



Escorted Tour - A Gastronomic Tour of Mediterranean Turkey



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING:

BROCHURE CODE: 5996
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

An expert local guide will lead your small group as you escape to Turkey's sun-kissed southwest coastline for your own odyssey of cultural and gastronomic experiences. Indulge your senses with breathtaking views and the highlights of a cuisine, not only centuries old but combining the best of the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Add to that a wealth of fascinating archaeological sites and you have an itinerary that is not to be missed.

Our Opinion

“Food and archaeology – two things that spring to mind when I think of Turkey. Nothing beats the ooze of honey when you delve into a fresh piece of baklava. Mezes, kebabs, fresh seafood; what's not to love? This tour goes one further with one of the most unique restaurants I've ever visited. I naively didn't realise the sheer depth of Turkey's heritage and I am excited to continue learning more about this fascinating country on my next trip.”



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London Gatwick (outbound to Izmir, inbound from Antalya)
- **Transfers:** All airport, accommodation and activity transfers are included
- **Accommodation:** 2 nights Vinifera Hotel Selcuk, 1 night Hotel Caria Nish Dalyan, 2 nights Hideaway Hotel Kas, 2 nights Atelya Art Hotel Antalya
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners (please see Agenda for further details)
- **The following are included in the holiday price:** Visit to Efes (Ephesus), the vineyards and olive groves of Kirazköy, Temple of Apollo at Didyma, visit to GaraGöz brewery, Fethiye fish market, visit to a Sesame Mill, Mantar Evi mushroom farm, visit to the ancient city of Perge
- Fully qualified English speaking guide throughout
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

Trip Overview

Sitting at the crossroads of Europe and the Middle East, Turkey offers a captivating smorgasbord for the senses. Feast your eyes on the ancient ruins of Ephesus, listen to the legendary tales of Greek gods and goddesses and trace the textiles and intricacies of original Ottoman pieces at the Atelya Art Hotel.

Foodies will rejoice in this tour's strong focus on authentic Turkish cuisine. You will have the opportunity to sample a wide variety of regional specialities and a host of treats to tickle your taste buds. Highlights from the agenda include two nights' accommodation on a vineyard, a trip to the extraordinary Mantar Evi mushroom restaurant and a visit to the GaraGöz brewery.

Although packed with cultural and culinary experiences, your itinerary still includes some free time. Whether you want to relax with a leisurely swim in one of the hotels' outdoor pools, take a stroll along the golden beaches or make the most of your time in Turkey by booking additional activities (please see Personalise tab) you have the freedom to put your own stamp on this ultimate gastronomic getaway.

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Upon arriving in Izmir, you will transfer to the charming town of Selcuk and check in to the picturesque Vinifera Hotel. Admire the dusky hues of the Turkish sunset with an evening stroll through the rolling vineyards and olive trees. Head to Selcuk town centre to marvel at the Roman/Byzantine aqueduct, keep a look out for the community of stork nests that perch on top of its ancient columns and observe the believed burial site of the apostle, Saint John.

Included Meals: None

DAY
2

EFES, KIRAZKÖY AND ŞIRINCE

Step back in time and discover more about the cultural and historical heritage of the ancient Greek port city of Ephesus. Famous for its Temple of Artemis, this UNESCO World Heritage Site also showcases grand monuments, the Library of Celsus and the Great Theatre. Excavations have revealed the House of the Virgin Mary providing a major place of Christian pilgrimage. This outstanding site is a must-see location where the Greco-Roman world truly comes to life.

You will also have the opportunity to visit the vineyards and olive groves of Kirazköy before enjoying an authentic lunch in the pretty village of Şirince. The local restaurateur here serves up a menu from his wood-fired oven and has been renowned for producing his own wine. Many people in this area still hold to an impressive tradition of producing their own fresh wine using only pressed grapes with no added sugar.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
3

TEMPLE OF APOLLO AND ÇİNE

An ancient Greek sanctuary and seat of an oracle of Apollo located on the coast of Ionia, Didyma is the setting for today's exploration. Shrouded in mythology and history, you will follow in the footsteps of Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar in making your way to this shrine.

Lunch will take place in one of the famous köfte restaurants of Çine. Positioned along the highway, everyone passing pulls over for a portion of their delicious and succulent meatballs. Discerning VIPs and easygoing truckers alike can't get enough of the smoky aromas and flavourful dishes.

On your way to Dalyan, you will visit the GaraGöz brewery; a relatively new, and very welcome,

addition to Turkey's brewing scene.

After checking in to the Nish Caria Hotel, your gala meal will be served in the blissful surroundings of the Ege Boutique Hotel's garden. A selection of contemporary dishes will be on offer as the chef elevates traditional Turkish dishes using modern techniques and presenting them with artistic flair.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

FETHIYE AND KAŞ

Appreciate the scenic views of the Turkish countryside and coastline as you travel from Dalyan to Fethiye. Today's agenda comprises of a visit to the bustling fish market. Here, you have the chance to select your fish fresh from the counter. The stallholder will clean and prepare the fish before taking it to your restaurant of choice to cook it to perfection for you. Usually, the fish will be served with an accompaniment of salad and 'balloon bread.'

You will then continue your trip with a transfer to the coastal town of Kaş. This evening's meal will be served at either Çınarlar or Bahçe – both local restaurants specialise in local seafood and consistently receive outstanding reviews from diners.

With just 23 rooms, we hope you enjoy the personal service from the welcoming team at tonight's accommodation; the family run Hideaway Hotel.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

FREE DAY

Savour a leisurely breakfast as you plan your day ahead. If you would like to add an extra activity, the Greek island of Kastellorizo is within touching distance. Why not opt for an excursion to experience another culture and cuisine? Remember to take your passport though! For budding chefs, participate in an immersive cooking lesson during an optional class in the Kaş area. Please see the Personalise page for further details.

If your plans are to rest and relax, there is plenty to keep you entertained on property. Soak up the stunning vistas from the Hideaway Hotel with a glass of your favourite tippie in one hand and a good book in the other. If you're an early bird, Hatha yoga sessions are delivered every morning on the 'yoga terrace,' showcasing uninterrupted views and offering a peaceful start to your day. There's convenient access to the sea, Leymona Beach and the hotel boasts its own fresh water pool.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
6

KORKUTELI

Today, you will head inland to visit a sesame mill in the mountainous hinterland before continuing through the mountains to Korkuteli for lunch at Mantar Evi. This characterful restaurant is located on a mushroom farm and epitomises farm to fork dining. The small deli adjacent to the restaurant is the perfect place to pick up a unique souvenir such as organic mushroom jam, pickled or candied mushrooms.

The team at the Atelya Art Hotel eagerly await your arrival for tonight's stay. Relax in the courtyard or take a dip in the swimming pool. The entire fabric of the property will transport you through history and spark your imagination with its Ottoman architecture and collection of niche artwork.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
7

PERGE AND PARLAK

The ruins of the Roman city of Perge are calling. Gain an insight into notable historical figures and get up close to the excavated monumental buildings. A delicious lunch of şiş and piyaz (kebab and bean salad) will be served up before heading back to the Art Hotel.

Your gourmet adventure will conclude with a farewell meal at Parlak – an institution of old Antalya. Now in its third generation, Parlak continues its flavoursome journey in the footsteps of its namesake founder who first fired up the grills in 1954. The restaurant continues to draw on the rich heritage of fresh ingredients and traditional recipes, fused with a passion for flavour and a hunger to execute trending techniques. We hope this evening will round off your week of rich gastronomic experiences, cultural insights and fascinating historic attractions.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Following breakfast, you will bid farewell to Turkey with a return flight home from Antalya airport.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Day trip to Kastellorizo

Kastellorizo, also known as Meis, is a small Greek island just a short ferry ride away from Kas. A day trip from Kas offers the perfect opportunity to experience the island's unique charm, rich history, and stunning scenery.

The journey typically takes around 30 minutes and you will require your passport. Upon arrival in Kastellorizo's charming harbour, you will be greeted by colourful houses cascading down the hillside. Take some time to wander through the narrow, cobbled streets, lined with quaint shops and cafes. Be sure to capture the iconic

photo opportunity in front of the colourful "Megisti" sign, a reminder that Kastellorizo means "biggest" in Greek despite its small size.

Immerse yourself in the island's history by visiting the impressive Kastellorizo Castle, perched high on a hill overlooking the harbour. Explore the castle ruins and enjoy panoramic views of the island and surrounding sea. Don't miss the charming Blue Grotto, a hidden cave accessible by boat, where sunlight creates a mesmerizing blue reflection on the water.

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Turkish Cookery Lesson

Your cookery lesson will take place at the home of a local master of Turkish cuisine and meze in particular. As you take in the views over the sea, you will be shown how to make some classics of Turkish cookery like stuffed vine leaves or peppers and mücver (courgette fritters). When you have put your new skills to use, you will be invited to sample the finished dishes accompanied by a glass of wine.

Included Accommodation

Vinifera Vineyards Hotel (Nights: 1-2)



Enveloped by 50 decares of rolling countryside, Vinifera Vineyards Hotel offers guests peace and tranquillity. The property features a unique stone-built structure designed by an Austrian architect. Be enchanted by the aromatic lavender gardens, the lush valley and endless vineyards as you relax in one of the hotel's vintage rooms.

Hotel facilities

- Taste wines produced from the property's 20 hectare vineyard and state-of-the-art facilities. Learn about the process and visit the French oak barrels
- Sample regional delicacies in the hotel's à la carte restaurant, Yedi Bilgeler
- Cool off in the outdoor swimming pool boasting beautiful views of the grounds

ROOM TYPE

Twin/Double Room: Expect exquisite views of the vineyard, mountains or gardens and light airy accommodation furnished in a rustic, country style. All rooms come with a private balcony and bathroom. Rooms situated on the ground floor open onto the garden. You can enjoy Wi-fi, cable TV, a coffee machine, mini bar, room safe, air conditioning and central heating, a telephone and hair dryer.

Dalyan Hotel Caria Nish (Nights: 3)



With only 45 rooms, Hotel Caria Nish epitomises 'small and friendly.' Fall in love with its traditional design, adorned with hot pink bougainvillea flowers and trailing greenery. Hotel Caria Nish has an

exclusive, intimate feel providing a serene sanctuary to relax in after a busy day of exploring.

Hotel facilities

- Situated in the heart of Dalyan; a small town famous for its Iztuzu Beach, ancient city of Caunos, and mud baths
- The on-site restaurant serves Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and Seafood cuisine. Vegetarian, halal and vegan options can also be requested
- The hotel features a beautiful outdoor pool, perfect for cooling off in the Turkish sunshine

Room Type

Double Room: Each air-conditioned room has a balcony with views of the pool, a private bathroom, free wi-fi a flat screen TV and tea and coffee making facilities.

Hideaway Hotel (Nights: 4-5)



This family-run property offers breathtaking panoramic views of Kas harbour, Meis Island (Kastellorizo), a garden of olive trees and the Mediterranean Sea. Owners, Ahmet and Marie, will be delighted to welcome you to their slice of paradise and ensure your stay is as comfortable as possible.

Hotel facilities

- Conveniently located beside Kaş Amphitheater, and a ten minute walk to the harbour, Kaş town centre and bus station
- Relax in the small, fresh-water swimming pool or indulge in a good book from the library under the shade of the pergola
- Hatha yoga sessions take place every morning on the terrace with unrivalled views
- Savour a lavish breakfast from the extensive choice of freshly prepared organic produce served on the terrace. Later in the day, Koi Sushi bar invites guests to sample flavours of Japan with an authentic array of dishes and signature cocktails

Room Type

Twin/Double Room: Decorated with light-coloured furnishings, all rooms at the Hideaway are bright and airy offering guests a spacious and comfortable stay. Accommodation here is air-conditioned and comprises of a private bathroom, hairdryer and a selection of toiletries. Some rooms boast

uninterrupted views of the glittering Mediterranean Sea. If you would like to guarantee a room with a spectacular view during your stay, please speak to one of our Travel Experts who will be happy to arrange this for you.

Atelya Art Hotel (Nights: 6-7)



Blending history and luxurious details, the Atelya Art Hotel consists of two 18th Century Ottoman mansions and four reused historical houses. The hotel has remained true to its original architecture and preserved ancient characteristics such as hand-carved decorations and a marble water well.

Hotel facilities

- Atelya hotel boasts a fantastic central location and is within minutes of Hadrian's Gate, Kesik Minaret, Clock Tower, marina, beach, Antalya city centre and shopping centres
- Take a look in the exclusive courtyard exhibiting pieces from the Ancient Period to the present day
- Enjoy your favourite tipple basking on the sun terrace or go for a dip in the outdoor swimming pool
- Breakfast is served al fresco amidst the garden's centuries-old orange and jasmine trees

Room Type

Double Room: Parquet flooring and hand-woven carpets transport guests back in time. Bedrooms here are rustic and traditional. Each room has a private bathroom, air-conditioning, wi-fi and safety deposit boxes.

The Specifics

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to

be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Artisan holiday is typically 8 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions>

Minimum travellers 10, Maximum travellers 20