

Walking in Cappadocia

Trip Code: SGCP

Version:



WALK & TREK



SELF-GUIDED



MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse yourself into the UNESCO-listed National Park of Göreme
- Discover the labyrinthine underground city of Derinkuyu
- Get up close to Cappadocia's famous fairy chimneys, pigeon houses and rock churches
- Walk the length of the Ihlara Gorge from Selime to Ihlara

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 6 days walking and sightseeing
- Luggage transfer
- Daily departures available
- Transfers included
- Join at Kayseri Airport

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Overview

Discover Cappadocia: a mystical landscape shaped by aeons of geological forces and excavated millennia ago into surprising troglodyte homes, churches and hideouts. On this one week self-guided walking holiday, you can delve into the history of human influence on this unique environment, and on your daily walks discover colourful valleys and quirky pinnacles. As the sun shifts across the sky, the colours of the sand and rock change subtly, and you can be mesmerised by the sinuous shapes and undulating forms of this volcanic topography.

Exploring on foot, you will have the chance to tick off the big hitters that are Pigeon Valley, White Valley, Sword Valley, Love Valley and Rose Valley; explore Goreme and its unmissable Open Air Museum; and discover the lesser-visited Zemi Valley. On our unique itinerary, you will also hike the Ihlara Gorge, following the course of the Melendiz River from Selime to Ihlara. Along the length of this lush valley, you have the opportunity to discover numerous Byzantine cave churches and their painted frescoes. To complete your Cappadocian experience, you will have the chance to explore the astonishing underground city of Derinkuyu; and stay in one of the stone-carved hotels famed in the region.

Is this holiday for you?

This trip is ideal for those who love to be active on holiday and explore new landscapes, cultures and cuisines. You will walk an average of around 12km each day, and with average daily ascent/descent of around 350m, on a mix of cobbled tracks, dirt roads and footpaths. Routes are not waymarked, but are well walked and are straightforward to follow with the combination of the detailed route notes and GPX tracks that will be provided with your booking. There are occasional signposts and information boards along the way.

You will stay in carefully chosen 3* and 4* hotels, as well as a charming family-run guesthouse in the lesser-visited Ihlara Valley, where you will be sure to receive a warm welcome and a great taste of Turkish hospitality.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Luggage transfers
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- Shared shuttle transfer from Kayseri Airport to Uchisar
- Shared shuttle transfer from Goreme to Kayseri Airport
- Transfers to / from your walk as per the itinerary (days 4/5/7)

What's not Included

- Tourist tax if due is not included in the price
- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Entrance fees
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit and the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook, and all your relevant documents, no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start-date. We will send your documents using a signed-for courier so that you can track your package and know that it is safely on its way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our Sales Team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker, so please remind them to pack it before setting off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start-date, please inform our Sales Team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The trip starts and ends at Kayseri Airport. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. For this trip we have included a return shuttle transfer for you from Kayseri Airport which offers many departures from regional UK airports via Istanbul.

It is also possible to fly to/from Nevsehir Airport, however there are fewer flights serving Nevsehir than there are for Kayseri. Shuttle transfers are available for both airports.

Please ensure you inform our customer sales and support team as early as possible of your flight times and airport, so that we can arrange your transfers for you.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the most flexibility during your holiday.

Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

Food is a real passion among Turks, and you will be sure to find a rich variety of delicious dishes to sample. Fusing cuisines of Central Asia, the Middle East and the Mediterranean, dishes are made with the freshest of ingredients, full of flavour.

Local specialties you might like to try include testi kebabi - a meat stew (usually lamb, beef or chicken) cooked in clay pots; manti - filled pasta akin to ravioli and stuffed with meat or cheese, topped with garlicky yoghurt sauce and spice infused olive oil; and gozleme - a flatbread made of a simple dough rolled thinly, and stuffed with spinach and feta, or spiced ground meat.

There are a number of extensive vineyards in the region of Cappadocia, accordingly you will have the opportunity to sample some locally produced wines made from indigenous grape varieties, as well as other viticulture products such as grape vinegar, pickled grapes and grape molasses.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

For this holiday, we have carefully hand-picked a selection of hotels in four locations, to showcase a broad view of the different communities across the region of Cappadocia. You will stay in a mix of hotels of 3* and 4* standard, as well as a charming family-run guesthouse in the lesser-visited Ihlara Valley. Most hotels offer outdoor seating areas from where you can enjoy the view of the surroundings, perfect for relaxing after a day of exploration.

All accommodations offer Turkish buffet breakfast that includes a spread of eggs, cheese, fresh vegetables, fruit, bread and jam. Some hotels have a restaurant if you would like to take your evening meal at your accommodation, or you may like to try one of the restaurants in town. WiFi is available at all hotels.

Some hotels offer cave rooms; for those who would like to experience these unique rooms these can be requested (upgrade costs apply) and are subject to availability. By their nature, cave rooms do not have windows and are not as well-ventilated as conventional modern hotel rooms.

It is possible to arrange additional nights accommodation if you would like to enjoy this magnificent region a little longer. Please speak to one of our sales team for more information.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your hike. We ask that you please ensure your luggage is under 20KG and that your luggage is ready for collection each morning. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice for each country visited before travel.

Visa Turkey

UK passport holders do not require a visa for visits of up to 90 days in any 180 day period.

Health & Vaccinations

VACCINATIONS

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella, along with hepatitis A and typhoid. A good online resource is [Travel Health Pro](#).

Severe Allergies

Please inform our KE Sales and Support team of any severe allergies you may have before travel. We will always do our best to help but we are unable to guarantee an allergy free environment on our KE trips. We advise that you always carry your own treatment for the allergy with you such as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

Currency

The unit of currency in Turkey is the Turkish Lira.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided walking holiday is that you decide the pace however, getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable your walks will be. You should be comfortable with walking up to 6 hours for consecutive days and we recommend getting out hill walking, with some ascent and descent, before your holiday to help boost your fitness.

Climate

The region of Cappadocia has a continental climate, with warm to hot summers and cold winters that often bring snowfall. At an average altitude of 1200m above sea level, the humidity is lower than coastal areas but the hot sunshine can make the days feel warm.

The most pleasant times of the year for a walking holiday are in spring and in autumn, when daytime temperatures reach an average high of around 23C. Ambient temperatures in the months between June and September can reach highs of around 33C in the daytime and with bright sunshine it can feel hot for walking. The temperature difference between day and night can feel substantial so being prepared with warm layers are a good idea at any time of the year.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

Cappadocia: Cradle of History – Omer Demir

The Underground City of Cappadocia – Edward Feuer

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Self Guided Equipment List

- Hiking boots with good-grip soles
- Hiking socks
- Long / short hiking trousers
- Functional base layer top and leggings
- T-shirts
- Fleece / extra warm layer
- Windproof jacket
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Hat, gloves, and neck gaiter
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses

- Sunhat
- Small first aid kit inside your rucksack
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Camera (and batteries / memory card)
- Reusable sealable picnic boxes for picnics
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Walking poles
- Headtorch with spare batteries
- Personal wash kit
- Your self-guided route notes
- Rucksack (approx. 20L)

Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons in double/twin occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers, including solo travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

This itinerary, unique to KE, enables you to experience a broad view of this fascinating region and its different communities. You will also get off the beaten track by spending a full day and night at the lesser-visited Ihlara Valley.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 10/05/2025 and the trip is subject to change