



EasternTurkey**Tours**  
**Ancient Cappadocia**



Exceed your expectations **Email: [info@easternturkeytour.org](mailto:info@easternturkeytour.org)**



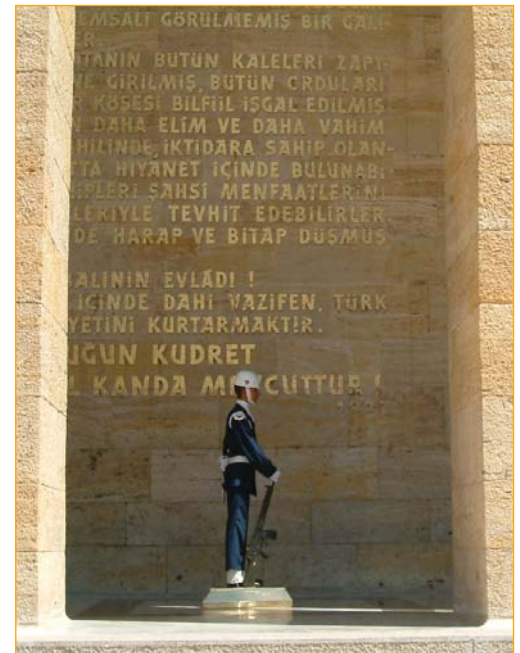


The main building of Anit Kabir

## Day 1

Arrive in Ankara. Afternoon tour of Anit Kabir, the Mausoleum of Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. The Mausoleum is a wonderful place to start a tour that covers the ancient region of Cappadocia. The tomb, completed in 1954, was designed to express the architectural styles of the ancient civilisations of Anatolia while at the same time to represent the modern aspirations of the new Republic that was the essence of Ataturk's philosophy.

Overnight in Ankara.



Standing Guard







Looking in through the main defensive walls at the King's Gate

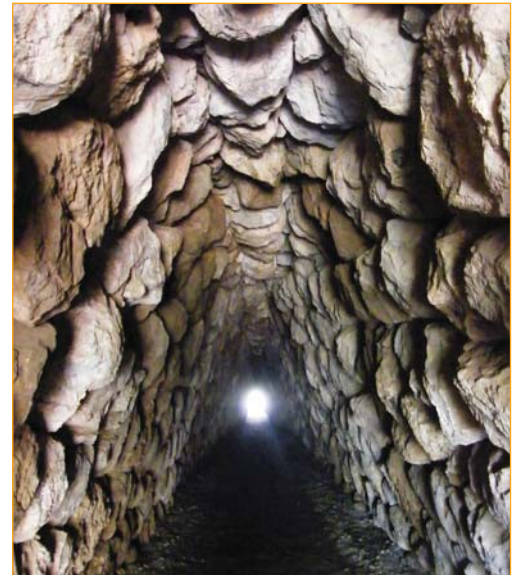
## Day 2

In the morning we will visit the Citadel, overlooking the city of Ankara, and the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations. Housed in a fifteenth century Han and adjoining bath, the museum is one of the great museums of the world. As so many of the world's seminal civilisations are rooted in Anatolia and the Fertile Crescent this museum is a store of our cultural heritage that will enthrall even the most jaded visitor.

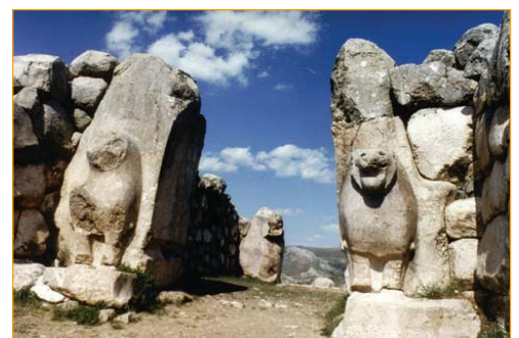
In the afternoon we depart for Bogazkale and the ancient Hittite capital of Hattusas.

## Day 3

We visit the site of Hattusas and the open air sanctuary of Yazilikaya, an important Hittite religious and ceremonial site. Both of these locations are UNESCO World Heritage sites. The Hittite Empire once stretched from Syria to Europe and incorporated most of Anatolia; they conquered Babylon and competed with Egypt for regional supremacy. The first recorded peace treaty, the Treaty of Kadesh, between the Hittite Empire and the Egypt of the great Pharaoh Ramses II, was discovered in the Royal Archives at the Great Fortress of Hattusas in 1906.



Looking Down the 100m tunnel under the main ramparts



The 'Lions Gate'





A line of the Gods of the Underworld in procession at Yazilikaya

### Day 3 continued

From Hattusas we travel the short distance to Yazilikaya to visit the rock carvings of this religious and ceremonial sanctuary. There are a number of rock carvings in two narrow natural passages in the rock that were used for ritual purposes; the Hittites were a religious people who had a pantheon of over 1000 Gods.

Depart for the Cappadocia region in time to arrive and see the Rose Valley in the light of the setting sun.

Overnight in Cappadocia.



The 'Green Stone' Lower Temple Complex







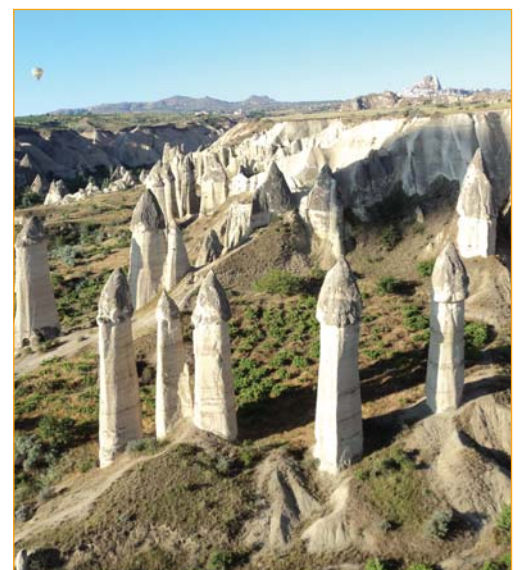
Views of Mt Erciyes

## Day 4

Early morning start for your complimentary Balloon flight over the Fairy Chimneys of Goreme! Cappadocia is probably one of the finest Ballooning venues in the world- with perfect conditions for most of the year your flight will be smooth, effortless and an experience that you will never forget.

After your flight you will have a celebratory glass of champagne before returning to your hotel for a traditional Turkish breakfast. After breakfast you will be able to visit Goreme open air museum with its rock carved monasteries and churches; this is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the afternoon you will have time for leisure and shopping in the charming town of Urgup and later in the afternoon there will be an optional trip a short distance to visit the rock cut fortress of Uchisar which you will have already seen from your balloon.

Overnight in Cappadocia



Viewed from the Balloon at the end of the flight- the Fairy Chimney and Uchisar in the distance



Ihlara Valley

## Day 5

Day tour to visit the underground city of Derinkuyu (meaning Deep Well) and the Ihlara Valley for some light walking along the delightful Melendiz River. The river has, over time cut a deep gorge which is like a different world from the one above- peppered with hundreds of churches, many with well preserved frescos and decorations, cut into 150 metre deep canyon walls, this walk is a wonderful and relaxing change of pace.

After lunch at a riverside restaurant we will continue to visit the rock carved Selime Monastery. The Selime Monastery is an extraordinary complex carved out of the living rock overlooking a wide valley. It incorporates kitchens, stables, various living quarters, a theological school, chapels, a church and a cathedral.

Overnight in Cappadocia



View from Selime Monastery



The Cathedral at Selime, carved from the rock





The tomb of Izzetin

## Day 6

Depart for Sivas after breakfast. Sivas is the geographical heart of Turkey and in many ways it is also the political heart of republican Turkey. For a time, the capital of the Turkish Seljuk state and the centre of the Ottoman province of Rum, it was in Sivas that Ataturk said: "Here was laid the foundation of our republic." This is a graceful, modern city with a historical centre and an ancient pedigree. Originally founded by the Hittites in around 1500BC Sivas carries the mark of many civilisations seemingly all represented in the city centre with its elegant republican Congress buildings, 13th century medeses and tomb of the Sultan Izzetin Keykavus I and 16th century mosque,.

Overnight in Sivas







## Day 7

We depart Sivas after breakfast pausing briefly to look at the world famous crooked bridge of Sivas; built in the 13th century and angled to face up stream over the Kizilirmak River in order to better withstand the forces of the spring currents.

From Sivas we travel south towards Kangal and the unique Balikli Kaplica and the famous "Doctor Fish." These thermal springs near Kangal have become famous world wide as the provider of a unique treatment for psoriasis....carried out by fish! This unusual fish nibbles away dead and diseased skin allowing the selenium rich thermal water to treat the underlying condition. Courses of treatment last three weeks. However, for our purposes, we will spend the afternoon having lunch and dangling our feet in the stream to get a wonderful and invigorating fish pedicure- an experience that you will dine out on for many years to come. Alternatively, you can immerse yourself in one of the several thermal pools.

From Kangal we continue, refreshed and invigorated, to the canyon town of Darende After time to settle into your hotel we will visit the Kanyon Balik Sofrasi for fresh river trout baked in a tandir oven- with out doubt this will be the best trout you will ever taste!

Overnight in Darende.



Such a relief....or do they tickle?



Relax in the stream or lounge in the therapy pool







The Tohma river canyon

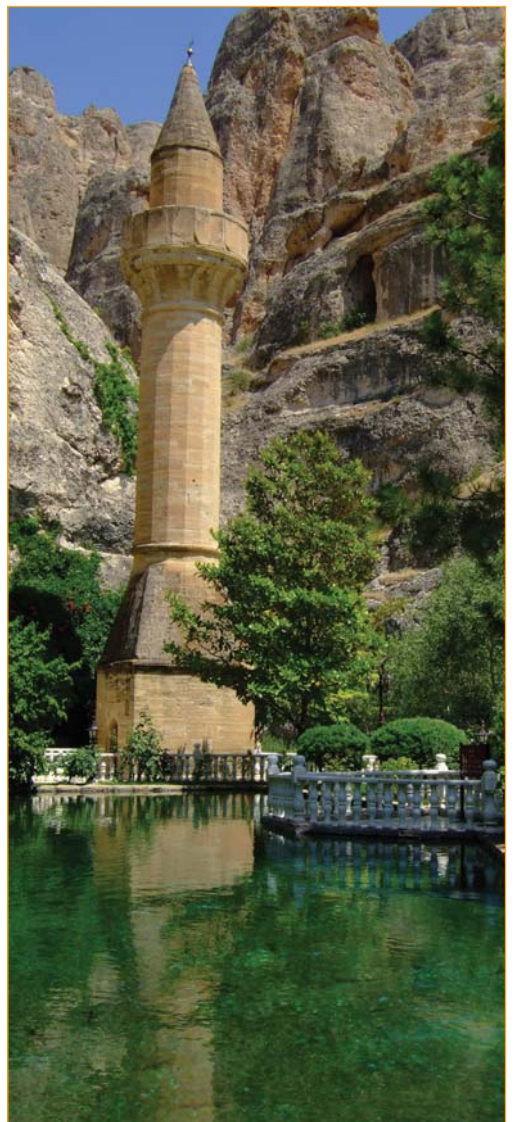
## Day 8

We will be spending the entire day in and around Darende. This town is one of the hidden gems of Turkey and is rarely visited by foreign tourists. It has, apart from a number of significant cultural monuments, a stunning canyon carved out by the river Tohma. You will have the opportunity to enjoy the morning rafting down the canyon or simply strolling along the canyon along purpose built walkways.

In the afternoon we will visit the shrine of Somuncu Baba, a beautiful and simple mosque set on the edge of the Tohma canyon. Much frequented by Turkish travellers this lovely shrine is not on the tourist trail- it is our secret.

In the evening we will return to the Teryandafil hotel to relax and enjoy the facilities which include a swimming pool, gym, sauna and excellent restaurant serving local specialities.

Overnight in Darende



Somuncu Baba mosque with its pool of sacred trout



The elegant and beautiful ceiling of Somuncu Baba mosque





Sunset at Mt Nemrut, Adiyaman

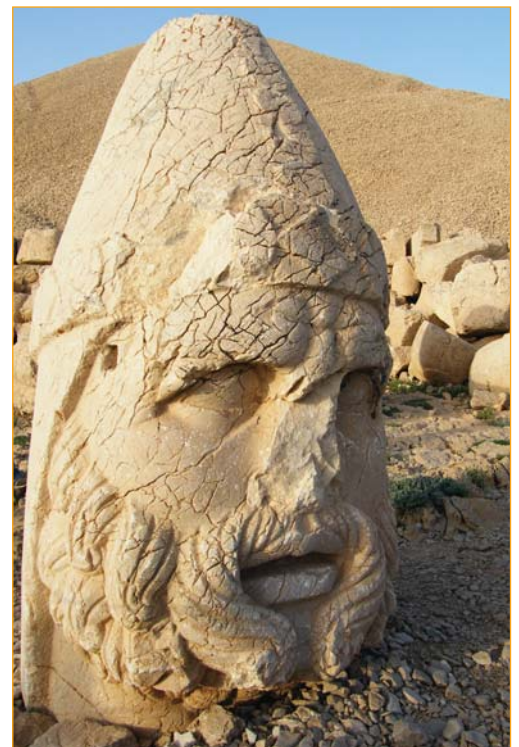
## Day 9

After a leisurely breakfast we will make a late morning departure through Malatya province passing mile upon mile of apricot orchards for Adiyaman to visit the 2000 year old funerary monument at the peak of Mt Nemrut. Forgotten and lost to memory for nearly 2000 years this iconic monument was only rediscovered accidentally by a surveyor working for the Ottoman government in the early 1880s. At the peak of the mountain, 2150 metres, there is a tumulus of crushed stones beneath which, it is believed, lie the remains of the monument's builder Antiochus I Epiphanes. To the east and west, facing the rising and setting sun, are platforms upon which are to be found the giant statues representing Gods, heroes and the king himself. If any monument deserves the description "enigmatic" this is surely the one. We will be at the summit to see the setting of the sun over these enigmatic stones.

Overnight at Khata near Mt Nemrut in Adiyaman.



The figures on the east terrace







Sacred pools of Abraham

## Day 10

After breakfast we leave for Sanliurfa via the Ataturk Dam. In Sanliurfa, or Urfa, we will visit the Pools of Abraham with their sacred fish ponds and the place, where tradition tells us, the patriarch Abraham was born. With its graceful mosques and medrese complex, sacred pools and gardens this is lovely place to relax and enjoy the world going by

In the late afternoon we will travel a few miles outside Urfa to visit the ongoing archaeological dig at Gobekli Tepe. Gobekli Tepe overlooking as it does, the plains of Syria and the lands between the Tigris and Euphrates, is an extraordinary site that we visit each year to follow the progress of the dig. It represents the earliest religious structure built by man yet to be discovered. At about 11,000 years BC it predates not only the Pyramids of Egypt and Stonehenge but both writing and pottery.



The mosque complex around the cave where Abraham was born





The dig at Gobekli Tepe

## Day 10 continued

Much remains to be discovered but with each year more and more of these tightly packed, circular temple structures with their carved and decorated standing stones are unearthed in layer after layer over time that eventually built up the hill of Gobekli Tepe which, in Turkish, means the Hill of the Navel or Belly Button Hill. Gobekli Tepe sits at the northern end of the Fertile Crescent. After several thousand years the site was buried and abandoned thus contributing the mystery and sense of wonder that permeates this ancient site. Since the site was not one of habitation and as it predates writing archaeologists are very much working in uncharted territory. All we can say is that the extraordinary skill and artistry of the carvings on these standing stones still speak to us from past ages and fills anyone who visits with a sense of wonder.



One of the many stones of Gobekli Tepe depicting wildfowl and a wild boar.

## Day 11

Depart for home

# Farewell from Ancient Cappadocia

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# EasternTurkeyTours

## Ancient Cappadocia

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