



TURKEY DISCOVERY

Explore the Highlights and Discover Turkey's Hidden Treasures

16 DAYS - STARTING ISTANBUL 11th September 2023





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Itinerary Outline

Turkey sits at the crossroads of history with cultural connections dating through the Greek, Roman, Persian, Byzantine and Ottoman empires. Beyond the popular sites along the Aegean coast there is also much to see and do in Turkey's hinterland. This Byroads tour takes in three well-known highlights: Istanbul, ancient Ephesus and Cappadocia – and in each place we offer more than the normal sightseeing fare. In addition, there is a special focus on the region that lies between northern Anatolia and the Black Sea, which boasts many wonderful Ottoman era towns and villages.

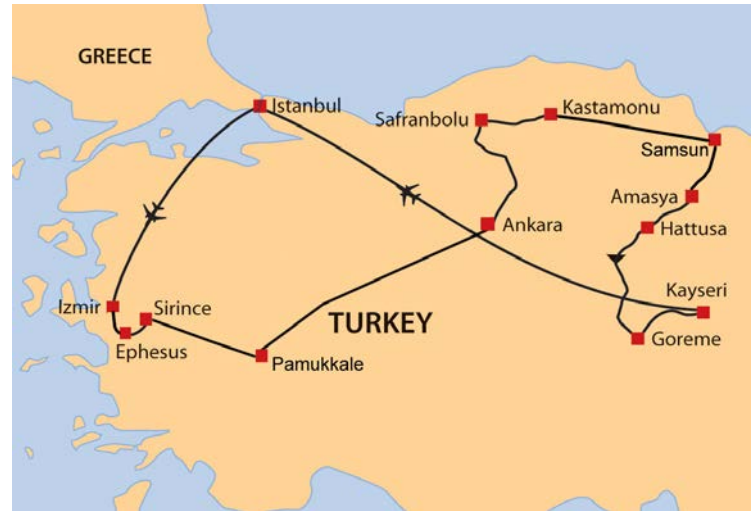
We spend four nights in Istanbul allowing ample time to see all the major sites, as well as some special places that others often miss. A flight then takes us south to Izmir and to the amazing Greco-Roman ruins at Ephesus, staying in our boutique hotel in the lovely village of Sirince.

Nearby are the world heritage sites of Pamukkale, known for its white mineral terraces and rich thermal waters and the well-preserved ruins of Hierapolis. Further on we visit the capital of Ankara before arriving in the provinces of Karabuk and Amasya – regions that boast some of the most perfectly preserved Ottoman towns in Turkey.

Of all the typical Ottoman villages that remain in Turkey, World Heritage-listed Safranbolu is acknowledged as the jewel in the crown; a picture-postcard town that established an architectural standard that flowed over a large area of the Ottoman Empire. Arriving on the Black Sea coast at Samsun we enjoy a local fish lunch and a boat ride through the spectacular Sahinkaya Canyon.

Further south is Amasya, a charming place where half-timbered houses jostle along the riverbank, back-dropped by Pontic tombs built in the 2nd and 3rd centuries BC. Continuing our travels we stop at another World Heritage site: the ancient Hittite capital of Hattusa, dramatically positioned high above the Bodakozu River Valley.

Finally we arrive at Goreme in Cappadocia, an ancient town literally carved into the volcanic rock. Here we stay in a lovely cave-style hotel and spend two full days exploring some of the more curious sights in this extraordinary region. We then fly from nearby Kayseri back to Istanbul where, after an afternoon spent exploring the lovely waterways of the Bosphorus by local ferry, our trip comes to an end. Additional accommodation and a full day excursion to Gallipoli are available on request.



Tour Highlights

- Hagia Sophia & Blue Mosque
- Hippodrome & Topkapi Palace
- Istanbul Basilica Cistern
- Islamic & Turkish Art Museum
- Istanbul Grand & Egyptian Bazaars
- Rustem Pasha Mosque
- Galata Tower & Pera Museum
- Bosphorus Ferry Cruise
- Ancient Ephesus
- Pamukkale Springs & Hierapolis
- Ankara Mausoleum of Attaturk
- Safranbolu Village
- Yoruk Koyu Village
- Samsun & the Black Sea
- Sahinkaya Canyon
- Historic Amasya
- Hattusha Hittite Site
- Goreme Open Air Museum
- Cavusin & the Zelve Valley
- Kaymakli Underground City
- Local Family Dinner
- Uchisar Castle
- Anatolian Cave Hotel
- Optional Balloon Ride

Tour Host – Steve Mortimer



Steve Mortimer heads up Byroads Travel and will be your host on this tour. Steve has more than 30 years in the travel industry and has travelled to well over 100 countries. He started work in travel as an expedition leader, taking travellers overland across Africa, Asia and South America. He has also worked with a number of well-known Australian adventure travel companies.

Steve likes nothing better than getting out and about with like-minded travellers, sharing his knowledge and introducing his guests to some of the world's most interesting places. With Byroads you can be confident you'll visit all the 'must see' attractions – and much more, however there are some days when you'll have time to wander and make some of your own discoveries. Throughout the tour local guides are employed to provide a wealth of background information and share their extensive local knowledge.

2023 ITINERARY STARTS IN ISTANBUL

MON 11 SEP: ISTANBUL – Upon arrival you are met and transferred to your hotel. Today is simply an arrival day and we will plan to meet up in the evening. Pre-tour accommodation is available if you wish to arrive a day earlier (see back page for details).

TUE 12 SEP: ISTANBUL – We start our exploration of Istanbul with a full day guided tour to the celebrated Hagia Sofia, the Blue Mosque, the celebrated Basilica Cistern, the Hippodrome and the splendid Topkapi Palace – seat of empire for over 400 years. (B)

WED 13 SEP: ISTANBUL – This morning we visit the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art, then wander through the Grand and Egyptian Bazaars. After lunch we stop at the fabulous Mosque of Rustem Pasa and then explore the European Quarter (Beyoglu), including the Galata Tower, the excellent Pera Museum and some gracious old arcades that characterise this part of the city. (B)

THU 14 SEP: ISTANBUL-EPHESUS-SIRINCE – An early morning flight to Izmir and a short drive brings us to ancient Ephesus. Known for its Temple of Artemis, Ephesus is considered one of Turkey's most important archaeological sites. We spend the night in the nearby charming and picturesque hillside village of Sirince, where the remainder of the afternoon is free to explore our surroundings. (B)

FRI 15 SEP: SIRINCE-PAMUKKALE-DENIZLI – Heading eastward now we drive to the geological phenomenon that is Pamukkale. We spend time here at the springs and visit the nearby World Heritage site of Hierapolis. The Greco-Roman site is remarkably well preserved. Dinner and our hotel this night is in the village of Denizli that offers lovely views of the nearby mountains. (B, D)

SAT 16 SEP: DENIZLI-ANKARA – Today we drive to Ankara the nation's capital and on arrival we visit the Mausoleum of Ataturk and the excellent Museum of Anatolian Civilisations. (B)

SUN 17 SEP: ANKARA-SAFRANBOLU – Having completed our sightseeing in the capital we drive north to Safranbolu, one of the most beautiful and best-preserved Ottoman towns in Turkey. Having checked into our hotel the remainder of the afternoon is free to wander. (B)

MON 18 SEP: SAFRANBOLU-YORUK KOYU-SAFRANBOLU – Safranbolu, named for the saffron trade, has many beautiful period homes. It's like stepping back in time. We spend the morning exploring the old centre on foot and later we drive out to the very traditional village of Yoruk Koyu for a visit to a very old home. (B)

TUE 19 SEP: SAFRANBOLU-KASTAMONU-SAMSUN – Leaving Safranbolu, we enjoy morning tea in Kastamonu, backdropped by a splendid 12th century castle. Later, we drive over the mountains and on arrival in Samsun located on the Black Sea we enjoy a special lunch. In the afternoon we take a boat ride through the spectacular Sahinkaya Canyon. (BL)

WED 20 SEP: SAMSUN-AMASYA – Today is an easy day. Time this morning to enjoy more of Samsun before following the very scenic Yesilirmak River Valley to Amasya, where we make a late afternoon visit to the magnificent rock-cut Pontic tombs that tower above the town. (B)

THU 21 SEP: AMASYA – Amasya is a stunning little town in a dramatic location and this morning we stroll through the old centre, visiting the small museum, the Mosque of Beyazit II, an ancient madrasa and a fine old Bedestan. The afternoon is free to wander and explore your surrounds. (B)

FRI 22 SEP: AMASYA-HATTUSA-GOREME – Driving south we pass through a rich variety of scenery as we make our way into the heart of Cappadocia. We stop to visit the outstanding World Heritage-listed city of Hattusa, once the capital of the Hittite Kingdom, and expect to reach Goreme in the late afternoon. (B)

SAT 23 SEP: CAPPADOCIA – This morning we visit the celebrated Goreme Open Air Museum, known for its superb churches and fine frescoes. After lunch at the picturesque village of Cavusin we visit the fabulous Zelve Valley – a highlight of the region. Tonight we have dinner in a local home – always a fun experience! (BD)

SUN 24 SEP: CAPPADOCIA – There's an optional balloon ride this morning and later we visit the incredible underground city at Kaymakli. We stop for lunch at Uchisar and then visit an excellent ceramics centre at Avanos. The evening is free to explore Goreme further, or perhaps try out the local hamam, a traditional Turkish bath. (B)

MON 25 SEP: GOREME-ISTANBUL – After an early breakfast we head to the airport for our flight back to Istanbul. No visit to Istanbul is complete without a trip on the Bosphorus and we spend the afternoon exploring this lovely waterway on the local ferry. (B)

TUE 26 SEP: ISTANBUL – Our journey ends today, after breakfast. Post-tour accommodation is available and should you wish Byroads can arrange a full day excursion to the battle fields of Gallipoli. Taxis can be easily arranged from our hotel or Byroads can book a transfer on request. (B)



Prices & Inclusions

16 Day Turkey Discovery Tour

Provisional Price: EUR €4495 (per person twin-share)

Provisional Single Supplement: EUR €1295

Price includes: Steve Mortimer as Tour Escort, Turkish tour guide throughout, local guides, arrival transfer, transport throughout, 2 domestic flights, 15 nights' accommodation, entrance fees, meals as indicated.

Not Included: Visa, travel insurance (compulsory), departure transfer, international flights, additional meals, drinks, tips, optional tours, spending of a personal nature and laundry.

Transportation: Our transport is by plane, boat and air conditioned mini bus.

Accommodation: The accommodation is a particular highlight of this trip and each property has been carefully selected. In Istanbul we stay in a very well located boutique hotel just minutes from the Blue Mosque. In Sirince we overnight in a charming village house and in Safranbolu we experience a typical Ottoman style hotel in the centre of town. At Amasya we relax at a boutique spa hotel and in Goreme we stay in an atmospheric cave-style hotel, with great views of the village.



Luxurious Comfort in Istanbul



Sirince Village Boutique Hotel



Ottoman Style, Safranbolu



Boutique & Spa Hotel Amasya



Cave Hotel, Goreme



Cave Suite, Goreme

Food and drink: Breakfast is included every day. For most lunches and dinners you are free to enjoy the great variety of tasty and inexpensive food. Bottled water can be found everywhere and the normal range of soft drinks is available, along with beer and a good selection of Turkish wines.

Group size: Maximum 16

Additional Expenses: Food prices vary considerably in Turkey, with relatively high prices in Istanbul. As a rule you should allow around EUR €8 for a lunch and around EUR €15 for dinner not including any drinks you may have. In addition you should budget for any personal shopping you may wish to do. Please also allow extra funds to tip your local tour leader, driver, local guides and porters (full details will be provided in the pre-trip Field Guide).

Bookings: Travel on Q (Sydney) is the sole booking agent for this tour. Please register your interest ASAP in order to secure your place and note there are a limited number of single rooms available. A non-refundable deposit of AUD 750 per person is required, to secure your place, with final payment due 60 days prior to tour commencement.

Travel on Q (Carole Grassby and Tina Briggs)

Tel: (02) 9357 6800

Email: travel@travelonq.com.au

Currency: Due to the volatility of global currencies the tour price has been quoted in Euros (EUR) however you will pay for your tour in Australian dollars based on the buying rate set by Westpac Banking Corporation on the due date of your final balance.

Flights & Transfers: Emirates, Qatar and Etihad Airlines fly via the Gulf to Istanbul. Several airlines fly to Singapore from Australia and connect with Turkish airlines. An arrival transfer is included; however the departure transfer is not and can be arranged on request. Travel on Q will be able to assist you if needed with your flights and advise you on your best options.

Visas: Visas are required for most nationalities including Australians and these can be obtained on-line. New Zealanders do not currently require a visa.

Extra nights in Istanbul: Extra nights can be booked pre and post tour but you must advise Travel on Q well in advance to ensure availability.

Optional Excursion to Gallipoli: Byroads can arrange a full day excursion either pre or post tour for anyone wishing to visit the Gallipoli battlefields. The cost for the tour with lunch is EUR €125. Further details on request.

Documentation: Upon receipt of your final payment, a comprehensive field guide will be mailed to you and you will be sent the relevant tour and accommodation vouchers prior to departure.

What next? Contact Travel on Q to discuss your travel plans and to make your booking. Further information is also available at www.byroads.com.au.

Byroads
Inspiring Escorted Journeys



Byroads Pty Ltd, Trading as Byroads Travel (ABN 88615738746)

BOOKING FORM



Tour information

Tour: _____

Starting Date: _____ Starting City: _____

Roomtype: ☐ Twin ☐ Double ☐ Single

Client information *(as per passport)* - Please attach passport copy

Surname: _____		Given Names: _____		Date of Birth: _____	
Nationality: _____	Passport No: _____	Issuedate: _____	Issued At: _____	Expiry Date: _____	
ContactNumberHome: _____		Mobile: _____		Email: _____	
Postal Address: _____					
Emergency Contact: _____					
Any medical, dietary or special requests: _____					

Travel insurance

Comprehensive Insurance is compulsory when travelling with Byroads.

- ☐ Purchased from Travel on Q. Policy number: _____
- ☐ Have own insurance. Policy number: _____ Provider: _____
- ☐ Advise later

Payment details

A. Paying by direct deposit:

Ittravel Client Trust BSB: 062 033 Account: 10383350 Reference: Byroads TOQ *your name*

B. Paying by creditcard:

Select Card: ☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Name on card _____

Number: _____ Expiry date: _____ CVV: _____

Declaration

I confirm that I am authorised to sign this form on behalf of all persons named above. I/we have read and understand all the information in the respective Byroads tour brochure and agree to abide by the terms, conditions and responsibilities attached. All persons named on this form are fit to travel.

Signature: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Date: _____

In compliance with the government Privacy Act, we advise that we may use your personal details to send information about future tours.

Please indicate if you wish to remain on our mailing list: ☐ Yes ☐ No

BOOKING FORM

Byroads Travel is the operator of your tour. Byroads Travel (henceforth referred to as Byroads) is a registered trading name of Byroads Pty Ltd (ABN 88 615 738 746). Travel on Q Pty Ltd (ATAS 12433 / ABN 40 059 566 184) acts as the sole booking agent for Byroads.

RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit is payable on all tours. The amount payable is stated in the Byroads brochure. This deposit must be paid to Travel on Q and accompanied by a signed booking form. When paying a deposit for your tour and signing the Booking Form you agree to accept these conditions. Your Byroads tour booking will only be confirmed once the deposit and signed booking form have been received. This Booking Form forms the basis of the contract between you and Byroads.

PAYMENT

Payments may be made to Travel on Q by direct deposit or by credit card. If paying by credit card the following surcharges will be applied to the cost of your tour arrangements: 1.8% for Visa and MasterCard and 2% for American Express.

FINAL BALANCE

The balance of your tour payment is due 60 days prior to the start of your tour. If, for any reason, the balance payment is not received by the due date, Byroads reserves the right to treat such failure to pay the balance as a cancellation and to apply the appropriate cancellation charges.

CANCELLATION BY YOU

If, for any reason, you cancel your tour booking, Byroads shall apply the following cancellation penalties. Charges are per person:

- Cancellation up to 60 days prior to departure, forfeiture of the total deposit
- From 59 to 45 days prior to departure, 30% of tour price shall be retained
- From 44 to 31 days prior to departure, 50% of tour price shall be retained
- Within 30 days prior to departure, no refund will be made

In addition to the above charges, cancellation fees may also apply to any domestic airfare component of your tour. No refund will be made after your tour has commenced or in respect of lost or unused tickets, hotel coupons, meals or any other services not utilized.

CANCELLATION BY BYROADS

If for any reason Byroads is forced to cancel a tour before it commences Byroads may offer a transfer to an alternate departure or all monies paid by you in respect of the tour will be refunded less any unrecoverable costs. Unrecoverable costs may include but are not limited to monies paid to service providers, airlines, transportation companies, travel agencies and hotels associated with your tour.

AMENDMENTS

Up to 60 days prior to the departure of your tour, any amendment to a confirmed reservation will incur a fee of \$50 per change per file, in addition to any charges levied by Travel on Q, airlines, or any other service provider. From 59 to 30 days prior to departure, any amendment to confirmed travel arrangements will incur a fee of \$100 per change per file. Once documents have been dispatched, any amendment will incur a fee of \$150 per change per file.

TOUR PRICES

Byroads tour prices and provisional tour prices are based on tariffs and prevailing rates of exchange when tours were costed. Prices are subject to change without prior notice. In the event of fluctuations in currency exchange rates, service providers' tariffs, fuel prices or any other cost that affects the price of your tour, Byroads reserves the right to adjust tour prices at any time up to the day of departure.

TOUR OPERATION

Although Byroads will endeavour to ensure that tours are operated as advertised, an express condition of making a reservation is the acceptance by you that the tour itineraries, schedules, advertised accommodation, sightseeing and mode of transportation as outlined in the Byroads brochure and/or supplied in the pre-departure information are subject to change without prior notice.

Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, epidemic, pandemic, adverse weather conditions, floods, earthquakes, airline flight rescheduling, technical faults with transportation and road conditions may also have a consequential effect on the content of your tour. Any decision made in respect of tour services provided by Byroads to reroute or amend the itinerary due to the above or similar circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of Byroads. Byroads and Travel on Q shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events that affect the schedule and content of your tour.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Byroads operates soft adventure tours. All participants are required to be fit and healthy. Occasionally hotels used by Byroads may not have lifts or porters available so you may need to be prepared at times to carry your own suitcase. Before travelling with Byroads, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with any health requirements applicable to areas through which you will be travelling.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that the nature of the tour is adventurous and participation involves a degree of personal risk. You will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. We use information from government foreign departments and reports from our own contacts in assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However it is also your own responsibility to acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information and the nature of your itinerary. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made in light of consideration of this information and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Make sure your passport has a minimum of six months validity remaining, as this is an entry requirement of many countries. Visa requirements will be advised at the time of booking once Travel on Q has received your passport details. Visas are required for a number of our tours and it is your responsibility to obtain them.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

The cost of your Byroads tour includes hotel accommodation, transportation, transfers as specified, sightseeing and meals as indicated in the tour brochure. It does not include international airfares, airport departure taxes, unspecified meals, optional sightseeing, additional transfers, gratuities for hotel staff, guides and tour leaders, items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls etc. or any other incidental expenses.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is an express condition of travelling with Byroads that you have comprehensive travel insurance including full cover for repatriation. It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance at the time you pay the deposit to guard against any unforeseen circumstances. If you are relying on complimentary travel insurance offered through your credit card company or your bank you should ensure that it is suitable for your tour. Some of the policies offered by these institutions may not offer adequate cover. You must provide the policy number, Insurance supplier details and emergency contact number to Byroads prior to the issuance of your documents.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We contract with a network of companies, government agencies and individuals to assist in the running of our tours as agent for these third parties. We are not responsible for the acts and omissions of these third parties. To the fullest extent permitted by law:

(i) Any liability for any loss, death, injury or damage which you may suffer (directly or indirectly) in connection with or arising out of your participation in a tour, or any breach of the Booking Conditions, is excluded;

(ii) Travel on Q acts only as a booking agent for Byroads and accepts no responsibility for the acts and omissions of Byroads or any of its associated service providers for any inaccuracies in information provided, negligence, loss, damage, omission, accident, detention, diversion or theft in regard to luggage or any personal belongings whatsoever.

(iii) You release Byroads and its officers, employees, agents and representatives from any liability and expressly waive any claims you may have against us arising out of or in connection with your participation in a tour; and.

(iv) Any condition or warranty which would otherwise be implied by law into these Booking Conditions (Implied Warranty), is excluded.

To the extent an Implied Warranty cannot be excluded, our liability in respect of the Implied Warranty is limited to (in our absolute discretion): (a) the provision of a similar tour to an equivalent value; or (b) a refund of the total amount received by us from you in connection with your booking.

Any claim by you is excluded to the extent that it is for indirect or consequential loss, loss of profits or economic loss, however it arises, or for indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages.

APPLICABLE LAW

The laws of Victoria, Australia govern these Booking Conditions to the fullest extent allowable. Any disputes in connection with a tour or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts of Victoria, Australia.