Turkey's Magical Hideaways

October 2029

💖**Turkey:** Istanbul • Cappadocia • Konya • Antalya • Fethiye • 4-Night Private Turquoise Coast Gulet Cruise • Marmaris • Kuşadası

Discover the magic of Turkey, where ancient civilizations, breathtaking landscapes, and vibrant cultural traditions come together for an unforgettable adventure. Begin in Istanbul, a captivating city where East meets West, and explore the bustling Grand Bazaar, magnificent Hagia Sophia, and opulent Topkapi Palace before cruising the scenic Bosporus Strait. Journey to Cappadocia, a land of otherworldly rock formations and fairy chimneys, where you'll discover ancient underground cities, remarkable cave churches, and traditional village life. Continue through the heart of Anatolia to the beautiful Mediterranean coast, exploring historic Antalya and the impressive Greco-Roman ruins of Perge and Aspendos. Then embark on a private gulet cruise along Turkey's spectacular Turquoise Coast, sailing past secluded bays, crystal-clear waters, and picturesque coastal landscapes. Along the way, experience authentic Turkish hospitality through home-hosted meals, local artisan visits, and meaningful cultural encounters. Conclude your journey with a visit to the magnificent ancient city of Ephesus, one of the world's best-preserved archaeological treasures. From legendary landmarks and fascinating history to scenic coastal cruising and unforgettable local

experiences, this journey reveals the extraordinary beauty, culture, and timeless charm of Turkey.

What to Expect On This Incredible Trip

An extraordinary journey through Turkey's ancient wonders, otherworldly landscapes, and vibrant cultural traditions, where East meets West and centuries of history come alive. From Istanbul's magnificent landmarks to Cappadocia's fairy chimneys and the sparkling waters of the Turquoise Coast, you will experience…

- Magnificent historical landmarks and UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Istanbul's Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, Cappadocia's Göreme Open-Air Museum, and the ancient city of Ephesus
- Guided explorations of Turkey's fascinating destinations, including Istanbul, Cappadocia, Konya, Antalya, and Kuşadası, each offering a unique blend of history, architecture, and culture
- Extraordinary natural landscapes, from Cappadocia's towering fairy chimneys and mysterious underground cities to the dramatic mountains and picturesque coastline of southern Turkey
- An intimate cruise aboard a traditional Turkish gulet along the spectacular Turquoise Coast, with opportunities to swim in crystal-clear waters, explore secluded bays, and enjoy scenic coastal hikes
- Ancient archaeological treasures, including the remarkably preserved Roman theater at Aspendos, the ruins of Perge, and the grand marble streets and Library of Celsus at Ephesus
- Authentic cultural exchanges, including home-hosted meals with Turkish families, a visit to a traditional Cappadocian village, and encounters with artisans at a local carpet-weaving cooperative
- Rich Turkish traditions and culinary experiences, from bustling bazaars and local delicacies to the spiritual heritage of the Whirling Dervishes and the teachings of Rumi
- A memorable blend of guided sightseeing, meaningful cultural encounters, scenic adventures, leisurely cruising, and free time for personal exploration

It balances:

- Ancient Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman history with magnificent architectural treasures

- Istanbul's vibrant city life, Cappadocia's surreal landscapes, and the tranquil beauty of the Mediterranean coast
- Sacred landmarks, spiritual traditions, and centuries of cultural heritage
- Bustling markets, traditional craftsmanship, authentic Turkish cuisine, and warm local hospitality
- Archaeological exploration, breathtaking natural wonders, and unforgettable coastal experiences
- Immersive cultural discovery, outdoor adventure, and relaxation aboard a traditional Turkish gulet



📌 Trip Overview

Turkey: *Istanbul • Cappadocia • Konya • Antalya • Fethiye • 4-Night Private Turquoise Coast Gulet Cruise • Marmaris • Kuşadası*

Exact site order and itinerary subject to final O.A.T. itinerary for the year.

Dates: October 2029
Trip Price (includes airfare from DTW): $8,849 per person*
Duration: 17 Days

!!Please note: *Prices are subject to change**

🗓️ Expected Itinerary Overview

Day 1: Depart USA

Depart the United States on your overnight international flight to Istanbul, Turkey.

Begin your unforgettable journey to a land where East meets West, ancient civilizations come alive, and extraordinary landscapes and cultural traditions await.

Day 2: Arrive Istanbul, Turkey

Arrive in Istanbul, one of the world's most fascinating cities, where centuries of Byzantine and Ottoman history meet vibrant modern life.

Upon arrival:

- *Transfer to your hotel in Istanbul*
- *Settle in and relax after your international journey*
- *Meet fellow travelers, including those arriving from the optional Azerbaijan pre-trip extension*
- *Enjoy free time to explore the surrounding neighborhood*

- *Begin discovering Istanbul's historic charm and lively atmosphere*

Dinner on your own.

Evening at leisure to relax or explore the city independently.

Day 3: Istanbul • Grand Bazaar • Topkapi Palace

Discover Istanbul's magnificent imperial history and bustling cultural landmarks during a full day of guided exploration.

Morning sightseeing:

- *Welcome Briefing with your Trip Experience Leader*
- *Explore Istanbul, historically known as Byzantium and Constantinople*
- *Learn about the city's remarkable history as the capital of successive empires*
- *Visit the Hippodrome of Constantinople, once the social center of the Byzantine Empire*
- *Admire the square's ancient obelisks and historic monuments*

Explore the Grand Bazaar:

- *Wander through one of the world's oldest and largest covered markets*
- *Discover more than 4,000 shops filled with colorful merchandise*
- *Browse traditional carpets, jewelry, ceramics, spices, and handcrafted treasures*
- *Experience the lively atmosphere of this centuries-old marketplace*

Lunch on your own.

Afternoon visit to Topkapi Palace:

- *Explore the magnificent former residence of Ottoman sultans*
- *Discover grand courtyards, elegant pavilions, and historic chambers*
- *Admire impressive collections of porcelain, weaponry, and priceless treasures*
- *Learn about life within the Ottoman Empire's royal court*

Free time to explore Istanbul's historic center independently.

Evening:

- *Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant*
- *Relax or discover Istanbul's vibrant nightlife*

Meals: *Breakfast & Dinner*

Day 4: Istanbul • Hagia Sophia • Spice Bazaar • Bosporus Cruise

Experience Istanbul's remarkable blend of sacred architecture, lively markets, and breathtaking waterfront scenery.

Morning visit to Hagia Sophia:

- *Explore one of the Byzantine world's most extraordinary architectural treasures*
- *Admire its magnificent dome and soaring interior*
- *Discover centuries of Christian and Islamic heritage*
- *Learn about its transformation from Byzantine church to Ottoman mosque and its changing role through history*
- *Marvel at intricate mosaics and remarkable architectural details*

Continue to the Spice Bazaar:

- *Explore one of Istanbul's most colorful and aromatic markets*
- *Browse stalls filled with fragrant spices, teas, sweets, and Turkish delicacies*
- *Experience the lively energy of traditional Turkish market life*

Scenic Bosporus Cruise:

- *Board a private boat for a cruise along the Bosporus Strait*
- *Sail along the legendary waterway separating Europe and Asia*
- *Take in beautiful views of Istanbul from the water*
- *Admire the city's distinctive skyline and historic waterfront*

Afternoon free to explore independently.

Consider sampling local Turkish street-food favorites such as döner kebabs, simit, or traditional mantı dumplings.

Dinner on your own. Evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 5: Fly to Cappadocia • Ancient Underground City

Journey into the heart of Anatolia to discover Cappadocia, a magical landscape of towering fairy chimneys, unusual rock formations, and ancient underground communities.

Morning:

- *Transfer to the airport for your flight to Cappadocia*
- *Arrive in a region famous for its extraordinary volcanic landscapes*
- *Admire the remarkable formations created by centuries of wind and erosion*

Afternoon exploration of Özkonak Underground City:

- *Venture into one of Cappadocia's fascinating underground settlements*
- *Discover ancient tunnels, rooms, and passageways carved into volcanic rock*
- *Learn how underground communities once sheltered thousands of residents*
- *Explore historic living quarters, kitchens, storage areas, and ventilation shafts*
- *Discover the ingenious defensive systems used to protect residents from invaders*

Continue to your hotel in Cappadocia.

Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Evening at leisure to relax and take in the region's unique surroundings.

Meals: *Breakfast & Dinner*

Day 6: Cappadocia • Göreme Open-Air Museum • Traditional Carpet Weaving

Discover Cappadocia's extraordinary natural landscapes, ancient cave churches, and centuries-old artistic traditions.

Optional Early Morning Hot-Air Balloon Experience:

- *Soar above Cappadocia's spectacular fairy chimneys and valleys*
- *Witness the landscape illuminated by the soft colors of sunrise*
- *Enjoy breathtaking aerial views of the region's remarkable rock formations*

Morning Scenic Exploration:

- *Enjoy a guided hike through Cappadocia's peaceful valleys*

- *Admire the region's unusual rock formations and sweeping scenery*
- *Discover the area's fascinating geological history*

Visit Göreme Open-Air Museum:

- *Explore ancient churches and monasteries carved directly into volcanic rock*
- *Admire remarkable Byzantine frescoes dating from the 10th through 13th centuries*
- *Learn about the early Christian communities who once inhabited the region*
- *Discover the unique cave dwellings and religious sanctuaries of Cappadocia*

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon Cultural Discovery:

- *Visit a traditional Turkish carpet-weaving cooperative*
- *Meet local artisans and learn about this treasured craft*
- *Discover the process of silk production, spinning, and dyeing*
- *Learn about traditional Turkish weaving patterns and techniques*
- *Admire beautifully handcrafted rugs and textiles*

Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 7: Cappadocia • Traditional Village Experience • Optional Whirling Dervishes

Experience authentic rural Turkish life through meaningful encounters with local villagers and a home-hosted meal.

Morning Exclusive Cultural Experience:

- *Visit a traditional Cappadocian village*
- *Meet local residents and learn about their daily routines*
- *Discover the region's longstanding agricultural traditions*
- *Experience a glimpse of rural life away from the major tourist areas*
- *Participate in a seasonal farming activity*
- *Learn about local customs and traditional ways of life*

Home-Hosted Lunch:

- *Visit the home of a local Turkish family*
- *Enjoy a traditional meal prepared with fresh local ingredients*
- *Share stories and conversations with your hosts*
- *Gain firsthand insights into family life and village traditions*

Afternoon Scenic Discoveries:

- *Stop at some of Cappadocia's famous rock formations*
- *Admire the remarkable Three Beauties fairy chimneys*
- *See Camel Rock, named for its distinctive shape*
- *Return to the hotel for free time*

Optional Whirling Dervishes Experience:

- *Witness the traditional Sema ceremony*
- *Learn about the spiritual traditions of the Whirling Dervishes*
- *Discover the symbolism and significance of this centuries-old ritual*

Dinner at the hotel.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 8: Cappadocia • Konya • Mevlana Museum • Antalya

Travel across the beautiful landscapes of central Turkey toward the Mediterranean coast, stopping in Konya to explore its rich spiritual and cultural heritage.

Morning scenic journey:

- *Depart Cappadocia and travel toward Konya*
- *Admire the changing scenery of Anatolia*
- *Discover a city renowned for its Seljuk history and spiritual traditions*

Visit the Mevlana Museum:

- *Explore the historic complex dedicated to the poet and spiritual philosopher Rumi*
- *Learn about the founding of the Mevlevi Order of Whirling Dervishes*
- *Visit the former dervish lodge and Rumi's tomb*
- *Discover the influence of Rumi's teachings on Turkish culture and spirituality*

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon:

- *Continue your journey across the scenic Taurus Mountains*
- *Travel toward the Mediterranean coast*
- *Arrive in Antalya, a vibrant seaside city with more than 2,000 years of history*
- *Settle into your hotel*
- *Discover the city's beautiful coastal setting and historic charm*

Dinner at the hotel.

Evening free to explore Antalya independently.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 9: Antalya • Archaeological Museum • Historic Old Town • Home-Hosted Dinner

Discover Antalya's fascinating archaeological treasures, charming historic streets, and warm Turkish hospitality.

Morning Archaeological Discovery:

- *Meet with an archaeologist for an introduction to the region's ancient history*
- *Visit the renowned Antalya Archaeological Museum*
- *Explore remarkable artifacts from the Stone Age through the Byzantine era*
- *Admire impressive Roman sculptures and ancient treasures*
- *Learn about the civilizations that shaped Turkey's Mediterranean coast*

Guided walking tour of Kaleiçi, Antalya's Old Town:

- *Wander charming narrow streets lined with historic buildings*
- *Admire traditional architecture and honey-colored stone walls*
- *See Hadrian's Gate, a Roman triumphal arch built in AD 130*
- *Discover colorful shops and atmospheric neighborhoods*
- *Learn about Antalya's rich history as an important Mediterranean settlement*

Lunch on your own.

Afternoon free for independent exploration.

Consider relaxing by the sea, visiting local shops, or enjoying more of Antalya's charming Old Town.

Exclusive Cultural Experience:

- *Visit the home of a local Turkish family*
- *Enjoy a traditional home-hosted dinner*
- *Share stories and conversations with your hosts*
- *Learn about everyday life, family customs, and Turkish hospitality*

Evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast & Dinner*

Day 10: Antalya • Ancient Perge • Aspendos Roman Theater

Step back more than 2,000 years as you explore two of Turkey's most fascinating ancient archaeological sites.

Morning visit to Perge:

- *Discover the ruins of an ancient city with roots dating back to the Hittite civilization*
- *Explore beautifully preserved Greco-Roman architecture*
- *Walk along the remains of a grand colonnaded street*
- *See ancient public baths, shops, and civic buildings*
- *Learn about the city's connection to St. Paul's early Christian travels*

Continue to Aspendos:

- *Visit one of the world's best-preserved ancient Roman theaters*
- *Admire the impressive structure dating to the second century AD*
- *Discover the remarkable engineering and acoustics of the theater*
- *Learn how the venue continues to host cultural performances today*

Return to Antalya.

Afternoon free for independent exploration.

Suggested activities:

- *Enjoy the city's beautiful Mediterranean surroundings*

- *Explore local cafés and markets*
- *Relax at your hotel*
- *Consider experiencing a traditional Turkish bath*

Dinner on your own.

Evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 11: Antalya • Church of St. Nicholas • Fethiye • Embark Turkish Gulet

Travel along Turkey's spectacular Mediterranean coastline before beginning your private cruise aboard a traditional Turkish gulet.

Morning Scenic Journey:

- *Depart Antalya and travel along the beautiful Turquoise Coast*
- *Admire dramatic coastal cliffs and sparkling Mediterranean waters*
- *Enjoy the picturesque landscapes of southern Turkey*

Visit the Church of St. Nicholas in Demre:

- *Discover the historic church associated with St. Nicholas, the inspiration for Santa Claus*
- *Learn about the saint's life and enduring legacy*
- *Admire beautiful Byzantine frescoes and mosaic floors*
- *Explore this important historic pilgrimage destination*

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in Demre.

Afternoon arrival in Fethiye:

- *Continue along the Mediterranean coast*
- *Arrive at the scenic harbor of Fethiye*
- *Board your private traditional Turkish gulet*
- *Settle into your cabin and discover the vessel's inviting observation decks*
- *Begin experiencing the tranquil beauty of Turkey's coastal waters*

Dinner aboard the gulet, with outdoor dining on deck when weather permits.

Evening at leisure to admire the coastal scenery and relax onboard.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 12: Turquoise Coast Cruise • Gemiler Bay • Kayaköy Ghost Town

Discover the fascinating history and natural beauty of Turkey's Turquoise Coast while enjoying the relaxed atmosphere of your private gulet cruise.

Morning exploration:

- *Wake up aboard your traditional Turkish gulet*
- *Enjoy breakfast surrounded by beautiful Mediterranean scenery*
- *Anchor near Gemiler Beach*
- *Travel to the historic abandoned village of Kayaköy*

Visit Kayaköy Ghost Town:

- *Explore the remains of a once-thriving Greek community*
- *Wander among abandoned stone houses and historic buildings*
- *Learn about the population exchanges of the 1920s*
- *Discover the village's moving history and cultural significance*
- *Admire the dramatic setting of this atmospheric hillside settlement*

Return to the gulet for lunch.

Afternoon Coastal Exploration:

- *Enjoy time along the beautiful Turquoise Coast*
- *Transfer ashore for a relaxing beach stroll*
- *Swim in the clear Mediterranean waters*
- *Take advantage of optional hiking opportunities*
- *Relax aboard the gulet and admire the surrounding coastal landscapes*

Travelers who prefer not to hike may remain onboard and enjoy the scenery.

Dinner aboard the gulet.

Evening at leisure to relax beneath the Mediterranean sky.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 13: Turquoise Coast • Scenic Coastal Hiking • Leisurely Cruising

Enjoy another memorable day discovering Turkey's spectacular coastline, secluded bays, and natural beauty.

Morning Scenic Exploration:

- *Wake up aboard your private Turkish gulet*
- *Cruise through the beautiful waters of the Turquoise Coast*
- *Anchor in one of the region's sheltered bays*
- *Transfer ashore by dinghy for a guided coastal hike*
- *Explore scenic trails through forests and meadows*
- *Admire breathtaking Mediterranean views and picturesque coastal landscapes*

Return to the gulet for lunch.

Afternoon at Leisure:

- *Enjoy a refreshing swim in the turquoise waters*
- *Relax on one of the gulet's observation decks*
- *Take in the spectacular coastal scenery*
- *Enjoy peaceful moments surrounded by the natural beauty of southern Turkey*
- *Spend time with fellow travelers aboard your private vessel*

Dinner aboard the gulet.

Evening free to relax and enjoy the tranquility of the Mediterranean.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 14: Disembark Gulet • Fethiye • Kuşadası

Conclude your scenic Turquoise Coast cruise and continue your journey north toward one of Turkey's most remarkable archaeological regions.

Morning:

- *Enjoy breakfast aboard your traditional Turkish gulet*
- *Disembark in Fethiye*
- *Bid farewell to your private vessel and the beautiful Mediterranean coastline*

- *Begin your overland journey toward Kuşadası*

Enjoy scenic views of the Turkish countryside along the way.

Lunch at a local restaurant en route.

Afternoon arrival in Kuşadası:

- *Arrive in this popular seaside resort town*
- *Check into your hotel*
- *Discover the town's beautiful coastal setting*
- *Enjoy free time to relax or explore independently*
- *Prepare for your upcoming visit to ancient Ephesus*

Dinner at your hotel.

Evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 15: Kuşadası • Ancient Ephesus • Farewell Dinner

Explore one of the world's most extraordinary archaeological treasures during a memorable visit to the ancient city of Ephesus.

Morning visit to Ephesus:

- *Explore this magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site*
- *Walk along beautifully preserved marble streets*
- *Discover grand Roman columns, temples, and ancient public buildings*
- *Admire the spectacular Library of Celsus*
- *Visit the impressive Great Theater, where St. Paul addressed the Ephesians*
- *Explore ancient Roman baths and other archaeological remains*
- *Learn about the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*

Additional Archaeological Discoveries:

- *Visit the nearby Ephesus Museum*
- *Admire ancient marble and bronze sculptures*
- *Discover artifacts connected to the city's fascinating history*
- *Learn about the daily lives, architecture, and traditions of the ancient inhabitants*

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon free for independent exploration.

Evening Farewell Celebration:

- *Gather with fellow travelers for a special Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant*
- *Celebrate the incredible experiences of your journey through Turkey*
- *Share memories of Istanbul's historic wonders, Cappadocia's magical landscapes, and your Turquoise Coast cruise*

Evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 16: Kuşadası • Return Home

Depart early for İzmir Airport and begin your international journey home.

Coffee and light snacks will be available at the hotel before departure.

Travelers wishing to extend their Turkish adventure may continue with the optional Northwest Turkey: Battlefields of Ancient Troy and Gallipoli & Istanbul post-trip extension.

Return home with unforgettable memories of Turkey's magnificent ancient cities, otherworldly rock formations, vibrant bazaars, meaningful cultural encounters, and breathtaking Mediterranean coastline.

Meals: *Breakfast (coffee and light snacks)*

***Exact details for this tour will be updated on the O.A.T. travel site once the official itinerary is confirmed. This more detailed O.A.T. itinerary can be found by clicking here.*



✅ What's Included

- 15 nights' accommodations, including 3 nights aboard a privately chartered Turkish gulet
- 36 meals—15 breakfasts, 9 lunches, and 12 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Dinner)
- All transportation, including internal flights and transfers, international airfare, airport transfers, taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- 17 activities, including A Day in the Life of a small agrarian village in Cappadocia for a hands-on farming experience and traditional lunch, and a 3-night Turquoise Coast cruise aboard a private gulet
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers

✈️ Flight Booking Notes

When confirming your deposit, please specify:

- Travel class preference (Coach, Premium Select, Business)
- Aisle or window seating
- Any special requests or meal preferences

ℹ️ Additional Notes

- **Prices subject to change**, especially airfare and fees.
- Customizations and optional extensions are available.
- Physical Requirements: Activity level is **moderate (Level 3 out of 5)**





Online Reservations: www.TravelwithScottandCurtis.com
Phone Reservations: (269) 209-5889