Cappadocia / Istanbul

Cappadocia in 20 Hours



Tour code: IB-TR-02626

Duration: 1 day

From €236.00 / person

Starting point: Istanbul

Languages: English

Overview

Meet the Flistones! The fairytale rock chimneys of Cappadocia rising majestically from an otherworldly landscape, formed by the eruptions of three volcanoes, Mount of Erciyes, Melendiz and Hasan, which created one of the most distinctive landscapes in the world. Cappadocia is Turkey's very own fairy-tale kingdom. Imagine, if George Lucas had succeeded in his original plan to shoot Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace in Cappadocia. Not even Walt Disney could have dreamt of such lofty, multi-tiered housing for Tinkerbell—miles and miles of pyramid- and mushroom-shaped rocks that have sheltered or hidden people for thousands of years.

Your itinerary

Day1

23:30 Drive east to Turkey’s most visually striking region, where erosion has formed caves, clefts, pinnacles, fairy chimneys and sensuous folds in the soft volcanic rock.Cappadocia is an extraordinary national treasure and is perhaps even the jewel in Turkey’s illustrious crown.

Day2

02:00-02:30 On arrival you will be transferred to Ariana Sustainable Luxury Lodge for several hours refreshment, use of bathroom facilities and enjoy open buffet breakfast before our sightseeing tour begins.
05:00 Our crew will pick you up at your hotel before dawn and transfer you and fellow travelers to the takeoff site. Feels like stepping out of a bus or getting off a spacehip? Watch our team’s preparation for flight, inflating balloons against the backdrop of the dawn sky.Listen to your pilot who will share safety measures and the do’s and don’ts during your flight. With the sound of a fire-breathing dragon, you skim the grass and slowly lift off, graceful stability with majestic views. Hundreds of hot air balloons float across the sky. It lives up to the hype, times 100. Floating silently above the oddest-looking landscape dotted with villages, vineyards, and fruit orchards for about an hour, coming down in a farmer's field. Break out the bubbly for a traditional champagne toast to a successful aeronautical adventure! Your Cappadocia hot-air balloon flight includes a complimentary pre-flight breakfast and transfers between your hotel, take-off and landing spots. Prices can vary greatly depending on the time of year you fly and how far in advance you book. ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

09:00-09:30 Discover fascinating stories, insights and facts on the roots of Cappadocia’s history. Kick off your exhilarating day out with Devrent Valley - nicknamed Imagination Valley is well known for its unusual rock formations. Find rocks that resemble those seen in the Hobbit and Smurfs as well as a dolphin, camel, kissing birds, Napoleon’s hat, the Virgin Mary holding Jesus Christ. Next, explore one of the region’s most magnificent town of Pasabag where Monks once inhabited and epic fairy chimneys and cave dwelling are widely regarded as the best in the region. If Fred Flintstone lived in Cappadocia, Pasabagi is the place he’d call home. Drive to the pottery town of Avanos, on the banks of the Kizilirmak, where the longest river in Turkey passes through. Have the chance to view the pottery making demonstration and even try your hand at making your own unique pot. The ancestral techniques and know-how of the craftsmen workshop will show you all the secrets.

Break for a buffet lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Goreme National Park home to surreal wonderland of rock churches, chapels and decorative

frescoes around 1000-1200 AD. This is most certainly a gorgeous sight to behold! Before tour’s end, enjoy a visit to Uchisar, natural castle of volcanic tufa giving it a Swiss-cheese look. It is a giant rock formation at the highest point of Cappadocia used as a fortress by the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman armies.

Before tour’s end, we will take a 40-minute drive to the remarkable Underground city of Kaymakli and see a primitive engineering achievement features a maze of tunnels and rooms carved eight levels deep into the earth. Feels like wandering through a gigantic sponge. An estimated 60,000 people lived for periods of up to three months and there are over 200 underground cities in Cappadocia, most of them are connected through underground pathways. Each rock settlement had access to the safe sanctuary of these underground dwellings by way of a secret underground passageway that would provide swift and unseen escape in times of emergency. In fact, an access tunnel can still be found on just about every villager's property. Every crucial entry point into the city was either camouflaged or blocked by a keystone, a large stone wheel that, once fixed in place, was immovable. Stout rolling-stone doors prevented invaders from entering, deep wells provided water and tall chimney ventilations to allow steam to rise.

17:00 We return to Ankara arriving approx. 20:30 hours with a drop-off back at your accommodation.

Good to know

Enjoy an unforgettable Cappadocia adventure with breakfast, buffet lunch, and guided sightseeing. Hot-air balloon flights are subject to weather conditions. Comfortable walking shoes and warm clothing are recommended.

Plan your journey

Contact our team for dates, availability and a personalised quote.

https://istanbluetravel.com/

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