



Turkey



CAPPADOCIA



CAPPADOCIA

Fairy Chimneys Beyond Dreams

HOW TO GET TO CAPPADOCIA?

From Istanbul Airport

70-minute flight to Nevsehir Airport

70-minute flight to Kayseri Airport

From Antalya Airport

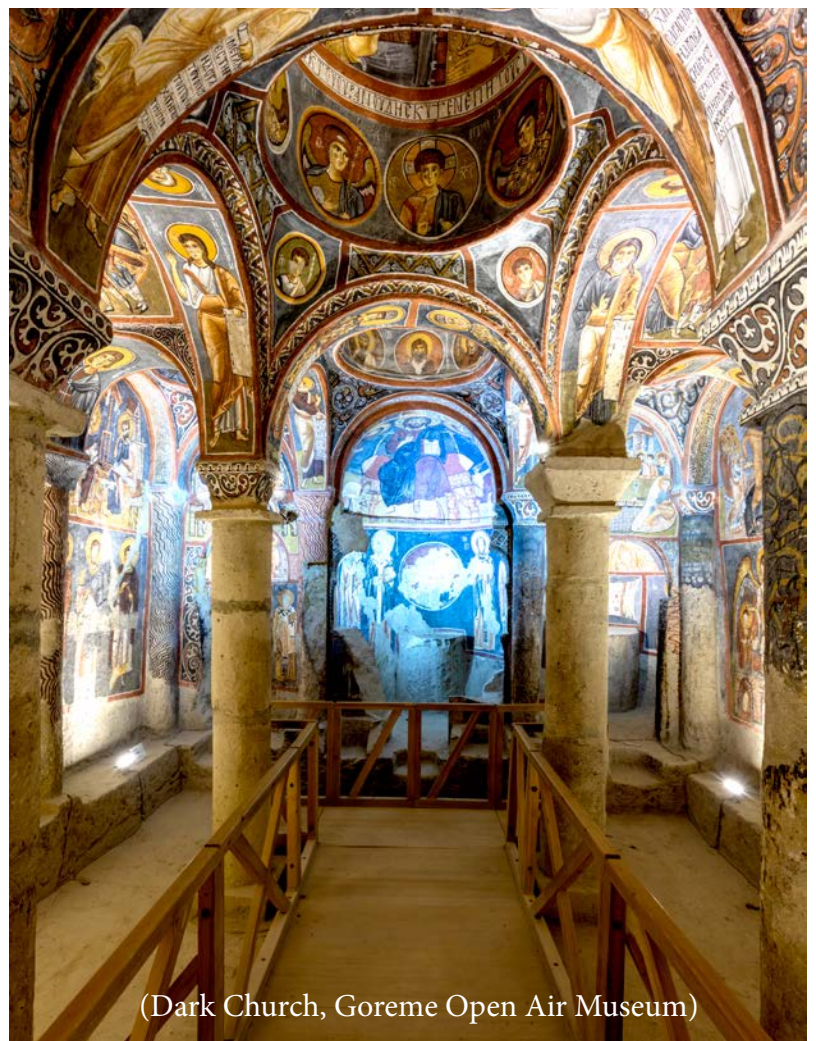
1-hour flight to Kayseri Airport



KNOW THE AREA



- Cappadocia is renowned for its unusual landscape which is the result of the erosion of lava from ancient volcanoes dating back to an approximate of 3 to 9 million years.
- The region is home to churches, houses, passages and storage carved out of volcanic rocks.
- Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia are listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites, as being one of the first sites in the list from Turkey.
- The region of Cappadocia is a large grape producing region of Turkey and it's believed that wine-making has a long history here. There are numbers of wine-tasting shops where visitors can taste some of the best wines available&sample the goods. In recent years, wines from the region have won numerous international awards.
- Music concerts are often held in the surrounding cave buildings of Cappadocia, including the week-long Cappadocia Music Festival (Cappadox) that showcases some of the best choirs and orchestras.
- There are a total of 530 hotels with 28,000 bed capacity in the region.



(Dark Church, Goreme Open Air Museum)

CAPPADOCIA'S WEATHER

- Cappadocia, located in central Anatolia, has a steppe climate. Cappadocia has four seasons.
- Winters from December to February are relatively cold in the region the average temperature in this period is around 8-10°C during the daytime and around 0-2 °C during the nighttime.



- The average temperature between March to May, which is the spring season, is around 18-20 °C during the daytime and around 9-11 °C during the nighttime. This is also the time where the region gets most of its rainfall. However, this rainfall comes in short intervals, and lasts on an average for only approximately 2-hour.
- Summers, from June to August, is hot and sunny. The average temperature in this period is around 30-32 °C during the daytime and around 17-19 °C during the nighttime.
- Autumn, from September to November, is relatively high season for Cappadocia travel. The average temperature between September and November is around 21-23 °C during the daytime and around 10-12 °C during the nighttime.



MUST SEE SIGHTS

● **Goreme Open Air Museum:** This UNESCO World Heritage site is an essential stop on any Cappadocian itinerary.

Among many churches, the site's highlight is the Dark Church. This church has an additional entrance fee. This stunning fresco-filled church takes its name from the lack of light, which luckily is the reason that the frescoes are still vivid.

● **Kaymakli or Derinkuyu Underground Cities:** Built to protect the ancient inhabitants, the underground cities allowed thousands of people to live their lives in total secrecy. Visitors today can walk through the stables, church, kitchen and wine cellar of the several opened floors of this enthralling Underground City.

● **Uçhisar Fortress:** situated on the edge of Göreme National Park. Uçhisar Fortress is dominated by a 60 metre high castle-mountain, carved in the original rock formation. It is visible from great distance and has the form of a large cylindrical tower making it one of the best view points of the region. This massif is crisscrossed by numerous underground passageways and rooms, which are now mostly blocked or impassable.



(Kaymaklı Underground City)



(Goreme Open Air Museum)



(Paşabağ)

● **Paşabağ (Pasha's Vineyard / Monk's Vineyard) and Devrent Valleys**

Paşabağ contains some of the most striking fairy chimneys in Cappadocia with twin and even triple rock caps - formations that are unique even for Cappadocia!

Locals refer to them as the mushroom-shaped fairy chimneys.

Like the cave hotels in modern day Cappadocia, the fairy chimneys of Paşabağ harbor a number of cave dwellings as well as chapels once used by Christian hermits.

● **Zelve Open Air Museum**

Roughly four times as big an area as Göreme's Open Air Museum, Zelve Open Air Museum is another significant museum of this region. This museum is home to four churches.

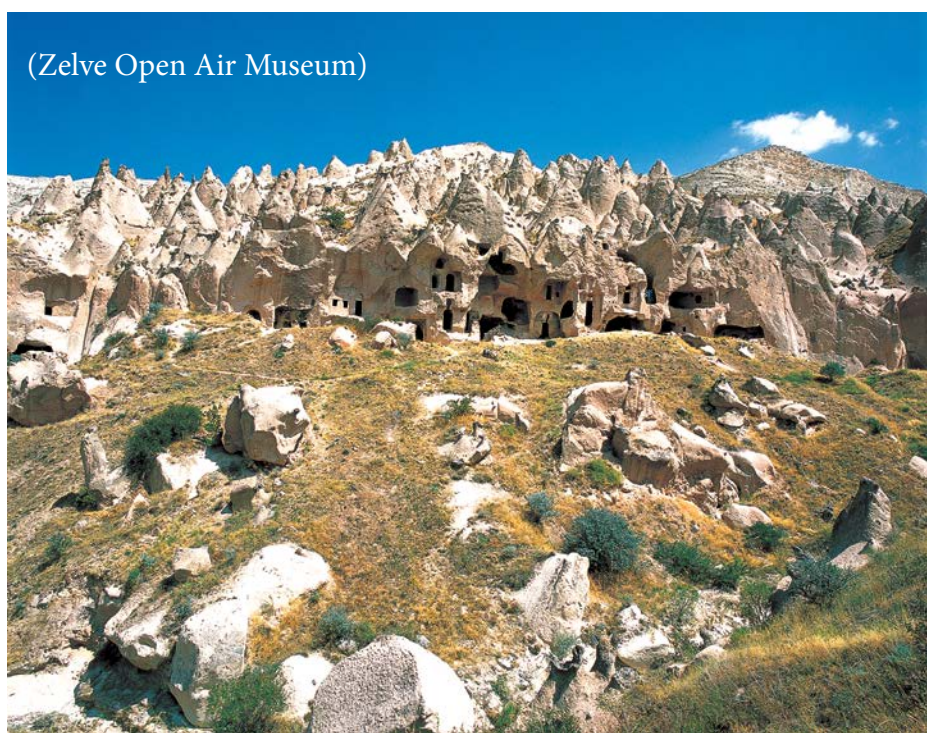
Zelve was the residential cluster of cave formations. Three valleys form the earliest-settled and last-abandoned monastic valleys in Cappadocia.

● **Ihlara Valley Churches**

Ihlara Valley constituted an important religious center during the first years of the spread of Christianity.

The natural protection provided by the Ihlara Valley made it an important base for Christianity.

The valley became a center for monasteries from the 4th century on, and housed many churches decorated with frescoes and paintings. Ihlara valley is about 100 km away from Goreme which takes roughly around 1.5-hour to reach.



(Zelve Open Air Museum)

TOP EXPERIENCES

- Fly in a Hot Air Balloon at Sunrise
- Hike the Red Valley up to sunset viewpoint
- Walk in Güvercinlik (Pigeon) Valley & Love (Aşk) Valley
- Stay at a cave hotel. A unique chance to sleep, meet, wine and swim in actual cave hotels with its numerous luxurious and affordable accommodation alternative
- Experience "Pottery Making"; a tradition from the Hittites of 2nd millennium BC in the town of Avanos by Red River (Kızılırmak)
- Experience Turkish carpet and 'kilim' weaving in local weaving cooperatives and stores.
- Indulge in horse safari: Cappadocia is the "Land of Beautiful Horses," so you should explore the landscape by horse. As part of the day trips, they take you past iconic areas including the Kızılçukur Valley, Gulludere Valley, Aşk



(ATV Riding)

- Valley, Bağlıdere, and Kılıçlar Valleys.
- Visit the oldest wine making region in the world with its dozens of native grapes and wine makers.
- Cycle through the valleys.
- Take a tour of the valleys on All-Ter-

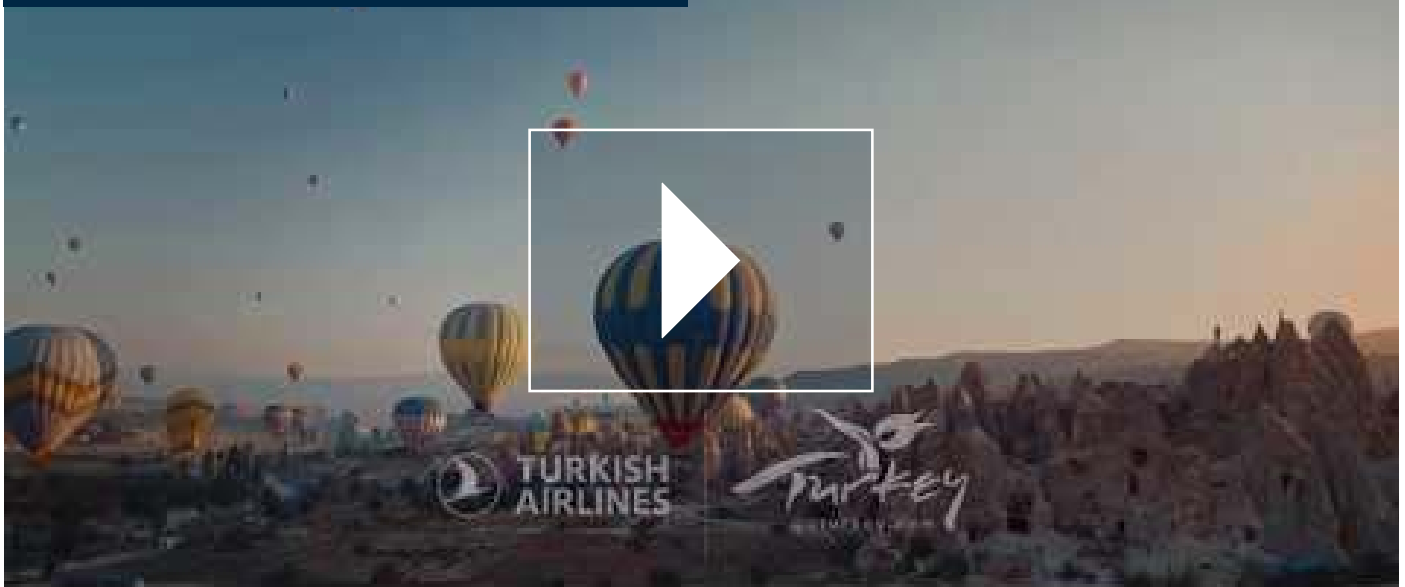
rain Vehicles (ATV).

- Experience the famous Turkish Hammam
- Spend some time watching the breathtaking Whirling Dervishes.



(Horse Riding)

HOT AIR BALLOONING



When in Cappadocia, you can choose from numerous hot air balloon tours. The one which will suit you will depend on your personal preferences in terms of length of flight, capacity of the balloon, flight type (1st flight or 2nd flight), cost and reputation of the balloon company. Currently there are 27 companies to choose from.

Balloons usually take off 30-minute before the sunrise for the 1st flight. Generally, the balloon takes off at

05:00 to 07:00 during the year (earlier in Summer, later in Winter) because of the wind. Flight times can vary from 45-minute to 90-minute.

Capacity depends on the size of the balloons. Balloons carry from 2 to 24 people in a basket. Depending on availability you can also have a private tour.

Hot air balloon flights are weather dependent. In 2019 for example, 221 days were available for flight. All

balloons flights are regulated by the Turkish Civil Aviation Authority. In case of cancellation all companies will offer a full refund or help you reschedule if there is availability for the next day(s).

Although there is no regulation regarding ages, children below 6 years are mostly not allowed on flights by the balloon companies due to safety and comfort of other passengers. Children below 18 years old are allowed on flight with the accompany of an adult.



STAYING AT A CAVE HOTEL

There are around 200 cave hotels with more than 5,000 bed capacity available in the region.

Valleys, rock formations and caves form naturally, with some of those caves housing sprawling rooms, churches and even accommodation carved out by early Christians over the centuries.

If you're planning a trip to Cappadocia, staying at a cave hotel will be an amazing experience.

These are entire hotels carved out of the landscape, letting you experience the true culture and beauty of the region. Some cave hotels offer Turkish Hammams and jacuzzi bath inside the room.



SHOPPING IN CAPPADOCIA



The area's most famous products are its wine and its ceramics. But it's a little known secret that Cappadocia is also a huge producer of truffles.

Ceramics, pottery, carpets, arts and crafts in Göreme and wine in Uçisar, Ürgüp are perfect souvenirs from Cappadocia.

For a real pottery making experience, and the finest pottery made out of the soil of the Red River bed, Avanos town is where you can find a dozen of local artists and their workshops.

Onyx is a very common stone due to the volcanic formation of the region. Onyx gemstone items can be found in designated centers.



WHAT TO EAT IN CAPPADOCIA?

Local restaurants often serve testi kebabs, stews made in locally made testi (clay pots) that are set on fire before the neck of the pot is cracked in front of would-be diners.

The signature dish of Kayseri and by extension of Cappadocia is manti, small pasta packets, usually stuffed with meat (sometimes cheese) and served with a tomato and/or garlic sauce.

Autumn visitors get to see local women stirring cauldrons of pekmez, molasses made from locally grown grapes that were once the only sweetening agent available.

The easiest but sweetest dessert of Cappadocia is Aside. It is a very delicious combination of flour, water and grape molasses that are cooked slowly in a pan and served hot.



The region of Cappadocia is a large grape producer and it's believed that wine-making has a long history here. Volcanic terroir of Cappadocia region

really enriches the character of the grapes and the cave cellars are heaven for aging the wine produced in this region.

INDIAN FOOD

As lots of Indian visitors come and experience Cappadocia, there are 5 different Indian restaurants available in the region where Indian travelers can enjoy their local dishes.



CAPPADOCIA WITH FAMILY



With its fairytale landscape and mystical caves, Cappadocia offers a lot to explore as a destination for families.

There are ATV tours for the ones who are looking for an adventure during sunset, sunrise or during the day.

There are plenty of activities to attract young visitors such as trekking, hot-air balloon flight, horse-back riding, pottery making, cycling and climbing into the cave formations of the region making Cappadocia an amazing family destination as well.



CAPPADOCIA BY THE NIGHT

The Turkish Night Show highlights the dance traditions of various regions of Turkey, complete with traditional costumes and of course, exhilarating belly dancers.

This lively performance is a great way to enjoy traditional Turkish music, dance and join in the festivities during audience participation. Turkish food and beverages are also served during the show.

BEYOND CAPPADOCIA

Erciyes Ski Resort

Erciyes Ski Center is located 25-minute from Kayseri Airport, 20-minute from Kayseri city center and 45-minute from Cappadocia.

It is possible to reach Erciyes with the comfort of highway double road drive from the city center.

In addition to winter holidays, it also gives advantages to those who want to do cultural tours as it is close to Cappadocia and Kayseri city center.

Erciyes Ski Center, the biggest Ski Resort of Turkey is located 80 km away from Cappadocia.

Erciyes Mountain is the highest mountain of the region with 3.917 metres peak. Erciyes Ski Center is located on the hillside of the Erciyes Mountain.

There are 10 hotels (4 and 5 star) with 1500 bed capacity in the Erciyes Ski Resort.

The luxury of skiing freely on all ski slopes is one of the main attractions



in Erciyes. At Erciyes Ski Center there are 18 mechanical facilities in 4 different entrance covers and 34 different tracks. "One Ticket" can be enjoyed all day long.

Ski school for beginners in skiing, provides basic ski lessons with its short and long trainings given by a professional team consisting of all certified and experienced trainers in the

field of ski training.

The cafés, restaurants, markets, ski rental places, locker rooms, rental cabinets, mother care rooms, children's play areas, health center, ski and equipment stores in Erciyes Ski Center respond to all the needs of a winter holiday.

Regular concerts and festivals are organized in the region too.



HOW TO GET TO KONYA

From Cappadocia

3.5-hour high way drive

From Istanbul

1-hour flight to Konya Airport

5.5-hour speed train journey

From Ankara

1.5-hour speed train journey

Konya is located at the center of Turkey. Located right on the ancient Silk Road, Konya has rich historical and spiritual heritage to explore.



Mevlana / Whirling Dervishes

One of the main reasons to visit Konya is to see the Mevlana Museum which shelters the tomb of Celaleddin Rumî (1207-1273), known to his followers as Mevlana (or Rumî), a Muslim poet and mystic and one of the great spiritual thinkers and teachers of all time.

Sema (Whirling Dervishes Ceremony), is the inspiration of Mevlana Celaleddin-i Rumi (1207 - 1273) as well as part of the Turkish culture, belief and history in Konya. It symbolizes the different meanings of a mystic cycle to perfection. Revolving around the heart, from right to left, he embraces all of humankind, all the creation with affection and love.

The whole ceremony takes around 1-hour and 'Serbet', a religious drink is offered after the ceremony.

Top Experiences

- Mevlana Museum makes a perfect first step on the path of learning about Turkey's fascinating culture.

-The Alaeddin Mosque was built on the site of Konya's old citadel dating from 1221 during the reign of the great Seljuk Sultan Alaeddin Keykubat, and today commands the Konya skyline. To one side of the mosque are the remains of the Seljuk Imperial Palace.

-Everything about the décor of Aziziye Mosque is indicative of the intricate beauty that Ottoman Art has become renowned for.

The interior and exterior are similarly beautiful in shades of green blue and gold.

Çatalhöyük located 45 km away from Konya city center **is a city founded 9,000 years** ago, and this UNE-



(Mevlana museum)

SCO World Heritage Site is well-worth visiting to see the remains of an ancient city.

-Visitors find Konya's Archaeological Museum of exceptional interest. The collection of the Koyunoğlu Museum

is a varied one, from natural history to old kilims. Within the museum complex, the restored İzzettin Koyunoğlu house illustrates the way of life of a prosperous Konya family of the last century.



(Aziziye Mosque)