

Progressive trail Detailed itinerary

Sunday

Arrival at Kayseri airport with the 19:40 Turkish Airlines flight (TK 0264). You are met by our chauffeur and transferred in 50 mn to your accommodation in central Cappadocia, where you have dinner with your guide.



Monday

You are driven to the ranch in the early morning to meet your horse and get acquainted with the riding equipment. The trail begins through the lush canyon of Uzengi, where abrupt rock walls shelter troglodytic citadels of dovecotes. After your first gallop on the sandy tracks, your stop for lunch in the natural rock circus of Taslik. From there, a muleteer track carved in the rock leads you to the ancient village of Mustafapaşa. You spend the afternoon riding through expanses of steppe-like bare lands surrounding Lake Damsa. In the evening, you reach the camp in the shady woods of the Valley of Cemece.



Tuesday

You ascend the Plateau of Avlak for a magnificent encompassing view of Cappadocia. In the background stands majestic Erciyes volcano. After a canter on the plateau's larger tracks, you stop for lunch on a cliff overlooking the Valley of Karlik. After more trots and canters on the plateau with views over the chain of the Taurus mountains, you ride down to the Valley of Cemil. As the sun is slowly setting, you pass through orchards and vineyards to reach the camp next to the ancient troglodyte monastery of Keşlik, near the remote village of Cemilkoy.



Wednesday

This day comprises 3:30 hours riding in the morning. Afternoon is at leisure in Cappadocia's most picturesque villages : Uchisar and Göreme.

Following a track left by the muleteers on the flank of the mountain, you reach a vast rocky plateau overlooking the south of Cappadocia. From the top of the cliff, the view is breathtaking. You descent through a lush valley planted with woods, where you stop for a morning break. You ride through the green countryside, crossing narrow streams, winding your way through gardens and orchards. Later, the land turns into wide open, bare spaces where shepherds lead their flock, aided by the impressive Kangal dogs. After a last gallop on the steppe, you arrive at the camp, where lunch is cooking on the woodfire.

In the early afternoon, both bivouac and gueshouse participants are transferred to their guesthouse in central Cappadocia. Dinner at the guesthouse.

In the afternoon, you can:

- Visit the ancient troglodytic village of Uchisar and its rock fortress
- Shop for local crafts in Uchisar
- Walk to Goreme through the famous Pigeon Valley (4km - or by road with a taxi)
- Visit the frescoed churches of Goreme's Open Air Museum
- Shop for local crafts in Göreme



Thursday

Optional hot-air balloon flight in the early morning: travel with the wind over Cappadocia's magical landscape at sunrise.

You begin from the Valley of Sorkumlu; there are areas so narrow that they form a deep canyon with out-of-the way troglodytic treasures. You gallop on a long sandy path lined with orchards and gardens, still cultivated by the locals using horses or mules. In green field you stop for lunch, surrounded by walls of soft colourful rock, where the horses can rest and graze. In the afternoon, you continue over rolling hills of white tufa leading you up to a rock pinnacle embracing Cappadocia's most beautiful valleys. You sneak your way through the rocky labyrinths, tunnels and arches of the splendid Green Valley in order to reach the campsite above it. You admire the valley's strangely shaped pink rock formations while sipping tea.



Friday

Optional hot-air balloon flight in the early morning: travel with the wind over Cappadocia's magical landscape at sunrise.

You pass the fancy fairy chimneys of the aptly named Love Valley and you cross Göreme to enter the White Valley. You take a short morning break among its fantastic rock formations. Through a narrow path carved in the rock, you reach the plateau again for a wild gallop and break for lunch in the shady woods of the Sheep Valley. Later, you canter on the large sandy tracks leading to the ancient troglodytic village of Çavuşin, where you stop for tea. A scenic path carved in the red rock of Mount Boztepe leads you to the famous rock formations of Paşabaği. After a long canter across the plain of Avanos, you reach the troglodyte camp in Yeni Zelve. Here, you can watch the sun set above Devrent Valley.



Saturday

You ride along the crests overlooking the forest of fairy chimneys in Devrent Valley. You dismount to ascend the Boz Tepe mountain in order to reach the mausoleum of local saint Alil Dede. From his resting place, you have a 360° view over Cappadocia. You descend through the maze of tracks and paths up the crests and down the canyons of the Red Valley. With its citadels of red, pink and ocre rock, this is Cappadocia's most spectacular valley. In the afternoon, you leave the tortuous paths behind you to take advantage of larger tracks for a long gallop. You cross the Valley of Pancarlik and you arrive at the ranch in the late afternoon.

Before dinner, you have an option to be driven to the hamam in Ürgüp for a relaxing steam bath.

Farewell dinner with your guides at the guesthouse.



Sunday

After breakfast, departure to Kayseri airport at 07:30 for your 09:40 TK 0261 flight to Istanbul (note: at certain times of the year, TK 0261 may leave at 10:50. Please refer to your travel documents).