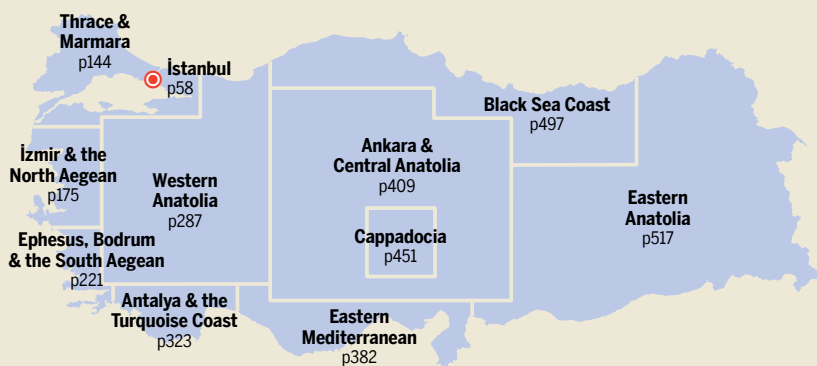




Turkey



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

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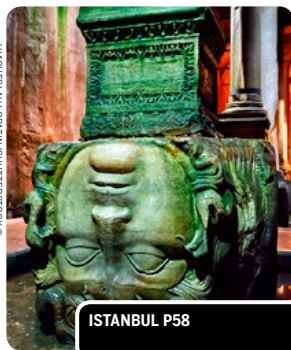
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LOKUM (TURKISH DELIGHT)



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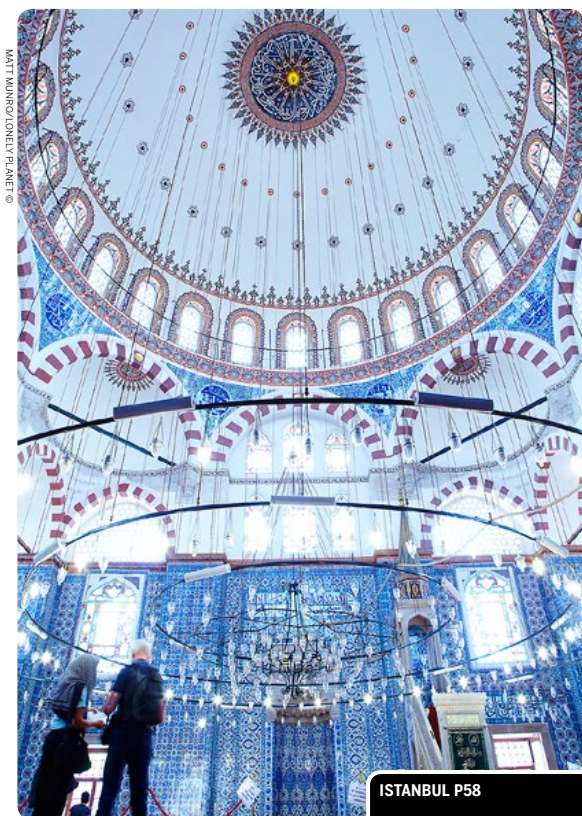
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Itineraries



10
DAYS

Classic Turkey

Most first-time visitors to Turkey arrive with two ancient names on their lips: **İstanbul** and **Ephesus**. This journey across the Sea of Marmara and down the Aegean coast covers both.

You'll need at least three days in **İstanbul** to even scrape the surface of its millennia of history. The top three sights are the Aya Sofya, Topkapı Palace and the Blue Mosque, but there's a sultan's treasury of other sights and activities, including a cruise up the Bosphorus, nightlife around İstiklal Caddesi, and the Grand Bazaar.

From İstanbul, instead of schlepping out to the city's main otogar (bus station), hop on a ferry to **Bandırma**. From there, you can catch a bus or train straight down to **Selçuk** (for **Ephesus**) via **İzmir**, but it's more interesting to head west to **Çanakkale**, a lively student town on the Dardanelles. A tour of the nearby **Gallipoli Peninsula's** poignant WWI battlefields is a memorable experience.

From **Çanakkale**, it's a 3½-hour bus ride to **Ayvalık**, with its tumbledown old Greek quarter and fish restaurants. Finally, another bus journey (via **İzmir**) reaches **Selçuk**, a pleasantly rustic town and the base for visiting glorious **Ephesus (Efes)**, the best-preserved classical city in the eastern Mediterranean.

3
WEEKS

Coastal Cruise

After a few days in **İstanbul**, hop on a ferry to **Bandırma** and then catch the bus or train straight down to **Selçuk** via **İzmir**. Time your visit to coincide with Selçuk's sprawling Saturday market, and pair the magnificent ruins of **Ephesus** with a trip to the mountaintop village of **Şirince**.

Next, hit the southern Aegean coast in cruise port **Kuşadası**, which is more fun than a karaoke bar and offers 'PMD' day trips to the ruins of **Priene**, **Miletus** and **Didyma**. These sites, respectively two ancient port cities and a temple to Apollo, are interesting additions to an Ephesus visit, giving a fuller picture of the region in centuries past. Spend a day or two nibbling calamari and sipping cocktails on the chichi **Bodrum Peninsula** and cross the Gulf of Gökova by ferry to the **Datça Peninsula**. With their fishing villages and rugged hinterland of forested mountains, Datça and the adjoining Bozburun Peninsula are excellent for revving up a scooter or just putting your feet up.

Continuing along the Mediterranean coast, beautiful **Ölüdeniz** is the spot to paraglide from atop Baba Dağ (Mt Baba; 1960m) or lie low on a beach towel. While in the area, consider basing yourself in secluded **Kayaköy** with its ruined Greek town. You're now within kicking distance of the 509km-long Lycian Way. Hike for a day through superb countryside to overnight in heavenly **Faralya**, overlooking Butterfly Valley; further inroads along the trail will definitely top your 'next time' list.

Also on the Lycian Way, laid-back **Kaş**' pretty harbourside square buzzes nightly with friendly folk enjoying the sea breeze, views, fresh meze and a beer or two. One of Turkey's most beguiling boat trips departs from here, taking in the sunken Lycian city at **Kekova Island**. From Kaş, it's a couple of hours to **Olympos**, famous for the naturally occurring Chimaera flames and beach treehouses.

A 1½-hour bus journey reaches the city of **Antalya**. Its Roman-Ottoman quarter, Kaleiçi, is worth a wander, against the backdrop of a jaw-dropping mountain range. From Antalya you can fly back to İstanbul or take a nine-hour bus ride across the plains to Cappadocia.



2 WEEKS Cappadocia Meander

From İstanbul, catch a bus or hop on the fast train to **Ankara**, the Turkish capital. The political town is no match for that show-stealer on the Bosphorus, but two key sights here give an insight into Turkish history, ancient and modern: the Anıt Kabir, Atatürk's hilltop mausoleum, and the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations, a restored 15th-century *bedesten* (covered market) packed with finds from the surrounding steppe. Tying in with the latter, a detour east takes in the isolated, evocative ruins of **Hattuşa**, which was the Hittite capital in the late Bronze Age.

Leave three days to explore Cappadocia, based in a cave hotel in **Göreme**, the travellers' hang-out surrounded by valleys of fairy chimneys. The famous rock formations line the roads to sights including Göreme Open-Air Museum's rock-cut frescoed churches and the Byzantine underground cities at Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu. Among the hot-air balloon trips, valley walks and horse riding, schedule some time to just sit and appreciate the fantastical landscape in çay-drinking villages such as **Mustafapaşa**, with its stone-carved Greek houses and 18th-century church.

Fly straight back to İstanbul or, if you have enough time and a penchant for Anatolia's mountains and steppe, continue by bus. Stop in **Konya** for lunch en route to **Eğirdir**, and tour the turquoise-domed Mevlâna Museum, containing the tomb of the Mevlâna (whirling dervish) order's 13th-century founder. Lakeside Eğirdir, with its road-connected island and crumbling old Greek quarter ringed by beaches and the Taurus Mountains (Toros Dağları), is a serene base for walking a section of the **St Paul Trail**. Possible day trips include the stunning ruins of **Sagalassos**, a Greco-Roman city at 1500m in the Taurus Mountains.

From Eğirdir, you can catch a bus back to İstanbul or fly from nearby Isparta. If spending your last night in Anatolian tranquility appeals more than the hustle-bustle of İstanbul, head to lakeside **İznik**, its Ottoman tile-making heritage on display between Roman-Byzantine walls. You will have to change buses in Eskişehir or Bursa to get there, while the final leg of the journey is a ferry across the Sea of Marmara to İstanbul.



Anatolian Circle

Begin with a few days among mosques, palaces and some 14 million folk in **Istanbul**, former capital of the Ottoman and Byzantine empires. Next, head east to **Safranbolu**, with its winding streets of Ottoman mansions, before turning north to **Amasra**, where Turkish holidaymakers wander the Byzantine castle and eat fresh fish on the two harbours. Amasra is the beginning of the drive through rugged hills to **Sinop**, another pretty Black Sea port town and the birthplace of Greek philosopher Diogenes the Cynic.

Next, it's a six-hour bus journey via Samsun to **Amasya**, with its Ottoman houses, Pontic tombs and castle. Take it all in from a terrace by the Yeşilirmak River, and drink several tulip-shaped glasses of çay, before another long bus ride across the Anatolian steppe to Cappadocia. This enchanting land of fairy chimneys and cave churches is wholeheartedly back on the beaten track, but you can escape the tour buses by exploring the valleys on foot or horseback. Likewise, Göreme and Ürgüp are the usual bases, but you could stay in a less-touristy village such as **Ortahisar**, with its craggy castle. South of central Cappadocia, see rock-cut churches without the crowds in **Soğanlı**, where Byzantine monastic settlements occupy two valleys. Then head into the **Ala Dağlar National Park** for some of Turkey's most breathtaking scenery in the Taurus Mountains (Toros Dağları).

Konya, its magnificent mosques recalling its stint as capital of the Seljuk sultanate of Rum, makes a convenient lunch stop en route to Eğirdir. Lakeside **Eğirdir** has views of the Taurus Mountains and little-visited local sights such as **Sagalassos**, a ruined Greco-Roman city at an altitude of 1500m. There are more impressive classical ruins at **Hierapolis**, an ancient spa city overlooking the village of **Pamukkale** from atop the travertines, a mountain of calcite shelves. Nearby **Afrodiasias**, once a Roman provincial capital, is equally incredible; you might have the 30,000-seat stadium to yourself.

From Denizli (near Pamukkale), it's just a few hours' journey by bus or train to **Selçuk**, base for visiting **Ephesus**. From Selçuk, you can fly back to Istanbul from nearby **İzmir**, or continue overland via our Classic Turkey itinerary.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



Jessica Lee

Ankara & Central Anatolia, Cappadocia After four years leading adventure tours across Turkey, Jessica moved there to live in 2011 and Turkey has been home ever since. This is the third edition of the Turkey guide she has worked on and for this edition she made a welcome return to central Anatolia's creaky Ottoman back streets and pulled on her hiking boots to trek the Ala Dağlar. She also wrote the Turkey's Outdoors chapter and the Understand features

covering Architecture, Arts, People and Environment. Read more about Jess at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/jessicalee1>.



Virginia Maxwell

Istanbul (Bazaar District, Beyoğlu, Kadıköy and Ferry Trips), İzmir & the North Aegean Although based in Australia, Virginia spends part of each year in Turkey. As well as authoring LP's *Istanbul* city guide, she also writes Lonely Planet's *Pocket Istanbul*.



Hugh McNaughtan

Black Sea Coast, Eastern Mediterranean A former English lecturer, Hugh swapped grant applications for visa applications, and turned his love of travel into a full-time thing. Having done a bit of restaurant-reviewing in his home town (Melbourne) he jumped at the opportunity to eat his way around the Black Sea Coast and Eastern Mediterranean. He's never happier than when on the road with his two daughters. Except perhaps on the cricket field...



John Noble

Eastern Anatolia John has been travelling since his teens and doing so as a Lonely Planet writer since the 1980s. The number of LP titles he's written or co-written is well into three figures, covering a somewhat random selection of countries scattered across the globe, predominantly ones where Spanish, Russian or English are spoken (usually alongside numerous local languages). He still gets as excited as ever about heading out on the road to

unfamiliar experiences, people and destinations, especially remote, off-the-beaten-track ones. Above all, he loves mountains, from the English Lake District to the Himalaya. See his pics on Instagram: @johnnoble11.



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



James Bainbridge

Coordinating Author; İstanbul (Sultanahmet & Around, Western Districts, Beşiktaş, Ortaköy & Nişantaşı); Antalya & the Turquoise Coast James is a British writer based in Cape Town, South Africa, where he contributes to publications worldwide. He has been working on Lonely Planet projects for over a decade, including coordinating five editions of *Turkey* and writing the first edition of *Discover Turkey*. He was extremely happy to return to İstanbul, where he once lived and

took a Turkish-language course, and to the Mediterranean, having previously passed through while researching a feature for *Lonely Planet Traveller* magazine. James also wrote most of the Plan Your Trip chapters, the Turkey Today and History essays and Survival Guide chapters for this edition. Read more about James at: https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/james_bains.



Brett Atkinson

Thrace & Marmara, Western Anatolia Since first visiting Turkey in 1985, Brett has returned regularly to one of his favourite countries. For his fifth Lonely Planet trip to Turkey he explored the astounding Ottoman architecture of Bursa and Edirne, the poignant Anzac history of the Gallipoli Peninsula, and surprising destinations including laidback Gökçeada and cosmopolitan Eskişehir. Brett's contributed to Lonely Planet guidebooks spanning Europe,

Asia and the Pacific, and covered over 50 countries as a food and travel writer. See www.brett-atkinson.net for his latest adventures.



Steve Fallon

Ephesus, Bodrum & the South Aegean With a house in Kalkan on the Turquoise Coast of the Mediterranean, Steve considers Turkey to be a second home. This assignment took him to that other coast, the South Aegean one, where he stepped back in time at Ephesus, joined a sailing regatta off Bodrum and rediscovered the beauty of the Datça and Bozburun Peninsulas. OK, *Türkçe'yi hala mağara adamı gibi konuşuyor* (he still speaks Turkish like a caveman), but no

Turk has called him Tarzan. At least not yet. Find Steve at www.steveslondon.com.

OVER MORE
PAGE WRITERS

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