



# Let's Talk Turkey

24 June – 7 July 2020

From the colour and bustle of Istanbul's historic Grand Bazaar to the cinematic landscape of monasteries, mountains and lakes in the Black Sea Coast region, and on to the geological wonders of Cappadocia and Pamukkale - Turkey just keeps giving. In addition to the sights, your taste buds get a treat as the fresh local cuisine ensures a delicious culinary road trip.

## ARRIVAL DAY

### 24 June 2020. Day 1: (Wednesday)

Touchdown at the airport in Istanbul and make your way to the tour hotel. Depending on your arrival time there you may have an opportunity to have a wander around the city or catch up on some sleep before the following day when the action begins!

Dinner is your own arrangement.

Overnight in Istanbul.

## 24 HOURS IN ISTANBUL

(B,D)

### 25 June 2020. Day 2: (Thursday)

See the best tourist spots in Istanbul today on a guided walking tour. Perhaps a visit to the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace. Later in the evening the group will gather for dinner and drinks to celebrate the start of our By The Backroads Turkey adventure.

## ISTANBUL TO AKCAKOCA

(B,L)

### 26 June 2020. Day 3: (Friday)

A short taxi ride to the motorcycle rental agency followed by bike inspections and riders briefing. Once these formalities are completed, we will begin our motorbiking journey.

We depart Istanbul in the mid-morning among the crowds and make our way to the Black Sea Coast. Following the coastline we will arrive at the small, picturesque town of Akcakoca on the Black Sea.

Overnight in Akcakoca.

**AKCAKOCA TO CIDE****(B,L)****27 June 2020. Day 4: (Saturday) 250KM**

Ride along the pristine coast of the Black Sea, criss-crossing small shipyards while enjoying the stunning scenery. Tonight we will stay in a small town located on the Black Sea coast.

Overnight in Cide.

**CIDE TO SINOP****(B,L)****28 June 2020. Day 5: (Sunday) 250 KM**

Leave Cide and enjoy the endless twisty roads along the Black Sea. If time allows, we may ride inland crossing twice through the impressive passes on the Black Sea mountains. Tonight we stay in the jewel of the Black Sea, Sinop, a laid-back town with a very rich history.

Overnight in Sinop

**SINOP TO HATTUSAS****(B,L)****29 June 2020. Day 6: (Monday) 360 KM**

Heading south we ride inland through the lush mountains towards the high plateaus of inner Turkey. Arrive Hattusas the ancient capital of the Hittite Empire in the late Bronze Age (from 1200 BC) the ruins of which lie near modern Bogazkale.

The limestone peaks of the Taurus range separate central Antolia's steppes from the Mediterranean. Dense pine, cedar, and chestnut forest, open grassland, remote villages linked by ancient trails add to this unspoiled and undeveloped part of Turkey.

Overnight in Hattusas/Bogazkale

**HATTUSAS TO CAPPADOCIA****(B,L)****30 June 2020. Day 7: (Tuesday) 200KM**

Ride south through the steppes of central Turkey bypassing small villages and towns. Arrive in Cappadocia. Famous for its unique rock formations and amazing hot air ballooning opportunities, the otherworldly landscapes of Cappadocia are one of Turkey's most popular natural wonders and are a must-see. Unusual honeycombed boulders rise from the plateau of Central Anatolia.

Overnight in cave hotel in Cappadocia

**CAPPADOCIA - Free Day. No riding****(B,D)****1 July 2020. Day 8: (Wednesday) 0KM**

Take an unforgettable balloon ride (optional and additional cost) in the early morning if you wish. The day is yours to explore Cappadocia's bizarre landscape, its striking formations and the millennia of ancient history that is intricately woven into it. We'll gather tonight for dinner and drinks while we discuss the adventures ahead.

Overnight in cave hotel in Cappadocia.

**CAPPADOCIA TO BEYSEHIR****(B,L)****2 July 2020. Day 9: (Thursday) 330KM**

Head southwest riding on the flat plains of Konya and arrive in the Lakes Region of Turkey. Lake Beysehir is Turkey's third largest freshwater lake and sadly at risk of drying up due to excess removal of water.

Overnight at a hotel in the small town of Beysehir

**BEYSEHIR TO PAMUKKALE****(B,L)****3 July 2020. Day 10: (Friday) 370KM**

Ride alongside several lakes and mountains to arrive in Pamukkale, another natural wonder made up of calcium pools and cascades, surrounded by the ruins of a 2000-year-old Roman city. Tourism is and has been a major industry in the area for thousands of years, due to the attraction of the thermal pools.

Overnight at a thermal spa in Pamukkale

**PAMUKKALE TO FOCA****(B,L)****4 July 2020. Day 11: (Saturday) 300KM**

Ride parallel and then perpendicular to the mountains that run along the River Meander, criss-crossing small towns and fertile plains.

Visit Sardes on route - the capital city of the ancient Lydian Empire and home to the famous King Croesus.

Overnight in Foca, a small charming town on the Aegean Coast.

**FOCA TO TIRILYE****(B,L)****5 July 2020. Day 12: (Sunday) 340KM**

Head north and stop at Pergamon one of the most important ancient centres for arts, science, medicine and philosophy. Continue north along fertile farmlands to arrive in Tirilye a small charming historical town located on the Sea of Marmara.

Overnight at a small pension\* in Tirilye.

\*A pension is a small, often family-run, hotel.

**TIRILYE TO ISTANBUL.****(B,L,D)****6 July 2020. Day 13: (Monday) 200 KM**

Ride the curvy country roads and take the ferry from Yalova back to Istanbul for our last day on the motorbikes. Tonight we will have a farewell dinner and share memories from our days on the road.

Overnight in Istanbul

**ISTANBUL - CHECK OUT****(B)****7 July 2020. Day 14: (Tuesday)**

Our tour finishes this morning so it's time to pack your bags and prepare for your onward journey, wherever that may be.

Have a safe trip and thank you for joining us in Turkey

### **\*What is included\***

- 13 nights accommodation based on sharing Twin/Double.
- Breakfast every day
- Lunch every day except one. 12 x lunches
- Welcome and Farewell dinners , plus dinner in Cappadocia (as per the tour itinerary )
- Motorbike rental cost (see below under Motorbikes)
- Highway Tolls
- Accompanying tour vehicle for luggage or non-riders
- Istanbul Walking Tour
- Personally guided by Angela and Mike

### **Excluded Services;**

- International flights
- Petrol for Motorbike
- Airport transfers
- Insurance fees
- Tips and personal expenses

### **MOTORBIKES:**

Our standard touring motorbikes are BMW 700/750 GS. All BMW's are fitted with a Top Box.

NOTE: If you wish you can upgrade to a BMW1200 GS for an additional cost of NZ 1000

There are limited numbers of motorcycles. We are sorry if your first choice of motorcycle is not available

### **COST for the tour on a twin share basis**

- NZ 9995\* Rider on BMW 700/750GS<sup>1</sup> or similar
- Upgrade to a BMW1200GS<sup>1</sup> and other models +NZ1000
- NZ 8095\* Pillion or Passenger in Tour vehicle<sup>2</sup>

\*Prices are subject to change. Prices are on a twin share basis.

<sup>1</sup>Please contact us for bike availability

<sup>2</sup>If you wish to join the tour but cannot ride a motorcycle please ask about our tour vehicle options

Single Supplement\*\* - Own room an additional NZ\$1295

\*\*If you are travelling solo and want to share a room we will try and find someone for you, however responsibility to find you a room-mate. If there is no one available for you to room share with you will be required to pay a single supplement.

### **DEPOSIT**

**NZ2000 PER PERSON**

Deposit details - ANZ Bank a/c 010338 0013722-00