
GEEO ITINERARY

Turkey 4/13/2025

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

You may arrive in İstanbul at any time today. The main international airport is **İstanbul Airport (IST)**, but many airlines also use **Sabiha Gökçen International Airport (SAW)**. If your schedule allows, we highly recommend arriving in İstanbul a day or two early to fully explore this amazing city. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference, overcome any jetlag, and avoid any disruption to your trip due to flight delays or cancellations. We can book extra hotel nights for you in İstanbul before and/or after the trip, as well as an İstanbul day tour and Bosphorus cruise. Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to have dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to get to know one another further.

Day: 2 İstanbul/Çanakkale (B) Guided tour of Gallipoli, including ANZAC Cove, the war cemeteries, and Lone Pine. Continue on to the harbor town of Çanakkale.

Make an early morning visit to Gallipoli, where thousands gave their lives during WWI in the battle of the same name. 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. Then, take a ferry from Gallipoli across the Dardanelles Strait to Çanakkale, a busy harbor town with a thriving student population. Join the crowds as they stroll the waterfront nightly. Approximate travel time: 4.5 hrs via private vehicle (4 hrs) and ferry (30 mins)

Day: 3 Çanakkale/Ayvalık/Bergama (B) Enjoy a guided visit of Troy before arriving at Ayvalık. Visit a women's handicraft shop, a G Adventures supported project. Opt to enjoy a half-day boat trip. Later in the afternoon drive to Bergama for overnight.

See historic Troy, made famous by Homer's "Iliad" (and more recently by Orlando Bloom and Brad Pitt). Tour the city that, for centuries, was regarded as just a myth until its ruins were found in the mid-19th century. Imagine what a great city it must have been while taking a tour of the remains. Don't miss the chance to have a photo taken with the Trojan horse. Visit the çöp(m)adam handicraft cooperation. All products are made from recycled goods, and by making a purchase, you will directly support the local women who work in the workshop. Over time, this has contributed to over 500 women who have been part of the project. Continue to Ayvalık and be charmed by the blend of old Ottoman architecture, cobblestoned streets, and an attractive harbor. In the afternoon, opt to charter a small boat from the harbor to cruise this beautiful area. Afterward, head to waterside restaurants for a sunset drink. Approximate travel time: 4-5 hrs by private vehicle (with stops)

Day 4: Bergama/Selçuk (B) Visit ancient Ephesus before continuing on to Selçuk.

Enjoy a free morning in Bergama before traveling to Selçuk, the base for exploring the ruins of the ancient Roman town of Ephesus. Tour the ruins 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. Afterward, head to town and enjoy some free time to explore. Approximate travel time: 2.5 hrs by private vehicle

Day 5: Selçuk (B) During a free day in Selçuk, opt to pre-book a traditional cooking class, visit St John's Basilica and the Mosque of Isa Bey, or explore the nearby picturesque village of Şirince.

Opt to pre-book a traditional cooking class in Selçuk. Starting at the local market, you will learn about the fresh ingredients needed to create an appetizer, salad, main course, and dessert. After creating your meal (with potential vegetarian options), sit down and share with the rest of the class! Alternatively, you may choose to walk to the remains of St John's Basilica, once a grand basilica in Ephesus. Constructed by Justinian I in the 6th century, it was built where John the Apostle is said to be buried. You can also visit the centuries-old Isa Bey Mosque on the outskirts of Selçuk to see one of the oldest and most impressive works of art remaining in this region. Another option is to catch a local "dolmus" bus to the picturesque village of Turkish-Greek village (5 miles away) to sample some local wine or shop for crafts. The village was settled when Ephesus was abandoned. Wander the narrow streets filled with people selling handicrafts, olive oil, and local wine.

Day 6: Selçuk/Pamukkale (B) Guided walk of Pamukkale and the ancient city of Hierapolis.

Tour the white cliffs of Pamukkale to learn about this World Heritage Site and natural wonder. Made up of seventeen hot water springs, the cliffs were formed by calcium carbonate that hardened over time. Explore the ancient site of Hierapolis, built on top of the white "castle." See the large, ancient baths within the city, evidence that the hot springs of Pamukkale were used as a spa as early as the second century BC. Opt to take a plunge into an ancient pool and wade around in the thermally heated fresh mineral water. Please pack a swimsuit if you wish to take part in this activity.

Day 7: Pamukkale/İstanbul (B) Hop on a morning flight to İstanbul. Take a guided orientation walk before free time to explore some highlights, including the Grand Bazaar, Topkapi Palace or Hagia Sophia (or Aya Sofya).

Hop on a short morning flight to İstanbul and then take a guided orientation walk before free time to explore some of the city's highlights, such as the Grand Bazaar, Topkapi Palace, or Hagia Sophia.

Day 8: İstanbul (B) Depart İstanbul at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart İstanbul at any time. The main international airport is **İstanbul Airport (IST)**, but many airlines also use **Sabiha Gökçen International Airport (SAW)**. If you wish to extend your stay in İstanbul, consider booking post-tour 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. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEE0 programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEE0 will give you 10% off the lesser-value program(s) (up to three programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEE0 program that interests you, [let us know](#). We can help you find a trip from our partner tour's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any of their tours, and you would still receive GEE0's fast and attentive customer service.