

TURKISH EXPLORER, (ZII)

Istanbul to Istanbul 14 Days, departing 14th March 2021



TRIP OVERVIEW

Trip Style: Overlanding
Route: Istanbul to Istanbul
Duration: 14 Days
Transport: Overland Expedition Vehicle
Accommodation: Comfortable Hotel 2 nights
 Multishare Hostel 9 nights
 Basic Hotel 1 night
 Guesthouse 1 night
Meals: Breakfasts x 8, Lunches x 0, Dinners x 2

Physical Challenge: ● ● ○ ○ ○

Your itinerary may include easy-paced day walks, bike rides, and other activities that are not too strenuous.

Lifestyle Challenge: ● ● ○ ○ ○

You may be camping some of the time but the pace of the trip is fairly relaxed and the facilities and road conditions are generally of a high standard.



DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Istanbul (14th March 2021)

Border Information: If joining in Istanbul, you will most likely enter Turkey at Istanbul Ataturk Airport (IATA code: IST).

There will be a pre-departure meeting at 10.00am - on arrival please look out for a note from your leader with more information about this important meeting.

The afternoon will be free to explore the many sights of the incredible exotic city of Istanbul, including the Grand Bazaar, the Bosphorus River, Hagia Sophia and the phenomenal Blue Mosque!

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Istanbul before the start of your trip with us - please contact your travel consultant if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Istanbul.

Accommodation: Golden Horn Istanbul Hotel

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Explore the colossal markets of the Grand Bazaar - once the centre of all trading between Europe and Asia and the most visited tourist attraction in the world

Price: Free

See the splendour of Istanbul from a boat trip on Bosphorus Strait which marks the boundary of Europe and Asia

Half Day Cruise: 17 USD

Explore the phenomenal Blue Mosque built by the Ottoman Sultan Ahmed I - a stunning icon of Istanbul

Entrance is free but can give a donation: Free

Visit the incredible Byzantine cathedral of Hagia Sophia built in the 6th century

Entrance to the gallery: 40 TRY

Explore the atmospheric underground Basilica Cisterns built by the Byzantines in the 6th century

Entrance: 20 TRY

Explore the majestic Topkapi Palace the huge palace of the Ottoman Sultans for over 400 years

Entrance & Treasury: 40 TRY

Day 2 - Gallipoli (15th March 2021)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning following breakfast we will depart Istanbul and begin our journey to the shores of Gallipoli.

Day 3 - Gallipoli (16th March 2021)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will get an insight into what happened between the ANZAC, Allied and Turkish forces during the first World War and have a guided tour of the Battlefields and Anzac Cove.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Pay your respects to the fallen at Gallipoli on a guided tour through the battlefields

Included

Day 4 - Selcuk (17th March 2021)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will cross the Dardenelles by ferry and head to Helsik where we will do a short tour of the Troy Ruins.

We will then continue onto Selcuk where we will be staying for two nights. In the evening we will have free time to explore the area or simply relax in one of the many cafes or tea bars which are great for people watching.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided tour around the ancient ruins of Troy

Included

Day 5 - Selcuk (18th March 2021)

Today we will have a full day to be able to explore the Ephesus Ruins and Terraced Houses.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided Tour of Ephesus Ruins and the Terraced Houses

Included

Day 6 - Pamukkale (19th March 2021)

Following breakfast we will drive inland towards the small village of Pamukkale.

After lunch we will have free time to visit the thermal hot springs and traverse through the travertine pools and terraces.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Admire the brilliant white travertine terraces and submerge yourself in the warm mineral rich pools and hot springs

Entrance to Hot Springs: 50 TRY

Day 7 - Olympos (20th March 2021)

Meals: Dinner

Today we continue our drive south and aim to reach the popular beach town of Olympos just after lunch.

This evening we will walk up to the Chimera Fire Mountain and toast some marshmallows.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Hike up Chimera Mountain and witness the natural phenomenon of never ending fires emerging from the rocks.

Included

Day 8 - Olympos (21st March 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Today we will have time to explore and participate in any optional activities if you wish or simply take a dip in the cool turquoise waters on one of the many beaches.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Half day Sea Kayaking adventure exploring the many different caves and beautiful coastline of the Southern Turkish Coast.

Sea Kayaking half day: 15 EUR

Olympus Adventures Canyoning

Canyoning - Full day: 45 EUR

Day 9 - Egirdir (22nd March 2021)

Meals: Breakfast

After breakfast we will leave the beachside town of Olympos and make our way north.

We will have an included visit of Termessos on the way before continuing our journey towards Egirdir where we will stay in a local guesthouse.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Stop off for a visit to Termessos the ancient mountain top city

Included

Day 10 - Goreme (23rd March 2021)

We have an early start this morning to reach the small enchanting town of Goreme in the heart of the Cappadocia mountains.

In Goreme we will stay in a well-equipped hostel - please note that dorm beds are generally used here.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Head out for a fun evening of dinner and various Turkish dancing displays

Entrance & Show: 30 EUR

Witness the hypnotic Sufi Whirling Dervishes ceremony at an ancient caravanserai near Göreme

Entrance & Show: 35 EUR

Day 11 - Goreme (24th March 2021)

Meals: Breakfast

Today will be a full day to explore Goreme, including a guided tour of the enchanted valley of Cappadocia. There will also be an opportunity for a magical optional balloon ride over the valley during your time here (weather permitting).

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided tour of Cappadocia and underground troglodyte cities and caves

Included

Optional Activities

Drive through the stunning landscape of Cappadocia on an ATV quad biking trip

2 hour ATV ride: 35 EUR

4 Hour ATV Ride: 65 EUR

8 hour ATV ride: 90 EUR

Discover the incredible scenery of Cappadocia on horseback

2 hour ride: 45 EUR

4 hour ride: 85 EUR

Take a hot air balloon flight over Cappadocia

Price: 240 EUR

Explore the ancient pre-iconoclastic Byzantine rock monastery of Zelve

Entrance Open Air Museum: 15 TRY

Goreme Open Air Museum

Entrance (on Red Tour): 30 TRY

Day 12 - Goreme (25th March 2021)

Meals: Breakfast

We will have one final day in Goreme to partake in any optional activities here in Goreme.

Day 13 - Istanbul (26th March 2021)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a full day's drive west to arrive back in Istanbul, the only city in the world that straddles two continents, Europe and Asia.

In Istanbul we will stay in a comfortable hotel with good facilities.

Day 14 - Istanbul - End Date (27th March 2021)

Today is the end day for passengers finishing their trip in Istanbul. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact your travel consultant if you are interested in booking extra nights of accommodation.

Accommodation:

ITINERARY DISCLAIMER

The routes, activities and places visited described in these notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed and it sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons; climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. Changes to the itinerary may occur with little notice so please be prepared for modifications to your trip.

Drive Times

Drive times are listed in the day-to-day itinerary. These are the approximate number of hours that the vehicle will be in motion, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors.

Accommodation and Meals Included

The type of accommodation and included meals are listed for each day of the itinerary. These listings show our intention and on most departures the listings will be accurate. However due to the flexible nature of overland itineraries, climatic, bureaucratic or road conditions may demand changes to our listed intentions or groups may simply decide to amend the plans from time to time.

Optional Activities

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an endorsement or recommendation. Certain activities may not be available on your particular visit and it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination. It is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there. Prices listed are for entrance only and do not include transport costs to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated. The prices are displayed according to our latest information and in the best faith, but prices do fluctuate due to exchange rates, season, numbers of participants, and simple increases from the operator, and therefore any prices listed are a guide only and cannot be guaranteed. If you partake in any optional activities, you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities. For more information around activity safety and insurance, please see the Essential Information document.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In the event of a real emergency once you have left your home country, please contact us on our out of office hours number. If you cannot get through on the phone, please leave a message with your name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you. Please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours, depending on the issue.

If your flight is delayed, please inform us as soon as you can and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in the Joining Point section of these notes.

Out of hours Number: +44 (0) 7985 106564

A FEW RULES

We expect all group members to act respectfully towards our staff and other group members. Bullying will not be tolerated.

Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, or carrying weapons may be legal, it is not acceptable for Dragoman customers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

ISSUES ON THE TRIP

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk.

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

IMPORTANT NOTES

OVERLANDING LIFESTYLE

Dragoman was founded in 1981, and has had many years of experience of leading overland trips across 4 continents. Overlanding is all about sharing a great travelling experience with like-minded people. On your trip you'll travel in one of Dragoman's purpose-built iconic expedition vehicles on an off-the-beaten-track adventure along rugged roads, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the world up-close. Your journey will be overland, sometimes across vast distances, so some long days spent driving are inevitable - but these will be interspersed with breaks of a day or two at a destination or activity.

On an overland journey, you are more than just a passenger and everyone gets involved setting up camp - we supply the tent but it's up to you to pitch it! As part of your trip, you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting firewood or water, luggage loading, organising food, stores, etc. Like all great adventures, the more you put in the more you'll get out! For more details of how an overlanding trip works, please see the Essential Information document.

SAFETY STANDARDS

We run adventure journeys in off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure. You should expect that some of these areas do not adhere to 'Western' safety standards. For more information, please see the Essential Information document

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN REMOTE AREAS

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available, and communications may be sparse. We do not carry satellite phones on our regular trips. Therefore, if you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

VISAS, HEALTH, INSURANCE & MONEY

Before you travel there are vital things to consider such as:

- Any visas needed for your trip
- Any vaccinations needed (please consult your GP or travel clinic)
- Organising your local payment (the kitty)
- Buying travel insurance (insurance is compulsory to be allowed to join our trips)

For more information on these topics, please see the Essential Information Document.

EXPLORATORY TRIP WARNING - THIS IS A NEW TRIP FOR US!

Please note that all or part of this trip is a brand new itinerary, and is going through completely new areas for Dragoman. This is what we call an Exploratory trip, and it means that all the passengers on this trip will be the route's pioneers for the first season!

While we have thoroughly researched all aspects of this new route and put the itinerary together with the best of intentions, please note that your crew will be finding a lot of information out for us on the ground and will be playing a lot of things by ear. The itinerary may be altered in places where it becomes necessary and the drive times may differ significantly from the published estimates.

Most Exploratory trips will have slight or significant changes made to them after this first season, and frankly we would be very surprised if an Exploratory trip was to run perfectly to the published itinerary. Usually we find that this is rarely a problem but rather an exciting feature and that there are much more pleasant surprises in store than unpleasant ones. You will be immersing in to the camaraderie with your crew and fellow travellers and give you the fantastic opportunity to shape the trip as a group.

However, the warning is sincere and this trip must be viewed as Exploratory - if this concerns you or you would rather stick to a tried-and-tested itinerary, then we recommend that you wait a year or two until we have this itinerary perfected following operating it many times, or of course to consider one of the more established trips in our extensive portfolio.

There will be numerous challenges on this trip including border delays, visa and paperwork delays, potential re-routing at short notice, lack of western facilities, road closures and other obstacles and unforeseen issues.

There is a risk of cancellation if the FCO advise changes (as of now the route is safe to travel all the way through).

West and Central Africa will test everyone's patience due to potential issues with obtaining visas. This is likely to lead to long delays in places where there may not be much to do. It may also be necessary to fly over some places which would be at your own expense.

This trip will have a higher level of participation compared to our other Dragoman trips and you will be required to help out with setting up camps, cooking etc. The campsites are also likely to be basic for much of the trip along with a high number of bush camps.

This will be a challenging trip and you must be fit in order to participate. If you have a pre-existing medical condition or any medical concerns you should check with your doctor prior to travel that this would be a suitable trip for you. You should also be aware that in the event of accident or illness, access to medical centres will be limited.

On the flip side, we'll be visiting regions and areas very rarely seen by Western travellers. Meeting people who have perhaps never seen foreigners. Enjoying the chaotic and buzzing cultures of West and Central Africa. And of course, the immense satisfaction of completing a classic adventure that only a handful of people ever get the chance to complete.

TURKEY NOTES

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these notes. **These notes were printed on the 27th September 2020**