

--- 7 Day Itinerary of ---  
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**OTTOMAN TOUR**



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# Coastal Turkey Ottoman Tour

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## Coastal Turkey Itinerary

### *Day 1: Arrive to Antalya & Relax or Explore!*

Our exciting journey starts at the largest city in the South, and the gateway to coastal Turkey, Antalya.

You will be picked up from the airport all day whenever you arrive and taken to your hotel. You are free to relax at your luxurious hotel to regain energy, or explore the beautiful historic old town "kaleci" lined up with shops, restaurants, and overlooking a stunning view of an old historical harbour where you can take a cruise boat of your choice to see the city and waterfalls from the sea. The food court in the mall nearby has more than 30+ restaurants, including both well-known fast food chains and local cuisine!



At night insha'Allah, there will be an optional introductory meeting to get to know each other and talk about the tour plans and the ancient and ottoman history of the region.

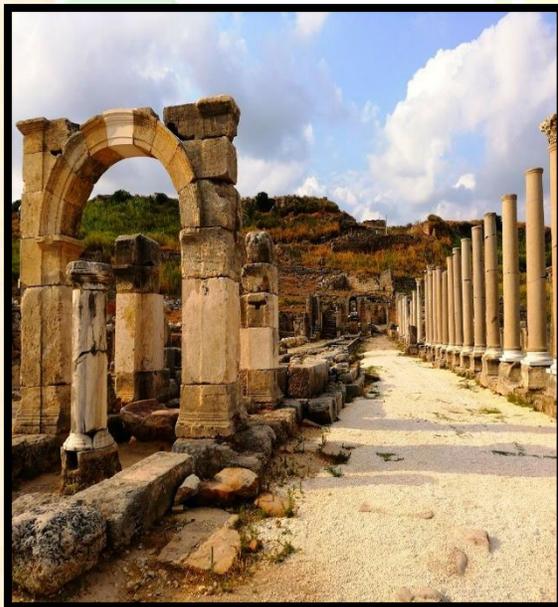


## *Day 2: Ancient Towns: Perge, Side, Manavgat, Aspendos*

Start your day with a buffet breakfast full of Turkish savory delights.



Next, we will drive East along the scenic coast of Turkey with turquoise waters, golden sand, and villages lined up on both sides of the bus.



Our time machine arrives to the year 1209 B.C to witness the ancient Greek city of Perge, without leaving Turkish soil! This special city which was invaded by the Persian empire multiple times, and was mentioned in the bible after the city converted from paganism to Christianity. You will walk in the shops, homes, theatres, and farms in the ruins of a full city which was renovated by Alexander the Great, who also left his special mark. Is he the "Zulqarnain" mentioned in the Holy Quran as some Muslim scholar said in their commentaries? Find out his full story on location insha'Allah!

We travel another 500+ years in the future in a half hour drive to the port town of Sidé, a hybrid of Roman & Greek architecture from 700 B.C which was visited by Sicilian Muslims multiple times. The Apostle Barnabas, one of the disciples of Jesus peace be upon him, lived here, and mentioned Prophet Muhammed in detail 500 years before his birth! How did he describe him?

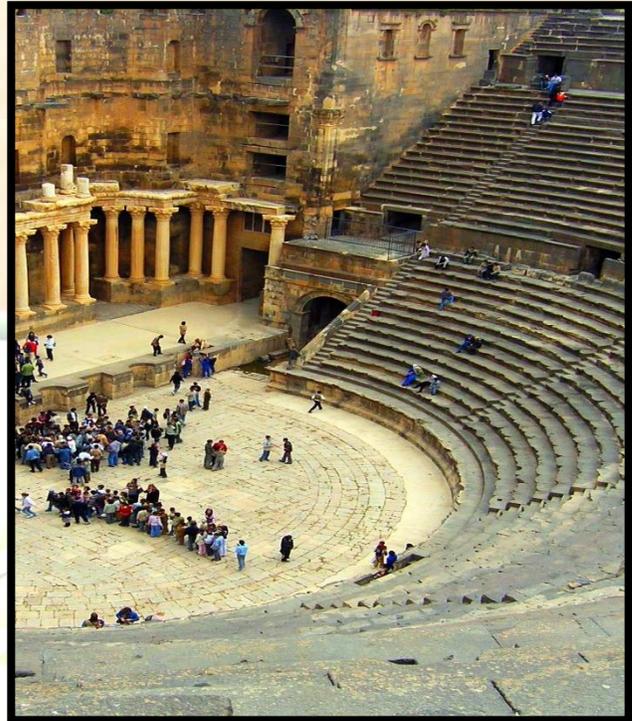
After boarding a cute little train, you will visit the famous cascading waterfalls of Manavgat, where the sound of the soothing water surrounds you from all directions while enjoying the flavours of the local fresh fish caught on location, grilled or fried to your liking while you hear the relaxing river stream!



Manavgat is considered the breadbasket of Turkey, due to fertile soils. As a result, the Yoruk nomadic people frequently visit from other parts of Turkey and East Europe, coming in groups on camels and letting their sheep graze in the fields. If you happen to be there at the right time and place, you may be able to watch their colorful caravans passing by! If not, we are still going to one of the most beautiful mosques in Turkey, the Kulliye Camii!



After enjoying the beautiful architecture of the mosque, our next stop is the the monumental theatre of Aspendos. This Greek town, captured by Alexander the great, had to pay 100 pots of gold and 4000 horses annually in exchange for protection. The Aspendos theatre has seating for 12,000 spectators, and was later captured by the Seljuk Muslims who turned it into a caravan serai (traveller's home). It was visited by none other than the famous traveller ibn Battuta. Many visitors try their voice talent in this theatre to hear the natural powerful echo, a testament to the skill of the Greek acoustic engineers. Our group will hear the beautiful Holy Quran recited here! The theatre was used for lectures during Ottoman era, and is now used for opera shows.



Our final stop of the day is the famous Duden waterfalls. The Duden river runs from the North of Antalya in the mountains and cascades downhill, but what makes it special is that the falls ends up falling into the sea from a magnificent height. Whether we catch this during the daytime or at night, it will be fully illuminated overlooking a stunning hill.

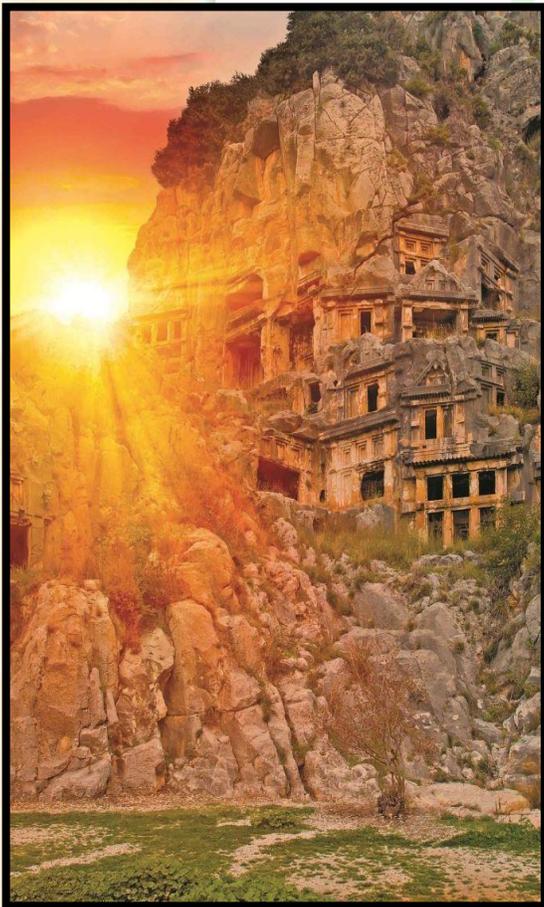


We arrive near our hotel and have a wide choice of restaurants to end the day with a nice dinner/supper.

### *Day 3: Island Hopping: Kekova Island, Demre, & Myra*

After a delicious breakfast buffet, we leave the hotel to drive West through one of the most scenic mountain drives in the world, with elevations overlooking quaint villages, palm trees, and dramatic rock formations.

We arrive at the scenic village of Kalekoy to board our private boat to the Atlantis of Turkey, the sunken city of Kekova. During the calm boat cruise, make sure to keep your eyes open and your cameras ready, as you have a high chance of seeing a giant swimming turtle under you that is over a century old!



Once we arrive over the sunken city of Kekova island, your captain and his crew will cook your favourite seafood of locally caught fish and shrimps on board, while you have a swimming break inside warm waters over beautiful rocks and surrounded by nature. If you are brave enough to jump from the top of the boat straight into the water, go ahead and do it! And before you know it, the smell of the seafood grill will bring you out on board. You will cruise along beautiful scenes slowly while enjoying the flavours of South Turkey! Our previous guests voted this as one of the top highlights of their vacation, and insha'Allah for you too!

Once back to the mainland, we arrive at the ancient city of Demre, the birthplace of Saint Nicolas, otherwise known around the world as "Santa Clause!" The most beautiful attraction here is none other than the heritage sight of Myra rocks. The homes and temples carved inside those rocks were built in 168 B.C. by Ancient Lycia. Put your Indiana Jones style hat on and explore this magnificent sight.

Together, while enjoying the story, will reflect on the words of Allah "And they used to dig homes out of mountains, feeling safe" (Quran 15:82).

### *Day 4: Ertugrul Footsteps: Alanya, Damlataş, Kizkule*

After the most important meal of the day, we continue our coastal journey East towards the city of Alanya, founded by Alauddin Keykubad, the Seljuk Sultan who was Ertugrul's best friend and ally during his wars against the Byzantine empire. Alanya is one of the top retirement towns in Turkey full of European pensioners, and you will find out why they chose this place over the rest of the continent!



Once we arrive to the beautiful mountain and beach, rather than going up, we will go 50 feet underground inside an illuminated natural spikey cave known as the tears cave "damlataş." This geological wonder of the world was discovered accidentally in 1948 during mining operations. However, the cave itself was formed over 15,000 years ago!



After coming up from underground, we will continue our ascend with a cable car from the beach front to the top of the mountain. The few minutes of rising up in the sky might be the most beautiful scenery of your entire trip! Once on top, we walk through the city walls of beautiful Alauddin castle in the foot steps of Ertugrul.





We continue with a lovely stroll through an old village, enjoying the architectural features while mingling with locals and drinking fresh lemon juice. Our village tour ends with the famous Suleymaniye mosque, overlooking the entire city nestled between the green and rocky mountains. We pray here Duhr and Asr, while learning about the local story. We then take a postcard-style group photo at the summit!

Upon descent, we drive through dazzling mountain roads to reach the mountain oasis of Dimcayi, with fresh water coming through waterfalls from melting ice caps. Surrounded by lush greenery, our special lunch will be enjoyed on tables floating over the water! After you make your order, you can enjoy swimming in the crystal clear oasis! The mixed seafood plate or mix grills is a special treat for your eyes and taste buds.

Back to Alanya, we will walk along the beautiful harbour towards the famous red tower of Analya, where many scenes of the famous drama Ertugrul was filmed. You can then choose your own activity: swim in the same place the actor swam right under the fortress (in the warm waters of South Turkey), walk through the fortress, or relax and regain energy on the sandy beach or park. The choice is yours!



### *Day 5: Ancient Baths: Denizli, Pamukkale, & Lake Salda*

After a tasty traditional Turkish breakfast, we drive north towards the ancient city of Laodicea in Denizli, located 350 meters above ground and overlooking a vast landscape of lakes and towns. Once you walk through the vast ruins of the towns, you will be rewarded by the dazzling views of the cascading hot springs of Pamukkale (cotton castle in Turkish), considered one of the most beautiful natural wonders on the planet. Feel free to dip your feet in these natural warm baths while you enjoy the view from the top of the hill as the sun elegantly reflects on the waters.



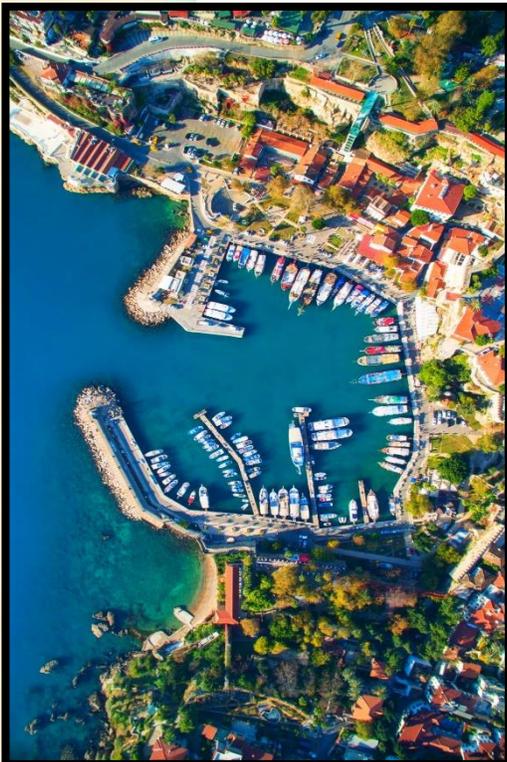
A few steps away, we will have a different swimming experience at the Cleopatra baths. Imagine swimming in a 3000 year old pool, where artifacts of Roman history are right under your feet and you can touch them and feel them while enjoying very warm thermal waters coming from underground, and you get the picture! The water is known to have healing effects on the skin and body.

Once we leave beautiful Denizli, we will drive south to another wonder of nature, the volcanic crater of lake Salda. This lake is known by the locals as the "Maldives of Turkey" due to the crystal clear waters and white soft sandy beach. The volcanic soil at the bottom is full of rare earth minerals, and as a result, you will see many visitors covering their full faces and body with the mud for a few minutes to get a super smooth skin. Wherever you look around you, you will see plenty of geological features. Don't forget your camera, because we will likely witness a sunset here that turns the lake into a deep orange colour!



### *Day 6: Ottoman/Seljuk History: Antalya's Old Town*

The perfect ending for our trip is the historical old town of Antalya, where you can board a time machine to walk in the footsteps of Etrugrul and Alaaddin Keykubad in the Ottoman town fully preserved from 1207 to the 1700's. We start our tour Hadrian's gate, as we admire the historical buildings and the many handicrafts in the shops on both sides. We make our way to the clock tower marking the old city centre, then riding a glass-windowed elevator/lift to see panoramic views of the Antalya harbour as you go down to sea level.



The beautiful harbour walk includes listening to narration about the greatest maritime leader in the history of the Ottomans, Captain Hairuddin, otherwise known by the Europeans as red-haired Barbarossa. His leaderships of the Ottoman navy fleet has caused nightmares among European nations sharing a sea with Turkey such as Greece, Italy, and the Kingdom of Venice. After the harbour, we give you free time to do shopping in the town and in Mark Antalya, the largest mall in the South of Turkey. Finally, we meet at night for the farewell dinner where we say goodbye to our amazing adventures!

### *Day 7: Antalya's Farewell*

After breakfast, we drop you at the airport for your return flight home. Or feel free to extend your stay in Antalya or anywhere else in Turkey as you please. If you are staying longer in Antalya, ask us for some extra activities you may do during your stay.