



OFF The BEATEN PATH
— Since 1986 —

Timeless TÜRKİYE

17 - 29 APRIL 2026

FOR MELISA

A journey to keep.



OFF THE BEATEN PATH



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— Since 1986 —

Timeless
TÜRKİYE

17 - 29 APRIL 2026

A PERSONAL EDITION FOR MELISA

THE PLACES. THE PEOPLE. THE MOMENTS BETWEEN.

For Melisa.

A journey to keep.

For the paths explored, the stories shared and the people who gave each place its warmth. May these pages bring the small moments back into view.

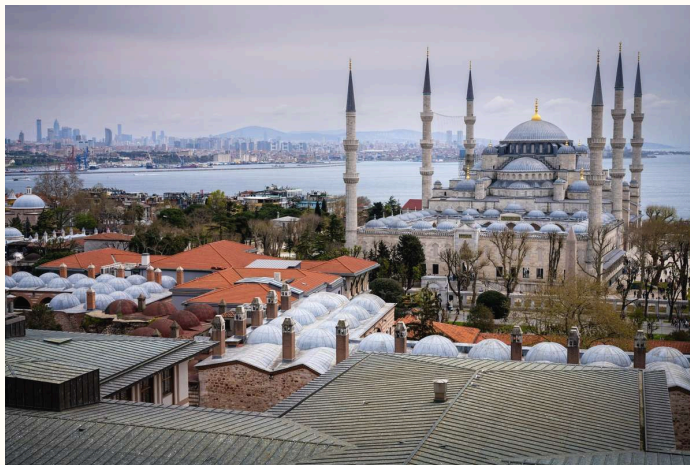


An unexpected smile.

The city, before the journey unfolds.

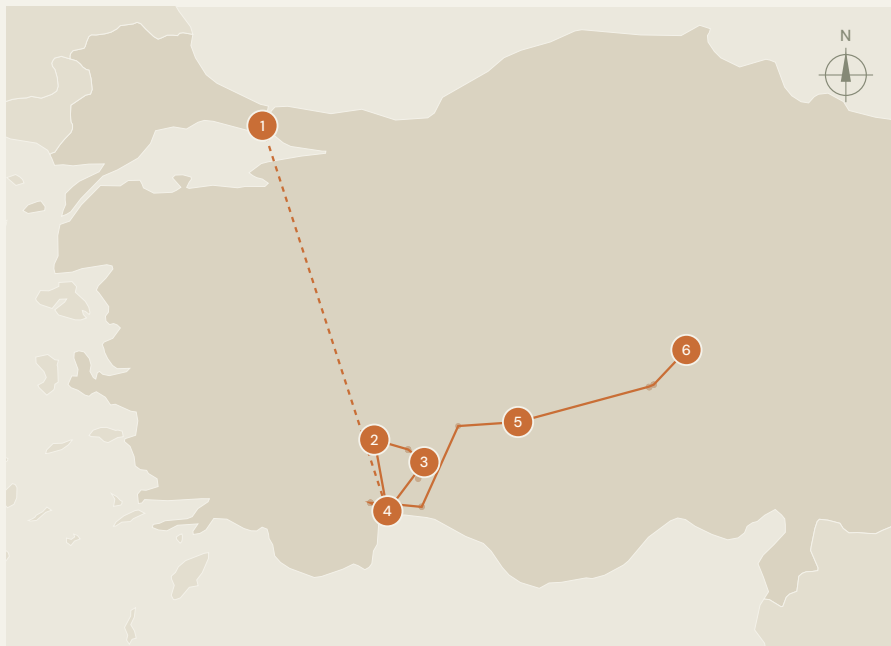


*a postcard
from the journey*



Istanbul, April 2026

The shape of the journey.



- 01** Istanbul
17-20 April 2026
- 02** Sagalassos
20-21 April 2026
- 03** Taurus Mountains
21-23 April 2026
- 04** Antalya
23-25 April 2026
- 05** Konya
25-26 April 2026
- 06** Cappadocia
26-29 April 2026

Flight: Istanbul - Antalya / onward by land

Places that became home.

ISTANBUL

The Bank Hotel

A former banking headquarters on Bankalar Caddesi. A city of new encounters, beginning in a building with a past.

TAURUS MOUNTAINS

Taurus Mountains Camp

Two nights among meadows and pines. Village cooking by day; the guidebook's evening gathering with music by the fire.

KONYA

Bablin Boutique Hotel

A small hotel in the historic centre, close to the Mevlana Museum. A place to pause on the road across Anatolia.

SAGALASSOS

Sagalassos Lodge & Spa

Pine forests and valley views near the ancient city. A quiet pause between the city and the mountain trails.

ANTALYA

RuinAdalia

An old-town base in Kaleiçi, built above an archaeological site. The layers of the journey continue beneath the hotel.

CAPPADOCIA

Seraphim Cave & Spa

A historic mansion in Mustafapaşa, with a restaurant carved into the rock. The setting becomes part of the stay.

Inside this journey.

01	Istanbul	17-20 April 2026	08
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03	Taurus Mountains	21-23 April 2026	28
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Ready for the road.

Before Istanbul, there are the small rituals of departure. A luggage tag, a favourite companion, and the anticipation of all the places still to come.



A familiar travelling companion



Packed and ready

every adventure starts somewhere...

Between two continents.

Across the Bosphorus, Istanbul opens into a panorama of domes and waterfronts. At street level, the story becomes more intimate: a market stall, a shared table, a guide pausing to explain a detail overhead. The city's long history takes on a human scale in the spaces between its monuments.



STAY

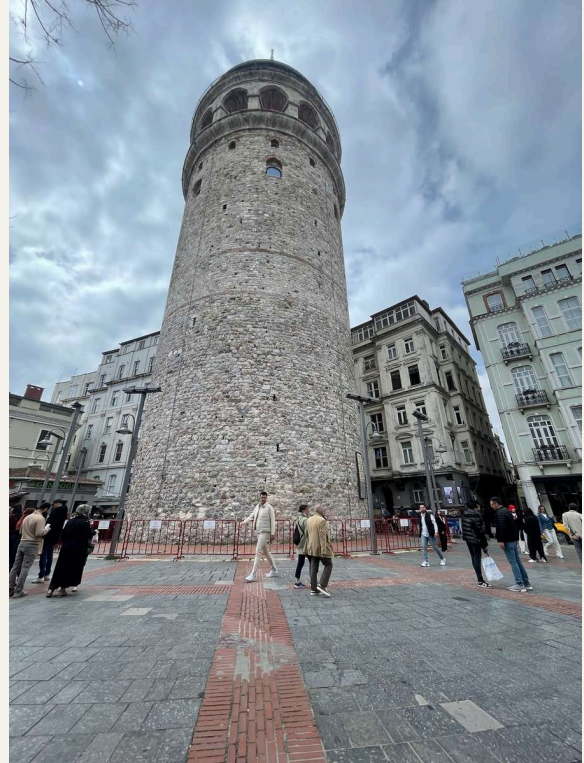
The Bank Hotel



A first look at Galata.

A tower before an empire

The surviving Galata Tower was built by the Genoese in 1348 as part of the district's fortifications. It was already standing more than a century before the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople.



Galata Tower

Finding the city's rhythm.

A food cart below Galata Tower. A narrow street in Beyoğlu. A red tram passing between shopfronts. The first city photographs find Istanbul at walking pace.



A cart near Galata



A street in Beyoğlu



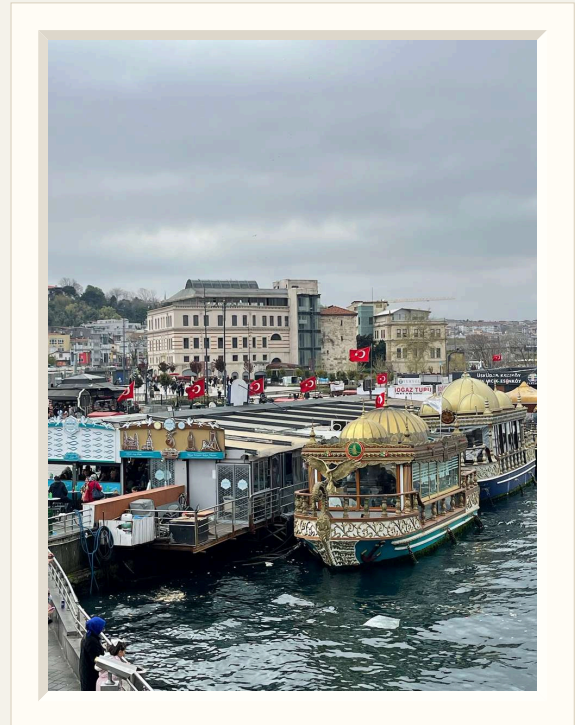
The red tram

17 APRIL 2026

Along the Golden Horn.

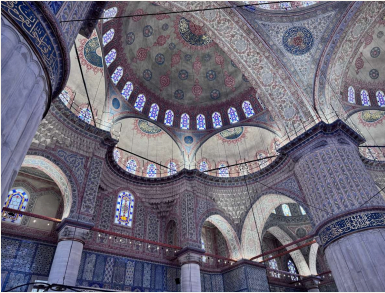
41.0183° N / 28.9717° E

Istanbul



Boats along the Golden Horn

Look a little closer.

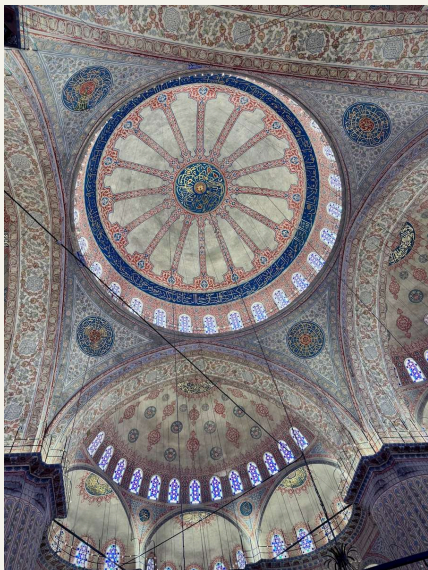


Under the domes.



A glance upward, a question, a story. In the company of a guide, the smallest detail can become the part of a place that stays with you.

A place to pause.



Pattern overhead



Together inside the mosque



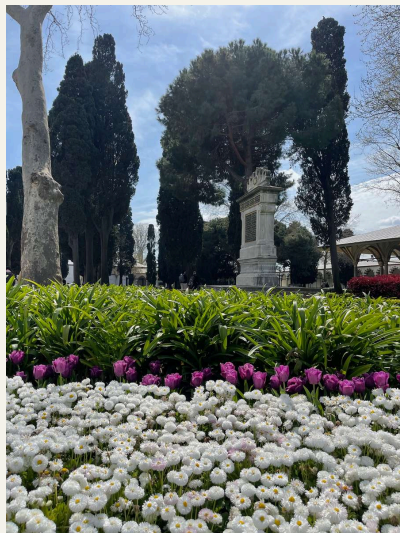
The courtyard

Gardens and courtyards.

Away from the busiest streets, spring appears in flowerbeds and shaded paths. The garden photographs make a gentle counterpoint to the scale of the city's monuments.



Tulips in the city



The palace grounds



A closer look at spring

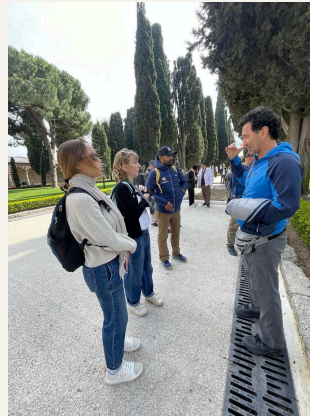
Through the palace.



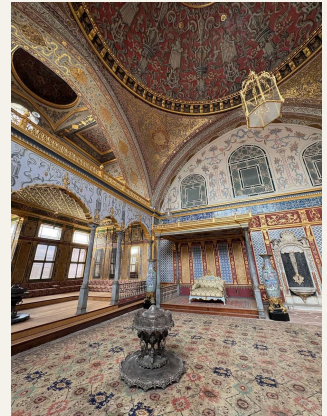
A tiled doorway



Entering the palace



Following the guide



An ornate interior

Through the bazaars.

The guidebook's route through the bazaars is a journey of scent as well as colour: saffron, sumac, cumin and Turkish delight. Here, the camera follows the vaulted passages and the streets around them.



The vaulted market



The streets around the bazaar

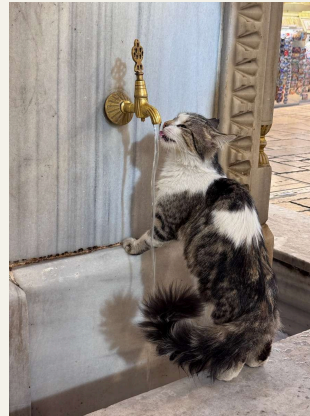
The city's small encounters.



Olives and pickles



Choosing among the colours



A cat at the fountain



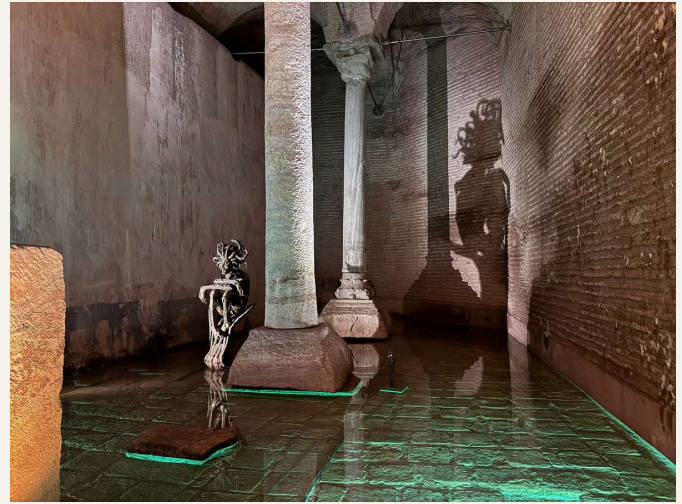
Dinner in Istanbul

Beneath the city.

The following day brings a different kind of interior. In the Basilica Cistern, columns rise from shallow water and reflections carry the architecture downwards. After the gardens and open courtyards, the scene becomes intimate and shadowed: stone, water and carefully placed light.

A forest beneath the streets

The Basilica Cistern contains 336 columns arranged in 12 rows of 28. Many are thought to have been reused from older buildings, bringing fragments of earlier architecture into this underground reservoir.



Columns and water in the Basilica Cistern

19 APRIL 2026

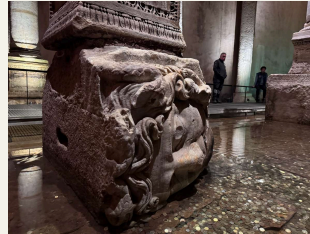
Stone, water and gold.



Inside the Basilica Cistern



A mosaic in Hagia Sophia



A carved Medusa head



Together in Istanbul

The stories between the sights.

*“The more
we learn,
the more
we love.”*

AYDIN AYGUN

From Land of Many Stories / Timeless
Türkiye



A conversation by the water.

At the Istanbul table.

The final evening photographs bring the opening chapter back to the table. After the city's monuments and time on the water, dinner offers a more intimate frame: a plate, a conversation, and a pause before the route turns south.



At the restaurant

An ancient city, above it all.

At Sagalassos, the mountains rise behind columns, terraces and a fountain. The view invites a pause; the smaller details invite another. A guide's explanation connects the surviving stone with the lives once lived around it, while a photograph places the present-day journey inside that much longer story.



JOURNEY RECORD

ISTANBUL

ANTALYA

20 APR 2026 / FLIGHT

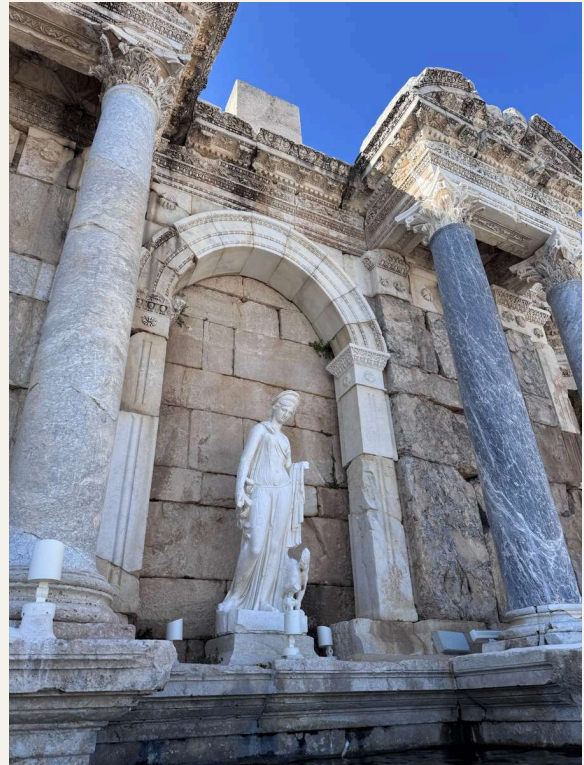
O2

Onward to Sagalassos by road.

The fountain against the sky.

A puzzle in stone

At Sagalassos, conservators documented each stone on all six sides before reconstructing the Nymphaeum. Most of the material is original; new stone was added where stability required it.



Antonine Nymphaeum, Sagalassos

Walking into another age.

The scale changes from one moment to the next. A small carved detail holds the eye; then the path opens onto a view of the whole site. The people in these frames bring the ancient city back to a human scale.



Following the path through Sagalassos



A closer look at the stonework

20 APRIL 2026

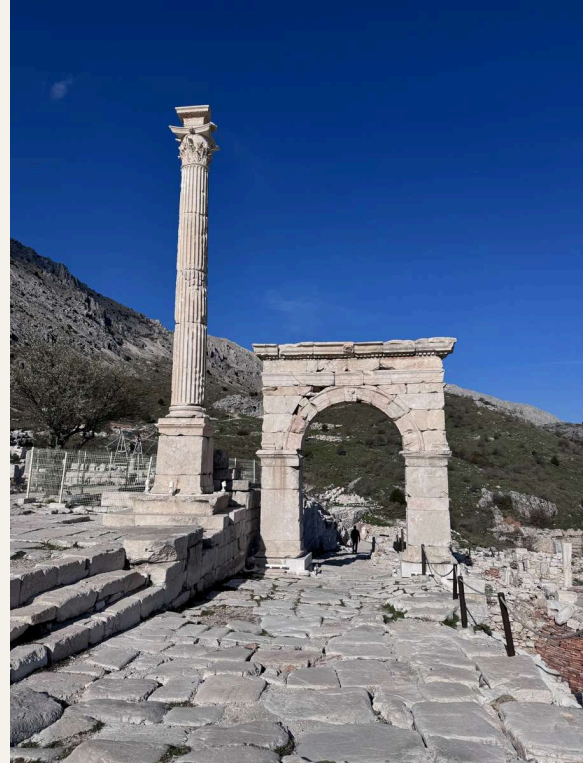
Columns, stone and open sky.



A STUDY IN STONE

37.6769° N / 30.5184° E

Sagalassos



Sagalassos

Time among the ruins.

There is space here to stop and look. Steps become a place to sit together; the paths continue between fragments of the city and the slopes around it.



A pause on the ancient steps



Walking further into the site

20 APRIL 2026

The mountains beyond.

37.6780° N / 30.5198° E

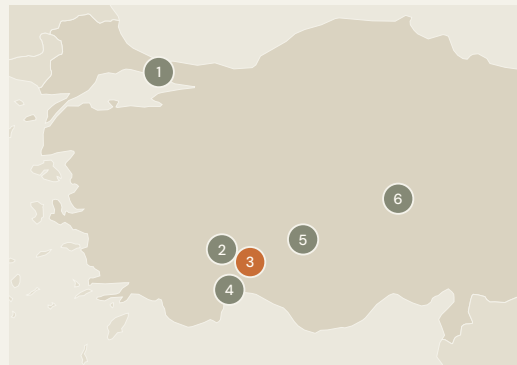
Sagalassos



Sagalassos and its mountain setting

Where the road slows down.

Mountain paths lead between old stone, pine trees and working countryside. At camp and in village homes, the rhythm changes: bread, tea, conversation, music beside the fire. The landscape gives this chapter its setting; the welcome gives it warmth.



STAY

Taurus Mountains Camp

21 APRIL 2026

An old road, still leading somewhere.

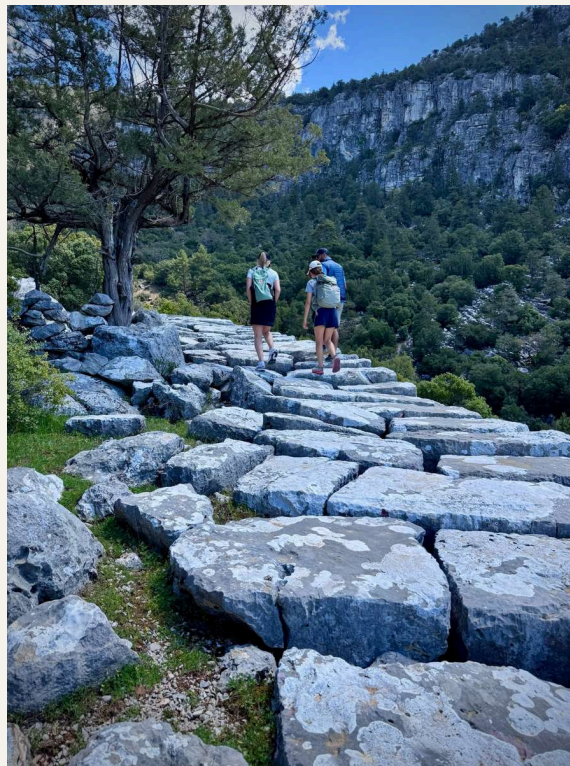
NOTES FROM THE PATH

Stone underfoot.

Pines along the way.

37.5657° N / 30.9860° E

ADADA / TAURUS MOUNTAINS



The ancient road near Adada

Time among the stones.



Among fallen columns and weathered steps, the journey finds a place to pause. A figure in the foreground brings the ancient theatre into the present.

Home, for two nights.

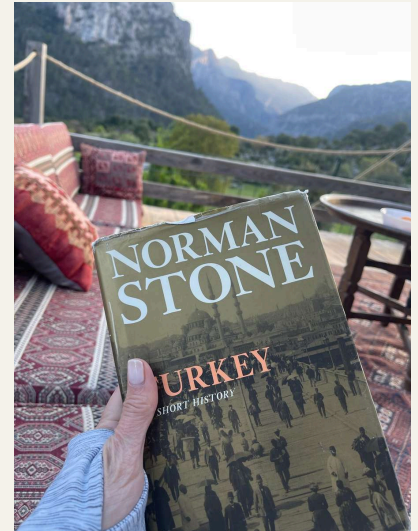
For two nights, tents replace hotel corridors. Meadows and pines surround camp, while the view beyond the canvas becomes part of the room. A book beside the bed offers another kind of journey.



Tents in the Taurus Mountains



The camp in its landscape



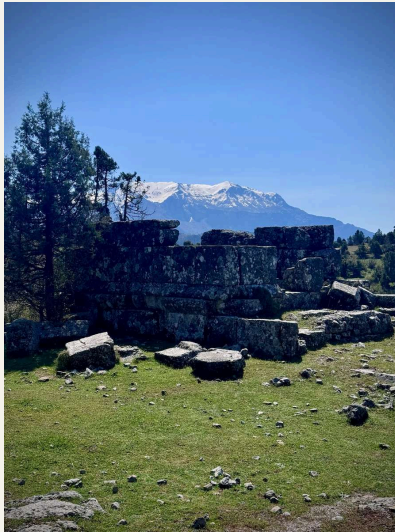
A book and a mountain view

Pines, stone and open sky.

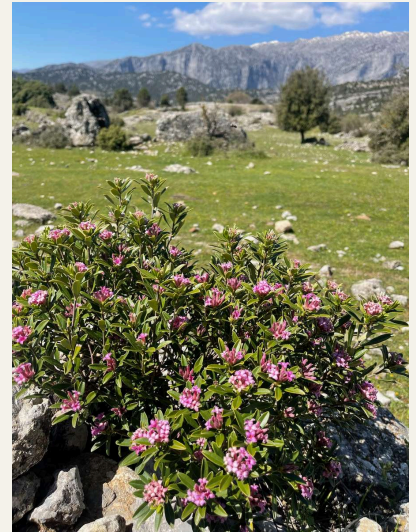
From the camp surroundings to the following morning's walk, the photographs hold together three recurring details: open ground, old stone and spring growth.



The mountains around camp



Ruins near Kesme



Wildflowers among the stonework

Life along the path.

Herds, beehives and old stone share the mountain landscape. Between the larger sights, the walk reveals a countryside still being worked and cared for.



A herd in the meadow



An encounter on the walk



Beehives in the countryside

Bread, tea & good company.

Bread, fresh greens, small dishes and glasses of tea fill the table. The guidebook made room for meals in local homes; this lunch gives that idea a warm, everyday form. Hospitality belongs at the centre of the journey.



Lunch in the Taurus Mountains

The people who welcome you.

A village visit is made of more than its setting. The photographs keep the welcome in view: time together, a glass of tea, and a portrait among the flowers.



A village visit



Tea along the way



A moment in the garden

After sundown.

By night, the mountain chapter grows quieter. Light gathers around the tents and the fire; a musician appears in its glow. The guidebook's evening of food and live music has a different scale from the city days.



The tents after dark



Music beside the fire

23 APRIL 2026

Together in the mountains.

The group gathers among the rocks before the route moves south. This portrait holds something the map cannot: the company in which the mountains were explored.



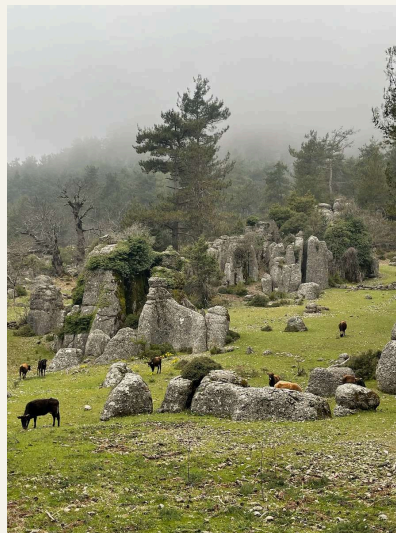
The group at camp

Through the foothills.

The route continues south through the Taurus foothills. Trees, weathered rock and open clearings give this part of the walk a different texture from the higher mountain sites.



A path through the trees



Stone formations in the foothills

Flatbread, made by hand.

Bread as a welcome

In 2016, UNESCO recognised the culture of making and sharing flatbread, including yufka, across Türkiye and four other countries. Its meaning reaches beyond food to hospitality and community.



Bread-making near Altinkaya

Mountain memories.



Lunch outdoors

A friendly encounter

Something sweet

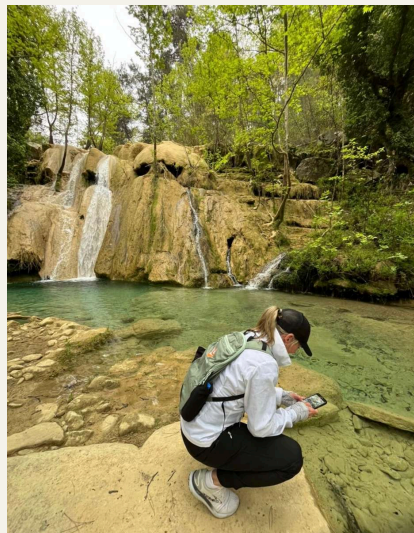
A photograph together

Where the water runs.

Some of the photographs are about stopping. Beside a river or a small waterfall, the landscape offers a different scale of detail: water, rock and a place to pause before continuing.



A pause beside the river



A waterfall along the way

The mountains meet the coast.

The Mediterranean becomes the journey's coastal base, with ancient places waiting beyond it. At Termessos, the theatre shares its setting with the mountains. Perge and Aspendos reveal other scales of stone and space. A pause or a conversation brings the wider scene close again.



STAY

RuinAdalia

A theatre in the mountains.

A city that held its ground

Termessos resisted Alexander the Great in 333 BC. Its position on the slopes of Güllük Mountain helps explain why this ancient city was so difficult to reach and capture.



The theatre at Termessos

The view is better together.



Stone steps, mountain air and the company of fellow travellers. The theatre belongs to an ancient city; this moment belongs to the journey.

24 APRIL 2026

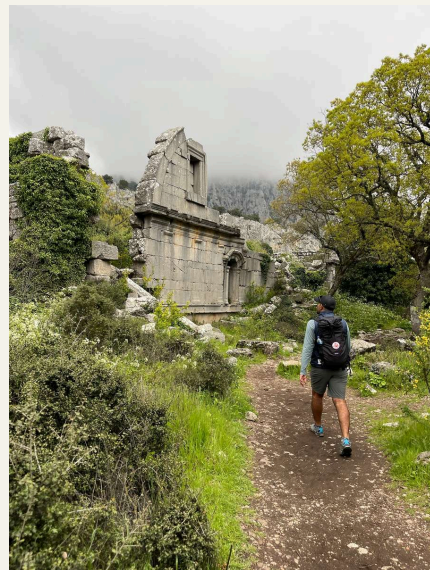
A path through Termessos.



Figures beneath a tree



Standing beside the carved tombs



Following the path through the ruins

Stone and spring.

The old stone has company: young leaves, grass and branches reaching across the view. Spring softens the edges of the ruins without hiding their shape.



Ruins and new growth



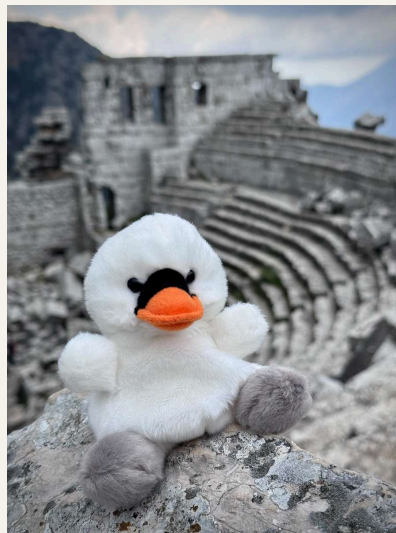
A closer view of the rock-cut façades

A familiar travelling companion.

The smallest member of the photographic story makes another appearance. Among the theatre's stone seats, a familiar face adds a playful scale to an imposing place.



A small visitor to the theatre



The companion gets a closer look

The road through Perge.

The 25 April photographs begin among Perge's ruins. The ancient city is known for its colonnaded streets and monumental public buildings; here the camera also records the people taking time to look and talk.



Together at Perge



A conversation among the ruins

An aqueduct across the landscape.

Water across a valley

Aspendos's aqueduct system used inverted siphons to carry water across the valley. Pressure moved water down and back up through stone channels: Roman engineering working with the landscape.



The aqueduct at Aspendos

A seat inside the story.



The sweep of the seating draws the eye around the theatre. For a moment, there is nothing to do but sit, listen and take it in.

Onwards, together.

Antalya



A moment together along the route

Across the Anatolian interior.

On the road across Anatolia, Konya makes room for a different kind of looking. Historic places sit alongside the everyday colours of stalls, produce and city streets. A short pause at a counter can belong to the memory as naturally as a grand building.



The meaning behind the turning

The Mevlevi order was founded in Konya in 1273. Its Sema ceremony is a spiritual practice shaped by music and disciplined movement, rather than simply a dance performance.

A stop by the water sanctuary.

The guidebook traces the road towards Konya through Beyşehir, with a stop at an ancient water sanctuary. Here, a group portrait among the stonework brings a human scale to that long history.



The group near Beyşehir

Around the table again.

After a day on the road, the frame fills with plates, salads and dishes to share. A meal provides its own kind of transition: the travelling day ends, and the next city begins around the table.



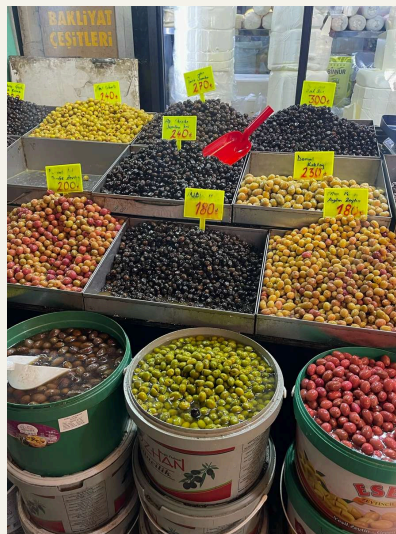
Dinner in Konya

Morning at the market.

Morning in Konya brings open stalls, tubs of olives and a counter of bright labels. The photographs, recorded on 26 April, follow the everyday life around the city's historic places.



Among the market stalls



Olives, pickles and bright labels

Colour in every direction.



At the fish stall



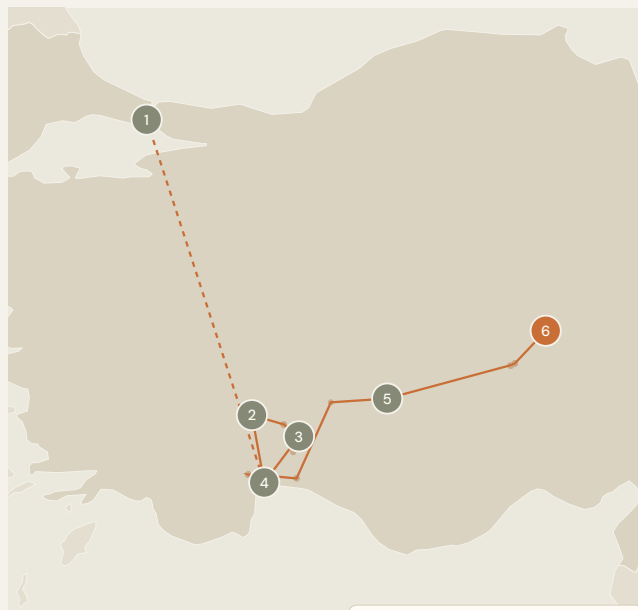
Fruit and vegetables under the market roof



The day's display

Towards Cappadocia.

The guidebook links this crossing with a caravanserai: a resting place for merchants and travellers. That older rhythm of moving, pausing and continuing feels at home in the journey. The next photographs open into Ihlara and Güzelyurt.



*the next
chapter...*

26 APR 2026



CAPPADOCIA

06

Another world, in stone.

Paths wind through the valleys; doorways and chambers appear within the rock. The wider landscape can feel almost unfamiliar, while its small spaces reveal signs of ordinary lives. Balloons and distant ridges give the chapter its scale. The people sharing the view give it a more personal ending.



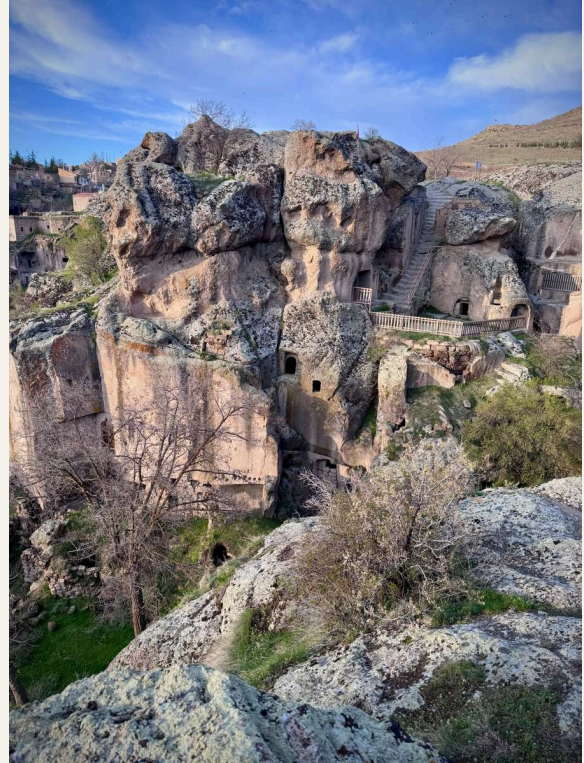
STAY

Seraphim Cave & Spa

Stone shaped into a landscape.

A landscape made by subtraction

Erosion shaped Cappadocia's volcanic landscape into valleys and pinnacles. People then carved rooms and sanctuaries into the rock, creating architecture by removing material instead of adding it.



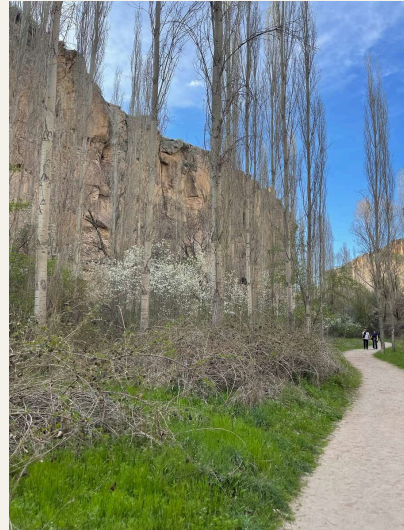
Rock-cut spaces near Güzelyurt

Into the valley.

On 26 April, the photographs enter Ihlara. Trees stand close to the rock walls, and the route moves between stone openings, shaded paths and the green growth of the valley floor.



A bridge in the Ihlara Valley

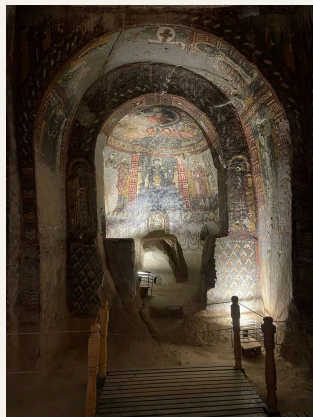


Trees beneath the valley walls

Painted into stone.



A rock-cut entrance in Ihlara



Inside a painted church



A closer look at the frescoes



Taking time to look

Güzelyurt, towards evening.

By evening, the photo locations place the journey near Güzelyurt. The valley opens into a wider view, and the carved landscape becomes part of the horizon.



Above the rock-cut landscape



An evening view near Güzelyurt

26 APRIL 2026

Beyond the village, the mountain.



Cappadocia

38.275° N / 34.372° E



The evening landscape from Güzelyurt

27 APRIL 2026

A different kind of dawn.

38.6501° N / 34.8244° E

Cappadocia



27 APRIL 2026 / CAPPADOCIA

Balloons above Cappadocia

Before the day begins.



Before six on 27 April, balloons begin to fill the sky above the valleys. Later, the group is back in the frame, standing together in the clear morning light. Two ways of keeping the same day.



Balloons above the valleys



Together in the early light

The slower morning.

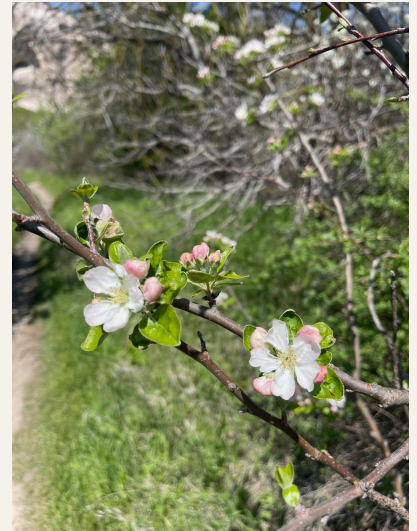
After the dawn photographs, the story returns to the table and the trail. Breakfast gives way to valley scenery and a close look at the blossom beside the path.



Breakfast in Mustafapaşa



The valley near Mustafapaşa



Spring blossom beside the path

A landscape, shared.



A pointing hand brings another detail into view. Beyond the path, the valleys open into folds of pale stone: a view to linger over, together.

A thread through the journey.

At the weaving workshop, the eye moves from the landscape to the work of a hand. Rows of thread hold the repeated movement of the loom. The guidebook made space for local craft alongside the valleys and monuments.

woven, by hand



Carpet weaving in the Avanos area

Valleys in the late light.

Towards evening, the forms of the landscape become clear against the sky. Slender stone shapes and the wider valley belong to the same view, seen first close up and then from a little further away.



Rock formations near Göreme



The valley opening into the evening

The last light on Uçhisar.



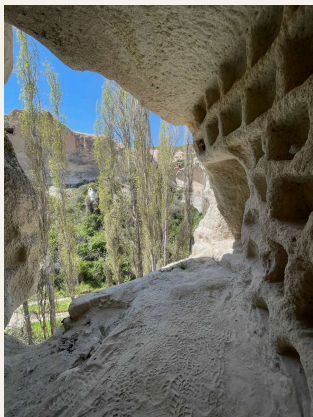
UÇHISAR / CAPPADOCIA

Some views stay with you...



38.6372° N / 34.8112° E

Windows into the landscape.



Looking out through the stone



A moment inside



Tables in the valley

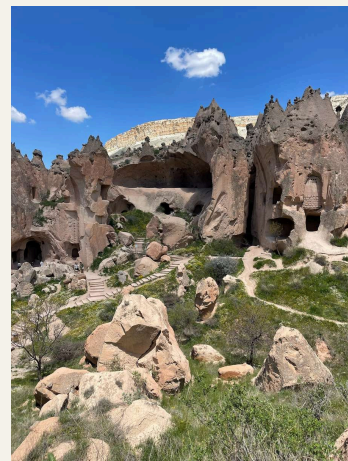


A broad view across the rock formations

Around the next corner.



A path becomes a passage between the rocks. Each turn offers another doorway, another shape, another reason to slow down.

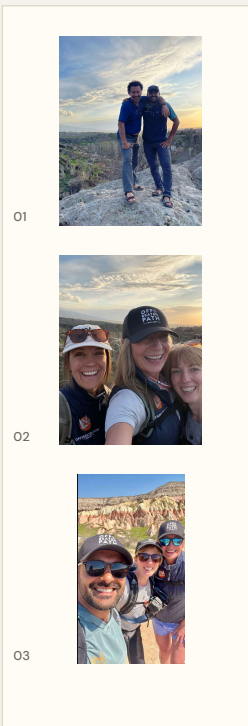


Carved into the landscape.

Sharing the view.



Together above the landscape



together, along the way

One more path to follow.

Cappadocia



Walking among Cappadocia's rock formations

Good company, all the way.



A view shared together



An everyday encounter



An evening conversation



Sharing a taste

What stays with you.

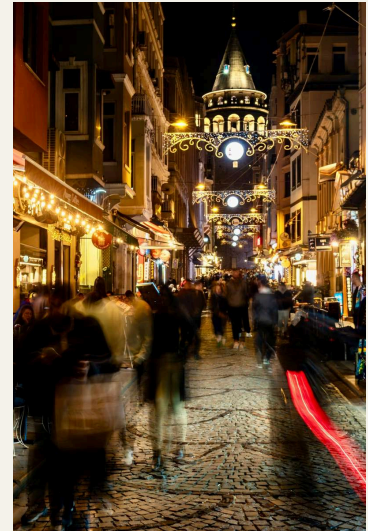
A pattern of thread, an Istanbul skyline and a street after dark. The journey closes in small pieces, each carrying a different part of the memory.



A closer look at the craft



Istanbul, held in the memory



A night-time street

Melisa, these are the moments.



The paths end. The stories stay.



Something Different?

Already dreaming of your next escape? Explore our curated collections and let us craft another unforgettable journey – tailored just for you, as always.

let our experiences inspire your next escape..

Until next time.

there is always another chapter...

*“Travel is where the heart
of the traveler meets
the soul of the place.”*

*Some journeys
stay with you.*

The places. The people. The small moments between.



offthebeatenpath.com