



# BOUGAINVILLE TRAVEL

## Adventure & Diving

*“The Adventure Capital of the Med”*

### HIGHLIGHTS OF TURKEY

**Day 1** Start Istanbul, transfer to city hotel. CH



**Day 2** We start off our grand tour of Turkey with a full day highlights tour of Istanbul. Includes a visit to Hagia Sofia, built in the 6th century by Justinian, remained the largest church in Christendom for centuries, converted to a Mosque by the Ottomans, and then to a museum by the secular Republic. Other places to visit are the famous Blue Mosque, the Hippodrome square at the heart of old Stamboul, and the Topkapı Palace which was the residence of the Ottoman sultans for 400 years. CH (Meals included B)

**Day 3** Heading out of Istanbul towards Ankara, we stop at Abant Lake. Surrounded by dense pine forests, this fresh water lake is 1.325 meters above sea level. It has an area of 125 hectares and is fed by underwater sources. The

countryside is pleasantly different in every season - in autumn a forest of reds, yellows and greens combine with the rich hues

of soil from the brushstrokes of a painter. In winter the landscape is tucked beneath a pure white blanket. Flora and fauna go wild in Abant springtime offering an endless treasure for photographers. The lake in summer has rich plant life with wild fruit trees, flowers, mushrooms all around, and water lilies covering the surface. We spend the night in the Beypazarı CH (B)

**Day 4** A short drive into Ankara to visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations, giving a superb oversight of the peoples inhabiting this diverse land over the centuries. Following this we drive to Anıtkabir, an impressive memorial erected in honour of Atatürk the founder of the modern secular republic. From here our route continues to the south through undulating hills and farmland, passing the second biggest salt lake in the world and eventually reaching Cappadocia, our base for two nights. CH (B)

**Day 5** We explore the main sights of Cappadocia on foot and by road. The lunar landscape of Cappadocia is formed from tufa - compacted volcanic ash that erodes easily and is very suitable for making caves. Since the earliest times men have burrowed into this rock, making underground houses, churches and



even large cities. Some of the caves are decorated with religious frescoes and form an almost complete record of Christian art, over a period of about 1,000 years. There is also a castle at Uçhisar, hosting a fantastic view of the surrounding area, with many rock churches - some of which were used as monasteries at Göreme. We then go to Avanos, famous for the earthenware pottery they make. Cappadocia is also a significant wine producing area, and excellent onyx can be purchased in the markets in Ürgüp. CH (B)

**Day 6** It is possible to start the day by taking an optional balloon ride over this eerie landscape, before leaving Cappadocia heading southwest. Firstly we visit one of the oldest and largest settlements in Cappadocia, Derinkuyu, where there is a complete underground city, with seven levels of tunnels that are said to extend for many kilometres. Then we continue on towards Konya, following the ancient Silk Route we visit Sultanhanı, a "kervansaray", which is an excellent example for civil architecture of Seljuk Turks. In the afternoon we arrive in Konya, capital of the Seljuk Turks. Konya was the centre for the Islamic sect of Sufism. Very much a religious and conservative place, Konya's atmosphere presents a stark contrast to more westernised cities, like İstanbul and Antalya. CH (B)



**Day 7** First stop is a visit to the Mevlana Museum, home to the school of Sufism, founded by Muslim philosopher and poet Celaleddin Rumi and also known as Mevlana by Muslims. It is difficult to ignore the spiritual atmosphere here. The buildings contain the tomb of Mevlana and many other important leaders of the sect, as well as ancient carpets, musical instruments and handwritten originals of Rumi's works, which are best examples of Islamic calligraphy. We leave Konya and continue on the long drive southwest, through the Taurus mountain range to the Mediterranean Coast. En route, we visit one of the most well preserved Roman theatres at Aspendos. We then continue onwards to Antalya CH (B)

**Day 8** Free day in Antalya. The Antalya museum is worth a visit, or just a walk around the pretty old town is a pleasant way to spend the day. In the harbour there are daily boat excursions or the option of going diving. CH (B)

**Day 9** Heading north out of Antalya we stop at the ancient site of Termessos which hangs 1000 metres above sea level. Our destination today is to visit the famous limestone cascades of Pamukkale - literally 'cotton castle'. The thermal spring waters, laden with magnesium and calcium salts, run over the edge of a plateau to form a sparkling White Although, sadly, diversion of the spring water - particularly by some of the hotels - has reduced water

supplies to the basins, the area must still rank as one of the most unusual sights in the natural world. The water has been used therapeutically since Roman times and behind the cascades are the scattered ruins of the ancient Roman city of Hierapolis. CH (B)

**Day 10** We depart Pamukkale and travel eastwards inland to visit the impressive ruins of Aphrodisias. In future years this site will probably be more important than Ephesus, and this is already apparent from the remains uncovered. Moreover Aphrodisias boasted one of the most famous Schools of Sculpture in the ancient world, and there are many fine examples exhibited in the well-presented Museum. We continue on to Selçuk, our base for the next two nights. CH (B)

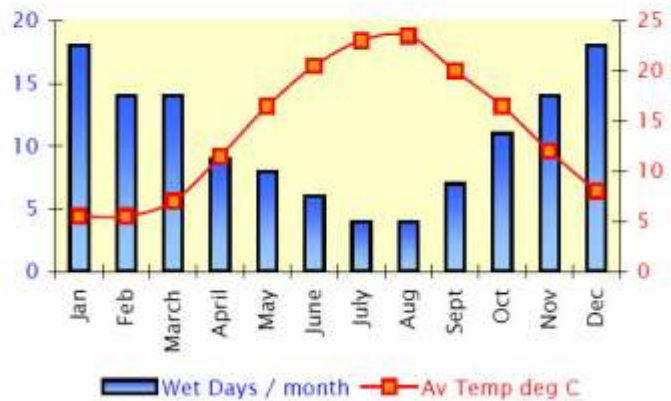
**Day 11** Today's visit is one of the trip's true highlights - the famous Roman city of Ephesus, where we take a tour of one of the greatest cities of antiquity. At its zenith in the 2nd century AD it had a population of 300,000 and was dedicated to the goddess Artemis. Her temple was one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world, until an arsonist destroyed it; excavations at the temple have been prevented by the high local water table. The New Testament gives a stirring account of silversmiths' protest in the theatre against St. Paul preaching Christianity on the streets of Ephesos. In the evening we head to Sirince village with well-preserved old houses for wine tasting and dinner. CH (B)

**Day 12** Includes a visit to the acropolis of Pergamum, which played an important role in the history of Asia Minor. Its architects and sculptors were among the finest in the Hellenistic world. We continue on to stunning Behramkale (Assos) where Aristo gave lessons for two years. We overnight in a hotel beautifully converted from an old warehouse, located in the waterfront area, with optional visit to the nearby castle. CH (B)

**Day 13** A full and long day drive back to Istanbul to give you the advantage of having a last full day in city. We start off with the ancient city of Troy, long thought to be a legendary place until it was re-discovered in the 19th century by the amateur archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann. The Trojans repeatedly repulsed Achaeans until after 10

years the cunning Odysseus came upon stratagem of the Wooden Horse to trick the Trojans and allow them to rescue Helen. It is a short crossing from Asia into Europe at Çanakkale by vehicle ferry and a short drive from there to important sites from the Great War Gallipoli Campaign. After visiting Anzac Cove and Australian Memorial at Lone Pine, we proceed to Chunuk Bair, where New Zealand Memorial is located. This is the highest point of the peninsula and the best site for an impression of conditions endured. Overnight Istanbul. CH (B)

**Weather chart for Istanbul**



**Day 14** Full free day in Istanbul to see the sights or do any last minute shopping. CH (B)

**Day 15** Transfer from Istanbul back to the airport for the return flight (B)

**YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING:**

All departures: sunhat; sun-cream; sunglasses with neck string; water bottle; day-sack; waterproofs; sturdy trainers or lightweight walking boots as the terrain can be quite tricky in some areas; swimming costume, towel and sandals.

November - May: warm clothes for evenings; gloves, hats, waterproof jacket.

**KEY TO ACCOMODATION:**

CH Comfortable Hotel, Lodge or Gite – twin rooms with en suite facilities, reliable electricity and water supply, good service and some added amenities. BH Basic Hotel, Lodge or Gite, Mountain Hut, Village House – can be communal, often consisting of just a bed and shared facilities. Bed linen not normally provided. Running water, toilets and electricity may be inconsistent or non-existent. Cleanliness is not always assured.

**PER PERSON PRICE : £ 635**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT : £ 235**

Price Includes :

- 14 days Accommodation on BB basis
- Airport Transfers
- Services of Professional English Speaking Guide
- Transportation by a/c vehicles
- All Entrance Fees as per the itinerary

Price Excludes :

- Personal expenses
- Meals not stated in the itinerary
- Drink at meals
- Visa to Turkey



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