

15 Day Türkiye (Turkey) Explorer with Gulet Cruise

AVG Travels – World Travel Experts!

Local Knowledge. Vacations of a Lifetime.

Discover the world with AVG Travels, where our team of destination experts combines local knowledge with a passion for adventure to offer you the vacation of a lifetime. At AVG, we not only provide an immersive travel experience, prioritise your comfort, safety, and enjoyment, but also showcase the beauty and cultural richness of stunning destinations.

Specialists in touring since 2015, AVG Travels, previously known as Asia Vacation Group, are proud to craft your itinerary and create memories that last a lifetime. Travel with confidence knowing your trip has been thoughtfully crafted by our experts with you personally in mind.

AVG Travels Trusted Partner Tour	Small Group Tour Max 24 Travellers	Gulet Cruise
English-speaking Tour Leader	International Flights Included	

Day by Day Itinerary

Istanbul, Gallipoli, Çanakkale, Troy, Selçuk, Ephesus, Fethiye, Pamukkale, Konya, Cappadocia

HIGHLIGHTS

- Be guided through the city of **Istanbul** as you explore the Blue Mosque, St Sophia Museum, Yerebatan Underground Cistern and the Hippodrome
- Take some time to wander through the **Gallipoli** battlefields
- Use your imagination as you learn about the historical site at **Troy**
- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Listed site – **Ephesus**
- Spend 3 nights aboard a traditional Turkish gulet as you sail the waterways near **Fethiye**
- Marvel at **Pamukkale's** calcium terraces, known as Travertines
- Explore the wonders around **Cappadocia** and its famous Göreme Open Air Museum
- Tour the monolithic tomb of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk whilst in **Ankara**

ITINERARY

Day 1: Home -

Depart home today, en route to Türkiye (Turkey) – straddling Europe and Asia, this country is steeped in history and natural beauty.

Meals: In-flight

Accommodation: In-transit

Day 2: - Arrive Istanbul, Türkiye (Turkey)

Welcome to Istanbul!

On arrival into Istanbul, please make your way to the starting hotel and spend the remainder of the day at your leisure.

At approximately 6pm, you will have your Welcome Meeting where you will meet your English-speaking guide and fellow travellers and have an introduction to your tour.

Meals: In-flight

Accommodation: Nidya Hotel Galataport 4* or similar

Day 3: Istanbul

Following breakfast, embark on a comprehensive guided tour of Istanbul, the unique city that straddles two continents. Your tour will include visits to the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia Museum, the Basilica Cistern, and the Hippodrome.

Trace the steps of Istanbul's most renowned ruler, Sultan Ahmed, as we journey to the Sultanahmet district in the city's historic heart. Here, you'll delve into the rich heritage of the Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman empires. This afternoon you will spend at your leisure.

Cruise between two continents on the stretch of water that separates Europe from Asia, on a 1 hour afternoon Bosphorus River cruise. Your guide will explain offer an explanation of historical sights along the way (payable locally).

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Nidya Hotel Galataport 4* or similar

Day 4: Istanbul - Gallipoli - Çanakkale

Today, we visit one of Türkiye's most poignant sites: the WWI Battlefields of Gallipoli. This includes visits to the Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair Memorials, ANZAC Cove, The Nek, Johnston's Jolly, as well as the original trenches and tunnels. We'll take a moment for quiet reflection as we gaze upon the rugged hills and valleys that became the resting place for many young men from both sides. We'll explore the former battlefields and discover remnants of the trenches used by Turkish soldiers.

Afterward, we will proceed to Çanakkale.

For those movie enthusiasts, we recommend walking along the waterfront where you can view the Trojan Horse used in the Hollywood movie – Troy.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: MD Barbaros Hotel or similar

Day 5: Çanakkale - Troy - Kuşadası

Travel from Çanakkale to Troy and then on to Kuşadası for an unforgettable journey through Turkey's rich history. Start by exploring the ancient ruins of Troy, famous for its legendary Trojan War and wooden horse.

Following our exploration, we proceed to Assos, where you can enjoy panoramic views from the Temple of Athena, which overlooks both the Aegean Sea and the nearby Greek island of Lesbos. At the historic harbour, you'll have some free time to explore the quaint streets and perhaps savour a meal at a picturesque harbourside seafood restaurant.

Then, continue to Kuşadası to discover the remarkable archaeological sites of Ephesus and the Temple of Artemis, immersing yourself in the grandeur of ancient civilisations.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Cella Boutique Hotel & Spa or similar

Day 6: Kuşadası - Ephesus - Kuşadası

Immerse yourself in history with a guided tour of Ephesus and a visit to the Temple of Artemis. Experience the ancient city's mystical ambiance and its impressive theatre before heading to the former Greek village of Sirince, renowned for its fruit wines.

Discover Türkiye's rich carpet-weaving traditions at a local carpet village, where you'll learn about the handcrafting process and what influences the carpets' value.

In the evening, visit a local vineyard to explore the regional wine production. Enjoy tasting three local wines in the vineyard's garden before returning to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Cella Boutique Hotel & Spa or similar

Day 7: Selçuk - Fethiye -

Today, head south towards the coastal town of Fethiye where your traditional Turkish gulet awaits you.

At approximately 3pm, embark on your accommodation for the next 3 nights.

A gulet is a traditional Turkish yacht, typically handcrafted in Bodrum or Marmaris, measuring between 20 and 30 metres in length. Made from mahogany, pine, and teak, these yachts feature a classic Byzantine design with a sharp bow, broad beam, and rounded stern. Stylish and graceful, gulets offer comfort and unique character.

We'll take advantage of the clear waters for swimming and snorkelling in Turunc Bay or Tarzan Bay. Then, we'll cruise past several islands to Tersane Island, home to the remnants of a historically significant shipyard.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Accommodation: Turkish gulet

Day 8: Fethiye - Bedri Rahmi Bay

After breakfast, we head to Cleopatra's Baths (Hamam Bay) for a swim amidst the ancient Roman ruins.

Next, we cruise to Sarsala Bay, a picturesque spot surrounded by pine trees and a gateway to a 45-minute hike to ancient Lissa. This site is renowned for its inscribed walls from the 3rd century BC, during the reign of Cleopatra's Ptolemaic ancestors.

Our journey continues to Bedri Rahmi Bay, named after one of the early 'Blue Cruisers' who painted a fish on the rocks here in 1973. Enjoy a refreshing dip in the clear waters or explore the island.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Turkish gulet

Day 9: Bedri Rahmi Bay - Fethiye

Today we set sail for the Yassica Islands, a group of unnamed, tiny islets so small they lack individual names. The largest island features a sandy beach and a small pool-like area off the lagoon.

We will then head to the serene Gocek Islands, where you can swim, snorkel, or simply bask in the sun while taking in the stunning scenery.

We'll conclude the day with a final swim at Red Island before spending the night in Fethiye Harbour.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Turkish gulet

Day 10: Fethiye - Pamukkale

After an early departure from the gulet, we will journey to the stunning white travertine terraces of Pamukkale. These natural formations, created by calcium deposits from hot springs, are renowned for their otherworldly beauty.

Alongside the terraces, we'll explore the ancient city of Hierapolis, which was a prominent Roman spa town. Here, you can relax and take a dip in the thermal pools, where ancient columns still stand as a testament to the site's historical significance and its once-celebrated therapeutic properties.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Accommodation: Adem Pira Hotel 4* or similar

Day 11: Pamukkale - Konya - Cappadocia

After an early departure from Pamukkale, we will journey to the enchanting region of Cappadocia. Along the way, we'll make notable stops, beginning with the Mevlana Museum in Konya, which offers a glimpse into the life and teachings of the famous Sufi mystic, Rumi.

We will also visit the Sultanhanı Caravansary, an ancient roadside inn that once served as a resting place for traders and travellers on the Silk Road.

Upon reaching Cappadocia, you'll have the evening free to relax and explore at your own pace.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Remus and Romulus Hotel or similar

Day 12: Cappadocia

This morning, head to a rooftop café to witness the breathtaking sight of numerous hot air balloons ascending into the clear morning sky.

Today, immerse yourself in Cappadocia's otherworldly landscape. We'll visit the Göreme Valley Open Air Museum

and marvel at the unique fairy chimneys, as well as explore the intricate levels of an underground city. You'll encounter fascinating rock formations, including cones, peaks, and fairy chimneys created from tuff—a light, porous rock formed by volcanic ash. Additionally, you'll see ancient cave chapels carved by early Christians.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Remus and Romulus Hotel or similar

Please note: for those who wish to partake in a hot-air balloon ride, we strongly recommend liaising with your Tour Leader whilst on tour to book this in order to receive the best price. Weather conditions will affect the likelihood of these balloons flying.

Day 13: Cappadocia - Ankara - Istanbul

We set off early this morning for Türkiye's capital, Ankara. There, we visit Anıtkabir, the mausoleum of the renowned Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's mausoleum, an impressive tribute to Turkey's founder, showcasing grand architecture and historical significance.

After your visit, we continue the drive back to Istanbul.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel Name # Star or similar

Day 14: Depart Istanbul -

Unfortunately, today marks the end of your time in Türkiye as you commence your onward travel plans.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: In transit

Day 15: - Home

Arrive home today – we hope you have thoroughly enjoyed your time in Türkiye (Turkey).

Meals: In-flight

INCLUSIONS

- **International flights ex. Melbourne or Sydney**
- Small group touring with a maximum of 16 guests
- 9 nights in 4-star hotel and boutique accommodation
- 3 nights aboard a traditional Turkish gulet
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches & 5 dinners
- A wine tasting experience in Selçuk
- Escorted by professional, English-speaking local guide
- Captain and supporting crew onboard the gulet
- Transportation in a fully air-conditioned vehicle
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as per itinerary

EXCLUSIONS

- International airfares
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Tipping
- Porterage
- Airport transfers
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses

DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN \$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Sunday 04 May 2025	Sunday 18 May 2025	\$6,199		Book
Sunday 11 May 2025	Sunday 25 May 2025	\$6,199		Book
Sunday 18 May 2025	Sunday 01 Jun 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 25 May 2025	Sunday 08 Jun 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 01 Jun 2025	Sunday 15 Jun 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 08 Jun 2025	Sunday 22 Jun 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 15 Jun 2025	Sunday 29 Jun 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 22 Jun 2025	Sunday 06 Jul 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 29 Jun 2025	Sunday 13 Jul 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 06 Jul 2025	Sunday 20 Jul 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 13 Jul 2025	Sunday 27 Jul 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 20 Jul 2025	Sunday 03 Aug 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 27 Jul 2025	Sunday 10 Aug 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 03 Aug 2025	Sunday 17 Aug 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 10 Aug 2025	Sunday 24 Aug 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 17 Aug 2025	Sunday 31 Aug 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 24 Aug 2025	Sunday 07 Sep 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 31 Aug 2025	Sunday 14 Sep 2025	\$6,499		Book

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Sunday 07 Sep 2025	Sunday 21 Sep 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 14 Sep 2025	Sunday 28 Sep 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 21 Sep 2025	Sunday 05 Oct 2025	\$6,499		Book
Sunday 28 Sep 2025	Sunday 12 Oct 2025	\$6,199		Book
Sunday 05 Oct 2025	Sunday 19 Oct 2025	\$6,199		Book
Sunday 12 Oct 2025	Sunday 26 Oct 2025	\$6,199		Book
Sunday 19 Oct 2025	Sunday 02 Nov 2025	\$6,199		Book

OPTIONAL TOURS

FINE PRINT

FLIGHT INFORMATION

This package includes return flights from Melbourne or Sydney.

Flights from Adelaide, Brisbane, Hobart and Perth attract a \$400 per person surcharge.

Airline Selection: We book the best available airlines for your journey, which may include a mix of full-service and low-cost carriers. Specific airline requests can be made at the time of purchase. This includes upgrades to your preferred carrier, premium economy or business class cabins or specific seats. Whilst we will try our best, not all requests can be confirmed.

Flight Conditions: Flights may not be direct and could involve a maximum of two transits.

Ticketing Information: Once issued, tickets are non-refundable. Changes are subject to airline rules, airline change fees, and an Asia Vacations Group change fee of \$250 per person.

Passenger Details: Please ensure all traveller names are as per passports. This includes all middle names. Errors may incur a name change fee of \$150 plus airline charges, or may require a forfeit of the existing ticket and purchase of a new ticket at an additional cost.

Flight Schedule Changes: Any changes or cancellations to airline schedules are outside our control. We recommend staying updated with airline schedules before departure. Additional expenses for extended transits or alternative arrangements are the traveller's responsibility.

Internal Airfares: Local flights included in your itinerary may utilise low-cost carriers without meals or entertainment. Checked baggage is included; any additional baggage fees are payable at check-in.

Booking Considerations: If travelling with others on separate bookings, we may not be able to guarantee all flights are the same flight due to availability.

Luggage and Fees: You are responsible for your luggage at all times. Excess baggage fees, if incurred, are payable directly to the airline. All tickets will include 20 kg checked baggage per person, plus 7 kg of hand luggage. We recommend travelling with a max 20kg per person due to restrictions on internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Please note, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters are not included.

No-Show Policy: Missing your flight may result in fees including a no-show fee, airline reissue fee, and possible new ticket purchase. AVG Travels charges a \$250 admin fee for re-booking assistance.

Price Adjustments: Prices are final at the time of ticketing. Any subsequent changes may result in additional costs due to factors beyond our control, such as currency fluctuations or airline surcharges.

Flight requests, amendments or preferences

We understand customers may wish to request changes to their included airfares. If you wish to fly with a certain airline, land at a certain time or change your flight in other ways we will gladly provide you with a personalized quote tailored to your specific requirements.

We would be more than happy to provide you with a quote for the following requests:

- Airline Preferences – You may wish to fly with a particular airline
- Cabin Preferences – These include upgrading to premium economy or business class
- Extensions (start and end cities must remain the same) – You may request to extend your stay pre or post tour.
- Meal Requests – You may request a specific meal for dietary requirements.
- Seat Requests – If you would like to request particular seating. However please note, not all airlines allow the selection of pre-purchased seat arrangements.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

AVG Travels Trusted Partner Tour

AVG Travels have sourced a local, trusted partner to operate this tour. Our team has carefully vetted the itinerary and on-ground operations to ensure our AVG Travels clients are in good hands.

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement

Single supplement is **\$1,051 per person** in addition to the twin share price.

Physical Requirements

A reasonable level of fitness is required. Participants should be comfortable navigating stairs, boarding and disembarking from the coach and ship, and walking reasonable distances, typically around 2 kilometres per day or more. Please disclose any physical conditions at the time of booking to assess suitability for the tour.

Tipping

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package.

Industry standard is USD\$10-15 per person per day – however the final amount you may wish to give, is completely at your discretion.

Group Size

Minimum: 2

Maximum: 16

Visa & Passport information

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return and must have more than 2 blank pages.

AU Passport holders:

A visa is required to enter into Türkiye for Australian passport holders – e-visa can be applied for here. Travellers require a passport valid for at least 150 days from the time of entry.

IMPORTANT: Visa requirements may change at any time without notice. You should contact the nearest high commission/embassy or consulate for the latest details.

Children

Children under the age of 12 years will not be permitted to travel on this tour.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is recommended to protect yourself against the unexpected. In addition to the support that a policy may provide, you may be asked to present a copy of your travel insurance documentation while travelling. We have partnered with **NibTravel Insurance** to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance. You can book Comprehensive or Essentials cover for your domestic, international or multi- trip journeys simply

with us.

HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour. On this tour you can pay extra for arriving early or extending your trip.

Pre and post tour accommodation in Istanbul, including breakfast – **\$220** per room, per night for double/twin/single.

Private airport transfers to/from Istanbul Airport (IST) – **\$110** per way per two person

Private airport transfers to/from Sabiha Gökçen International Airport (SAW) – **\$110** per way per two person

TURKISH GULET CRUISE

These traditional gulets offer simplicity along with cosy and comfortable accommodations. Each cabin features a double bed (up to 180 cm) and is equipped with a private ensuite. Please be aware that space on the boat is limited, and the bathrooms are relatively small.

Most of your time will be spent on deck, enjoying the scenic views. As traditional Turkish wooden boats, gulets do not have air conditioning but benefit from natural air circulation and the refreshing ocean breeze. Experiencing a gulet sail is a unique and memorable way to spend three nights!

Electricity on the boat is limited, operating at 12 V/24 V. If you plan to bring battery-operated devices, please consider this limitation. Electrical appliances can only be used while the yacht is docked.

Drinks are not included in our package, but you can purchase them on board. Some gulets offer drink packages, though options may vary since each gulet is privately owned. Please check with your guide for details.

The gulet's captain can, at any time, change the gulet itinerary without notification. The captain of the craft will decide the program at the time, taking into consideration various factors.

AVG Travels

Australia Call: 1800 229 339

New Zealand Call: 0800 220 920

US Call: 1 888 440 6001