



Turkey by the Backroads

6-20 September 2025



Day 1: Istanbul Arrival

Day 2: Istanbul: Bike fit + explore the city

Day 3: Istanbul - Gallipoli- Çanakkale (310 km)

Day 4: Çanakkale- Teos (302 km)

Day 5: Teos - Akyaka (335 km)

Day 6: Akyaka - Pamukkale (183 km)

Day 7: Pamukkale - Isparta (252 km)

Day 8: Isparta- Konya (252 km)

Day 9: Konya - Ürgüp/Cappadocia (319 km)

Day 10: Cappadocia exploring (0 km)

Day 11: Ürgüp - Ermenek (391 km)

Day 12: Ermenek - Antalya (340 km)

Day 13: Antalya- Kaş (231 km)

Day 14: Kaş - Fethiye (300 km)

Day 15: Depart





Itinerary

Turkey, a land where ancient wonders meet modern marvels, is a biker's paradise. With its diverse landscapes, rich history, incredible food and thrilling roads, it's a destination that will leave you breathless.

From the vibrancy of Istanbul to the stunning coastline of the south, we'll explore the country's highlights and hidden places. Each day brings something new to discover and new roads to cross.

As with all By the Backroads trips, we'll often be on the road less travelled - following winding backroads, stop in smaller villages and enjoy the warm hospitality (and incredible food) found along the way.

So, let's gear up, hit the road and let Turkey's magic unfold before your eyes.

**Note: The planned itinerary and distances are listed on the following pages; however, we reserve the right to adjust the route and duration for timing or safety.*

Day 1: 6 Sept (Saturday)- Arrival Day in Istanbul

Welcome to Turkey!

There are no activities today- free to relax and settle in.

Riding distance: N/A

Overnight: Istanbul

Day 2: 7 Sept (Sunday) - Istanbul (Rest Day)

We'll transfer to the outskirts of town for a bike check and make any necessary adjustments.

The remainder of the day is free to explore Turkey's vibrant cultural and historical center. Known for iconic sites like the Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, and bustling Grand Bazaar, the city blends modern energy with ancient history. Enjoy a day of rest and exploration, with an optional city tour to soak in Istanbul's rich architectural delights. We'll enjoy a group welcome dinner this evening and toast to the adventure ahead!

Riding distance: N/A

Overnight : Istanbul (Breakfast, Dinner)



Day 3: 8 Sept (Monday) Istanbul - Gallipoli- Çanakkale

Depart from Istanbul for Çanakkale, a journey taking you along scenic roads toward the Sea of Marmara. En route, pause at Uçmakdere, a picturesque village with twisting roads perfect for riders. Enjoy a traditional Gözleme lunch in a local setting, then continue to the famous Gallipoli Peninsula, known for its historic World War I battlefields. We'll stop to pay our respects at the Martyr's Monument and explore around the area before continuing the last stretch of the journey across the Dardanelles Strait to Çanakkale.

Riding Distance: 310 km

Overnight: Canakkale (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 4: 9 Sept (Tuesday) Çanakkale - Teos

From Çanakkale, ride south through open landscapes and coastal routes toward Teos, an ancient Ionian city known for its historic ruins and seaside charm. This leg of the journey allows for stops to appreciate the countryside and sample local delicacies. The peaceful ruins of Teos await at the day's end, a serene reminder of the region's storied past.

Riding Distance: 402 km

Overnight : Teos (Breakfast, Lunch)



Day 5: 10 Sept (Wednesday) Teos - Akyaka

Today's ride heads southeast to Akyaka, traversing the stunning Carian backlands. Follow winding roads through the Carian Pass and Kiran Pass, famous for their sweeping views and lush surroundings. Along the way, take in the natural beauty of Gökova Bay, a picturesque coastal stretch. End the day in Akyaka, a charming town known for its traditional wooden houses and the clear waters of the Azmak River.

Riding Distance: 335 km

Overnight: Akyaka (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 6: 11 Sept (Thursday) Akyaka - Pamukkale

Leave Akyaka for Pamukkale, a shorter route filled with natural wonders. Along the way, stop at the ancient city of Laodikeia, known for its Roman ruins and theaters. Arriving in Pamukkale, option to explore the UNESCO-listed travertine terraces, stunning white calcium pools formed over centuries, and the ruins of Hierapolis, an ancient city with a fascinating history.

Riding Distance: 183 km

Overnight: Pamukkale (Breakfast, Lunch)



Day 7: 12 Sept (Friday) Pamukkale - Isparta

Ride toward Isparta, the 'City of Roses', through picturesque mountain roads. Stop by Sagalassos, an ancient city known for its well-preserved Roman architecture and stunning views. Continue through the rugged landscapes to Lake Salda, known for its turquoise waters and 'Turkish Maldives' appeal. The journey provides a mix of mountain scenery and a unique desert ride near Lake Salda before reaching Isparta.

Riding Distance: 252 km

Overnight: Isparta (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 8: 13 Sept (Saturday) Isparta - Konya

Today's route takes you to Konya, famous for its 'Whirling Dervishes' and the Mevlana Museum, dedicated to Rumi, the famed Sufi poet and philosopher. The ride includes stretches of vast open landscapes and quieter roads, offering a more relaxed pace as you approach the spiritual center of Turkey.

Riding Distance: 252 km

Overnight: Konya (Breakfast, Lunch)



Day 9: 14 Sept (Sunday) Konya - Ürgüp (Cappadocia)

Set off for Ürgüp, a journey through unique landscapes and ancient sites. Highlights include Ihlara Valley, a canyon with rock-cut churches, and Aşıklı Höyük, an important Neolithic site. End the day in Cappadocia, with its famed fairy chimneys & rock formations.

Riding Distance: 319 km

Overnight: Ürgüp (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 10: 15 Sept (Monday) Ürgüp - Explore Cappadocia (Rest day)

Optional: sunrise hot air balloon flight

We'll give the bikes a break and explore Cappadocia by bus with a local guide. This way, we can visit the famous caves, winding valleys, and more comfortably—no need to manage sightseeing in full motorcycle gear!

Riding Distance: N/A

Overnight: Ürgüp (Breakfast)

Day 11: 16 Sept (Tuesday) Ürgüp - Ermenek

Back on the bikes, ride toward Ermenek, a town surrounded by rugged terrain and historical sites. Start with a scenic route through winding roads and mountain passes, cross a historical bridge, then descend into town at the end of the day.

Riding Distance: 391 km

Overnight: Ermenek (Breakfast, Lunch)



Day 12: 17 Sept (Wednesday) Ermenek - Antalya

Leaving Ermenek, head south to Antalya. This route showcases Turkey's diverse landscape, passing through areas dotted with cave dwellings and traditional Düğmeli houses. A stop at Aspendos, famous for its well-preserved Roman theater, is highly recommended before you arrive in Antalya, a coastal city blending ancient ruins and Mediterranean charm.

Riding Distance: 340 km

Overnight: Antalya (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 13: 18 Sept (Thursday) Antalya - Kaş

Ride along the stunning Turkish Riviera from Antalya to Kaş. This coastal route offers opportunities to stop at Olympos and explore its ancient city ruins nestled in the mountains. Further along, pass by the striking Kaputaş Beach and Myra Ancient City, known for its rock-cut tombs and Lykian history. End the day in Kaş, a charming seaside town with cobblestone streets and a lively marina.

Riding distance: 231 km

Overnight: Kaş (Breakfast, Lunch)



Day 14: 19 Sept (Friday) Kaş - Fethiye

On the final day, follow the Mediterranean coastline from Kaş to Fethiye, taking in panoramic sea views and winding mountain roads. Enjoy stops to explore ancient ruins, and soak up the unique atmosphere of this region. Arrive in Fethiye, known for its turquoise waters, ancient tombs, and relaxed atmosphere—an ideal spot to unwind after an unforgettable journey through Turkey.

Tonight we'll enjoy a group dinner to conclude our memorable motorbike ride through Turkey!

Riding Distance: 300 km

Overnight: Fethiye (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 15: 20 Sept (Saturday) Departure

Today we all part after this epic adventure. If you liked it, tell everyone to join us in 2026! We wish you safe travels home or wherever are headed. We hope to see you on one of our other tours!

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