



Cappadocia

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Best Places to Eat

- » Köy Evi (p456)
- » Ziggy's (p473)
- » Seten Restaurant (p456)
- » Topdeck Cave Restaurant (p456)

Best Places to Stay

- » Esbelli Evi (p471)
- » Hezen Cave Hotel (p468)
- » Kelebek Hotel & Cave Pension (p453)
- » Koza Cave Hotel (p453)
- » Serinn House (p472)

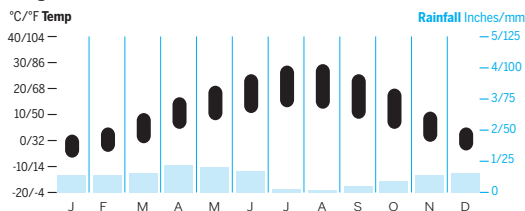
Why Go?

As if plucked from a whimsical fairytale and set down upon the stark Anatolian plains, Cappadocia is a geological oddity of honeycombed hills and towering phallic boulders of otherworldly beauty. Fashioned through lashings of volcanic ash, moulded by millennia of rain and river flow, this fantastical topography is equally matched by the human history here. People have long utilised the region's soft stone, seeking shelter underground, leaving the countryside scattered with the fresco-adorned rock-cut churches of early Christians, cavernous subterranean refuges, and villages half-burrowed into the earth itself.

Cappadocia woos both outdoor enthusiasts who revel in the lunarscape and the cultured set – more likely to enjoy the panoramas from the balcony of their boutique cave-hotel with fine local wine in hand. Whatever your tastes, this region's accordion-ridged valleys, shaded in a palette of dusky orange and cream, are an epiphany of a landscape – the stuff of psychedelic daydreams.

When to Go

Kayseri



Apr & May Wild flowers shock the valley moonscapes into a photogenic riot of colour.

Jul–Sep Listen to classical music concerts in natural outdoor rock venues.

Dec–Mar Disperse the snow bunnies atop Erciyes Dağı (Mt Erciyes), a rugged Turk ski spot.



Cappadocia Highlights

- 1 Delve downwards into the Byzantine tunnels of underground cities, such as **Kaymaklı** (p478)
- 2 Examine the fresco-covered finery of churches in the **Göreme Open-Air Museum** (p448)
- 3 Tackle nature in the waterfalls and trails of **Ala Dağlar National Park** (p481)
- 4 Seek out hidden churches, amid cliffs and fairy chimneys in **Göreme's** labyrinthine valleys (p449)
- 5 Clamber atop **Uçhisar Castle** (p458) to gaze over a surreal panorama of rock
- 6 Munch on multiple mezes in chic **Ürgüp** (p469)
- 7 Stroll between verdant fields and soaring cliffs, seeking rock-cut churches, in **Ihlara Valley** (p482)
- 8 Trek through a secluded monastic settlement in **Soğanlı** (p479)