



COLLECTIVE
JOURNEY

Turkey:

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

15 - 26 AUGUST 2025



EXPLORE THE SEVEN CHURCHES, CULTURE, CUISINE, AND BAZAARS

SEAGULL

JOURNEY INCLUSIONS

- **Journey Diary:** Unique itinerary created by Seagull Travel & Tours
- **Flights:** Economy class airfare and estimated airport taxes from Johannesburg
- **Transport:** In an air-conditioned coach
- **Meals:** As indicated on the itinerary
- **Accommodation:** Comfortable tourist-class accommodation
- **Guides:** Knowledgeable English-Speaking Local Guides
- **Entrance Fees:** All sightseeing and entrance fees, which include entrance to the Ozkonak Underground City, Goreme Open Air Museum, Hierapolis Ancient City, Laodicea, Philadelphia, Sardis, Ephesus Ancient City, House of Virgin Mary, Basilica of St. John, Temple of Artemis, Smyrna, Pergamum, Nicea, Hippodrome, Blue Mosque, St. Sophia, Topkapi Palace, Spice Market, and the cruise on the Bosphorus.

JOURNEY EXCLUSIONS

- **Domestic Flights in South Africa:** Contact Seagull for assistance
- **Travel Insurance:** Contact Seagull for assistance
- **Visa:** South African passport holders need an eVisa. Contact Seagull for assistance
- **Gratuities:** To make your life easier a set amount will be collected by your tour leader, who will handle tipping on your behalf.
- **Items of a personal nature:** Telephone calls, mini bar, laundry, meals not mentioned in the program etc

COST

- **Land Arrangements** ±€1,895.00 per person sharing
- **Single Supplement** €560.00
- **Estimated Airfare from JNB, including estimated taxes and fees** ±R22,800.00 per person
- **All rates are based on 40 passengers travelling together from Johannesburg.**
- **Please Note:** No credit card payments are accepted for group bookings.

Total Amount:

R58,750.00 per person

Booking Deposit Timeline:

1st Payment - 30 March 2025:	R15,000.00 per person
2nd Payment - 30 April 2025:	R15,000.00 per person
3rd Payment - 30 May 2025:	R15,000.00 per person
Final Payment - 30 June 2025:	R13,750.00 per person

Explore the Seven Churches, Culture, Cuisine, and Bazaars

Join a remarkable 12-day journey through Turkey, where ancient history blends with breathtaking landscapes. From the surreal rock formations of Cappadocia to the iconic ruins of Ephesus, delve into the world of early Christians and the wonders of the Seven Churches. Meander through lively bazaars, unwind in thermal waters, and navigate the Bosphorus, which separates two continents. Experience Turkey's rich heritage, vibrant culture, and mouthwatering cuisine, creating spontaneous moments of joy along the way. Each day offers a new adventure, a fresh discovery, and a deeper connection to this timeless land.



HIGHLIGHTS:

Hot Air Balloon Safari over Cappadocia (optional)

Soar above the unique rock formations and fairy chimneys of Cappadocia at sunrise for an unforgettable bird's-eye view of this surreal landscape.

Ancient Underground City Exploration

Explore the hidden underground city of Cappadocia, once a sanctuary for early Christians, and its intricate tunnels and chambers.

Cotton Castle in Pamukkale

Witness the natural wonder of Pamukkale's white, terraced pools formed by calcite-laden thermal waters—perfect for a dip or simply admiring the stunning landscape.

Visit to Ephesus

Walk through the well-preserved ruins of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, exploring the ancient city of Ephesus, its grand library, and the House of the Virgin Mary.

Private Bosphorus Boat Cruise in Istanbul

Enjoy a relaxing cruise along the Bosphorus, passing between Europe and Asia, offering incredible views of Istanbul's skyline, palaces, and historic landmarks.



FITNESS LEVEL:

Our tour involves some walking and stairs but is not too physically demanding. Participants should be able to walk comfortably for 20–30 minutes without assistance. If you or anyone in your group has a medical condition or disability that may affect your participation, please inform Seagull in writing at the time of booking. If we are unable to accommodate specific needs, we reserve the right to decline or cancel the reservation.

Accommodation



Perissia Hotel (Cappadocia) 2 Nights

The Perissia Hotel provides a comfortable and well-appointed stay in Cappadocia, with modern amenities, spacious rooms, and stunning views of the region's unique landscapes. Conveniently located in Ürgüp, it provides easy access to Cappadocia's main attractions.



Lycus River Thermal Hotel (Pamukkale) 1 Night

This relaxing retreat near Pamukkale offers thermal pools, spa services, and comfortable accommodations. It is ideal for unwinding after exploring the travertine terraces and ancient Hierapolis, providing a balance of wellness and convenience in a scenic setting.



Signature Blue Resort (Kusadasi) 3 Nights

Signature Blue Resort is a stylish beachfront getaway in Kusadasi, offering modern rooms, sea views, and excellent amenities. With direct beach access, a pool, and dining options, it's a perfect spot to relax while exploring the Aegean coast.



Anemon Bursa Hotel (Bursa) 1 Night

We welcome you to enjoy this comfortable and well-equipped stay in Bursa, offering modern amenities, stylish rooms, and convenient access to the city's cultural and historical sites. It provides a relaxing atmosphere with warm Turkish hospitality.



Nippon Hotel (Istanbul) 2 Nights

Nippon Hotel is a modern and stylish hotel in the heart of Istanbul that draws inspiration from minimalist Japanese design. Its location near Taksim Square allows for comfortable accommodations, excellent service, and easy access to the city's vibrant shopping, dining, and cultural attractions.

* Please note **our hotels may be subject to change to similar properties without prior notice.**

Itinerary

DAY 1: FRIDAY, 15 AUGUST 2025

JOHANNESBURG – ISTANBUL |

EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR DEPARTURE.

- Our journey begins as we meet at the Turkish Airlines check-in counters at O.R. Tambo International Airport, ready to embark on our adventure to Istanbul and beyond.

MEALS: MEALS ON-BOARD | **STAY:** FLIGHT TO ISTANBUL

DAY 2: SATURDAY, 16 AUGUST 2025

ISTANBUL – KAYSERI – CAPPADOCIA |

ARRIVE, EXPLORE CAVES, AND ENJOY DINNER.

- We arrive in Istanbul early in the morning, clear customs, and meet our tour guide before boarding a domestic flight to Nevşehir, the capital of the Cappadocia region.
- As we travel through this breathtaking region of surreal rock formations, we discover an ancient underground city that once housed early Christians.
- The day concludes with a delicious dinner at our hotel.

MEALS: MEALS ON-BOARD | **STAY:** PERISSIA HOTEL OR SIMILAR





Itinerary

DAY 3: SUNDAY, 17 AUGUST 2025

CAPPADOCIA | SOAR OVER CAPPADOCIA, EXPLORE VALLEYS, AND DISCOVER HISTORY.

- Some may begin their day with an optional, unforgettable hot air balloon safari over Cappadocia's otherworldly landscapes.
- We then visit the Göreme Valley, which features "fairy chimney" rock formations and ancient rock-hewn churches adorned with vibrant frescoes of Christ and early Christian saints such as St. Basil and St. George.
- Our journey continues through the villages of Avanos, Zelve, and Uchisar, with stops at scenic valleys and an underground city once sheltering thousands.
- Cappadocia's rich artistic heritage comes to life as we visit a pottery cave, where generations have crafted ceramics, and a carpet weaving centre showcasing exquisite handmade kilims.

MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER |

OVERNIGHT: PERISSIA HOTEL OR SIMILAR

DAY 4: MONDAY, 18 AUGUST 2025

CAPPADOCIA – KONYA - PAMMUKALE |

SILK ROAD STOPS, ANCIENT RUINS, THERMAL RELAXATION.

- We journey to Pamukkale via Konya, stopping at the well-preserved Sultanhanı Caravanserai, once a key stop along the Silk Road.
- As we travel through Turkey's agricultural heartland, we reflect on the journeys of Apostle Paul and Barnabas before crossing a breathtaking mountain range and visiting the petrified waterfall, one of the world's natural wonders.
- In Pamukkale, we see the famous "cotton castle" terraces and visit the ancient city of Hierapolis, which was founded in the second century BC.
- A visit to a cotton factory offers a chance to shop for quality textiles, and in the evening, we unwind in the soothing thermal baths.

MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER |

OVERNIGHT: LYCUS RIVER THERMAL HOTEL OR SIMILAR

Itinerary

DAY 5: TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2025

PAMUKKALE – EPHESUS – KUSADASI | TRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF EARLY CHURCHES.

- We start the day by exploring the 7 churches, beginning with Laodicea, founded around 260 BC and home to a major ecumenical council in the 4th century.
- Next, we visit Philadelphia, the “City of Brotherly Love,” founded by King Attalus II, and Sardis, the ancient capital of Lydia, where we reflect on the significance of its restored gymnasium and synagogue.
- Our journey ends in Selçuk, near the ancient city of Ephesus on the Aegean coast.

MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER |

OVERNIGHT: SIGNATURE BLUE RESORT OR SIMILAR

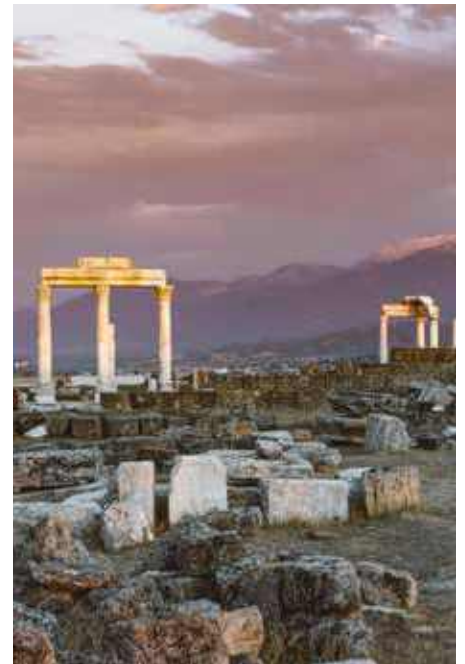
DAY 6: WEDNESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2025

KUSADASI - EPHESUS - KUSADASI | EPHESUS UNVEILED: HISTORY & LEGACY.

- Today is the highlight of our tour! We visit the ancient city of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved ancient cities and a site of the Seven Churches of the Apocalypse.
- We visit the House of the Virgin Mary and the 6th-century Basilica of St. John, where St. John is buried.
- We visit the Virgin Mary’s House, a peaceful hillside sanctuary where she is thought to have spent her final years. The Vatican recognises it as a pilgrimage site, attracting visitors seeking reflection and a connection to history.
- We also explore a local leather factory, renowned for its craftsmanship.

MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER |

OVERNIGHT: SIGNATURE BLUE RESORT OR SIMILAR





Itinerary

DAY 7: THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 2025

KUSADASI | PERGAMUM'S HISTORY AND SMYRNA'S MARKET.

- After breakfast, we head to Smyrna (Izmir), another of the Seven Churches. It is the third biggest city in Turkey, with an important harbour and trade centre for the export of tobacco, grapes, olives, and the wonderful, well-known figs of Smyrna.
- We visit the ancient agora, the only excavated area of the Smyrna.
- We return to the hotel and have the afternoon at leisure!

MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER |

OVERNIGHT: SIGNATURE BLUE RESORT OR SIMILAR

DAY 8: FRIDAY, 22 AUGUST 2025

KUSADASI – PERGAMUM – BURSA |

EXPLORING PERGAMUM'S ACROPOLIS.

- After breakfast, we drive to Pergamum, which was once the capital of a powerful kingdom. We explore the Acropolis, home to one of the largest libraries in the ancient world.
- We then depart for Bursa to overnight.

MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER |

OVERNIGHT: ANEMON BURSA HOTEL OR SIMILAR

Itinerary

DAY 9: SATURDAY, 23 AUGUST 2025

BURSA – NICEA – ISTANBUL | EXPLORE NICEA, CROSS MARMARA, RELAX IN ISTANBUL.

- We journey to Istanbul, stopping in Nicea, where the historic Nicæan Creed was established.
- After crossing the scenic Sea of Marmara by ferry boat, we arrive in Istanbul by late afternoon.
- The rest of the day is yours to relax and explore before enjoying a delicious dinner at the hotel.

MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER |

OVERNIGHT: NIPPON HOTEL OR SIMILAR

DAY 10: SUNDAY, 24 AUGUST 2025

ISTANBUL |

EXPLORE MARKETS AND SHOP AT GRAND BAZAAR.

- Begin exploring the city with an option to visit local markets.
- Don't miss the Spice Market, where you can pick up spices, nuts, and more.
- Next, head to the Grand Bazaar, the world's largest covered shopping mall with 4,400 shops, each dedicated to a different trade.
- Enjoy lunch and soak in the vibrant atmosphere of this shopper's paradise.

MEALS: BREAKFAST AND LUNCH |

OVERNIGHT: NIPPON HOTEL OR SIMILAR





Itinerary

DAY 11: MONDAY, 25 AUGUST 2025 **ISTANBUL |**

EXPLORE ISTANBUL'S LANDMARKS, BOSPORUS CRUISE.

- Start the day with a classical tour of Istanbul, visiting the old town and Hippodrome Square.
- Explore the Blue Mosque, built in the early 17th century, known for its stunning blue Iznik tile decorations.
- Continue to the St. Sophia Museum, originally built by Emperor Constantine in 360 AD and rebuilt by Justinian after 532 AD.
- In the late afternoon, enjoy a private Bosphorus boat cruise, connecting Europe and Asia.
- End the day with a farewell seafood dinner before heading to the airport.

MEALS: BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND DINNER |
OVERNIGHT: FLIGHT TO JOHANNESBURG

DAY 12: TUESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2025 **ISTANBUL – JOHANNESBURG |**

ARRIVE IN JOHANNESBURG WITH MEMORIES.

- We leave early in the morning and arrive in Johannesburg after a tour full of experiences and fond memories!

SEAGULL



Small Group Travel with Seagull

We've been crafting small group journeys to the world's finest destinations for more than 30 years. Our team of experts and seasoned tour leaders brings extensive knowledge to create unforgettable experiences. Our itineraries cover every detail, from accommodations and routes to must-see sights along the way. By keeping tour sizes small and including free time in each trip, we give you more freedom to explore. Travel in luxury, comfort, and convenience, embracing every spontaneous moment and finding true connection with each destination.

Ready to experience Turkey?



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