# GEEO ITINERARY

Turkey 7/17/2027

## Day 1: Istanbul Arrive in Istanbul at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

**Arrive at any time**. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. The main international airport is **Istanbul Airport (IST)**, but many airlines also use **Sabiha Gökçen International Airport (SAW)**.

Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins, as well as an İstanbul day tour and Bosphorus cruise.

**Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting**
Hotel check-in is normally between 2–3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6–7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

> **Joining Instructions**
> Pre-Booked Arrival Transfer: If you've arranged an airport transfer through GEEO, look for a driver holding a sign that says **"M55"** (G Adventures' assigned code). At Istanbul Airport (IST), exit through **gate 13**. At Sabiha Gokcen Airport (SAW), look under **column 13** after exiting. Drivers are not permitted inside the terminal. If you're not met or cannot make contact, call the emergency number on your trip voucher or take a taxi to the hotel (keep your receipt).
> Taxi: Yellow Taxi ($30–35 USD), Turquoise Taxi ($35–40 USD), or Black Luxury Taxi (~$40–50 USD) are available outside the terminal.
> Bus + Taxi: Take the public Havaist bus from Istanbul Airport to the old city (e.g., Eminönü stop), then take a taxi to your hotel.

## Day 2: Istanbul/Bolu Enjoy an orientation walk around Istanbul before moving on to the city of Bolu.

Enjoy an orientation walk of Istanbul. Each walk varies, allowing your tour leader to show off their favorite spots around the city. Pass by city highlights such as the Topkapi Palace, the Hagia Sophia (also known as the Aya Sofya), and the Blue Mosque. Walks may also include the atmospheric Spice Bazaar or breathtaking Grand Bazaar. We highly recommend that you actually go inside these sights, which would mean either arriving a few days early or staying a few days after the tour ends. Istanbul is a safe, tourist-friendly city.

In the afternoon we will travel to Bolu, a small city where we will stop for the night to break up the long drive to Cappadocia.

**Approximate travel time**: 4 hrs by private vehicle
**Meals included**: Breakfast

## Day 3: Bolu/Cappadocia Visit the Mausoleum of Atatürk, the father of the Modern Turkish Republic, en route to the Cappadocia region.

We will continue our drive east with a stop along the way to visit the Mausoleum of Atatürk, the father of the Modern Turkish Republic. The Mausoleum of Atatürk is located in Turkey’s capital city, Ankara, and has become one of the sprawling city’s must-see locations.

Later in the afternoon, we will arrive in the region of Cappadocia where we will spend the next two and a half days exploring. There will be plenty of time to tour the area by bike, visit neighboring villages, trek regional valleys, or try a hot air balloon ride.

During one of the evenings, travel to a nearby village and enjoy dinner with a local family. Enjoy seasonal homemade dishes, and talk with friendly hosts about life in rural Cappadocia.

**Approximate travel time**: 5.5 hrs by private vehicle
**Meals included**: Breakfast | Dinner

## Day 4: Cappadocia Enjoy a visit to the Göreme Open Air Museum before free time to explore this unique region.

This morning we will visit the historic Göreme Open Air Museum, a complex of medieval painted cave churches carved out by Orthodox monks. Tour the more than 10 caves on site, and enjoy the color and vibrancy of many of the churches that are up to 1,000 years old.

The rest of your day is free for optional activities, which are listed further below on this page.

Outdoor enthusiast? Hire a bike to get around on two wheels or join your tour leader on an optional trekking tour through one of the beautiful valleys of the region.

If you want to go further afield, take a local bus to explore nearby villages.

**Meals included**: Breakfast

## Day 5: Cappadocia Have another free day in Cappadocia where there are many optional activities.

You will have another free day to explore the many sights of Cappadocia.

**Meals included**: Breakfast

## Day 6: Cappadocia/Güneysınır Explore one of the many underground cities in the region. Visit Konya and its Mevlana Museum before spending the night in a local village for a cozy homestay.

Depart Cappadocia to the town of Derinkuyu. Here we visit one of the underground cities (there are approximately 30 in the region) that were famously used as hiding places for Christians escaping the persecution of the Roman Empire between the fifth and tenth centuries. See how people transferred their surface lives to this underground world – there are cellars, rooms for food storage, kitchens, churches, stables, wine and oil presses, and shafts for ventilation.

Have a quick lunch before journeying to the region of Konya. In Konya, visit the Mevlana Museum and the mausoleum of Mevlana Rumi, a Persian Sufi mystic, to learn more about the mystic Islamic sect known as the Whirling Dervishes.

Later, visit the Neolithic proto-city settlement of Catalhoyuk. There are no streets, and houses are closely clustered with rooftop access for travel. Witness the cultural evolution from the first settlers in 7500 BC

to the remnants of the urban center we see today.

Finally, travel about one hour to a local village for a cozy homestay. Upon arrival in the village, learn about local life and visit a community park and cooperative before enjoying a home-cooked dinner before settling down for the night. Bathroom facilities and sleeping arrangements (in the living room) are shared during the homestay.

**Approximate travel time**: 4-5 hrs, including stops
**Meals included**: Breakfast | Dinner

## Day 7: Konya/Antalya Wander the lovely seaside town of Antalya.

We will start off early and arrive in Antalya around lunchtime.

With a free afternoon, wander the charming cobbled hillside streets of the district of Kaleici, a great place to stop and have a drink with amazing views of the marina below. For a break from the hustle and bustle, head for the greenery and teashops at one of Antalya’s beautiful parks or catch some sun at a nearby beach.

**Approximate travel time**: 5 hrs by private vehicle
**Meals included**: Breakfast

## Day 8: Antalya/Kaş Spend the afternoon onboard a boat in the Mediterranean Sea and enjoy a freshly prepared dinner before disembarking the boat and driving to our hotel for the evening.

Drive to the beautiful coastal village of Demre for lunch and board our boat for an afternoon on the Mediterranean Sea. The boat trip includes sailing around Kekova Island, with plenty of time to enjoy the sunshine and scenery.

We’ll have the chance to get off the boat and climb a hill to reach a medieval castle used by the Byzantines in Simena, a beautiful ancient city that dates back to the fourth century BC. Find ruins of a Roman settlement, including a small amphitheater. Take a few moments to look out at the gorgeous view of the quiet harbor below.

Enjoy a freshly prepared dinner before disembarking the boat and driving to our hotel for the evening.

**Approximate travel time**: 3 hrs by private vehicle
**Meals included**: Breakfast | Dinner

## Day 9: Kaş Opt for a morning swim and then explore Kaş any way you like.

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Opt for a morning swim and some relaxation before heading out on your own.

Spend some time in the afternoon exploring the cafés lining the cobblestoned streets of Kaş.

**Meals included**: Breakfast

## Day: 10 Kaş/Pamukkale Guided walk of Pamukkale and the ancient city of Hierapolis.

Leave the beautiful sea behind and head to Pamukkale, passing through fruit orchards on the way.

Tour the white cliffs of Pamukkale to learn about this World Heritage-listed site and natural wonder. Made up of 17 hot water springs, the cliffs are formed when the calcium carbonate hardens with time. Explore the ancient site of Hierapolis built on top of the white “castle.” See the large, ancient baths within the city (thought to be evidence that the hot springs of Pamukkale were used as a spa since the second century BC).

Later, opt to visit the Hierapolis Archaeological Museum, which is filled with works of art from excavations at Hierapolis and towns in the surrounding area, such as jewelry, sarcophagi and Bronze Age crafts. You might also choose to Take a plunge into an ancient swimming pool, preserved from the second century BC. Wade around in the thermally heated fresh mineral water around fallen marble columns, capitals, and plinths said to have come from the nearby Temple of Apollo. Kick back and relax, but don’t forget admission is limited to two hours. Please bring a swimsuit if you wish to take part in this activity.

**Approximate travel time**: 5 hrs by private vehicle
**Meals included**: Breakfast

## Day: 11 Pamukkale/Selçuk A scenic drive in the morning followed by free time in the afternoon. Optional visits to St John's Basilica and the Mosque of Isa Bey as well as the nearby picturesque village of Şirince.

Journey from Pamukkale to Selçuk in the morning, and then have a free afternoon.

Opt to pre-book the Pide Lunch & Demonstration, walk to the remains of St John’s Basilica, visit the Mosque of Isa Bey or wander the streets of this vibrant Turkish town. Or catch a local “dolmus” bus to the picturesque village of Şirince (8 km) to sample some local wine or shop for crafts.

For dedicated sunseekers, the beach at Pamucaki is also within reach.

**Approximate travel time**: 3 hrs by private vehicle
**Meals included**: Breakfast

## Day 12: Selçuk Explore Ephesus in the morning then enjoy free time in the afternoon. Opt to visit one of the seven wonders of the world, the Temple of Artemis.

In the morning, tour the ruins of ancient Ephesus to get a feeling of what life must have been like during Roman times. Take in its massive, well-preserved theatre, which dominates the view down Harbour Street. See the two- story library, whose façade has been carefully reconstructed from all original pieces. Built in AD 125, it once held nearly 12,000 scrolls.

Use the afternoon to explore the area any way you like.

**Meals included**: Breakfast

## Day 13: Selçuk/Çanakkale Visit the ancient city of Troy en route to Çanakkale.

Travel from Selçuk to Bergama to enjoy a carpet demonstration and learn more about one of Turkey’s oldest art forms, including the craftsmanship and traditional techniques involved in weaving rugs and carpets.

Continue to Troy and visit the ancient city made famous by Homer’s Iliad. Explore the historic ruins and learn more about the city that was considered a myth for centuries before its remains were uncovered in the 19th century.

Finally, continue to the harbor town of Çanakkale, a lively port city with a thriving student population.

**Approximate travel time**: 6-6.5 hrs by private vehicle (with stops)
**Meals included**: Breakfast

## Day 14: Çanakkale/Istanbul Guided tour of Gallipoli, including ANZAC Cove, the war cemeteries, and Lone Pine.

Travel by ferry to the Gallipoli peninsula, where we will have an early morning guided tour of the site of a dramatic series of World War I battles. Tour the grounds to see ANZAC Cove, the war cemeteries, and Lone Pine. Learn how the Turks fought off the numerically superior, but badly commanded, Allied forces who were forced to withdraw nine months later; this battle holds special significance for Australians and New Zealanders, as both nations lost many soldiers.

Afterward, continue on to İstanbul for the opportunity to finish up your sightseeing or get in some last-minute shopping.

**Approximate travel time**: 5 hrs total via ferry (30 mins) and private vehicle (4.5 hrs)
**Meals included**: Breakfast

## Day 15: Istanbul Depart Istanbul at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Istanbul at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Istanbul, consider requesting post-trip accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

**Meals included**: Breakfast

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**Interested in extending your time abroad?** Beyond our educator programs, we can also help you book from G Adventures’ extensive catalog of tours. These tours aren’t tailored to educators the way our programs are, but booking through GEEO means you’ll receive a discounted educator rate while supporting our nonprofit work.

### Where you’ll stay

*The hotels listed below reflect the properties expected to be used for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:*

Day 1 Istanbul (Jul 17): Eurostar Old City Hotel & Spa

Day 2 Bolu (Jul 18): Soylu Hotel Bolu

Day 3 Göreme (Jul 19): Ciner Hotel Cappadocia

Day 4 Göreme (Jul 20): Ciner Hotel Cappadocia

Day 5 Göreme (Jul 21): Ciner Hotel Cappadocia

Day 6 Konya (Jul 22): GuneySinir Village Stay

Day 7 Antalya (Jul 23): Gurtas Hotel Antalya

Day 8 Kaş (Jul 24): Kekova Hotel Kas

Day 9 Kaş (Jul 25): Kekova Hotel Kas

Day 10 Pamukkale (Jul 26): Anya Resort Hotel Pamukkale

Day 11 Selçuk (Jul 27): Ephesus Nobel Hotel

Day 12 Selçuk (Jul 28): Ephesus Nobel Hotel

Day 13 Çanakkale (Jul 29): Bogaz Hotel Canakkale

Day 14 Istanbul (Jul 30): Eurostar Old City Hotel & Spa

**__Itinerary Disclaimer__: While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*