the late afternoon. Onetime home of Aristotle, the town has significant ancient sites as well as an enviable harbour-side position. Following time to freshen up, we have a talk on Ancient Troy this evening, followed by dinner in the hotel. Overnight Assos (B, L, D)

Thursday 24 October
Exploring Assos

Assos is a finely sited ancient city, with views across the Aegean to the Greek island of Lesbos. Unlike the large Aegean resort towns, planning laws have kept Assos unchanged for almost a century. This morning we explore the 5th-century BCE Temple of Athena and the surrounding acropolis. The afternoon is free to relax in this charming town on the Aegean Coast. Dinner tonight is in the hotel. Overnight Assos (B, D)

Friday 25 October
Troy

This morning we visit Troy and the new Troy Museum. Immortalised by Homer, it is best known as the setting for the



Assos

HOTELS

Hotels have been selected principally for their central location. All hotels are a comfortable 4- and 5-star standard.

Istanbul, Sura Hagia Sophia Hotel

(5 nights, total)

surahotels.com

Cappadocia, Utopia Cave Hotel

(3 nights)

utopiacave.com

Konya, Novotel Hotel

(1 night)

all.accor.com

Pamukkale, Doga Thermal Hotel

(1 night)

dogathermalhotel.com

Kuşadası, Unique Life Style Hotel

(3 nights)

uniquelifestyle.com.tr

Assos, Kervansaray Hotel

(3 nights)

assoskervansaray.com

Çanakkale, Buyuk Truva

(1 night)

truvaotel.com

WEATHER

October is a pleasant time to visit Türkiye. Temperatures are still reasonably warm, but the evenings are beginning to cool off. Temperatures range from daily minimum of 6-10°C to daily maximum of 18-22°C, with an average daytime temperature of temperature of 14°C. It will be a little warmer on the Aegean coast than other places, and a little cooler in the evenings in inland Cappadocia.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Grade Three

This tour is among our most physically demanding. Please visit our website for details of the fitness requirements.



Greek myth of the Trojan War, the associated wooden horse, and the home of Helen of Troy, the “face that launched a thousand ships”. Troy was repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt during its 4000 years of occupation. As a result, the site is divided into nine archaeological layers, each corresponding to a city built on the ruins of the previous. The site was first excavated by Heinrich Schliemann in the late 19th century, and work continues to this day. Returning to the hotel, we gather for a talk on Gallipoli POWs before a group dinner. Overnight Assos (B, L, D)

Saturday 26 October

Gallipoli

A 90-minute trip north from Assos takes us to the Dardanelles, the strategically important strait connecting the Mediterranean with the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea. We spend most of the day across the strait exploring the Gallipoli Peninsula in the company of an expert on the Gallipoli Campaign and World War I. Our itinerary includes the moving sites of Anzac Cove, the remnants of trenches and the Lone Pine Memorial and Cemetery. We also pause for a picnic lunch on the shore of the Dardanelles. In the late afternoon we continue to our hotel in Çanakkale, with time to freshen up before dinner. Overnight Çanakkale (B, PL, D)

Sunday 27 October

To Istanbul

This morning we depart Çanakkale for a day on the road to Istanbul, checking into our hotel on arrival. This afternoon there is time to visit the Archaeological Museum which features the sarcophagi recovered from the Necropolis of Sidon. The afternoon is at leisure to shop or relax before our farewell dinner this evening. Overnight Istanbul (B, D)

Monday 28 October

Depart Istanbul

The tour concludes after breakfast. Airport transfers are provided for anyone who has booked their flights with Academy Travel. (B)



ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Jamal Fairbrother** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

jamal@academytravel.com.au

✉ info@academytravel.com.au

🖱 academytravel.com.au