Turkey Photography Adventure



Nature Photography Adventures

Adventure Itinerary

September 20 – October 4, 2027

We're off to immerse ourselves in history in both a cerebral and visual sense. Turkey has been the stage where numerous cultures encountered each other – poised uniquely for the migrations of early humans from Africa, the rise of agriculture in Fertile Crescent, the Silk Road, the Bosphorus, Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, the migration of Turks themselves, and two World Wars. Each encounter contributed to the unique collection of practices and ways of doing life that we'll see in Turkey.

September 19	Optional Early Arrival Day Airport meet and transfer	Lady Diana Hotel	Meals not Included
September 20	Arrival Day Airport meet and transfer If you came in early, this is a great day to visit the markets, including the Grand Bazaar, and other Orientation It would be good to get organized this evening – as tomorrow will be wild and we'll fly the following morning!	Lady Diana Hotel	D
September 21	So much to see and do today! Breakfast is on the top floor of the hotel – with a view of the Blue Mosque and the Bosphorus! Then we'll hit the streets visiting the Underground Basilica Cistern, the Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque, and Suleymaniye Mosque. And don't forget the Spice Bazaar. We'll cross the Bosphorus into Asia and return by ferry. Dinner at the famous Matbah Restaurant – Ottoman Cuisine!	Lady Diana Hotel	B,D
September 22	Sunrise breakfast at the hotel – watch the sun slowly paint the historic scene below with the colors of the day! Transfer to airport and fly to Cappadocia. We'll focus on Ihlara Valley, an amazing canyon featuring churches carved into the volcanic tuff Cappadocia is famous for. And you'll be amazed at the photographic opportunities of the Selime Cathedral. It's time to break out the tripods! You'll want them most days in Cappadocia! Tonight you'll set up camp in a cave!	MDC Cave Hotel	B,D

September 23	Two great destinations today! Goreme Valley is famous for fairy chimneys – many with homes and churches inside. And Durvent Valley has more interesting rock formations. Both involve extensive erosion of the volcanic tuff – and amazing human ingenuity to create homes, churches, places of business, and more!	MDC Cave Hotel	B,D
September 24	Today we have two favorites! Pasabagi and Zelve. This was an important set of settlements and religious communities of the Christians between the 9th and 13 centuries. And, this evening we'll experience the Whirling Dervishes – a Muslim sect that spins to put the mind in an important place. They also believe that all of us that worship only one God are really on the same path. Note that dinner is on your own tonight.	MDC Cave Hotel	B
September 25	The morning starts with an optional and amazing hot air balloon ride of the formations of Cappadocia. Afterwards, we'll head to Ozkonak Underground City – which is like something out of Indiana Jones! In the 6th century Christians tunneled into the rock formations to create everything needed for sustaining life while hiding from those who would do harm. After Ozkonak, we'll visit a ceramic center to see art techniques dating back as far as 12th century B.C. Then we'll explore Ortahisar Village and Uchisar Castle to end our day and our explorations of Cappadocia	MDC Cave Hotel	B,D
September 26	This morning we begin our journey back to the west, sometimes along the ancient Silk Road! We'll break the day's journey at Sultanhan Caravanserai – one of the old stopovers along the trail – and a great place to both understand and photograph.	Aglasun Lodge Hotel	B,D
September 27	We'll start the day with a tour of Sagalassos – one of the most picturesquely situated historic cities. Originally settled around 8,000 B.C., this eventually became a rather ornate Roman city. After Sagalassos, we have a drive to put us in position for another great Roman city. We'll start by exploring Kaklik Cave (trails and lights) where an acidic hot spring carves its way through limestone. That travel tripod will be handy again! Tonight's hotel will be larger – as this is a popular destination for bathing in hot springs!	Doga Thermal Hotel	B,D
September 28	We'll start the day chasing images at Hierapolis, an extensive hot spring that will remind you of Yellowstone's Mammoth Hot Springs. And, above the thermal area, an extensive Greek/Roman city that will tease your creative composition skills! Then we're headed to Laodicea, one a huge Greek/Roman trade center. The compositional opportunities are endless – as are the lessons we'll learn from history.	Doga Thermal Hotel	B,D

September 29	One more important stop to make before we make it to the sea! And this one is incredible! Aprhodesias! Dedicated to Aphrodite! Here, the finest marble sculptures were produced – and you'll have a photographic play day both inside in the museum and outside among the ruins. A day of photography here could easily provide the images for a coffee table book! Then we'll make that final run down to the coast and all that awaits!	Korumar Hotel	B,D
September 30	We'll start early this morning to beat the crowds as Ephesus is a major destination for Christian pilgrims. Ephesus is the largest ancient city ever uncovered – and has so many things to understand – and so many angles to capture. We'll be pressed to get through the site – there is always one more thing to see… and another… Our plan, afterwards, is to see the Ephesus Museum, home to some amazing and world-famous statuary. And then the Temple of Artemis. Lots of stories today – and lots of insights.	Korumar Hotel	B,D
October 1	We'll work our way north to Pergamum where we'll explore the Acropolis, one of the great centers of Hellenism. We'll learn about the monumental library here – and the tragedy that befell it. And, there is so much art to make here! Tonight's lodging will be right on the water!	Kervansaray Hotel	B,D
October 2	We're in the land of Homer, now. Today is about the Temple of Athena, Mount Ida, and olive oil. We'll here stories about Paris, King Priam, Athena, Hera, and Aphrodite today. We'll find great art to make at the Temple of Athena. After lunch we'll explore a traditional village that grows, harvests, and prepares olives and olive oil. So much to see and learn – and with that comes so many photography opportunities. And, yes, tasting!	Kervansaray Hotel	BLD
October 3	Our last day in the field! Troy! While this isn't the most picturesque of the sites we'll visit, it may be one with the most to learn. And, there is art to make! Then, across the Strait of Dardanelles, up the Gallipoli Peninsula and on to Istanbul – ending where we started so many days ago. Dinner in our hotel tonight!	Lady Diana Hotel	B,D
October 4	Breakfast included Transfer to meet your flight home or onwards		B,D

Notes:

We've packed a lot in this adventure. So much to see and understand. So much photography to do!

Our guide will be a fount of information. You will be torn on whether to hang on his/her every word or to respond to the photographic opportunities calling you. There will be plenty of spreading out, while others may never get more than a few feet from the guide. We'll press the guide to give us as much information and insight as possible while we are moving toward or away from a site – but don't apologize if you stick close or wander away.

Photographers move differently than other visitors. There are a couple spots in this itinerary where "history tells us" that we won't get everything done in the time allotted. Treat this, then, as a plan for what we'll try to do and understand that if we all get carried away that may make for adjustments. At the same time, there will be "meet at the vehicle" times given that you'll need to respect.

You'll learn a lot about yourself on this adventure. Will you "record" the amazing places we see? Will you get caught up in making art? Both? We'll be there to help – don't be afraid to try new things! Or to ask questions. You'll find you want both short telephotos (up to about 400mm) and lots of wide angle options – as wide as you can get. A tripod will help, sometimes. Dynamic range will be your friend if you can master it. And drama will be easy to achieve, with deep shadows, bold outlines, and dramatic subjects.

The itinerary showcases the MO for this tour – in that on most days breakfast and dinner are planned and lunch is on our own. There will be some great lunch opportunities – and a lot of healthy choices. Still, you'll want some snacks to tuck in for long walks or rides. And, Turkey is full of opportunities to buy those. And, ice cream!

We fly out to Cappadocia and drive our way back to Istanbul. Once that flight is past you can "acquire" as you see fit and don't have to fit it on a plane until you leave Turkey. There may be things you want to bring home. We try to fly to Istanbul "light", leave an extra bag in Istanbul when we fly away, and then have that bag to accommodate our acquisitions along the way.