

Absolute Turkey



PRIVATE WITH ME EXCLUSIVE

This 15 Day tour is all about the incredible local experiences. Accommodation is mostly small, family run hotels or pensions with a one night village stay to give you an experience of life with a local family. If you are looking for an authentic travel experience then you cannot go past this Absolute Turkey with G Adventures

Price from \$2830pp Twin Share and from \$3430 Solo

15 Days/14 Nights

9 May to 24 May 2024

Inclusions

- Private Travel with Me Journey
- Expert local, English speaking guides
- Max 15 Guests
- Dinner with local family in Cavusin
- Turkish Village Homestay
- Local Experiences as per itinerary
- Gallipoli Battlefields
- Deposit \$500 pp / Finals due 28 Feb 24

Price and Itinerary are subject to change at any time



TRAVEL WITH ME

enquiries@travelwithme.com.au

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ITINERARY

Day 1: 9 May - Transfer from airport to hotel

Transfer to your hotel. Enjoy a little relaxing time before meeting your Tour Leader over a welcome dinner tonight.

🇹🇷 *Golden Horn Sirkeci Istanbul or similar (D)*

Day 2: 10 May - Istanbul/Bolu

Enjoy an orientation walk of Istanbul. Each walk varies, allowing your CEO to show off their favourite spots around the city. Pass by city highlights such as the Topkapi Palace, the Hagia Sophia (also known as the Aya Sofya), and the Blue Mosque. Walks may also include the atmospheric Spice Bazaar or breathtaking Grand Bazaar. Continue to the city of Bolu

🇹🇷 *Soylu Hotel Bolu or similar (B)*

Day 3: 11 May - Bolu/Cappadocia

Visit the Mausoleum of Atatürk, the father of the Modern Turkish Republic, en route to Cappadocia region.

Transfer to the region of Cappadocia for 2.5 days of exploring. There will be plenty of time to tour the area by bike, visit neighbouring villages, trek regional valleys or try a hot air balloon ride.

During one of the evenings, travel to a nearby village and enjoy dinner with a local family.

The local dinner may take place on any night in Cappadocia based on the family's availability.

🇹🇷 *Grand Uchisar Hotel Cappadocia or similar (B/D)*

Day 4/5: 12/13 May - Cappadocia

Enjoy an included visit to the Göreme Open Air Museum before free time to explore this unique region.

Outdoor enthusiast? Hire a bike to get around on two wheels or join your CEO on an optional trekking tour through one of the beautiful valleys of the region. If you want to go further afield, take a local bus to explore nearby villages.

Want to do more with your tour? Book the Cappadocia Balloon Ride or Whirling Dervishes upon arrival by arranging it with your CEO.

A special "Turkish Night" Dinner tonight with a multi course meal followed by local entertainment.

🇹🇷 *Grand Uchisar Hotel Cappadocia or similar (B/D)*

Day 6: 14 May - Cappadocia/Konya

Explore one of the many underground cities in the region. Visit Konya before spending the night in a local Turkish village. Visit a community park and cooperative, a project supported by G Adventures. Experience a homestay as the guest of a local family.

Depart Cappadocia and head to an underground city to explore. Have a quick lunch before journeying to the region of Konya.

Travel about 1 hour to a local village for a cosy homestay. On the way, visit Catalhoyuk, a uniquely well-preserved Neolithic site.

Upon arrival in the village, learn about local life and visit a community park and cooperative supported and developed by G Adventures before enjoying a home-cooked dinner tonight.

🇹🇷 *Konya Village Stay or similar (B/D)*



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Day 7: 15 May - Konya/Antalya

Wander the lovely seaside town of Antalya. Arrive at Antalya around lunchtime.

With a free afternoon, wander the charming cobbled hillside streets of the district of Kaleici, a great place to stop and have a drink with amazing views of the marina below. For a break from the hustle and bustle, head for the greenery and teashops at one of Antalya's beautiful parks or catch some sun at a nearby beach.

 *Argos Hotel or similar (B)*

Day 8: 16 May- Antalya/Kekova

Spend the afternoon onboard a boat in the Mediterranean Sea and enjoy a freshly prepared dinner before disembarking the boat and driving to our hotel for the evening.

Drive to the beautiful coastal village of Demre for lunch. After, board our boat for an afternoon on the Mediterranean Sea.

The boat trip includes sailing around Kekova Island, with plenty of time to enjoy the sunshine and scenery.

Later, walk to Simena Castle to enjoy the views and archaeological ruins. Then opt to go for a swim in the crystal clear waters or just relax on deck.

 *Kekova Hotel Kas or similar (B/D)*

Day 9: 17 May - Kekova/Kaş

Opt for a morning swim and some relaxation before travelling on to Kaş.

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Opt for a swim before returning to Demre, and continuing on to the coastal town of Kaş.

Free Time Kaş Afternoon. Spend some time exploring the cafés lining the cobblestoned streets of Kaş.

 *Kekova Hotel Kas or similar (B)*

Day 10: 18 May - Kaş/Selçuk

Guided walk of Pamukkale and the ancient city of Hierapolis en route to Selçuk.

Leave the beautiful sea behind and head to Pamukkale, passing through fruit orchards on the way.

Visit the famous white cliffs of Pamukkale and the ancient site of Hierapolis before continuing on to Selçuk.

 *Cenka Hotel Selcuk or similar (B)*

Day 11: 19 May - Selçuk

Visit ancient Ephesus. Optional visits to St John's Basilica and the Mosque of Isa Bey as well as the nearby picturesque village of Şirince.

Visit the ruins of the ancient Roman town of Ephesus.

After, head to town and enjoy some free time to explore. Opt to pre-book a traditional Selcuk cooking class, walk to the remains of St John's Basilica, visit the Mosque of Isa Bey or wander the streets of this vibrant Turkish town. Or catch a local "dolmus" bus to the picturesque village of Şirince (8 km) to sample some local wine or shop for crafts. For dedicated sunseekers, the beach at Pamucaki is also within reach.

 *Cenka Hotel Selcuk or similar (B)*



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Day 12: 20 May - Konya/Antalya

Spend the night in a converted Ottoman mansion. Visit the G-supported handicraft workshop during an orientation walk of Ayvalik, before enjoying free time in the surrounding area or opting for a boat trip or visit to the beach.

Ayvalik's blend of Ottoman architecture, cobblestoned streets, and attractive harbour make this stop a highlight. The beach of Sarimsakli is a quick bus ride away and the harbour in town offers short cruises.

After exploring, head down to one of the waterside restaurants for a sunset drink or meal. Then enjoy the hospitality and beautiful views from the family-run pension in a restored Ottoman mansion.

 *Bonjour Ayvalik or similar (B)*

Day 13: 21 May- Ayvalık/Çanakkale

Visit the ancient city of Troy en route to Çanakkale.

Enjoy a visit to the world-famous city of Troy. After exploring the site, continue to the harbour town of Çanakkale, a busy port with a thriving student population.

Troy Visit – Çanakkale 1h-2h1-2km

See historic Troy, made famous by Homer's "Iliad," (and more recently by Orlando Bloom and Brad Pitt). Tour the city that, for centuries, was regarded as just a myth, until its ruins were found in the mid-19th century. Imagine what a great city this must have been, while taking a tour of the remains. Don't miss the chance to have a photo taken with the Trojan horse.

 *Bogaz Hotel Canakkale or similar (B)*

Day 14: 22 May - Çanakkale/Istanbul

Guided tour of Gallipoli, including ANZAC Cove, the war cemeteries, and Lone Pine.

Make an early morning visit to Gallipoli, where thousands gave their lives during WWI in the battle of the same name. Take in the sights and learn the sombre story.

Continue on to İstanbul for the opportunity to finish up your sightseeing or get in some last minute shopping.

Farewell Dinner tonight

 *Golden Horn Sirkeci Istanbul or similar (B/D)*

Day 15: 23 May - Istanbul

Your tour finishes today after breakfast



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