



HIGHLIGHTS OF Turkey 10N/11D

TOUR SUMMARY

Embark on a captivating journey through Turkey with this comprehensive tour that blends rich history, breathtaking landscapes, and vibrant culture. Begin your adventure in **Istanbul**, where East meets West in a dynamic mix of ancient architecture and modern energy. Explore iconic landmarks like the **Hagia Sophia**, **Blue Mosque**, and **Grand Bazaar**, and soak in panoramic views on a **Bosphorus cruise**. Travel west to **Çanakkale**, gateway to the legendary city of **Troy** and the poignant **Gallipoli battlefields**, where echoes of ancient myths and modern heroism still linger. From there, head south to the coastal town of **Kuşadası**, your base for exploring the magnificent ruins of **Ephesus**, the **House of Virgin Mary**, and the remnants of the once-grand Temple of Artemis.

Next, witness nature's wonder in **Pamukkale**, famous for its gleaming white travertine terraces and thermal springs. A visit to the ancient spa city of **Hierapolis** and a dip in **Cleopatra's Pool** offer a surreal experience. Continue inland to **Konya**, the spiritual heart of Turkey and the resting place of **Rumi**, where Sufi traditions and Whirling Dervishes keep mysticism alive. The tour then takes you to the fairy-tale landscapes of **Cappadocia**, where surreal rock formations, underground cities, and cave churches await. A **hot air balloon ride over Cappadocia** at sunrise is an unforgettable highlight. Conclude your tour in **Ankara**, Turkey's capital, where the grand **Anıtkabir** pays tribute to Atatürk, and museums narrate the nation's journey to modernity.

This all-encompassing **Turkey tour itinerary** offers the perfect blend of culture, history, and natural beauty, making it ideal for travellers looking to experience the **top tourist destinations in Turkey** in one unforgettable trip.

Best time: April-June; September-Early November

Note: While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, this itinerary is intended as a guide and may include unintentional errors or be subject to adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



HIGHLIGHTS OF Turkey 10N/11D

Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrival in Istanbul – Welcome and Orientation

Arrive at Istanbul International Airport, where you will be warmly welcomed by your tour manager. Enjoy a brief orientation talk to get acquainted with the tour and upcoming highlights.

Later, drive to a local restaurant for an early dinner, experiencing your first taste of authentic Turkish cuisine.

Check in at your hotel and unwind for the night.

Overnight stay: Hotel in Istanbul



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



HIGHLIGHTS OF Turkey 10N/11D

DAY 2: Istanbul City Tour – Exploring the Top Historical Attractions in Istanbul

After breakfast at the hotel, begin a full-day guided tour covering some of the top tourist attractions in Istanbul. Your first stop is the legendary **Hagia Sophia**, one of the most visited landmarks in Turkey. Once a Greek Orthodox cathedral and later converted into a mosque by the Ottoman Empire, this masterpiece of Byzantine architecture represents centuries of cultural fusion and religious history. Next, visit the breathtaking **Blue Mosque** (Sultan Ahmed Mosque), famed for its stunning interior adorned with over 20,000 hand-painted blue tiles. This architectural wonder, with its six elegant minarets and grand domes, remains one of the most recognized symbols of Istanbul. Continue to the opulent **Topkapi Palace**, the seat of Ottoman sultans for nearly 400 years. Now a museum, it houses priceless treasures and imperial relics from Turkey's royal past (Harem section not included in the tour). A short walk brings you to the historic **Hippodrome of Constantinople**, an ancient chariot racing arena that served as a centre for social and political life during the Byzantine era. Here you'll see the **Obelisk of Theodosius**, the **Serpentine Column**, and the **German Fountain**—remnants of the city's imperial grandeur.

Enjoy **authentic Turkish cuisine** during lunch at a local restaurant.

Post lunch, explore the vibrant **Grand Bazaar**, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world. With over 4,000 shops, it's the perfect place to shop for **Turkish carpets, spices, jewellery**, and handcrafted souvenirs. Visit the mysterious **Basilica Cistern**, also known as the **Sunken Palace**. This massive underground reservoir, built during the Byzantine era, is supported by hundreds of ancient columns and features the famous **Medusa heads**, offering an atmospheric experience unique to Istanbul.

In the evening, enjoy a scenic **Bosphorus cruise**, a must-do activity in Istanbul. Cruise along the **Bosphorus Strait**, the natural waterway dividing Europe and Asia, while taking in panoramic views of Istanbul's waterfront. Marvel at landmarks such as the **Galata Tower**, **Beylerbeyi Palace**, **Küçüksu Pavilion**, **Rumeli Fortress**, **Ortaköy Mosque**, and of course, the stunning silhouette of **Hagia Sophia**. A delightful **dinner is served on board the cruise boat**, offering the perfect end to a day full of discovery.

Overnight stay: Hotel in Istanbul



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



HIGHLIGHTS OF Turkey 10N/11D

DAY 3: Istanbul – Palaces, Panoramic Views & Charming Neighbourhoods

After breakfast, begin the day with a visit to the magnificent **Dolmabahçe Palace**, one of the most opulent landmarks in Istanbul. Built between 1843 and 1856, this palace served as the **main administrative centre of the Ottoman Empire** in its final years. With construction costs equivalent to 35 tonnes of gold (as per modern estimates), Dolmabahçe became a symbol of grandeur—and economic strain—that led to Turkey being called the “**Sick Man of Europe**” during the late Ottoman period. The palace showcases a stunning fusion of Ottoman and European architectural styles and is a must-visit on any **Istanbul palace tour**.

Continue to the historic **Galata Tower**, originally constructed in 1348 as the **Christea Turris** (Tower of Christ). Built in Romanesque style, this former watchtower now houses a museum and offers **360-degree panoramic views of Istanbul** from its observation deck. It's one of the best spots to capture the city's skyline, including the **Golden Horn**, Bosphorus, and historic peninsula. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, sampling Turkish delicacies. Post lunch, take a relaxing stroll through the vibrant **Ortaköy Square**, a lively waterfront hub lined with cafes and street vendors. Try a famous **stuffed baked potato (kumpir)** and enjoy a cup of **Turkish tea or coffee** as you admire views of the **Bosphorus Bridge**. Visit the charming **Ortaköy Mosque**, and see the imposing **Rumeli Fortress**, a key defense built by the Ottomans on the European shore of the Bosphorus.

Explore the trendy **Beyoğlu district**, known for its art galleries, historic buildings, and bustling vibe. Walk through **Taksim Square**, the heart of modern Istanbul, and take in the lively atmosphere of **Istiklal Street**, filled with boutiques, street performers, and cafes. Later, head to **Çamlıca Hill**, the highest point in Istanbul, offering sweeping views of the **Bosphorus Strait**, the **Asian side of Istanbul**, and the city's dazzling skyline—perfect for photography lovers. Conclude the day at the **Golden Horn**, a natural inlet that divides the **old city from modern Istanbul**. As the sun sets, the water glows with golden hues, creating one of the most picturesque scenes in the city. Located near the **Galata Bridge** and **Spice Bazaar**, this area offers a glimpse of local life, ferry crossings to the **Princes' Islands**, and easy access to the **Asian side of Istanbul**.

Enjoy **dinner at a local restaurant**, then return to the hotel to relax. Overnight stay: Hotel in Istanbul



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



HIGHLIGHTS OF Turkey 10N/11D

DAY 4: Istanbul to Gallipoli – War Memorials, Coastlines & Çanakkale

After breakfast, check out and begin your scenic drive towards **Gallipoli**, one of the most historically significant regions in Turkey. Known for its role in **World War I**, Gallipoli is a place of deep remembrance and respect, especially for visitors from Australia, New Zealand, and the Commonwealth nations.

Upon arrival, explore the key sites of the **Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park**, including **Brighton Beach**, the **ANZAC Cove**, and other major **World War I memorials and cemeteries**. These locations commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of thousands of soldiers during the infamous **Gallipoli Campaign**, a pivotal moment in both Turkish and global history.

Enjoy **lunch at a local Restaurant**. The place is known for its fresh seafood and traditional Turkish flavours, in restaurants set along the picturesque coastline.

After lunch, continue your journey to **Çanakkale**, a city rich in both ancient and modern history. Visit the **Çanakkale Naval Museum**, which houses an impressive collection of maritime artefacts and relics from the Dardanelles campaign. Also stop by **Kabatepe Beach**, a peaceful spot that offers both natural beauty and historical depth.

Check in to your hotel in Çanakkale, followed by **dinner** and time to unwind after a meaningful day of exploration.

Overnight stay: Hotel in Çanakkale



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



HIGHLIGHTS OF Turkey 10N/11D

DAY 5: Çanakkale – Troy – Pergamum – Kusadasi

After breakfast, set out for one of Turkey's most iconic ancient landmarks — the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of Troy**, located just 30 km from Çanakkale. Famed as the legendary setting of the **Trojan War**, Troy was immortalized in **Homer's epic poem *The Iliad***. The archaeological site reveals over **4,000 years of continuous settlement**, with nine major layers representing civilizations from the **Early Bronze Age to the Byzantine era**. Excavations at the site highlight the impressive scale of the ancient city, including remnants of defensive walls, gates, and foundations. Troy VI and Troy VIIa are often associated with the mythic war and the famed **Trojan Horse** legend.

After exploring **ancient Troy**, continue your journey south to **Pergamum**, once a thriving Hellenistic kingdom and a major centre of culture and learning in the classical world.

Lunch is on your own, with opportunities to try local dishes during a short break *En route*.

In the afternoon, visit the remarkable **Asclepion of Pergamum**, an ancient Roman healing centre dedicated to **Asclepius**, the god of medicine. This ancient **spa and wellness complex** was one of the earliest medical hubs in the ancient world, known for its advanced treatments, sacred pools, and tranquil architecture.

From Pergamum, drive to the coastal resort town of **Kuşadası**, arriving by early evening. The town is not only known for its seaside charm and bustling bazaars but is also believed by some sources to be the **birthplace of Homer**, adding a poetic end to a day rich in ancient heritage.

Enjoy **dinner at the hotel** and relax after a day of historical discovery.

Overnight stay: Hotel in Kuşadası



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



HIGHLIGHTS OF Turkey 10N/11D

DAY 6: Kusadasi – Ephesus – House of Virgin Mary – Pamukkale

After breakfast, embark on a journey to one of the most renowned **ancient cities in Turkey** — **Ephesus**, a remarkably well-preserved Greco-Roman city and a UNESCO-listed archaeological site. This once-thriving city was a centre of commerce, culture, and religion in the ancient world.

Your guided tour includes the awe-inspiring **Temple of Artemis**, one of the **Seven Wonders of the Ancient World**, and continues through the monumental **Great Theatre**, which could once seat up to 25,000 spectators. Walk along the marble-paved streets to see highlights like the **Odeon**, the **Fountain of Trajan**, the **Temple of Hadrian**, and the iconic **Library of Celsus** — one of the most photographed ruins in the world.

If time permits, visit the serene **House of the Virgin Mary**, a peaceful pilgrimage site nestled in the hills above Ephesus, believed by many to be the final residence of **Mother Mary**.

Enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant**, where you can sample authentic Turkish cuisine.

In the afternoon, stop at a **leather factory outlet** where you can witness a brief demonstration of leather craftsmanship and enjoy an opportunity for shopping.

Later, drive to **Pamukkale**, known for its surreal **travertine terraces** and ancient spa city of **Hierapolis**.

Overnight stay: Hotel in Pamukkale



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



HIGHLIGHTS OF Turkey 10N/11D

DAY 7: Pamukkale – Hierapolis – Konya

After breakfast, begin your exploration of the **ancient city of Hierapolis**, often referred to as the "**Holy City**" due to its many temples and religious significance. This **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, dramatically set atop the shimmering white **travertine terraces of Pamukkale**, offers a unique blend of natural wonder and archaeological splendour.

Start with a visit to the **Necropolis of Hierapolis**, one of the largest ancient cemeteries in Anatolia, featuring sarcophagi, monumental tombs, and intricate carvings that shed light on Roman funerary customs. Continue your tour through the remains of temples, a well-preserved Roman theatre, and ancient baths — all fed by the **Pamukkale thermal springs**, which have been used as a **therapeutic spa since the 2nd century B.C.**

Enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant in Pamukkale**, offering scenic views and traditional Turkish cuisine.

In the afternoon, drive to **Konya**, a city renowned for its Seljuk architecture and spiritual heritage as the home of **Rumi**, the great Sufi poet and philosopher.

Arrive in Konya by evening. Dinner and overnight stay at your hotel in Konya.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



HIGHLIGHTS OF Turkey 10N/11D

DAY 8: Konya – Mevlana Museum – Cappadocia – Uchisar Castle – Whirling Dervishes

After breakfast, begin your day with a visit to the **Mevlana Museum** in Konya, the spiritual heart of Turkey. This iconic site is the final resting place of **Jalaluddin Rumi**, the 13th-century Persian poet and founder of the **Mevlevi Sufi order**, best known for the Whirling Dervishes. The museum houses Rumi's tomb, along with manuscripts, relics, and exhibits that offer deep insight into **Sufi philosophy and mysticism**.

After soaking in the serenity and spiritual richness of Konya, continue your journey through the beautiful Anatolian landscape toward **Cappadocia**, one of Turkey's most unique and breathtaking regions. En route, stop for **lunch at a local restaurant**, sampling authentic central Anatolian cuisine.

Upon arrival in Cappadocia, explore the stunning **Uchisar Castle**, the highest natural point in the region. Carved into a rocky outcrop, this ancient fortress offers **panoramic views of Cappadocia's surreal landscape**, dotted with fairy chimneys and cave dwellings.

Then visit **Pigeon Valley**, named after the thousands of pigeon houses carved into the soft tufa rock. The valley offers scenic walking paths and great photo opportunities, surrounded by the region's otherworldly terrain.

In the evening, immerse yourself in the spiritual and cultural tradition of **Sufism** by attending a **Whirling Dervishes performance** — a mesmerizing ritual dance symbolizing the soul's journey toward divine love and unity.

Dinner and overnight stay: Hotel in Cappadocia



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



HIGHLIGHTS OF Turkey 10N/11D

DAY 9: Cappadocia – Hot Air Balloon (Optional) – Zelve – Underground City – Goreme

Start your day with an **optional hot air balloon ride over Cappadocia**, available on a direct payment basis. Floating above the surreal landscape at sunrise is one of the most iconic and unforgettable experiences in Turkey. The view of the **fairy chimneys**, valleys, and rock formations from the sky is truly magical.

After breakfast, visit the **Zelve Open Air Museum**, one of Cappadocia's oldest and most intriguing cave settlements. This now-abandoned village once housed Christians and Muslims together, and its rock-hewn churches, monasteries, and dwellings provide deep insight into the region's cultural past.

Next, descend into the **Derinkuyu Underground City**, an engineering marvel that once sheltered thousands of people. This multi-level subterranean complex features ventilation shafts, stables, kitchens, and chapels, all carved out of soft volcanic rock — a testament to ancient ingenuity.

Continue to the **fairy chimneys**, the unique rock formations that define Cappadocia's landscape, shaped by centuries of wind and water erosion. You'll also stop by a traditional **ceramic workshop**, where local artisans demonstrate age-old pottery-making techniques passed down through generations.

Enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant**, followed by visits to **Love Valley**, known for its striking rock pillars and panoramic views, and the charming town of **Goreme**, famous for its cave houses and rock-cut churches.

Return to your hotel in the evening for dinner and overnight stay at Cappadocia.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



HIGHLIGHTS OF Turkey 10N/11D

DAY 10: Cappadocia – Ankara – Anıtkabir – Anatolian Civilizations Museum

After breakfast, embark on a scenic drive from **Cappadocia to Ankara**, the vibrant capital city of Turkey. Covering approximately **330 km** in about **3.5 hours**, the journey takes you through the heart of the Anatolian plateau.

Upon arrival, enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant** before beginning your exploration of **Ankara's top historical attractions**. First, visit **Anıtkabir**, the grand **mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk**, the founder of modern Turkey. This monumental site is both a national symbol and an architectural masterpiece, showcasing Atatürk's enduring legacy.

Continue to the **Museum of Anatolian Civilizations**, one of the most prestigious museums in Turkey. Located in a restored Ottoman building near Ankara Castle, the museum offers a fascinating journey through **thousands of years of Anatolian history**, with exhibits from the Paleolithic, Neolithic, Hittite, Phrygian, and Roman eras.

In the evening, enjoy some **free time for shopping** in Ankara's lively markets and modern malls — perfect for picking up souvenirs, Turkish sweets, or local handicrafts.

Dinner at Dhaaba 47, a popular restaurant known for its fusion of Turkish and international flavours.

Overnight stay: Hotel in Ankara



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



HIGHLIGHTS OF Turkey 10N/11D

DAY 11: Ankara – Istanbul – Departure

After breakfast, begin your return journey from **Ankara to Istanbul** by road, covering approximately 450 km through the scenic Turkish countryside. En route, enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant**, offering a final taste of regional Turkish cuisine.

Upon arrival in **Istanbul**, you will be transferred to **Istanbul International Airport** for your return flight. As your unforgettable **Turkey tour comes to an end**, take with you memories of ancient cities, natural wonders, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality.

TOUR ENDS



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me