

Turkey Sea To Sky Tour 2016 18 days. Total distance approx 4500km's Riding Difficulty: Intermediate

With its incredible history, beautiful scenery, exquisite cuisine and friendly hospitality, Turkey is an unparalleled land and this tour takes in the very best it has to offer. Undoubtedly the centre piece is Cappadocia, home to one of the most spectacular landscapes on the planet. Hundreds of thousands of years ago, geologic events formed the astonishing face of the land that draws visitors from all over the world. The formation of the 'fairy chimneys' attracted ancient civilisations to carve houses, dove cotes and churches within the rock, decorating them with frescos, inscriptions and symbolic art and it's little wonder it has been described as 'The Eighth Wonder Of The World'. But this tour takes in so much more like Ephesus - once the second largest city in the Roman empire, Gallipoli - scene of one of the fiercest battles of the first world war, the beautiful Azure Mediterranean coast, the mountains of the national parks and so much more. There is no better way to see all of this than on a motorbike and our guide's have spent many years building up a great knowledge of the best biking routes, many of which are not on a map. We will ride some of the most exhilarating and scenic roads a biker could wish for, at times challenging, sometimes breathtaking but always entertaining and fun. Everywhere we travel on this route we enjoy the fine cuisine and wonderful hospitality that is the trademark of Turkey. Surfaces vary from excellent asphalt to forest tracks. There is the option of off-road riding in Cappadocia during the 'rest day'.







Click on map to view in Google maps



Evening 1

Arrive Istanbul and transfer to hotel. Short introduction and dinner in the magical city of Istanbul. Hotel Sheraton Maslak. https://sheratonistanbulmaslak.com

Day 1.

Istanbul-Canakkale 320km

Our tour commences from BMW Mottorad HQ Istanbul and heads west towards Canakkale. Dinner overlooking the straights of Canakkale. Hotel Akol: http://www.hotela-kol.com.tr

Day 2. 90km

Take the ferryboat and visit the museum, cemeteries and former battlefields of Gallipoli. A particularly poignant day for Australian, New Zealand and British visitors. Hotel Akol: http://www.hotelakol.com.tr

Day 3

Canakkale-Cunda Adasi 204km

Depart Canakkale for Cunda Island. This days riding is via small Turkish villages through back roads and forest of Kazdaği National Park. Cunda is a quaint former Greek island famed for it's wonderful olive oil and locally caught fish. Hotel Halic Park Cunda http://www.halicpark.com







Itinerary

Day 4.

Cunda Adasi-Sirince 320km

Today the guide will take you on a remarkable days riding over the mountain tops on a mixture of made and unmade roads - some not even on maps. You will be immersed in real Turkish culture drinking tea with the locals in the infamous Turkish tea houses. Hotel Amazon Petite Palace. http://www.amazonpetite.com



Sirince and Ephesus 40km

Explore the ancient Roman city of Ephesus, once the second largest city in the Roman empire and ride to Sirince - a beautiful former Greek hillside town overlooking the wine region. Hotel Amazon Petite Palace. http://www.amazonpetite.com



Sirince to Pamukkale 220km

A great days ride over the mountains and switchbacks via Kiraz and Sarigol to arrive at Pamukkale. Early evening visit to Hieriapolis - ancient Greek city and the 'cotton castle mountain' - the incredible travetines that have made this place so famous. A chance to soak in the mountain-side natural hot spring baths. Hotel Hal-Tur http://www.haltur.net



Pamukkale to Gocek 220km

We ride some exhilarating switchbacks across the mountain roads to this beautiful quaint yachting town right on the Mediterranean. The scenery on this route is spectacular. Dinner on the quayside overlooking the marina. Hotel Nirvana http://www.nirvanaotel.com

Day 8.

Gocek - Dalyan - Datca - Gocek. 320km

Option 1. A half days round tour to visit the magnificent 3000 year old Likyan rock tombs on the Dalyan river. Option 2. A days off-road riding through forest tracks, along river banks and over mountain passes. Hotel Nirvana http://www.nirvanaotel.com

Option 3 Rest Day











Day 9.

Gocek to Kaş 160km

A ride through tiny traditional Turkish villages to join the wonderful road that runs parallel with the Mediterranean coast for kilometre after kilometre of switchbacks. Dinner in the town square at Kaş. Hotel TBA

Day 10.

Kaş to Kaş 200km

An amazing day ride that leads us up into the mountains via Gombe and Kasaba to enjoy a spectacular combination of switchbacks and great scenery before returning down to the peninsular at Kaş. Hotel TBA



Kaş to Antalya Old Town 200km

Another wonderful Mediterranean coastal ride with a visit the ancient Lycian tombs of Myra and the church of St.Nicholas (Father Christmas). A chance to sample authentic Adana kebabs for lunch. We overnight in the historic old town of Antalya. Hotel Tuvana http://www.tuvanahotel.com





Day 12.

Antalya to Konya 345km

A long but spectacular days riding through the mountains and around the beautiful lake at Beyşehir and a visit to one of only three wooden mosques still in existence. This route is a photographers paradise and there is ample opportunity to stop and take pictures. We taste the unique cuisine of Konya for dinner. Hotel Hilton Garden http://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com



Now in central Anatolia we start with a visit the famous Mevlana Museum in Konya before travelling along the 'very straight' silk road visiting an old Kervan Saray on the way. Arriving late afternoon at the 'Eighth Wonder Of The World' - Cappadocia, we take a short tour around the region to familiarise ourselves with the fascinating landscape. We overnight in a wonderful cave hotel. Overnight KaleKonak hotel. http://www.kalekonak.com







Day 14. 200km

Cappadocia region

A ride to the amazing underground city at Derinkuyu that was home to 8,000 people and then on the beautiful town of Guzelyurt before arriving at the Ihlara valley for an option hike in the spectacular valley. Hotel http://www.kalekonak.com

Day 15. 40km Cappadocia region

Option,balloon ride, day off/sight-seeing or off-road riding in the spectacular region. Hotel http://www.kalekonak.com

Day 16.

Nevşehir - Çorum 300km

We leave the Cappadocia region heading north through backroads towards the Black Sea region and Çorum and a chance to visit the spectacular museum of archaeology. Hotel Anitta. http://www.anittahotel.com

Day 17.

Çorum to Safranbolu. 315km

Heading through some of the wonderful twisty and mountainous black sea roads we arrive in Safranbolu. A Unesco world heritage town with it's beautifully preserved Ottoman houses and buildings. A chance to taste some of the wonderful cuisine from the region. Hotel Gulevi http://www.canbulat.com.tr

Day 18.

Safranbolu - Istanbul 412km's

We take the highway back to Istanbul to return the bikes and enjoy a farewell dinner. Hotel Sheraton Maslak. https://sheratonistanbulmaslak.com











