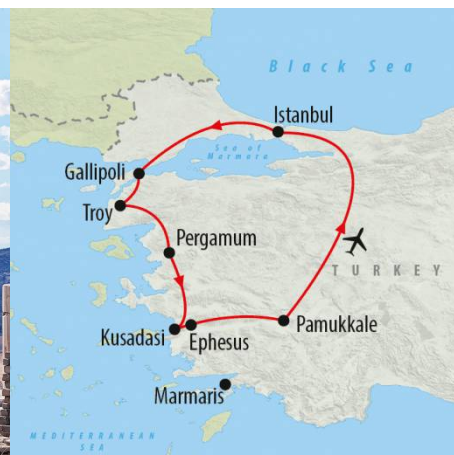


Aegean Explorer

7 Days | Starts/Ends: Istanbul



Kicking off in the powerhouse of the Ottoman empire - Istanbul, pay your respects at Gallipoli, get lost in the impressive Roman ruins of Ephesus and Pergamum, witness the beautiful Aegean Coast and dip your toes in Pamukkale's beautiful cascading mineral pools.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Istanbul - Old city, Istanbul, Hippodrome, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sofia, Basilica Underground Cistern and Topkapi Palace
- Gallipoli Peninsular - ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair memorials, trenches and battlefields
- Troy - Ancient ruins, 9 cities, one on top of the other, dating back to 3000 BC and replica Trojan horse
- Stunning Aegean Coast
- Roman ruins of Pergamum and Ephesus
- Pamukkale - Thermal pools and Roman Hierapolis
- Turkish carpet weaving and leather manufacturing houses

What's Included

- 5 breakfasts
- 6 nights 4 star hotels

- Economy class flight from Denizli (Pamukkale) to Istanbul
- Guided sightseeing - Istanbul, Gallipoli, Troy, Ruins of Ephesus and Pergamum, Pamukkale Terraces and Hierapolis
- Escorted by an English speaking, degree qualified Turkish tour guide
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$40pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$85-95pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide and driver. We recommend you allow USD\$5 - 7 per day, per traveller as a tip for your guide and USD\$2 per day for your driver. Tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture

COVID SAFE GUIDE

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Istanbul

Saturday. Welcome to Turkey! Arrive Istanbul and included transfer to our hotel. Spend the afternoon at leisure or head out to explore

the city. This evening our tip filled welcome meeting takes place. **Overnight - Istanbul**

Day 2 : Istanbul



Istanbul. We'll start the day with an exciting tour of Istanbul's old city. We'll make a number of stops on our trip, starting with a visit to the stunning Blue Mosque famed for its blue Iznik tiles and unique 6 minarets, we'll continue to the ruinous Hippodrome – now a small park of sorts and once scene of chariot races and political activities in Byzantine times, we'll also discover Hagia Sofia Museum - constructed as a Basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian, Topkapi Palace and the Underground Cistern – an ancient underground water tank - replete with carved and fluted Corinthian columns and a puzzling head of Medusa. Visitors walk on walkways suspended above the shallow water. It's very cool and peaceful. **Overnight - Istanbul (B)**

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Day 3 : Gallipoli



Istanbul – Gallipoli. Early this morning, we travel to the WW1 battlefields of Gallipoli. Here, we'll embark upon a guided tour of the region, once the site of fierce fighting and today almost hauntingly beautiful, with its wooded landscape dotted with understated memorials to the war dead. Our guided tour of the region will take in sights such as ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine Australian War Memorial and cemetery, Chunuk Blair New Zealand War Memorial and cemetery, the Nek, Johnston's Jolly and the many fortified trenches still clearly visible amongst the scrub after all these years.

Crossing the Dardenelles by ferry (offering panoramic views of the entire Gallipoli Peninsular) we proceed to our hotel for a little rest and relaxation. **Overnight - Canakkale (B)**

Day 4 : Troy & Kusadasi

Gallipoli – Kusadasi. Heading south, we enjoy a guided tour of Homer's Troy, famed for the Trojan wooden horse and fabled Helen. Continuing to ancient Pergamum - the cultural and political capital of its time, before continuing onto coastal Kusadasi. Make the most of the hotel facilities this evening. **Overnight - Kusadasi (B)**

Day 5 : Ancient Ephesus



Today, we enjoy a guided tour at the legendary Roman ruins of Ephesus. Positively

the best-preserved classical city in the eastern Mediterranean, and among the best places in the world to get a feel for what Roman life must have been like. Ephesus, under the Romans was a vast city with a population nearing 250,000. It became the Roman capital of Asia Minor. We'll have plenty of time to tour the marble ruins of Ephesus. Be sure to see the famous Library of Celsus, the gymnasium of Vedius and Stadium, the great theatre and stroll the streets in the ruins of this large Roman ruined city. It's completely fascinating. We'll see public toilets, a brothel, fountains and various temples. Carpet weaving has long traditions in Turkey and afterward we stop to watch a demonstration of how they are made.

Overnight - Kusadasi (B)

Day 6 : Pamukkale

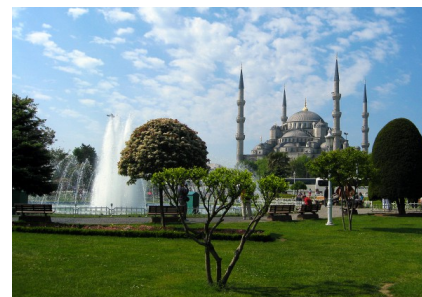


Kusadasi - Pamukkale. Today, after breakfast, we drive to Pamukkale visiting the region's famed calcium rich terraced pools. Known locally as the Cotton Castles, they are a natural phenomena and gift of Mother Nature.

Pamukkale was formed when warm, calcium rich mineral water cascaded over the cliff edge, cooling and depositing in the process. The calcium built natural shelves and pools on the cliffs, known as travertines. Today, some of the pools are closed. However, areas of the travertines can be walked upon, albeit in bare feet. We can however opt to enjoy a unique and very pleasant dip in the warm waters at the Pamukkale Thermal, with its submerged fragments of fluted marble columns in the centre of the ruined spa town of Hierapolis, which was a was a cure centre founded around 190 BC by the Romans. This evening we have some free time to relax and unwind.

Overnight - Pamukkale (B)

Day 7 : Istanbul



Friday. This morning we make our way to Denizli airport for our flight to Istanbul. On arrival to Istanbul Airport we bid farewell to our group and representative and catch our onward flights.

Note: Please note your internal flight is currently arriving into the new Istanbul Airport airport at approx. 08:50am. Please ensure you book an international flight departing Istanbul after 1pm, allowing for flight delays. If you are departing via Sabiha airport you will need to make arrangements between airports and we recommend booking flights after 2:30pm. Alternatively, you could choose to extend your stay by purchasing an additional night's hotel accommodation.

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Ramada Old City

A member of the reputable Ramada chain, the Istanbul Old Town property is modern and comfortable with excellent amenities. Guestrooms are bright and spacious with contemporary amenities. Two restaurants are on offer and our personal favourite is the wonderful roof top restaurant, serving delicious local cuisine coupled with a magnificent view of the City and Sea. The perfect way to end the day. Located very

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close to the Historical part of the city with major Monuments are all walking distance.



Iris Hotel

The Iris is a modern, low rise hotel with spacious, comfortable rooms and a good size swimming pool. The hotel provides free Wi-Fi connection and has an enviable beach front location. You can enjoy a delicious meal at the outdoor restaurant with views across the ocean.



Carina Hotel

With panoramic views across the turquoise waters of the Aegean sea, the Carina Hotel boasts bright, spacious room with a stylish antique decor. Within walking distance of the hotel are a number of beaches as well as the restaurant, bars and shops of Kusadasi. Enjoy a bite to eat at the restaurant or sip on a cocktail at the poolside bar.



Richmond Ephesus Resort Hotel

With a beautiful sandy beach lining the shore between the hotel and the sea, the Richmond Ephesus Hotel is a perfect place to relax. Take a dip in one of the two pools or enjoy a delicious dinner and drink at one of the three restaurants. Rooms are spacious and comfortable with air conditioning throughout the hotel.



Colossae Thermal Spa Hotel

Set in landscaped gardens, the Colossae Thermal Spa Hotel has an enviable location in Pamukkale. Guest rooms are spacious and tastefully decorated and offer a wonderful level of comfort, ensuring a good night's sleep. The on site thermal spa offers guests the chance to relax, revitalise and enjoy what this region is most famous for. Breakfast can be eaten outside on the terrace while dinner is often taken by the shimmering water of the pool.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' is compulsory for solo travellers or if your booking party cannot reach the minimum of 2 persons in a room and the amount needs to be added to the per person price. The single supplement offers the comfort of your own room and is also available to any other person wanting their own room.

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
27 Mar	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
26 Jun	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
10 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,945

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
24 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
31 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
07 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
21 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
28 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
11 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
18 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
25 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
02 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
09 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
16 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
23 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
06 Nov	USD 1,045	USD 1,495
20 Nov	USD 1,045	USD 1,495
04 Dec	USD 1,045	USD 1,495
18 Dec	USD 1,495	USD 1,945

PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
08 Jan	USD 1,045	USD 1,495
22 Jan	USD 1,045	USD 1,495
12 Feb	USD 1,045	USD 1,495
26 Feb	USD 1,395	USD 1,845
12 Mar	USD 1,395	USD 1,845
26 Mar	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
09 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
16 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
30 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
14 May	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
28 May	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
25 Jun	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
09 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
16 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
23 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
30 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
06 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
13 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
20 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
03 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
10 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
17 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
24 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
01 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
08 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
15 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
22 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
05 Nov	USD 1,045	USD 1,495
19 Nov	USD 1,045	USD 1,495
03 Dec	USD 1,045	USD 1,495

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PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
17 Dec	USD 1,495	USD 1,945
31 Dec	USD 1,495	USD 1,945

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