



Travel Talk tours will take you on a pilgrimage of culture, history, adventure, fun and relaxation. You will visit historic sites, explore the treasures of Turkey, venture into the surreal region of central Cappadocia and experience sun-kissed days on pristine beaches... Before you leave for your adventure, it is important that you read this pre-departure information to ensure that your trip begins and continues to run as smoothly as possible. While we appreciate that you are embarking on an "adventure holiday" that will produce its own share of surprises, it is also true that forewarned is forearmed. This information is not written with the intention of being anything other than general information that we hope will help you become more prepared for your holiday. The philosophy of Travel Talk is simple: to provide excellent value for money for budget-conscious and adventurous travellers without compromising their experiences. We do this by providing quality transportation, accommodation, sightseeing and information services. We hope that our philosophy will exceed your expectations and the following information will help to ensure you have a memorable time in Turkey.

### VISAS

From the 10th of April 2014, citizens of countries requiring visas must arrange a visa on-line, prior to arrival in Turkey. For the on-line visa applications & costs, please visit the following link: [www.evisa.gov.tr](http://www.evisa.gov.tr)  
No visa fee currently applies for New Zealand passport holders.  
Applications are very straightforward & only take a few minutes.

### ATTENDANCE PASS

We wish you to remind that all passengers attending an Anzac Day tour must register at the following link to attend the Anzac Day service by the 25th of March 2019. Applications made online are advised as opposed to on-site on the day of the commemoration, as no passes will be issued once site capacity has been reached. This also helps to streamline the arrival of visitors. To confirm your identity, you will need to provide your current passport number and will be required to give this information as soon as you complete your application. Your name and passport will be printed on your attendance pass and will be checked as identification when you enter the commemorative site. Please note, it is your responsibility to ensure these details are correct.  
<https://overseascommemorations.ticketek.com.au>

### ESSENTIALS

Before you leave your country, we recommend you to make sure you have the following with you ;

- ➔ Attendance pass and Passport
- ➔ Airline or transportation ticket
- ➔ Tour voucher
- ➔ Insurance policy
- ➔ Visas (if necessary)
- ➔ Pre-departure information
- ➔ Label on your travel bag
- ➔ Money (cash and/or travellers cheques)
- ➔ Credit card

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is recommended to all passengers travelling on Travel Talk tours to have insurance cover to assist with any unforeseen costs, especially medical expenses. It is advised to take a copy of your policy with you. While there are no mandatory vaccinations for travellers to Turkey it is advisable to ensure your vaccines are up to date. Some travellers feel more confident with hepatitis and meningitis inoculations. Rabies exists only in the rural areas of Turkey and it is very unlikely that you will come in contact with a rabid animal.

Rabies exists only in the rural areas of Turkey and it is very unlikely that you will come in contact with a rabid animal. Immunisation is available in a series of three injections over a period of one month (lasts 3 to 5 years) or a single visit booster dose (lasts only 6 to 12 months). Please consult a medical practitioner for advice. Each year, thousands of visitors return home from Turkey with nothing but happy memories. Turkey is a safe country compared to some parts of the world. Street crime is not a current problem but you should always make sure to take the normal travel precautions. It is not wise to accept gifts, food or drink from strangers. Take care with your passport, credit cards and money - a money belt to fit beneath your clothes is highly recommended. It is also recommended that you pack at least one set of modest clothing. It is a sign of respect to cover your shoulders and legs when visiting mosques and also detracts from unwanted attention. For females, a headscarf is necessary when visiting mosques.

### WHAT TO WEAR...

In **spring** (April-May) and **Autumn** (October-November) it will be comfortable during the day but may be cool or even chilly at night and you may encounter rain. It is advised to bring a warm jacket or sweater and a windbreaker. In the Central Anatolian region, be prepared for near-winter conditions. It will be warm in the Southeast region, so pack for mild summer conditions.

### MONEY

We recommend you carry a mixture of cash and a debit/credit card. The Turkish Lira is fully convertible and can be obtained before departure or upon arrival. ATM facilities, banks and Exchange booths are available in all major cities and towns. Avoid changing the bulk of your money at the airport as the exchange rates are usually more favourable in the city.  
GBP £1=7,4 TL USD \$1= 5,6 TL EUR €1=6,3 TL

### WEATHER

Istanbul has wet, cold and often snowy winters and has the highest rainfall from November to February. Spring in Istanbul is damp with mild temperatures and it is relatively dry in the summer. The city also tends to be windy. The southern, coastal regions of Turkey are warm and pleasant during the summer. In winter the temperatures rarely fall below 7°C making the Turquoise coast an ideal destination even in early spring and late autumn.

The central Anatolian plateau (because of the altitude) can make Cappadocia cool in the evenings, even in the summer, but it remains hot during the day - often in the mid thirties. Spring and autumn can be very crisp and suitable clothing is advised.

Month	Istanbul		Selcuk		Gallipoli		Cappadocia	
	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
Jan	5	41	9	48	9	49	0	32
Feb	6	43	10	50	10	50	1	34
March	7	45	11	52	12	54	5	41
April	12	54	16	61	17	63	11	52
May	16	61	20	68	22	72	26	61
June	21	70	25	77	27	81	20	68
July	23	73	28	82	30	86	23	73
Aug	23	73	27	81	29	85	23	73
Sept	20	68	23	73	26	79	18	64
Oct	16	61	18	64	20	68	13	55
Nov	12	54	15	59	15	60	8	46
Dec	8	46	10	50	11	53	2	36



### EATING & DRINKING

Turkey is a food connoisseur's paradise! Don't let the clichés fool you; there is more to Turkish cuisine than just doner and shish kebabs (which many unadventurous travellers solely consumes during their stay). Start your day with a delicious "Turkish Breakfast" of Turkish breads, pastries, cheese, olives, tomatoes, cucumber, boiled eggs and of course, Turkish tea. There are two types of restaurants in Turkey: restaurants which have an a-la-carte menu and "ready meal" restaurants which have a range of preprepared dishes in warming trays for you to choose from. The beauty of this is that you can sample a wide range of dishes for a relatively cheap price. In more upmarket restaurants you can order "meze" (appetizers) and sample a bewildering array of dishes ranging from stuffed vegetables and tightly rolled cheese pastries to pickled vegetables usually accompanied with an array of purees and vinaigrettes - vegetarians are especially catered for in mezes.

Main dishes are generally on display, so you can select the piece of meat or fish that you want prepared for you (fish is usually charged by weight). Shish and doner kebabs are served everywhere, but perhaps a better alternative are the Adana kebabs - spicy minced meat with a sprinkling of purple sumac herb. Don't forget to save room for dessert! Some traditional sweets to try include "baklava" (a sweet, flaky pastry usually with pistachio), "kadayif" (shredded pastry dough filled with nuts and drenched in syrup), "tavukgogusu" (a creamy and signature dish made with chicken and milk), and "helva" (sesame paste). Tourists are often surprised to find out that tea (cay) is the national drink of Turkey rather than coffee. It is served in a small fluted glass with a very small spoon and saucer and cubes of sugar (although it is normally sweet enough).

There are various flavours of tea to try from the traditional to apple and lemon. Of course there is also Turkish coffee, which is generally very strong and thicker than what you would get at Starbucks, but worth a try. And in answer to a popular question - yes, you will find a wide variety of alcoholic drinks here too. Beer (bira) is very popular, local brands include Efes, Pilsen and Tuborg and go down well after a long day of sight seeing in the sun.

"Raki", is the national aperitif served with ice and water which turns the clear spirit into a cloudy liquid. This is how it should be drunk, not in shot-form like many tourists... try either way, but you will see which leaves you feeling better in the morning! It also goes very well accompanying meze. Domestically produced gin, vodka and brandy are also available in most of the bars, pubs and restaurants.

### SHOPPING

Shopping in Turkey is one of the great experiences of visiting this fantastic country; the colours, textures, sights and sounds will have you spell-bound. It is a beautiful chaos so don't let the seeming madness fool you. The markets are generally laid out in an organized manner with each of the vendors displaying their particular wares; whether it be spices, clothing garments or jewellery. You will find similar stands throughout the stalls so be sure to peruse at your leisure. There are plenty of bargains to be found and while haggling can be a stressful experience for some, for most it is all part of the fun. Often you will be invited into the shop for tea or coffee while you and the shopkeeper chat and negotiate.

### OPENING HOURS

There are no hard and fast rules for opening hours in Turkey, but banks and main post offices are generally open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 12.00 midday and 1.30pm to 5.30pm. Shops are usually open from around 9.00am to 6.00pm, later in bazaars and shopping malls. They are usually closed on Sunday.

### ELECTRICITY

All appliances require a double round pin type plug for 220 volts AC, 50- hertz.

### TIPPING

Tips are a common reward for service staff in Turkey. Your tour guide and crew will be especially appreciative and honoured with this kind of traditional gratitude at the end of your tour.

### DISTANCES

The following information will give you a better idea of the times travelled to help you plan your day:

- ➔ Istanbul-Gallipoli: 295 kms 5 hours
- ➔ Ayvalik-Gallipoli: 230 kms 4 hours.
- ➔ Pamukkale-Selcuk: 193 kms 3.5 hours
- ➔ Cappadocia-P.kale: 630 kms 11 hours
- ➔ Istanbul-Cappadocia : 750 kms 12 hours
- ➔ Selcuk-Gallipoli : 430 kms 6 hours
- ➔ Istanbul-Pamukkale- : 664 kms 9 hours.

### IMPORTANT ANZAC DAY TIPS

Please find below some important tips and suggestions to experience your Anzac Day as smooth as possible:

**Please bear in mind that all Anzac tours (not only Travel Talk tours) spend the night in the Anzac Cove to reserve the best space for the Dawn Service. Therefore a sleeping bag is necessary during your overnight stay at the Anzac Cove. Be prepared for a cold evening & night and bring all the necessary items that will keep you warm.**

The ceremony area: You'll spend the evening & night at an open-air field to attend the Dawn Service. There will be public toilets with basic standards. Please prepare yourself for the worst: a rainy and cold evening! **Please also remember that It is not allowed to bring alcoholic drinks to the bus and the Dawn Service area.**

Anzac Day: After the Dawn Service, we'll attend the Australian and New Zealander services which will be held at different memorials. Your tour leader will make the necessary arrangements to assist you to be at the right ceremony area on the right time. Please remember that thousands of travellers will be attending the ceremonies and be ready for any inconvenience that may occur due to the unexpected circumstances.





### AIRPORT TRANSFER

Your arrival airport transfer is included if;

- You fly into the city in which your tour starts
- You arrive on the first day of your tour
- You forward your flight details to us, at least 30 days in advance, including:

- Date of flight
- Flight number
- Arrival time
- Name of traveller/s to be picked up

If you do not want an airport transfer to the hotel, please let us know by either phoning the office (208 099 95 96) or sending us an email (info@traveltalktours.com). Please note that check-in time is 13:00.

### SELF TRANSPORTATION

The Istanbul Airport (ISL) is located 45 km North West of Old Town. Before you exit the terminal you will need to go down below Level 2 for the Havaist shuttle which will take you to Sultanahmet (Old town) for 18TL and the drive takes approx. 80 minutes. The payment method for the shuttle is IstanbulKart that you can easily get from the machines at airport (works for all public transportation in Istanbul & can be refilled). From Sultanahmet, you will need to take the tram to Eminönü. The arrival hotel is only a couple of minutes walk from Eminönü tram station. The total cost is approximately 25TL. You can also take a taxi from the airport directly to the hotel and can expect to pay around 150 TL.

The journey from Sabiha Gokcen Airport (SAW) to Istanbul is straightforward and inexpensive. After you leave the terminal you will see Havabus shuttle which will take you to Taksim for 18TL (cash accepted) and the drive takes approx. 90 minutes. From Taksim, you will need to take the funicular to Kabatas, then catch the tram to Eminönü. The total cost is approximately 28TL. If you prefer to take a taxi straight to the hotel, it will cost around 160TL.

### ACCOMMODATION

Travel Talk Turkey tours use 4 ,5 and 3 star hotels. The main criteria used for hotel selection is: cleanliness, private bathroom facilities and location (generally central). If you are travelling on your own, you will be allocated into a twin or triple room with other group member/s of the same gender.

Unfortunately we can not guarantee the availability of double beds, but will try our best. Your tour leader will allocate rooms upon arrival at the hotel in accordance with the rooming lists, therefore, any last minute changes can not be guaranteed.

### PRE&POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION

Should you require pre or post tour accommodation, please notify us (or your agent) at the time of booking and we can make the arrangements for you. This information will be clearly stated on your voucher.

### TOUR LEADER

Your tour leader's role is to ensure that all aspects of the trip run smoothly. He/she will share their local knowledge, advise you on ways to spend your free time and coordinate the day-to-day running of the tour. From time to time situations can occur and things may not go according to plan, and your leader may require your cooperation and understanding. If you have any problems on tour, please let your leader know so that the correct steps can be taken.

### ENTRANCE FEES

- ➔ Topkapi Palace 72 TL
- ➔ Hagia Sophia Free
- ➔ Blue Mosque Free, Hippodrome Free
- ➔ Troy 50 TL
- ➔ Pergamum (Asklepion) 45TL
- ➔ Pamukkale Hierapolis 80 TL
- ➔ Ephesus 100 TL
- ➔ Goreme Open Air Museum 75TL
- ➔ Underground City 50 TL

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ➔ Hot-air ballooning 190 Euro ( Cappadocia)
- ➔ Turkish Bath 130 TL ( Cappadocia)

### MISSED YOUR WELCOME MEETING ?

Being avid travellers ourselves, we know that unforeseen circumstances arise. If you are late and miss the welcome meeting, don't stress, just check the information board in the hotel lobby for the next day's programme. Should you be a day late, contact your leader for arrangements to meet up.

### LANGUAGE

The official language of Turkey is Turkish. Below you can find some important phrases that will make your stay in Turkey a little easier:

Yes	Evet
No	Hayir
Maybe	Belki
Please	Lutfen
Thank you	Teshekkür
Pardon me	Pardon
Who ?	Kim ?
When ?	Ne zaman ?
Today	Bugun
Yesterday	Dun
Tomorrow	Yarin
I'm sorry	Ozur dilerim
Help	Imdat
Police	Polis
Hello	Merhaba
Goodbye	Hoshchakal
Good night	Iyi gejeler
How are you ?	Nasilsin ?
Bill, please	Hesap, lutfen
Open	Acik
Closed	Kapali
Bad	Kotu
Good	Iyi
Hot	Sicak
Cold	Soguk
How much?	Ne kadar ?
Too much !	Pahali
Water	Su
Coffee	Kahve
Tea	Chai
OK	Tamam