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12 Fascinating Days **Istanbul to Izmir**

Türkiye - Cappadocia, Gallipoli & Ancient Troy

Explore the ancient wonders of Türkiye

A grand exploration of Türkiye 's most iconic cities and ancient archaeological treasures

Astonishing Istanbul, astride Europe and Asia. Discover the culinary traditions of Türkiye. In Cappadocia soar high in a hot air balloon, sleep in a rock cave hotel, immerse yourself in Albatross' special 'Gallipoli Experience' starting with a private cruise into Anzac Cove. Visit ancient Troy, Pergamon and Ephesus.
For guests wishing to add an extension and visit 4 iconic Greek Islands, please explore the 24-night tour here.

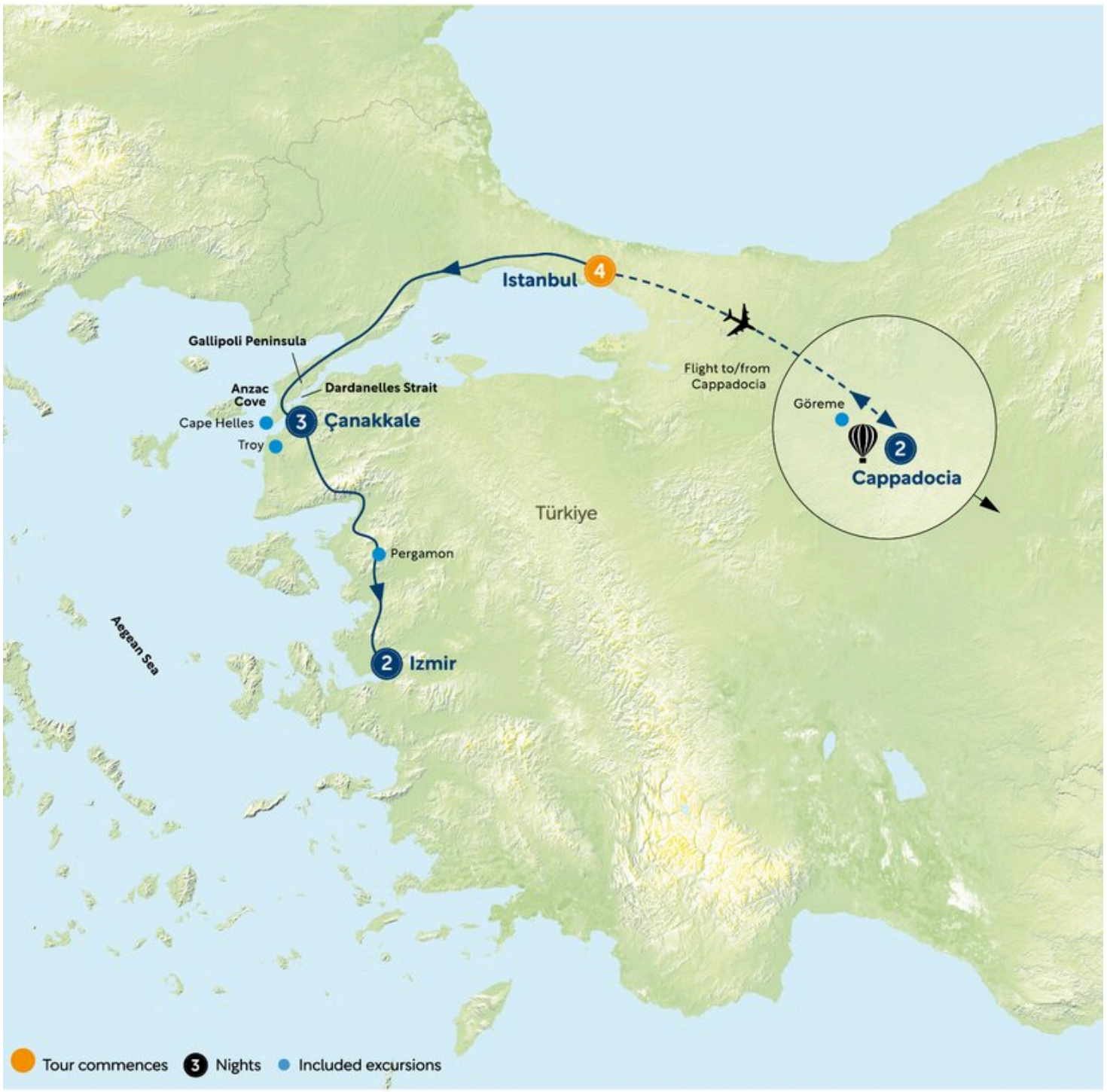
Travel in a first-class air-conditioned touring coach
Economy class flight Istanbul to Cappadocia, 23 kg checked luggage and 1 piece of hand luggage per person on each flight

A complimentary glass of wine, beer or soft drink with all included dinners
19 meals including breakfast daily (B), 2 lunches (L), and 6 evening meals (D)
Welcome drink on Day 1

Hotel porterage of 1 bag per person (where available)
11 nights specially selected hotel accommodation
Free WiFi at most hotels (where available)

Fully escorted by our experienced Turkish Guide in Türkiye
ALL tips for your Turkish Guide and Driver

Hand Selected Albatross Inclusions : Hot air balloon ride in Cappadocia, Bosphorus Cruise, our special 'Gallipoli Experience', visit Türkiye's ancient wonders of Ephesus and Pergamon
ALL excursions, scenic drives, sightseeing and entrances as described


Istanbul
4
Gallipoli Peninsula
Anzac Cove
Dardanelles Strait
Cape Helles
3
Çanakkale
Troy
Flight to/from Cappadocia
Göreme
2
Cappadocia
Türkiye
Pergamon
Aegean Sea
2
Izmir
Tour commences
3
Nights
Included excursions

Arrive in Istanbul

Day 1 | **Hotel Innova Sultanahmet, Istanbul** | **D**

Welcome to Istanbul – the only city on earth that embraces two continents – both Europe and Asia. You will be staying four nights here on the European side of Istanbul in the Sultanahmet area. We chose the location of this hotel because it is perfect for all our needs. Home to the wonderful Blue Mosque, St Sophia and Topkapi Palace, which of course we visit, and the fabulous Spice and Grand Bazaars. A perfect location!

Join us tonight for a welcome drink and dinner, where you will meet your Turkish Tour Guide. This is also the perfect time to meet, and get to know, your fellow travellers.

Full day Istanbul sightseeing

Day 2 | **Hotel Innova Sultanahmet, Istanbul** | **B,L**

We have included a full day of sightseeing today. We visit the massive mosque of Hagia Sophia or St Sophia (Ἁγία Σοφία , meaning the Holy Wisdom). Built in 537 as the Greek Orthodox cathedral, later becoming a Roman Catholic cathedral, then a Sunni Mosque, then a museum. It now functions as a mosque.

We have included Turkish Tea in the courtyard of the historic 16th century Caferaga Medresesi, a former Islamic school, and lunch in a local restaurant.

Your tour of Istanbul would not be complete without visits to the Blue Mosque, the Byzantine Hippodrome, known as the Sultanahmet Square and the nearby Yerebatan Cisterns. Built in the fourth century, these underground cisterns riddle the foundations of the city. They have been extensively excavated and renovated and the piped classical music heightens this unique experience.

Your evening is at leisure and there are numerous excellent restaurants close to your hotel.

Topkapi Palace, Bosphorus Cruise, Grand Bazaar and 'My Time'

Day 3 | **Hotel Innova Sultanahmet, Istanbul** | **B**

This morning, we visit Topkapi Palace, (formerly the Sultan's Palace) home to the treasures of the Ottoman Empire and one of the most important historical sites in Istanbul. We have also included a scenic boat tour along the Bosphorus Strait that links the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara and divides Istanbul into two continents. From here you will cruise around the famous Golden Horn and past the stunning architecture of the majestic Ottoman palaces like Dolmabahce Palace and Beylerbeyi Palace.

Your afternoon and evening are free. This is an ideal chance to walk to the nearby Grand Bazaar and Spice Market. The famous Grand Bazaar is an enormous maze of 65 winding, covered streets and arguably the most famous 'covered market' in the world.

Foodies walking tour, 'My Time' and dinner with 'the' view

Day 4 | **Hotel Innova Sultanahmet, Istanbul** | **B,D**

Istanbul must rank as one of the most fascinating and absorbing cities in the world. That is why we stay a 4th night here. Istanbul has been at the junction of trading routes linking Asia, Europe and Africa for thousands of years and their culture and cuisine has absorbed the best of each. Therefore we have included a half day 'foodies' walking tour. It will be a very leisurely start to the day before we meet and split up into smaller groups of 6 – 8 people, and each mini-group will be expertly led by a local guide on a personal walking tour. This will be all about discovering the culinary traditions of Türkiye in the historic neighbourhood & streets of the cosmopolitan Beyoğlu (Pera) district, which is home to a hive of traditional eateries, local food shops, patisseries & bakeries. Time to watch and learn and of course, enjoy the opportunity to sample some of the unique and traditional foods & desserts!
Your afternoon is completely free – 'My Time' to explore this magical city of Istanbul.
This evening, we will walk to a nearby rooftop restaurant for dinner, and the 270 degree views from here are exceptional. To the left you will see the Asian side of the city, connected by massive bridges across the Bosphorus, to Topkapi Palace, the Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque and to the right, the Sea of Marmara. This is undeniably the best view over the city and as dusk creeps in, the mosques and grand sights all change colour and twinkle as they absorb the soft evening sunlight and the massive nighttime illuminations. Spectacular!

Cappadocia and your Cave Hotel

Day 5 | **Dere Suites Cappadocia Hotel** | **B,D**

Saving several days driving we catch a flight to Cappadocia. Cappadocia is located south of Mount Erciyes, and is a region known for its curious volcanic landscape that has been relentlessly carved by nature and by the people who have lived here. 'Fairy chimneys,' cones and strange rock formations have been eroded and sculpted by wind and rain. Over many centuries people, seeking shelter from the conquerors and marauding armies of the Central Anatolian Plateau, settled here and burrowed whole subterranean towns. Cappadocia is a remarkable place!
Our first stop will be a visit to the 'Pottery Village' of Avanos, a town that was first settled in the Bronze Age. Later we visit the Göreme Open Air Museum.

Incredible Hot Air Balloon ride and underground cities

Day 6 | **Dere Suites Cappadocia Hotel** | **B**

Weather depending, we will have an early departure to enjoy a mesmerizing experience – a hot air balloon ride, gliding across the ancient, moon-like, pinnacle landscape, in the still morning air. Incredible!
Later we will enjoy a full day touring the unique Göreme Valley (one of the oldest settlements of the region) with the rock chapels, carved by early Christians. We see Uchisar Castle, one of Cappadocia's most prominent landmarks, which is essentially a volcanic rock outcrop and riddled with interconnecting tunnels. We continue on to visit the 'underground city' of Kaymakli. It is thought that the Hittites may have excavated the first few levels in the rock when they came under attack from the Phrygians around 1200 BC. These chambers were later expanded into an extensive troglodytic complex by Christians escaping the Arab invasions of the 7th and 8th centuries.
Your evening is at leisure.

To Çanakkale

Day 7 | **Büyük Truva Hotel, Çanakkale** | **B,D**

After flying back to Istanbul, we drive south and after crossing the Straits of the Dardanelles we arrive in Çanakkale, where we stay for the next three nights.

ANZAC cruise and our 'Gallipoli Campaign'

Day 8 | **Büyük Truva Hotel, Çanakkale** | **B,L**

Today promises to be a very rewarding day. An early start as we cross the Dardanelles, and spend the full day on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Our first activity is rather special as we board a boat and cruise out to sea and approach Ari Burnu - now called ANZAC Cove - from the water, much as the diggers did at dawn over 100 years ago. Setting the scene for a fascinating day, we then explore the key sites on this famous peninsula. As you enter this almost barren land, you can still sense the war and heartache that once dominated the landscape. We will spend time at The Anzac Commemorative site, Anzac Cove, Shrapnel Valley, and Beach Cemetery - home to one of Australia's most legendary soldiers, Private John Simpson.

We have included lunch, and entrance to the Kabatepe Museum.

We take in the spectacular Turkish 'Çanakkale Martyrs' Memorial, dramatically overlooking Morto Bay with a view across the mouth of the Straits of the Dardanelles. Afterwards we also stop at Cape Helles on the remote tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. Here, at the most south-westerly corner of Europe, is the British Commonwealth's main monument to the whole Gallipoli campaign – the Helles Memorial. All Australian & New Zealand units which fought on the peninsula between April and December 1915 are commemorated here.

Later you will visit the Anzac Memorials at Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair, Walker's Ridge, the Nek, and the surrounding trenches. In respect, we have also arranged wreaths for us to lay at the Australian, New Zealand and Turkish memorials.

Ancient Troy & 'My Time' in Çanakkale

Day 9 | **Büyük Truva Hotel, Çanakkale** | **B**

This morning, we have included an excursion to the ancient city of Troy, site of the mythological battle Homer immortalized in The Iliad, which dates back to 3,000 BC. On the drive back to Çanakkale we stop at the heights of Kephez Point where there is a splendid view of the Dardanelles to Çanakkale and beyond.

Your afternoon and evening are at leisure in Çanakkale. Perhaps stroll through the town to visit Çimenlik Castle - built to protect the Narrows of the Dardanelles by the Ottoman Sultan in 1462, and now home to a Turkish War Museum (entrance fee not included).

Acropolis of Pergamon

Day 10 | **Hotel Ontur Izmir** | **B,D**

Travelling south down the beautiful mountainous coastline of Türkiye our first stop will be at the ancient Acropolis of Pergamon, famous for its wealth of archaeological ruins where, from the Temple of Trajan, you will take in the stunning views of the surrounding countryside.

Later we continue to Izmir where we stay the next two nights.

The wonder of Ephesus and Şirince

Day 11 | **Hotel Ontur Izmir** | **B,D**

The highlight of today will be a visit to one of the ancient wonders of the world, the inspiring ruins of Ephesus. Rated one of the world's best archaeological sites, you will walk along the 2,000-year-old marble streets, visit the Temple of Hadrian and the famous Library of Celsus. Your tour is made complete with a visit to the nearby House of the Virgin Mary nestled high in the hills overlooking the city of Ephesus.

Afterwards, we drive deep into the hills, richly covered with olive trees and vineyards, and wind our way up to the heritage wine village of Şirince, to enjoy lunchtime wandering through the stone streets, and discover a shady restaurant for lunch.

This evening enjoy a Farewell dinner in your hotel.

Izmir

Day 12 | Hotel Ontur Izmir | B

Your tour ends after breakfast in your hotel in Izmir.

Hand Selected Inclusions

These are just a few of the very special hand selected inclusions that will really make your touring experience exceptional and unique, and don't forget, with Albatross they are always included.



Istanbul 'Foodies' Walking Tour
A Sensory Journey Through Historic Quarters



Bosphorus Cruise
Scenic Boat Cruise



Cave Hotel
A Night Carved into the Heart of Anatolia



Soar in a Hot Air Balloon ride
in Cappadocia



Gallipoli
A Special Gallipoli Immersion



ANZAC Cove Boat Cruise
Sailing the Waters of Gallipoli



Türkiye's wonders
Ephesus and Pergamon

Dates and Prices

Correct as of 00:50 on 27th November 2026

Start Date	End Date	Twin Price	Solo Price	Guaranteed to Depart	
04 May 2027	15 May 2027	AUD$10,987	AUD$13,387	✓	Space Available
07 Sep 2027	18 Sep 2027	AUD$10,987	AUD$13,387	✓	Space Available
02 May 2028	13 May 2028	TBC	TBC		Pre-Register

05 Sep 2028	16 Sep 2028	TBC	TBC	Pre-Register

* The itinerary, inclusions and hotels featured are based on 2027 tour departures and may be subject to change. Any questions, please contact our European Tour Specialists for further details.

Tour Suitability

- In mid-summer, the heat may be energy sapping.
- There are a number of beautiful towns and historic sites we visit which require exploring on foot.
- There are no lifts, and there are uneven stairs in the 'Cave' hotel
- In this itinerary there will be the use of smaller chartered boats which have gangplanks
- Some internal domestic flights are included in this itinerary, please note that luggage is therefore limited to one suitcase per person with a maximum weight of 23 kg

Please refer to our Tour Suitability section for more information.

Terms & Conditions

- Information provided is true and correct at time of issue. Airfares not included. For further details please contact your consultant or full terms and conditions may be found at www.albatrosstours.com.au/booking-conditions. Albatross Tours ABN 45 010 585 143. ATIA Accreditation No: A11341. CATO Accreditation No. 69562707