



Grand Circle Travel Turkish Delight Tour

Day 1
(B-D)

Istanbul – Nevsehir - Cappadocia

After your Treasures of the Aegean-Greek Island Cruise, Athens & Istanbul tour, enjoy breakfast, then transfer to the Istanbul airport for your flight to Nevsehir, bound for Cappadocia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the heart of the Anatolian Plateau.

You'll begin to see Cappadocia's legendary fantastical landscapes and "fairy chimneys" as you ride to the famous Goreme Open-Air Museum, pausing en route for **lunch** on your own.



The predominant earth surface of Cappadocia is a white volcanic rock called tufa. Centuries of rain and wind have shaped the soft tufa into rhythmic flow patterns and tall cones and columns. Although the dust from tufa looks like sand, the area is not like a desert but is actually highly fertile, and people have inhabited the region since ancient times. Early Christians often burrowed into tufa rock to create hidden sanctuaries and escape persecution. It is said that the area has more than 600 Christian churches carved into the rock, some dating to the third century AD. At the **Goreme Open-Air Museum**, we'll see some of these ancient churches and chapels noted for their colorful frescoes.

You'll also learn firsthand about the art of pottery in Asia Minor when you visit the cave workshop of a local potter for a special demonstration.



Afterward, head to your hotel and enjoy an included dinner together with your group.

Later, you are invited to join our **optional** Turkish Delight outing, featuring a live performance of belly dancing accompanied by local music.

Day 2 (B-D)

Cappadocia – Optional Ballooning Over Cappadocia tour

Early risers can join an **optional** hot-air balloon ride over Cappadocia's tufa formations, soaring over its amber terrain and fairy-tale chimneys in the quiet, rosy light of dawn.



Then, you might elect to get a more intimate perspective of this remarkable countryside during an exhilarating morning hike. Or spend the morning at leisure.

After **lunch** on your own, ride into the **Pasabag Valley** to witness the surreal rock formations known as "Fairy Chimneys." Literally "Pacha's Vineyard," Pasabag Valley is also known as Monk's Valley, as Simeon monks once went into hiding here. Marvel at the mushroom-like columns of stone with conical lids that seem to spring up from the valley floor.

After **lunch** on your own, ride into the **Pasabag Valley** to witness the surreal rock

This evening, enjoy an included dinner at your hotel.

Day 3 (B-L-D)

Cappadocia – Optional Whirling Dervishes tour



Get a more intimate perspective of this remarkable countryside during an **exhilarating morning hike**. Afterward, enjoy **lunch** at a local restaurant.

Then, travel to the **underground city of Kaymakli**. During the Hittite era in the second century AD, as successive armies swept across Asia Minor, Kaymakli was built as a uniquely defensible community, approximately eight stories underground. Entering a cave, you'll reach a surprisingly sophisticated city of streets, living spaces, and plazas that still contain remnants of everyday life—from storage jars to wine presses. You can explore some of the hundreds of rooms, wandering the many narrow, sloping passageways between kitchens with enameled food



storage areas, water cisterns, stables, living spaces—all well-ventilated by air shafts. At one time, several thousand people lived here. **** Be Local Eat Local concept :** On the way back to our hotel a short stay for the wine tasting will be made.

Tonight, enjoy dinner at your hotel.

Afterward, you can choose an **optional** tour to witness the "Ritual of Sema." The Semazens, the so-called Whirling Dervishes, believe that the fundamental state of our existence is to revolve. From the smallest cell to the planets and the farthest stars, everything revolves. Thus, the ones who whirl participate consciously in the shared revolution of all existence. The Semazen (with their camel's-felt hats representing tombstones and wide white skirts symbolizing shrouds) stand with their arms crossed, ready to begin their turn. As they whirl, their motions represent a spiritual journey. Revel in this spinning kaleidoscope of tradition and color as you observe their ritual. Cap your experience with a taste of sweet Turkish sherbet.

Day 4
(B-L-D)

Cappadocia – Ankara

Today, embark on your journey to Ankara. En route, you'll stop to delve into a civilization that rivaled Egypt's during the second millennium BC. First, you'll visit **Yazilikaya**, a sacred Hittite sanctuary of two chambers enclosed by natural rock formations. Hewn out of the rock are depictions of deities and a stone relief of King Tudhaliya IV that stands twelve feet high. Archaeologists estimate that the Hittites used this locale as a revered shrine as early as 1250 BC.

Begin your tour with a walk through an open-air cultural center featuring representations of the Hittite



pantheon. The Hittite people revered nearly 1,000 gods and goddesses. There was great diversity in the characters of these deities, with the major spiritual beings—such as Teshub, the Thunderstorm God, and Hepatu, the Goddess of the Sun—depicted more frequently in sacred sites throughout the region.

Afterwards, stop at **Bogazkoy**, a local village built on the ruins of the ancient Hittite capital, where you'll discover what it's like to live in the shadow of history. Following an included lunch at a local restaurant, you'll explore the ancient site of **Hattusas**, capital of the great Hittite Kingdom—a powerful empire of the

Ancient Near East that ruled from about 1600 to 1200 BC. Located high on a rocky summit, Hattusas offers a wealth of archaeological treasures that have been recovered from this former center of the kingdom, including records offering extensive details concerning political and religious aspects of the culture.

From here, continue on to Ankara, arriving by early evening and enjoying dinner at the hotel.

Day 5
(B-D)

Ankara

Enjoy a half-day city tour of Turkey's modern capital this morning. Ankara is a very old city, founded in 2000 BC, and there are several Roman ruins scattered throughout the metropolis. Archaeologists have also found



artifacts that date to pre-Roman periods. But you'll find that much of Ankara's character is sophisticated



and modern, from the educational institutions to the art galleries, from the music to the architecture. There are three symphony orchestras and five theaters, offering classical performances of ballet, opera, modern dance, and drama. On many levels, Ankara has become the cultural and political center of Turkey.

In the oldest part of Ankara, you'll venture to **Ankara Castle**, high on a hill overlooking the city. Little remains of the original complex, built by the Galatians, but much of the architecture from its Roman, Byzantine, and

Selcuk eras may still be admired. You'll tour the old town just inside the castle walls, an area where the traditional housing was concentrated during the 16th century for protection within the fortifications.

You'll then visit the **Museum of Anatolian Civilizations**, the finest Hittite museum in the country. It details the many cultures that have inhabited this region, starting as far back as the Paleolithic Age. The museum houses a priceless collection of artifacts from Neolithic, Hatti, Hittite, Phrygian, Persian, Galatian, and Roman times. The two buildings themselves, a caravansary (an overnight site for caravans) and a bedesten (covered bazaar), are Ottoman structures that date to the 15th century. Vendors abound in this area, adding to the local color with their fragrant spices, dried fruits, and traditional Turkish handcrafts for sale.

After **lunch** on your own, you have the afternoon free to explore the city center. Though Ankara's origins are from ancient times, most of the city is modern and well planned. You can stroll its wide boulevards, take a quiet walk in a groomed park, or browse its elegant boutiques.

Rejoin the rest of your group this evening for an included dinner at our hotel.

Day 6
(B)

Ankara - Return to U.S.

After an early breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S.

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

PAX PACKAGE PRICE :

01	\$ 1.423.-
02	\$ 764.- per person in twin/double room
03	\$ 588.- per person in twin/double room
04	\$ 500.- per person in twin/double room
05	\$ 446.- per person in twin/double room
06-09	\$ 411.- per person in twin/double room
10 - 15	\$ 365.- per person in twin/double room



16 – 21	\$ 332.- per person in twin/double room
22 – 27	\$ 306.- per person in twin/double room
28 – 33	\$ 290.- per person in twin/double room
34 – 39	\$ 280.- per person in twin/double room
40 – 45	\$ 274.- per person in twin/double room

*** Single Supplement : FREE**

Our Services Include:

- 3 nights hotel accommodation at Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Avanos or similar
- 2 nights hotel accommodation at Ankara Hiltonsa Hotel or similar
- Sightseeing as per above itinerary
- Selected Unique Moment listed below
- Entrance fees of the specified museums in the itinerary
- Specified meals (5 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches and 5 Dinners)
- Private Transportation by A/C deluxe motor coach
- Private English Speaking Professional tour guide
- Gratuities for local guides and motor coach drivers
- Gratuities for the hotel and restaurant staff
- Service charges & local taxes

Our Services do not include:

- Flight tickets (International & Domestic)
- Drinks and meals which are not listed at the itinerary
- Optional Whirling Dervishes tour
- Optional Turkish Delight tour
- Optional Hot Air Ballooning

SELECTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (included in our package)

Karavan's reputation is based upon supplying competitive prices with innovative programs, which produce results for our partners and this is something we have built up over the years. Our experience has shown us that the right DMC needs to be able to develop and deliver products and services which stand out from the crowd and are competitive at the same time. We have specially tailored and introduced "Unique Moments" in our tours such as Private Visits to museums, local "street" food tasting along the itinerary including Turkish coffee and baklavas in legendary locations. Wine tasting in Diyarbakır, visit to the only Turkish Gourmet Museum in Turkey, Champagne in



Karavan Travel™

Mount Ararat' Private dinners and lunch organizations in Ephesus. Typical home cooking in Cappadocia, school visit, weddings in villages. Lecture on site by the professors leading the excavations. Please find below the **“Unique Moments”** services included in the itinerary.

- Visit a local village house in Cappadocia and get to know the family members (Day 2)
- Try a Turkish Tea with the locals (Day 2)

Addition to the above, we finalised our **NEW** concept called **“Be Local Eat Local”** similar to **“Unique Moments”** but based only to local gastronomy experiences. Please click the link below for more information.

http://cloud.karavantravel.com/2017/Be_Local_Eat_Local_by_Karavan_Travel.pdf

“BE LOCAL, EAT LOCAL” (included in our package)

As Karavan Travel we have always aimed at showing our guests what Turkish culture could offer to feel like a local. And what better way is there to show that, than eating like a one! The objective of Karavan Travel is to provide our guests with an experience where they can understand, feel and share the same passion that a Turk has, when tasting the delicious food. We present our guests with the tastes of regional delicacies as part of our tour itineraries. As we take our guests from one region to another, we make sure that they experience all these different kinds of food and Karavan Travel has the right knowhow and expertise to show them this rich variety.

- Wine tasting in Cappadocia (Day 3)

Cappadocia region is one of the world's earliest birthplaces of winemaking in the world. In modern day Turkey, especially in the last 15 years, Anatolian wine making has been blossoming through many small scale, chateau type producers. Argos Kızılırmak Vineyards are home to Syrah and a local Pinot Noir like variety "KalecikKarasi".

SUGGESTED HOTELS

CAPPADOCIA

Doubletree by Hilton Avanos, 4 Star Superior

www.hilton.com

or similar,

ANKARA

Ankara Hilton Sa Hotel, 5 Star

www.hilton.com

or similar,