

# TURKEY SUMMER TOUR

**23 May to 5 June 2026**

Join us on our 14-day adventure to **Turkey**! The special group rate (including airport and fuel surcharges and two meals each day) is **R46 990** per person.

## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Saturday, 23 May – Cape Town → Johannesburg →**

The big day has finally arrived! We depart in the early evening with **Turkish Airlines** from Cape Town and Johannesburg. Enjoy the hospitality of the Turkish airline on the direct flight to Istanbul. Overnight onboard after dinner.

### **Day 2: Sunday, 24 May – → Istanbul → Cappadocia** (lunch and dinner included)

After an early breakfast, we land in the early morning at the new Istanbul Airport, from where we take a connecting flight to Kayseri in **Cappadocia**. We are met by our tour guide and travel to our luxurious four-star hotel, where we will stay for the next two nights. There is time to unpack and rest a little. At **14:00** we depart for a visit to the incredible underground city of Derinkuyu. Christians once took refuge here from Roman persecution. During our time in Cappadocia, we'll marvel at the *Fairy Chimneys*, which are formed from volcanic rock. Dinner will be served at **19:00** at our hotel.

### **Day 3: Monday, 25 May – Cappadocia** (breakfast and dinner included)

Early this morning there is an optional hot air balloon tour of the area. After breakfast, we visit the Göreme Valley. See the *Apple Church*, *Church of Sandals*, and the *Church with a Buckle*. Afterwards, we visit the Zelve Valley and the amazing underground city of Kaymakli. Volcanic mountains spread volcanic ash over the region millions of years ago. Over time, this ash turned into tuff. Due to thousands of years of weathering, these deposits have become an archaeological wonder. We'll also visit Ortahisar and Avanos before returning to our hotel for dinner.



*The wonderland of Cappadocia*



*Antalya, on Turkey's southern coastline*

### **Day 4: Tuesday, 26 May – Cappadocia → Tarsus → Antalya** (breakfast and dinner included)

After an early breakfast, we depart for Tarsus, the birthplace of Paul. This historic city dates back to the 14th century BC! Paul also visited the city during his second and third missionary journeys. Enjoy the beautiful coastal route westward to **Side/Antalya**, where we will stay for the next three nights.

### **Day 5: Wednesday, 27 May – Antalya** (breakfast and dinner included)

After breakfast, the day is free to simply relax along the Mediterranean Sea or to explore the beautiful old city of Antalya, with its many fascinating buildings and shops. We'll meet again at 19:00 for dinner at our hotel.

### **Day 6: Thursday, 28 May – Antalya → Perge → Aspendos → Antalya** (breakfast and dinner included)

After breakfast, we depart on a sightseeing tour to **Perge** and Aspendos. Paul visited Perge twice during his first missionary journey.

Among other things, we'll see the ruins of Christian churches dating back to the fifth century. In **Aspendos**, we'll visit one of the best-preserved Roman amphitheatres (dating from the second century!). Dinner will be served at 19:00 at our hotel.

**Day 7: Friday, 29 May – Antalya → Hierapolis → Pamukkale** (breakfast and dinner included)

After an early breakfast, we depart for **Hierapolis** to visit this ancient city. It is believed that Philip was crucified here in AD 87 by order of Emperor Domitian.

Nearby, we'll also visit the breathtaking hot springs of **Pamukkale** — a fairytale world of dazzling white terraces! Dinner and overnight stay in Pamukkale.

**Day 8: Saturday, 30 May – Pamukkale → Kusadasi** (breakfast and dinner included)

After breakfast, we depart for the beautiful coastal town of **Kusadasi**, where we will stay for the next two nights. The afternoon is free for swimming or exploring the town. Dinner will be served at 19:00 at our hotel.



***Pamukkale***



***Kusadasi***

**Day 9: Sunday, 31 May – Kusadasi → Ephesus → Kusadasi** (breakfast and dinner included)

After breakfast, our bus departs for the ancient Biblical town of **Ephesus**. Among the highlights we'll visit are the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the Agora, Marble Street, and the amphitheater (which seats 25,000!). Ephesus is the best-preserved Greco-Roman city and one of the world's premier archaeological sites.

We also visit the House of Mary, a pilgrimage site believed to be where Mary spent her final years. Dinner will be served at 19:00 at our hotel.

**Day 10: Monday, 1 June – Kusadasi → Izmir → Bursa** (breakfast and dinner included)

After an early breakfast, we depart for **Izmir** (Turkey's third-largest city) for a sightseeing stop. Izmir is the ancient city of Smyrna, mentioned in Revelation 2:8–11. We'll see the seaside promenade of Kordon and the historic Kemeraltı market area, which dates back to the 1580s.

In the late afternoon, we arrive in the city of **Bursa** for dinner and an overnight stay. Bursa is especially known for its peaches, silk trade, towel production, and thermal springs.

We will also visit the Green Mosque in Bursa, and there will be time for some interesting shopping!

**Day 11: Tuesday, 2 June – Bursa → Nicaea → Istanbul** (breakfast and lunch included)

After breakfast, we travel further north to **Nicaea**, which dates to 1000 BC! In 325 AD, the Nicene Creed was formulated here for the Christian church.

We visit the Church of St. Sophia, dating from the 4th century, known for its remarkable mosaic floor from the 6th century.

We then travel onward to Turkey's capital, **Istanbul**, where we will stay for the next two nights.



***The ruins of the Biblical city of Ephesus***



***Istanbul's famous Grand Bazaar***



**Day 12: Wednesday, 3 June – Istanbul** (breakfast and dinner included)

After breakfast, we meet our tour guide in the hotel lobby to begin our tour of this fascinating city. Among the highlights we'll visit are the Hagia Sophia, the Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque, the Hippodrome, and the intriguing Underground Cistern.

**Day 13: Thursday, 4 June – Istanbul → Bosphorus** (breakfast and lunch included)

A final day in this exciting city! After breakfast, there's time for further sightseeing or shopping. Be sure to visit the Grand Covered Bazaar, with its more than 4,000 shops!

After checking out of our hotel rooms at 12:00, we depart for the harbor for a delightful boat trip on the Bosphorus. The Bosphorus is a strait that divides Istanbul in two.

We cruise from the Golden Horn, in the old city area, and meander along the Bosphorus between Europe and Asia all the way to near the Black Sea. Afterwards, we'll have the chance to visit the fascinating Spice Market.

At 19:00 we depart by bus for the airport.

**Day 14: Friday, 5 June – → Johannesburg → Cape Town**

Our flights with **Turkish Airlines** depart around midnight for South Africa. Dinner (!) and breakfast will be served onboard. After a wonderful adventure through **Turkey**, we arrive back in **Johannesburg** and in **Cape Town**.

**INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST:**

- ✓ Direct economy-class flights with **Turkish Airways** from Johannesburg or Cape Town. The return flight from Cape Town carries an additional cost of **R1 850**.
- ✓ A domestic flight from Istanbul to Kayseri.
- ✓ Airport taxes and fuel surcharges for all flights.
- ✓ Luxury coach transport with a professional operator throughout the tour.
- ✓ All toll fees, parking fees, and local taxes for the duration of the tour.
- ✓ Eleven nights' accommodation in selected, centrally located four-star hotels.
- ✓ Full buffet breakfast every morning.
- ✓ A second meal each day: ten dinners and three lunches.
- ✓ All sightseeing (including entrance fees where applicable) as outlined in the itinerary.
- ✓ Services of a professional Turkish tour guide and an experienced South African tour leader for the full duration of the tour.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

- The provisional tour price of **R46 990** is based on airfare and land arrangement costs as of March 2025 and is subject to exchange rate fluctuations.
- Visas for Turkey will be issued **free of charge** to all tour members.
- The **single supplement** (for travelers requesting a private room) is **R13 400**.
- Comprehensive group travel insurance from TIC Europ Assistance is available for all tour members under 76 at a cost of **R490** for the 14-day tour (a surcharge applies for those over 75).
- A **minimum of 32 passengers** must travel together throughout the tour.
- A **deposit of R7,000** is payable as soon as possible.
- The **remaining balance** must be paid **by 28 February 2026**.
- Credit card payments are unfortunately not accepted.

**HOW TO BOOK:**

Complete the **booking form** and **indemnity form** and email them to: [info@vandyktours.co.za](mailto:info@vandyktours.co.za)

Deposits should be paid into (or transferred to) the following account:

Bank: Nedbank	Account number: 119 1533 964	Branch: George
Branch code: 198 765	Account holder: Van Dyk Travel	Account type: Business

**Reference: TURKEY/** and your surname

For further inquiries, contact the tour leader: **Renhard van Dyk / Phone: 082 767 8400 Email: [info@vandyktours.co.za](mailto:info@vandyktours.co.za)**

