



WOMEN'S ADVENTURES NZ



Turkey Adventure Itinerary

3 September – 21 September 2027

\$7,535 per person

A journey through the very best of Türkiye — from the grand monuments and bazaars of Istanbul, across the poignant battlefields of Gallipoli, through the ancient cities of Ephesus and Lycia, along the shimmering Turquoise Coast, into the spiritual heartland of Konya and finally to the magical valleys and fairy chimneys of Cappadocia.

This is not simply a sightseeing holiday. It is a journey of **history, food, friendship, adventure and discovery**, designed especially for a small group of women who want to experience Türkiye beyond the obvious.

Just some of the reasons why you can't miss this adventure:

- ✓ Includes all accommodation – twin share (own room in Ölüdeniz!), handpicked 3 to 4 star hotels or guesthouses
- ✓ Includes all ground transport except free days or optional activities
- ✓ 18 breakfasts, 4 lunches included
- ✓ Istanbul guided walking tour including the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and Basilica Cistern (includes entry fees)
- ✓ Comprehensive guided tour of Gallipoli
- ✓ Guided tour of the ancient city of Troy
- ✓ Guided tour of Ephesus and Pamukkale - UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- ✓ Hike a section of The Lycian Way walking alongside a 2,000-year-old Roman aqueduct
- ✓ Full day Kekova cruise and the Sunken City
- ✓ Guided walking tour of Konya – the heart of Türkiye
- ✓ Ticket to a traditional Sema ceremony featuring the Whirling Dervishes
- ✓ Hot air balloon ride over Cappadocia at sunrise
- ✓ Guided tour of Pigeon Valley, Kayaşehir Underground City and the pottery town of Avanos in Cappadocia

Friday 3 rd September	ISTANBUL - ARRIVAL	Included activities
	Welcome to Türkiye — Where East Meets West Arrive in Istanbul and transfer to our centrally located hotel in the historic Sultanahmet area – and home for the next three nights. After settling in, we'll ease into the city and enjoy a traditional Turkish hammam experience — the perfect opportunity after a long flight to slow down and experience one of Istanbul's great rituals of relaxation. We'll finish the day with (and if our energy levels allow) our first taste of Istanbul's vibrant food scene.	Group airport transfer.
Saturday 4th September	Mosques, Monuments & Underground Wonders This morning we step straight into the history of imperial Istanbul on a 4-hour guided walking tour through Sultanahmet, the city's extraordinary historic heart. Begin at the magnificent Blue Mosque, with its soaring domes, six minarets and spectacular Iznik tiles. Continue to Hagia Sophia, one of the world's great monuments, where Byzantine mosaics, soaring domes and Ottoman layers tell the story of Istanbul's many lives. Finish by descending beneath the streets to the extraordinary Basilica Cistern, one of Istanbul's most atmospheric Byzantine monuments. The afternoon is free for wandering, shopping or relaxing at the hotel before a group dinner overlooking the city.	Guided walking tour including entry tickets to Hagia Sophia and Basilica Cistern (entry into the Blue Mosque is free).
Sunday 5th September	A Day for the Senses Ease into the morning with a leisurely breakfast before heading into the maze of the Grand Bazaar, where thousands of shops create one of the world's great shopping experiences. There will be time for jewellery, textiles, ceramics, spices, leather goods and, of course, a little friendly Turkish bargaining. For the evening, enjoy dinner in Istanbul before our early departure for Gallipoli tomorrow.	
Monday 6th September ISTANBUL to ÇANAKKALE	Walking in the Footsteps of the ANZACs An early start takes us west towards the Gallipoli Peninsula. Today is deliberately comprehensive. Rather than simply visiting one or two memorials, we follow the battlefield story across the peninsula with a knowledgeable local guide including ANZAC Cove, Beach Cemetery, Lone Pine Australian Memorial, Chunuk Bair / New Zealand Memorial plus battlefield viewpoints and surviving trench areas. This will be one of the most reflective days of the journey — connecting the landscape with the stories of the Australian, New Zealand and Turkish soldiers who fought here in 1915.	Fully guided Gallipoli tour with lunch.

	We continue to Çanakkale for our overnight stay.	
Tuesday 7th September ÇANAKKALE to KUŞADASI	From Gallipoli to the Aegean After breakfast, we take a guided half-day tour of Troy, one of the ancient world's most legendary archaeological sites and the setting associated with Homer's Iliad. With our guide we explore the layers of ancient Troy, hear the stories of the Trojan War and see the reconstructed wooden horse, city walls, gates and excavation areas. After the tour we continue south towards Kuşadası. Once we arrive in Kuşadası and check in we can enjoy a relaxed evening beside the Aegean. We base ourselves in Kuşadası for two nights.	Fully guided tour of the ancient city of Troy with lunch.
Wednesday 8th September	Step into the Ancient World Today we experience two of Türkiye's most breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage sites in one extraordinary day. First up it's off to Ephesus, to explore one of the Mediterranean's most extraordinary archaeological sites. Walk along the ancient marble streets and imagine life in the Roman city as we explore The Library of Celsus, The Great Theatre, Curetes Street, The Temple of Artemis and more! Then we journey inland toward the spectacular landscapes of Pamukkale. Arrive in Pamukkale and recharge with a delicious, authentic lunch followed by a visit to Hierapolis, a significant site of the Pergamon civilization, then marvel at Pamukkale, or "Cotton Castle," with its cascading white travertines formed by mineral-rich waters. And finish with a swim in Cleopatra's Pool (extra fee), surrounded by submerged ancient columns. Return to Kuşadası around 7:30pm for a relaxed dinner by the water.	Guided tours of Ephesus and Pamukkale with lunch.
Thursday 9th September KUŞADASI to ÖLÜDENİZ	Travel day We say goodbye to Kuşadası and depart on a local coach for the Turquoise Coast around lunch time. The journey is long – about 8 hours but it is a great time to sit back, relax and enjoy the ever-changing view. Arrive in Ölüdeniz and settle into our base (and your own room!) for two nights then take a 10-minute walk into town for dinner.	
Friday 10th September	Today is choose-your-own-adventure day Free day today for you to relax, take it easy by the pool or perhaps try one of these popular options: Ölüdeniz Take the local minibus to Ölüdeniz for a day at the beach beside the famous Blue Lagoon. You can rent paddleboards or just relax on the sand.	

	Paragliding For the adventurous members of the group, soar from Babadağ over Ölüdeniz on one of the region's signature experiences. Babadağ Teleferik (Cable Car) If you don't want to jump off a mountain, you can take the stunning modern cable car to the top. There are restaurants and viewing decks at 1,700m and 1,900m to watch the paragliders and catch the sunset. Kayaköy (The Ghost Village) A short taxi or dolmuş (local minibus) ride away lies an abandoned Greek stone village left empty since the 1920s population exchange. Hike through the empty stone houses, visit old churches, and eat at traditional fig-and-vineyard restaurants nearby. Fethiye Food Experience Visit the local fish market (just a 15-minute taxi ride away), choose your own seafood from the day's catch and take it to one of the nearby restaurants to have it cooked exactly as you like it.	
Saturday 11th September ÖLÜDENİZ to PATARA	Into Ancient Lycia After breakfast, we make our way south via private transfer from Ölüdeniz towards beautiful Patara, just an hour away. Patara is a very different experience from Ölüdeniz — quieter, more rural and steeped in ancient Lycian history. Arrive in Patara and settle into this wonderfully unspoilt corner of the Lycian coast. Spend the afternoon exploring the village, then take in the ancient ruins on the way to Patara Beach and a vital nesting ground for endangered loggerhead turtles. Head back to our accommodation for two nights.	
Sunday 12th September	Hike the Lycian Way We are up super early today to start our hike of a section of The Lycian Way before the heat of the day hits. We walk directly alongside Delikkemer, a 2,000-year-old Roman engineering marvel featuring an inverted siphon aqueduct system that once pumped water across a valley to supply ancient Patara. From the hike's highest point we get panoramic views of the entire Xanthos Valley and the sweeping Patara Sand Dunes. The trail finishes after about 3-4 hours back at the archaeological ruins of the Ancient City of Patara.	
Monday 13th September PATARA to KAŞ	Onto one of the Mediterranean's Prettiest Towns After breakfast we depart Patara about mid-morning and travel onwards to Kaş (less than an hour away). This beautiful harbour town is all whitewashed buildings, bougainvillea, little boutiques, cafés and sparkling Mediterranean water. Spend the rest of the day wandering the old streets, shopping for local crafts stop for Turkish coffee and enjoy the harbour at sunset. Settle into our Kaş accommodation for the next two nights.	

Tuesday 14th September	A Day on the Turquoise Sea Today we board our boat for a full-day adventure around Kekova. We'll cruise past the remarkable Sunken City, swim in secluded bays and visit the tiny village of Simena/Kaleköy. Return to Kaş with time to enjoy a final wander through the town followed by sunset drinks, dinner overlooking the harbour and perhaps a little dancing!	Full day Kekova cruise including lunch.
Wednesday 15th September KAŞ to KONYA	Travel day Today we travel from the Mediterranean to the spiritual heart of Türkiye. We depart early from Kaş on a private transfer to the Antalya Bus Terminal. Then we hop on a coach to take us through to Konya crossing inland Türkiye and watching the landscape change dramatically from Mediterranean coast to the Anatolian plateau. After approximately 8 hours of travel, we arrive in Konya and check into our hotel where we stay for two nights.	
Thursday 16th September	Rumi, Mysticism and the Whirling Dervishes Today we discover the spiritual heart of Türkiye. Our first stop on our walking tour is the Mevlâna Museum, the resting place of the great poet and mystic Rumi known in Türkiye as Mevlâna. Explore the former dervish lodge, then wander through the surrounding quarter and markets. Continue through Konya's old streets, visiting Selimiye Mosque, traditional markets and local sweet and pastry shops. For our final evening in Konya we will enjoy a traditional banquet dinner near the Irfan Centre before our special evening experience - a traditional Sema ceremony featuring the Whirling Dervishes and a cultural highlight of our journey through Türkiye.	Guided walking tour. Ticket to Sema ritual ceremony.
Friday 17th September KONYA to GÖREME	Welcome to Cappadocia Today we travel by coach for about 3 ½ hours to Göreme and enter another world. After checking into our cave-style accommodation for two nights we can enjoy a relaxed lunch before heading out for our first Cappadocian adventure. This afternoon we walk through Rose Valley, following paths between the extraordinary volcanic formations and cave dwellings. The afternoon light turns the valley walls pink and gold, making this a spectacular introduction to Cappadocia. Return to Göreme for dinner and an early night ahead of tomorrow's balloon flight.	

Saturday 18th September	Cappadocia from Above — and Below This is our big Cappadocia day! Today begins before sunrise as we are transferred to the launch site of our hot air balloon ride. Then soar above the valleys and fairy chimneys for an unforgettable bird's-eye view of this extraordinary landscape as the sun slowly rises. Return to our hotel for breakfast and some downtime. Continue into Cappadocia's underground world with a guided tour of Pigeon Valley, Kayaşehir Underground City and the pottery town of Avanos. Return to Göreme for a well-earned dinner.	Sunrise hot air balloon ride. Half day guided tour.
Sunday 19th September	Rugs and a Valley Walk (or hot air balloon back-up day) Our final day in Cappadocia is slow paced. Starting with the ritual of Turkish rug buying we visit a reputable local carpet cooperative or showroom and learn how Turkish and Anatolian rugs are made. There is no pressure to buy — this is about understanding the craft, symbols, colours and traditions behind the beautiful textiles. Finish our Cappadocia experience with another beautiful valley walk — selecting a route according to the weather and our energy levels, perhaps Love Valley. Return to Göreme for an early dinner before boarding our overnight coach to Istanbul.	
OVERNIGHT BUS to ISTANBUL	Depart Göreme at approximately 9:00pm and settle back for the 11-hour drive back to Istanbul.	
Monday 20th September	Back to Where It All Began Arrive in Istanbul in the morning and transfer to our final hotel where we can check-in early. After breakfast and some time to freshen up, today is intentionally unstructured. This is our opportunity to revisit favourite places, shop for anything we missed earlier, enjoy a leisurely lunch, explore the Spice Bazaar, cruise on the Bosphorus, unwind with another Turkish hammam, or relax at the hotel. Tonight we come together for our farewell dinner — a special evening to enjoy each other's company, share favourite memories, raise a glass to new friendships and celebrate an incredible trip through Türkiye.	
Tuesday 21st September	ISTANBUL - DEPARTURE	
	Enjoy our final Turkish breakfast before heading to the airport and bidding farewell to Türkiye - a little bit of East, a little bit of West, and a whole lot of magic!	Group airport transfer.

- *Itinerary subject to change
- *A packing list will be provided
- *Flight recommendations will be advised

