

Turkey's lace – Mesopotamia and Cappadocia

Turkey has hosted many civilizations in its beautiful lands from the past to the present. Due to its geographical position it has the distinction of being one of the most important transit routes in the world. Obviously, the Anatolian lands have a unique temperament. The mesmerizing traces of the past and the historical texture of the country, which still retains its impressiveness, captivate those who see it. If you want to get acquainted with the historical and natural beauties of our country and hear their stories, the Lace of Turkey tour is just for you!

1 Day.

- ✿ Arrival in Istanbul - Airport İST
- ✿ Transfer and check-in at the hotel.
- ✿ Free time or, if you wish, you can visit an excursion of your choice.
- ✿ Lodging in Istanbul

2 Day.

- ✿ Breakfast at the hotel
- ✿ Historical Sightseeing - Sultanahmet Square

Historical Sightseeing - Sultanahmet Square

Obelisk, Knitted Column and Serpent Column - On the spine of the spina wall, the hippodrome, today stands the Obelisk, the Knitted Column and the Serpent Column. The Obelisk was brought from Egypt, and the Serpent Column was brought from the Temple of Apollo in Delphi. In fact, there were many more artifacts here: works of pagan and Christian beliefs, statues of legendary racers, monuments of emperors, etc.

The hippodrome was originally decorated with bronze, bronze and copper sculptures brought from many places such as Rome, Greece, Aegean Islands, Egypt, but almost all of the works were destroyed during the 57-year Latin occupation. The works were either sold, sent elsewhere, or melted down and used for other purposes.

Hagia Sophia or officially known as Hagia Sophia-i Kebîr Mosque-i Şerîfi, formerly known as Hagia Sophia Church, is a mosque, old basilica, cathedral and museum in Istanbul. It is a basilica planned patriarchal cathedral built by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I in the old city center of Istanbul between 532-537, and was converted into a mosque by Fatih Sultan Mehmed after the conquest of Istanbul by the Ottomans in 1453. It was converted into a museum with the Decree of the Council of Ministers published in 1934, excavation and renovation works were started and it served as a museum between 1935-2020. In 2020, after the cancellation of the museum status, it gained the status of a mosque again.

The Sultan Ahmet Mosque was built by the Architect Sedefkar Mehmed Ağa on the historical peninsula in Istanbul by the Ottoman Sultan Ahmed I between 1609 and 1617. The mosque is called the "Blue Mosque" by Europeans because it is decorated with blue, green and white Iznik tiles, and because its half domes and the inside of the big dome are also decorated with hand-drawn works predominantly in blue.

- ✿ Lunch

✿ *Departure from Istanbul Airport*

✿ *Arrival in Mardin*

Mardin

Sung in the enchanting songs of the peoples, the ruins of ancient cities, mosques, churches and monasteries. Higher Commonwealth of Religions: Muslims, Assyrians, Christians and Yezidis. Languages, religions, sects and religious freedom are here in Mardin. From the first revolution of the wheel of Mesopotamia, the cycle of life begins here. The whole world is amazed at his insatiable love, respect and patience.

Mardin, the land of fairy tales ...

We will take you back in time, several centuries ago, because the city of Mardin is a true gem of history! You will find yourself on the streets that have perfectly preserved their historical charm .. Ancient Rome, Byzantium, the Ottoman Empire ... many buildings have been preserved to this day. History is literally everywhere! And did you know that in 1960 UNESCO protected the whole city! Before Mardin, only Venice had such an honor!

✿ *Lodging in Mardin*

3 Day

✿ *Breakfast at the hotel*

✿ *Deyuril Zafaran monastery*

Deyuril Zafaran monastery

Deyuril Zafaran Monastery (Saffron Monastery) V century – It is famous not only for its rich history, but also for its caves in the rocks, carved out by monks, as well as for its unique stone ceiling without a bonding composition – the slabs are tilted and have held each other for almost one and a half thousand years.

✿ *The ancient city of Dara VI century*

The ancient city of Dara

The ancient city of Dara VI century – Early Byzantine city of Dara, was founded only 30 years after the fall of ancient Rome and has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in recent years.

✿ *Mor Gabriel Monastery IV century*

Mor Gabriel Monastery

It was founded in 397 by Syrian Orthodox monks. Since that time, it has been operating without interruption, receiving up to 20 thousand pilgrims every year

✿ *Old town Midyat*

Old town Midyat

Wander the streets of this ancient city and marvel at its beautiful oriental architecture, where stately golden houses with carved windows and doors rise above the high walls. The city of Midyat itself is mentioned in history as early as the 8th century BC, when it was taken

by the Assyrian king, but for centuries it repeatedly passed from hand to hand. Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Mongols and many other conquerors managed to visit here.

☼ Konukevi

Guest House(Konukevi)

The most famous attraction in Midyat. The stone guesthouse of the governor, who occupied the highest point of the old city. Konukevi was filmed in the popular TV series "The Power", which is why access here was closed for many years

☼ Lodging in Mardin City

4 Day.

☼ Breakfast at the hotel

☼ Kasimiye Madrasah XIII - XIV century

Kasimiye Madrasah

Kasimiye Madrasah XIII – XIV century – A very popular religious Islamic school, the institution worked for almost 500 years until 1924. The architecture of the buildings is perfectly preserved. The main attractions are the Sufi Fountain, symbolizing the flow of human life from birth to death and after death, as well as an impressive doorway with surprisingly intricate stone carvings. Once on the roof, you will admire the beautiful panoramic views of the city.

☼ Departure to Sanliurfa

Sanliurfa city

A city with a very rich history, this area played an important role in the formation of Christianity and the Crusades. The Sanliurfa area has an extremely rich ancient history. Some scholars suggest that Adam and Eve lived nearby in Gobekli Tepe. According to both Jewish and Muslim traditions, Urfa is considered the birthplace of the prophet Abraham. The area is also closely associated with the prophet Job (in Arabic Eyub). But it is not only the major religions that worship this city. Armenians consider it a sacred city – according to them, the Armenian alphabet was created here. Urfa is a city that was conquered and dominated by several civilizations, including Sumerians, Babylonians, Hittites, Armenians, Assyrians, Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Sassanids, Byzantines and Crusaders.

☼ Göbekli Tepe. Temple complex

Gobeklitepe

Göbekli Tepe. Temple complex 10,000 BC A unique find by archaeologists in 1994 – the oldest temple in the world, which was named "Turkish Stonehenge". Although Göbekli Tepe is older than Stonehenge by as much as 7000 years (!), And also older than the Egyptian pyramids and all other traces of ancient civilizations found on the planet!

☼ Lodging in Sanliurfa Town

5 Day

☼ Breakfast at the hotel

✿ *Balikligol sacred carp pond*

Balikligol (Fish lake)

Pond with sacred carps Balikligol – the Sacred Pond, which is associated with the legend of the prophet Abraham. Located in the courtyard of an old mosque of the 12th century.

✿ *Moving to Gaziantep*

Gaziantep

Gaziantep, the largest city in Southeast Anatolia, is a wealthy metropolis with a population of almost 2 million. As one of the oldest settlements in Anatolia, the city has been home to many civilizations and has retained its importance in every period of its rich history. The city's location at the intersection of Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean has made it a center where different civilizations, cultures and religions meet. The Silk Road made it an important cultural and commercial center.

✿ *Zeugma Mosaic Museum*

Zeugma Mosaic Museum

The covered part of the museum covers an area of 25,000 square meters, the open area – 30,000. Its size is comparable to the Bardo National Museum in Tunisia, the largest mosaic museum in the world. The museum contains many exhibits from the Roman era. But the main symbol of the museum is a fragment of one of the mosaics – a gypsy girl. The girl's eyes are positioned in such a way that it seems as if they are looking at each viewer.

✿ *Coppersmith Market (Bakircilar)*

Coppersmith Bazaar

This oriental market is one of the five largest historical bazaars in Turkey. An unforgettable flavor, a mixture of modernity and history. The copper business, which has over 500 years of history in Gaziantep, continues today and is still produced by copper craftsmen. The bazaar, where traditional copper products continue, will captivate you with beautiful hand-made embroidery. Bakircilar is a bazaar where you can feel the historical texture with its deep history and fun craftsmen. The bazaar, which is the oldest shopping area in the city, is currently attracting the attention of tourists.

✿ *Almaji Bazaar*

Almaci Bazaar

Oriental market for spices, local products and souvenirs (Apple Bazaar), known as the oldest bazaar in Gaziantep. Almaci Bazaar will charm you with Gaziantep walnut sausages on the shelves, fruit pulp made from carefully selected Antep pistachios, dried vegetables hanging from the ceiling, delicious teas, the famous Gaziantep Menengich coffee and a variety of spices distributed in the bazaar.

✿ *Tahmis coffee house*

Tahmis Coffee House

Authentic Oriental Coffee Shop Tahmis 1635 This coffee shop is called the highlight of the city, and its signature drink is coffee made from roasted wild pistachios.

✿ *Lodging in Gaziantep*

6 Day

✿ *Breakfast at the hotel*

✿ *Move to Cappadocia*

✿ *Lovers Hill*

Lovers Hill

Lovers' Hill is one of the places to see the light and shadows of Cappadocia, like lace at sunrise, and share this visual feast. The most beautiful photographs of Cappadocia are taken here.

✿ *Pigeon Valley*

Pigeon Valley

Pigeon Valley, one of the most beautiful places in Cappadocia, has been hosting all its guests for years with its fascinating view and the famous sunset witnessed from Uçhisar Castle. This wide valley between Uçhisar and Göreme really gets its name from the pigeons. According to the rumor, pigeon manure is very useful in grape breeding, which attracted the attention of the people living here with the pigeon breeding that started in the 9th century. For this reason, the nests carved from the rock, which still stand out today, are formed by the agricultural workers choosing the valley instead of the houses in order to increase their productivity.

✿ *Devrent Valley*

Devrent Valley

Devrent Valley, located in Avanos region, is also part of the time that touched Cappadocia like a magic wand, like a fairy tale portrait. Since each fairy chimney in the valley looks like it was once alive but turned into stone, it has become known as the "Imaginary Valley" or the "Pink Valley", perhaps because of the color of its rocks at sunset.

✿ *Lodging in Cappadocia*

7 Day

✿ *Breakfast in the hotel*

✿ *Goreme National Park*

Goreme National Park

Goreme - The park is a rocky, water and wind-washed landscape with a network of ancient interconnected underground settlements.

✿ *Kaymakli underground city*

Kaymakli underground city

Cappadocia, where every time you can discover a completely new beauty, where the first visit is not always the only one, arouses great curiosity for its underground cities, the number of

which exceeds a hundred and represents the most mysterious story accompanying the life of past times

✿ *Artisans of the region*

Pottery of the region

When heading to Cappadocia, don't think that the only thing that will stay in your memory and fill your memories will be limited to fairy chimneys, underground cities and vast valleys! When you see Avanos pottery, you will realize that the people of this region, who seem to be endowed with the wisdom of the past, are in fact artists descended from ancestors, fathers, in short, from genes. It will not even be enough to see, maybe you will pass the steering wheel, you will also want to try.

Handmade carpets

In the Avanos district of Nevsehir, famous for its handicrafts, carpet factories - shops frequented by tourists - offer a "living museum" service.

Visitors, accompanied by a guide, observe the production of silk by the craftsmen, the processes of dyeing roots and the work of women weaving carpets on a loom, and witness the adventures of making carpets that are woven from thread into loop.

Pearl of Cappadocia: onyx stone

The onyx stone, known as the lucky stone, is a type of semi-precious stone. This stone is actually gray and black with light stripes. This opaque stone is as bright as glass.

Onyx, which contains many minerals, is very impressive in terms of aesthetics because it can be worked with. For this reason, it has been used since ancient times in the manufacture of many home decorations and jewelry. Today, this type of stone is used especially in jewelry and rosaries.

During our tour, we will show you these beauties, and you will also have the opportunity to shop.

✿ *Lodging in Cappadocia*

8 Day

- ✿ *Breakfast in the hotel*
- ✿ *Departure from Kayseri Airport*
- ✿ *Arrival in Istanbul Airport*
- ✿ *Optional tours Istanbul*
- ✿ *Lodging in Istanbul*

9 Day

- ✿ *Transfer to the airport*
- ✿ *Departure from Istanbul*