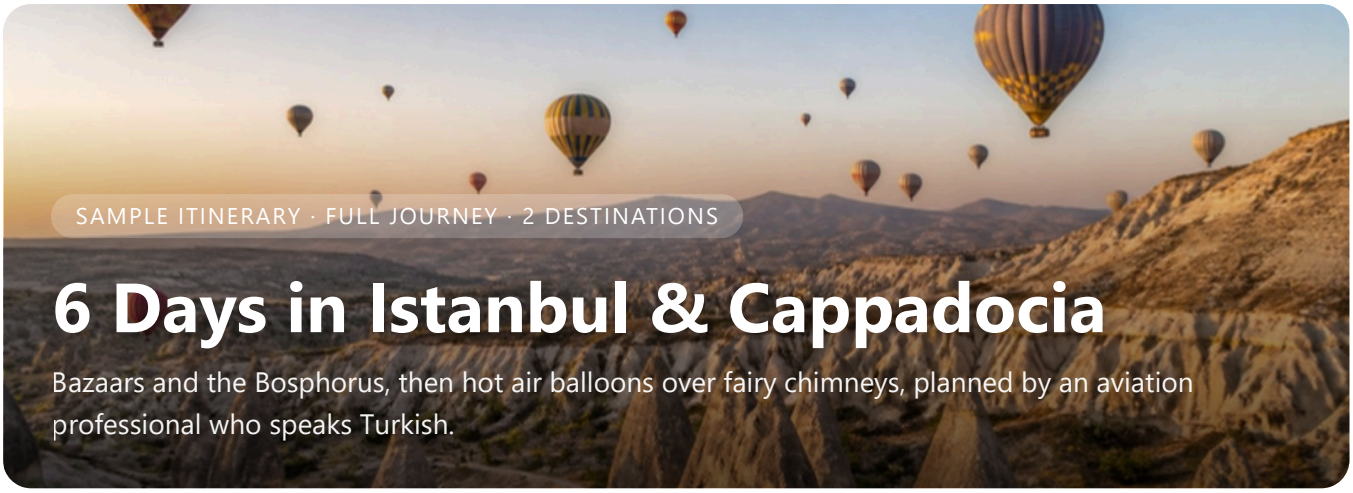


SAMPLE ITINERARY · FULL JOURNEY · 2 DESTINATIONS

6 Days in Istanbul & Cappadocia

Bazaars and the Bosphorus, then hot air balloons over fairy chimneys, planned by an aviation professional who speaks Turkish.

TRAVELERS
2 adults

FROM
Amsterdam

STYLE
Mid-range, culture & adventure

SEASON
April – June, Sept – Oct

✈️ Flight plan

Leg	Route	Flight time	Good to know
Outbound	Amsterdam → Istanbul Airport (IST), Turkish Airlines	approx. 3 h 30 min	Direct. Checked bag usually included.
Domestic	Istanbul (IST) → Kayseri (ASR)	approx. 1 h 20 min	Book on the same ticket as your return to protect the connection.
Return	Kayseri (ASR) → Istanbul (IST) → Amsterdam	approx. 1 h 20 min + 3 h 45 min	One ticket, bags checked through to Amsterdam.

Aviation insider tip: Book the whole trip as **one multi-city ticket** with the same airline. If your domestic flight is delayed, the airline must rebook your connection to Amsterdam. With separate tickets, a missed connection is your own risk. Also check that your domestic flight leaves from **IST, not SAW**; the airports are over an hour apart.

🛬 Airport transfers

Airport	Option	Time
Istanbul (IST)	Havaist airport bus or pre-booked transfer to Sultanahmet	approx. 1 – 1.5 h
Kayseri (ASR)	Shared airport shuttle to Göreme (book in advance, timed to your flight)	approx. 1 h – 1 h 15 min

🏨 Where to stay

Sultanahmet (Istanbul, 2 nights)
Walking distance to Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque and Topkapı.

Göreme (Cappadocia, 3 nights)
A cave hotel with a terrace for watching the balloons at sunrise.

Alternative: Uçhisar
Quieter, with wide valley views and boutique cave hotels.

🗺️ Day-by-day plan

Day 1 Arrival in Istanbul

14:00 Land at IST, buy an **Istanbulkart** and take Havaist to Sultanahmet.

17:00 **Blue Mosque** outside prayer times. Shoulders and knees covered, headscarf for women.

19:30 Dinner with a view of the illuminated Hagia Sophia.

Day 2 Palaces, bazaars & the Bosphorus

09:00 **Hagia Sophia** early to beat the queues, then the **Basilica Cistern**.

11:00 **Topkapı Palace**, home of the Ottoman sultans. Closed on Tuesdays. muze.gov.tr

15:00 **Grand Bazaar (closed Sundays)** and the **Spice Bazaar** in Eminönü.

17:30 **Bosphorus cruise** from Eminönü at sunset. sehirhatlari.istanbul

Day 3 Fly to Cappadocia

08:30 Transfer to IST for the morning flight to Kayseri.

13:00 Shuttle to Göreme and check in to your cave hotel.

17:00 **Rose Valley** sunset hike: an easy trail through pink rock formations.

Balloon tip from aviation: Balloon flights depend on wind and are sometimes cancelled at short notice. Book your flight for the **first possible morning (Day 4)** so you have Day 5 as a backup. Choose a licensed operator and make sure the price includes hotel pick-up.

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Day 4 Balloons & valleys

05:00 **Hot air balloon flight** at sunrise, about 1 hour in the air. Pick-up from your hotel.

10:30 **Göreme Open-Air Museum (UNESCO)**: rock-cut churches with Byzantine frescoes.

15:00 **Uçhisar Castle:** climb to the highest point in the region for a panoramic view.

Day 5 Underground city & pottery

09:30 **Kaymaklı or Derinkuyu underground city:** many levels carved deep into the rock.

14:00 **Avanos:** a pottery workshop by the Kızılırmak river.

19:00 Farewell dinner with *testi kebabı*, a local dish cooked in a sealed clay pot.

Day 6 Departure

08:00 Shuttle to Kayseri for the flight home via Istanbul. Bags checked through to Amsterdam.

💶 Budget overview (2 adults, approximate)

Item	Estimate
Flights (multi-city ticket incl. domestic)	€600 – 1,000
Hotels: 2 nights Istanbul + 3 nights cave hotel	€550 – 900
Hot air balloon flight	€300 – 500
Transfers, shuttles and Istanbulkart	€100 – 150
Museums and sights	€150 – 220
Food and drinks	€300 – 450
Total	**€2,000 – 3,220**

Balloon prices vary a lot with season and demand. All bookings are made by you through direct links, so you keep full control. Times, prices and opening hours are approximate; always check before booking.

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