THE MAGIC OF CAPPADOCIA

4 days
THE MAGIC OF CAPPADOCIA

Countries visited
Turkey

Tour Highlights
• Learn about its unique history & cultural heritage
• Marvel at the world famous “fairy chimneys”
• Visit rock-cut churches and natural castles
• Explore the underground cities of Kaymakli

Places visited
Cappadocia • Uchisar Castle • Goreme
THE MAGIC OF CAPPADOCIA

What's included

• Airport pick-up & drop-off
• All internal flights
• Ground transport
• Accommodation
• Entrance fees to sites
• Breakfasts & lunches (refer to itinerary for meal plan)
• Drivers and guides

All accommodation subject to availability. Final accommodation choices will be confirmed after booking.
Your Itinerary Map
Your Itinerary Explained

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place visited</th>
<th>Meals</th>
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The first part of the text in each day is the itinerary schedule and will explain what you will normally see/do during this day of your itinerary.

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The part of the day’s text in italics (and comes after the three dashes “---”) is background information on the places or sites on that day of your itinerary. It is not part of your itinerary and may mention places that will not be visited on your itinerary. If you have any questions please ask us. Travel times where noted are only meant as a guideline.

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Tour Itinerary

Day 1  Istanbul - Cappadocia  Meals

Take a flight from Istanbul to Cappadocia. Upon arrival to Cappadocia, your guide will meet you at the airport to take you to Cappadocia (1 hour drive approx) where you will check into a cave style hotel. Relax for the rest of the day.

*Overnight in The MDC Cave Hotel, Cappadocia*

Day 2  Cappadocia  Meals

Start your full day tour of Cappadocia starting with a visit to Devrent Valley to see the unique fairy-chimneys. Drive to Pasabag (Monk’s Valley) to see the most interesting mushroom-shaped pinnacles. Continue to the town of Avanos. In the afternoon visit a beautiful open air museum at Göreme where the remains of rock-cut churches and Christian settlements date back hundreds of years. Lastly, before returning to your hotel visit the natural castles at Uchisar. Return back to the hotel and overnight in Cappadocia.

*B L

*The Goreme Open-Air Museum has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1984 and is a vast complex of monasteries, each of which has its own church. These churches are the finest of the rock-cut churches, boasting beautiful frescoes (wall paintings).*
Devrent Valley is home to the famous Fairy Chimneys near Goreme and is known as the imaginary valley or animal valley due to the animal shapes in rocks. While Fairy chimneys can be found in much of Cappadocia, these are the best formed and most densely clustered. The volcanic rock of this area has allowed erosion to form these chimneys as well as other landforms such as caves, clefts and folds in the rock, making this breathtaking landscape unique. A thick layer of tuff (consolidated volcanic ash) is covered by a thinner layer of basalt which is more resistant to erosion than the underlying rock. Cracks in the basalt enable erosion of the underlying rock. These fairy chimneys were formed where the resistant rock remains protecting the underlying rock directly beneath it from erosion. The mineral-rich volcanic soil is excellent for growing fruit and vegetables, making Cappadocia a rich agricultural region. It has always been one of Anatolia’s prime grape-growing areas and still boasts many productive vineyards and wineries. The Bible’s New Testament tells of Cappadocia, but in fact this part of central Anatolia has been important since Hittite times, long before the time of Jesus.

Pasabag is so called because of its earth pillars in the middle of a vineyard. Pacha means "General" and bag means vineyard in Turkish. These are also fairy chimneys but are different shapes from those in Devrent Valley.

Uchisar is situated at the highest point in Cappadocia, and is home to the most spectacular natural castles. The top of the Uchisar Castle provides a magnificent panorama of the surrounding area with Mount Erciyes in the distance. Many hollowed out rooms in the castle rock are connected to each other with stairs, tunnels and passages. Most of the rooms, located on the north side of the castle are in use as pigeon houses (dovecuts) today.

Overnight in The MDC Cave Hotel, Cappadocia

Day 3  Cappadocia  Meals

Depart from your hotel to visit Red valley, and explore the famous rock-cut churches. Hike 5 km through the Gulludere valley. Then visit Cavusin village. This village is famous for the houses and churches of the Christian clergymen. After lunch drive to the beautiful Pigeon valley. In the afternoon visit Kaymakli underground city, where early Christians lived in fear of their faith being discovered. On the way back visit the natural castles at Ortahisar. Return back to the hotel and overnight in Cappadocia.

Kaymakli Underground City
There are 36 underground cities in Cappadocia and the widest one is Kaymakli Underground City. These troglodyte cave-cities were excavated as early as Hittite times, and expanded over the centuries as various pillaging armies crossed Central Anatolia in search of captives and plunder. The Kaymakli Underground City has low, narrow and sloping passages and consists of 8 floors below ground, although only four of them are open to the public today. The number of the storage rooms in such a small area supports the idea that a great number of people resided here, archaeologists estimate figures of up to three thousand five hundred people. As well as chapels, stables and storage, an efficient man-made system of air shafts provided ventilation even at the deepest levels of the underground cities, meaning people could survive there for lengths of time when necessary. The people of Kaymakli village have constructed their houses above nearly one hundred tunnels of the underground city. The inhabitants of the region still use the most convenient places in the tunnels as cellars, storage areas and stables, which they access through their courtyards.

The Red Valley and Güllüdere Vadisi (Rose Valley) are two spectacular valleys in the Cappadocia region, each with varying types of rock formations and colour. The red valley shelters a series of intriguing rock-cut cave churches, with beautiful frescoes and paintings. Nearby is the Pigeon valley, named after the pigeon-cotes carved on its walls. The village of Old Cavusin was abandoned several decades ago due to avalanches. The current village of Cavusin is located on the road and is the typical authentic village. Old Cavusin, with its rock-cut dwellings and stone houses is home to the oldest church in Cappadocia. Ortahisar is another Cappadocian village dominated by a fortress-like rock rising above winding roads.

Ortahisar is another Cappadocian village dominated by a fortress-like rock rising above winding roads. The 90m high natural fortress in Ortahisar has partly crumbled away revealing some of its interior. Today it has been restored and the peak is accessible by a staircase. The Ortahisar Castle offers a magnificent panorama over the fairy chimneys of Hallacdere and the snowy peak of Mt. Erciyes.

Overnight in The MDC Cave Hotel, Cappadocia

Day 4

Istanbul

Meals

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After breakfast transfer back to Kayseri airport for flight back to Istanbul.