



**12 September 2015**

# **Veloturk GranFondo**

“Cappadocia-Istanbul Travel Package”

11 - 17 September 2015



for registration & info  
[cappadociabikefestival.com](http://cappadociabikefestival.com)





### September 11, Friday

On your arrival to Kayseri or Nevsehir Airport, you will be met and transferred to the Festival HQ for the registration and then to your hotel. Rest of the day on your own. Dinner and overnight in Urgup. \*The Pasta Party is between 18:00 & 21:00 at the Festival HQ in Urgup. We will also provide transportation between the hotel and Festival HQ for the pasta party.

### September 12, Saturday

After breakfast at the hotel, we transfer you to the start area for the "Veloturk Gran Fondo". At the end of the race, we transfer you back to your hotel. Dinner and overnight in Urgup.

### September 13, Sunday

Our guide and driver meet you at the hotel at 09:30 for a full day tour. Our first real encounter with Cappadocia's almost Martian landscape is in the Dervent valley, where the rock formations are amazing. A walk through the Zelve Open Air Museum is a journey into the past, with its troglodyte houses. This is one of the earliest inhabited and latest abandoned monastic settlements in Cappadocia. After Zelve we visit Pasabag's "fairy chimneys", where the voice of the wind harmonizes with the songs of the fairies. From here we pause at Avanos, a center of terracotta art since 2,000 BC, for a demonstration in a traditional pottery workshop. After lunch in Avanos, we visit the famous Goreme Open Air Museum to see the best examples of Byzantine art in Cappadocia. These are found in rock-cut churches with frescoes and paintings dating from as early as the 10th century. We complete the tour with a visit to the Uchisar Rock-Castle, giving you a panoramic view of the valleys of Cappadocia. Dinner and overnight in Cappadocia.



### September 14, Monday

Our first stop is the Soganli Valley, an open air museum in a wild natural setting near a typical Cappadocian village with its different style rock-cut churches and frescoes. After this, we drive to Mustafapasa through the unspoiled villages of Cappadocia, surrounded by the "table-top" mountains. On the way, we visit the Keslik Monastery near Cemil village, which hides its frescoes behind a very thin smoke layer which can only be seen by torch light. After lunch in Mustafapasa at an old Greek house hosted by a local family, we descend towards the center of the earth, with a trip to the underground city of Kaymakli, one of the largest and deepest of Cappadocia's many such settlements. After this, we transfer you to Cappadocia Airport for the evening flight to Istanbul. Another transfer from Istanbul Airport to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.



### September 15, Tuesday

Our guide meets you at the hotel at 09:00 for a full day waking tour. We first stroll to the great square which was once the Byzantine Hippodrome. Now it is a great park like area surrounded by the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, and the Underground Cistern. The Hippodrome exhibits the Walled Column, The Serpent Column and the Egyptian Obelisque from the Byzantine times and the German Fountain is located in the North end of the Hippodrome. Next we visit the Hagia Sophia, the most important Byzantine building in the world. After visiting the Underground Cistern, commonly called the Basilica Cistern, we have lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we visit the Blue Mosque which was completed in 1616. We end the tour with a visit to the greatest Bazaar of them all, the Grand Bazaar, one of the most extraordinary shopping experiences in the world. Overnight in Istanbul.



### September 16, Wednesday

In the morning, we walk through the old cobbled streets down to Rustem Pasha Mosque, designed by Mimar Sinan in 1561, and then the Spice Market, where Genoese and Venetian goods were sold at a time when there was no Suez Canal, and all the spices from the East were also brought here after being loaded on vessels in Egypt. We will continue for a leisure cruise on the Bosphorus on a local ferry, having an opportunity to admire the palaces, Ottoman yalis (wooden Bosphorus seaside mansions), the Bosphorus Bridge and fortresses, among others. After lunch, we will proceed to the Topkapi Palace, more than just a palace; it is an assemblage of museums containing collections amassed by the Sultans for almost five centuries. Our visit also takes you to the famous Harem where the Imperial Family resided. Overnight in Istanbul.



### September 17, Thursday

We transfer you to Istanbul International Airport for the flight back home.

#### PRICE:

• Euro 995 per person, sharing a double or twin room. • Single supplement: Euro 180.

#### Including;

• Airport transfers in Cappadocia (2) and Istanbul (2) • 6 nights' accommodation at the mentioned hotels or similar • 4 day tours as mentioned in the itinerary, including transportation, English speaking guiding, lunches and entrance fees • Domestic flight tickets (Cappadocia/Istanbul) • Dinners in Cappadocia • Taxes

#### Excluding;

• International flight tickets • Dinners in Istanbul

#### Hotels:

• Cappadocia (Turban Hotel [www.turbanurgup.com](http://www.turbanurgup.com))  
• Istanbul (Blue House Hotel [www.bluehouse.com.tr](http://www.bluehouse.com.tr))

