



Cappadocia

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Cappadocia Home Cooking (p496)
- ➔ Ziggy's (p492)
- ➔ Seten Restaurant (p473)
- ➔ Topdeck Cave Restaurant (p473)
- ➔ Alamet-i Farika (p507)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hezen Cave Hotel (p488)
- ➔ Koza Cave Hotel (p473)
- ➔ Kelebek Hotel & Cave Pension (p471)
- ➔ Esbelli Evi (p490)
- ➔ Kale Konak (p477)

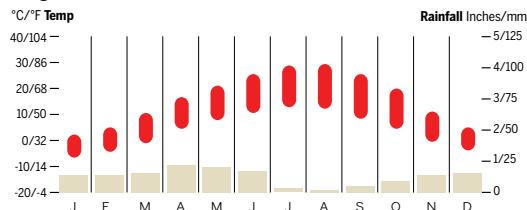
Why Go?

As if plucked from a whimsical fairy tale and set down upon the stark Anatolian plains, Cappadocia is a geological oddity of honeycombed hills and towering boulders of otherworldly beauty. The fantastical topography is matched by the human history here. People have long utilised the region's soft stone, seeking shelter underground and leaving the countryside scattered with fascinating troglodyte-style architecture. The fresco-adorned rock-cut churches of Göreme Open-Air Museum and the subterranean refuges of Derinkuyu and Kaymaklı are the most famous sights, while simply bedding down in one of Cappadocia's cave hotels is an experience in 21st-century cavern dwelling.

Whether you're wooed here by the hiking potential, the history or the bragging rights of unique accommodation, it's the lunar landscape panoramas that you'll remember. 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

Wildflowers shock the valley moonscapes into a daz-zlingly photogenic riot of colour.

Jul & Aug

Listen to classical-music concerts in natural outdoor rock venues.

Dec–Feb

Join the snow bunnies at the Erciyes Dağı (Mt Erciyes) ski resort.



Cappadocia Highlights

1 Delve into the Byzantine tunnels of such underground cities as **Kaymaklı** (p495).

2 Examine the fresco-covered finery of churches in the **Göreme Open-Air Museum** (p466).

3 Tackle nature on the mountain trails of **Ala Dağlar National Park** (p499).

4 Seek out hidden churches amid pigeon-house-riddled cliffs and fairy chimneys (thin rock spires) in the **Güllüdere (Rose) Valley** (p469).

5 Clamber atop **Uçhisar Castle** (p476) to gaze out over a panorama of rippling rock.

6 Imagine cave-cut village life while exploring the warren

of abandoned caverns in **Zelve** (p480).

7 Stroll between verdant fields and soaring cliffs to search out rock-cut churches in the **İhlara Valley** (p500).

8 Hike through a secluded monastic settlement in **Soğanlı** (p497).