

General Trip info

Map

Trip Code: IERFT

Trip Length: 8

Trip starts in: Fethiye

Trip ends in: Fethiye

Meals: 7 Breakfasts included

2 Lunches included

2 Dinners included

Accommodation: Gulet Cabin (2 nts), Hotel (5 nts)

Transport: Private minibus

Daily Itinerary

Day 1

Fethiye

Welcome to Turkey. This adventure kicks off in the coastal city of Fethiye. You can arrive at any time during the day as there are no activities planned until a Welcome Meeting at 6pm today – see reception for more details. We'll be collecting your insurance details and next of kin information at this meeting, so please have these on hand. If you arrive early, get out and explore the town – with Lycian rock tombs carved into cliffs, a beautiful coastline and a renowned market, Fethiye is a laidback, friendly town full of wonderful Turkish cuisine and culture. We'll be happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability) should you wish to arrive early!

Day 2

Saklikent Gorge

This morning after breakfast, drive for approximately 30 minutes to Saklikent Gorge. You'll spend the whole morning here, and the gorge is a spectacular place where steep sculpted walls soar high above. The whole canyon is around 18 kilometres long, with 4 kilometres accessible, and the vertical walls can reach up to 300 metres in height. In the summer, its shaded areas and water pools are a great way to cool off from the heat. You can make your way along a suspended walkway through shaded cliffs, scramble over rocks as you explore the area, splash about in the water that's rushed down in the valley after the snow from the Taurus Mountains has melted, and cool your feet near a waterfall. There are cafes and restaurants setup on pontoons over the water, and it's a lovely place to enjoy. After lunch, head back to Fethiye in the afternoon to explore the town or relax by the pool. Perhaps race each other up the steps to the ancient Lycian stone temples, each carved directly from the rock.

Day 3

Oludeniz

Today you'll discover another great way to cool off from the Turkish heat – head to a nearby water park for a day of family fun and frolics in nearby Oludeniz. The park has nine slides, a kid's pool, wave pool, the main swimming pool, and a 'lazy river' that can be floated down on a rubber ring. Spend a blissful day slipping down water slides and scampering between pools. There are restaurants and cafes with cold drinks, ice-creams as well as Turkish national food 'gozleme' and pancakes. There are also lockers and safety deposit boxes. Cash is not used in the water park to save you having to carry it about or take money in the pool or slides. To make things easy you can load your money to your Oludeniz Water World Aquapark card and then buy drinks and food via this card. Tonight, perhaps get stuck into some of the great seafood on offer in Fethiye.

Day 4

Fethiye

Enjoy a free day to discover more of the charming town of Fethiye or, if you prefer, just soak up the sun by the pool or the beach. You can enjoy the laidback atmosphere and stroll the impressive harbour, filled with traditional gulet, fishing boats and cruise boats that day-trip the pretty harbour islands. Tuck into Turkish cuisine, or treat yourself to some delicious homemade Turkish lemonade – a speciality of the area. The town has shops to browse and the weekly market offers an interesting diversion. Wander around the stalls packed with textiles, clothing, heaps of fresh food, and pretty much anything else you can think of. You could take a break at one of the refreshment stalls serving pancakes or kebab and people watch as the locals go about their shopping. If you want to get more active then maybe head out on the water, with an optional sea kayaking adventure helping you discover the beautiful coast.

Day 5

Lycia

It's a full and exciting day today. After a hearty breakfast, depart early and drive for just over an hour to one of the greatest and most spectacular ancient spots in Lycian history – Xanthos (approximately 1 hour). The city dates back to 8th century BC and has a pretty horrible (but interesting) history of murder and suicide. The city was the centre of culture and commerce for the Lycians, but as it sat on the lines between Europe and the Eastern World it was regularly in the path of conquerors – the Persian Empire, Alexander the Great, and the Romans all took over the city. There's a great amphitheatre, as well as a necropolis, mosaic floors, and temples to explore. Afterwards, head the short distance to Patara Beach, rightly considered one of the best beaches in Turkey. This protected natural area is home to a long stretch of soft sand, shallow blue water and gentle waves ideal for a bit of body-surfing. After a swim and picnic lunch here, continue back towards Fethiye, stopping at Letoon – the sacred cult centre of Lycia – en route. Here there was a temple dedicated to the goddess Leto, and her children, Artemis and Apollo, and the inscriptions were key in deciphering of the Lycian language.

Day 6

Gulet Cruise

This morning you'll climb aboard a gulet for two days of idyllic relaxation on the sea. There's no firm plan – much depends on the tides and local conditions. Your days are usually spent cruising between the little coves and islands that dot this beautiful part of southwest Turkey. Naturally, there are plenty of opportunities to take a dip in the inviting waters of the Aegean. Parents can sit back, relax and watch the world go by while the kids can emulate their favourite sea-faring heroes. Leaving Fethiye, first visit Samanlik – where the green pine forests come down to meet the blue sea – before heading onto Butterfly Valley. The word 'paradise' is often thrown around a lot, but in this amazing place it's the only one that fits. This hidden gem of the Turquoise Coast is only accessible by boat or via the Lycian Way walking trail. The Valley is one of the most beautiful places in Turkey. It's only been visited in the last twenty or so years, so before that it was relatively untouched and unknown, and it remains intact and pure.

Day 7

Gulet cruise

Wake up aboard your gulet and get into the rhythm of life along the Turkish seas. Continue your cruise around the stunning coast, and spend your time on the beautiful azure waters of the Mediterranean Sea swimming, relaxing, and exploring the natural and historical sites along the way. You'll have the opportunity to go on land, hike and explore hidden coves, as well as go for plenty of swims in crystal clear waters. Watch a memorable Turkish sun set as you bob on the ocean, then, at night, indulge in unforgettable feasts before being lulled to sleep by sultry Mediterranean breezes.

Additional Information

Included Activities

Saklikent - Saklikent Gorge
Oludeniz - Waterworld Aquapark
Xanthos - Archaeological site
Patara - Ancient Site & Beach
Letoon - Archaeological site
Fethiye - Blue Cruise

Optional Activities

Notes for Turkey

Turkey is a wonderful country packed full of fascinating culture, fantastic landscapes and excellent historical sites. There are endless beautiful sandy beaches on the coast, stunning mountains in the interior, and a incredible Mediterranean climate all over the region. Explore the majestic and ancient city of Istanbul, once the capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. Highlights here include the historic Grand Bazaar, the Hagia Sophia, the stunning Topkapı Palace, and the fabulous Blue Mosque. Discover Turkey's other historical treasures at Troy, Ephesus, and pay a pilgrimage to the battlefield of Gallipoli. Visit the other-worldly landscapes of Pamukkale's limestone 'cotton castles' or Cappadocia's spectacular rock formations.

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, Croatia, Cyprus and South Africa will need an e-visa to enter Turkey as a tourist for up to 90 days. Citizens of all other EU countries will not require a visa to enter Turkey. If you require an e-visa, this must be applied for online and in advance - please go to <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/> to apply; it should take 1-2 days to be approved, then they will send a visa approval confirmation to your email address which you must print out to present at the border – the costs vary depending on nationality. It is not possible to get a visa on arrival or at an embassy. Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether an e-visa is required.

Important Notes

The routes, activities and places visited as described in these trip notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only.

These trip notes have been compiled to help you prepare for your journey once you have booked. They include the full itinerary and dates, and information about kit lists, meeting hotels, insurance, vaccinations, visas, and other information that will help you get ready for your trip.

These notes are updated regularly, so please ensure you have an up-to-date version of these trip notes.

The planned route and itinerary is the intention, but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed. It occasionally happens that there must be a change to our planned itinerary - this may be for a variety of reasons, such as climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions. By their very nature, adventure travel needs to be approached flexibly and some regions can be unpredictable. Some Imaginative Traveller journeys go through off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure and less stringent safety standards than we are used to at home.

Our Groups

Our groups are made up of people from around the world and are usually an interesting mix of nationalities and ages. On average there is a pretty even split, males to females and between solo travellers, couples and small groups of friends. We believe that adventure travel should be open to as many people as possible and so although some trips have a minimum age limit, as long as you are fit, healthy and passionate about travel, we are happy to take you. One of the highlights of group travel is the camaraderie and friendships that are formed along the way, and as well as the variety of people that you will meet.

The maximum group size depends on the operator and the style of transport, but will usually be a maximum of 15-16 or up to 21-22 on our overland journeys.

Accommodation

Imaginative Traveller trips are designed for shared accommodation, whether staying in hotels, hostels, homestays or campsites, and therefore do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers will share with people of the same sex for the duration of the trip and those that book together will usually be able to share accommodation.

The type, variety and standard of accommodation will vary greatly depending on what options are available in the region you are travelling; hotels can vary from very basic rooms without electricity or running water to high standard hotels with good facilities! Generally in hotels most rooms will be twin-share. Hostels, gers and yurts are nearly always multi-share.

Many trips will feature a stay in a local homestay or community tourism initiative, allowing us to experience a slice of local life in the areas we travel through. On our overland trips, we will sometimes camp in campsites ranging from rather basic or even wild camps to those with excellent facilities, including swimming pools, restaurants and bars.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any dietary requirements please tell us at the time of booking and also remind your leader at your welcome meeting. Our crew will try to cater for any particular dietary requirement or food intolerance whenever possible.

Health

You need to be in good physical health in order to participate fully in our trips. When selecting your trip

please make sure you have read through the itinerary carefully and assessed your ability to cope with the style of travel on that trip. We are always happy to give extra advice if you have additional concerns. Please note that if, in the opinion of our leader, you are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to yourself and/or the rest of the group, Imaginative Traveller or our partner operators reserve the right to exclude you from all or part of the trip.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information prior to travel, particularly if you have a pre-existing medical condition. We also advise you to declare any pre-existing medical conditions to your travel insurers upon purchase.

Altitude

Imaginative Traveller offers some trips that travel to above 2,800m altitude above sea level - it is imperative at high altitudes to drink lots of water to stay hydrated, be careful not to get burned by the sun, and try not to exert yourself too much. Some pre-existing medical conditions are known to severely worsen at high altitude and be difficult to adequately treat on the ground, leading to more serious consequences. It is imperative that you discuss your pre-existing medical condition/s with your doctor. We understand certain medications are reported to aid acclimatising to high altitude; please discuss these options with your doctor.

Yellow Fever

A valid international certificate of vaccination against Yellow Fever is required in many countries. You may need to present this on arrival at the airport or border crossing. Some countries will refuse entry if you are unable to present your certificate - please see each country's note above for details. It's also quite common for your home country to request a Yellow Fever certificate on your arrival back home.

It is your responsibility to check with your doctor well in advance of leaving home about the Yellow Fever requirements for the countries you'll be visiting.

Malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases

Some areas we travel to have the risk of contracting malaria. If this applies to your trip, please get expert advice before travelling about types of malaria pills and take them as instructed. Recommended types do change from time to time and from area to area. Consult your GP / travel clinic for the most up-to-date requirements and to find the right option for you. If advised by your doctor to take a course of anti-malarial tablets, please complete the course as instructed as malaria can often manifest itself upon your return home if the course is not followed.

Other mosquito-borne diseases such as Dengue Fever, Chikungunya and Zika are continuing to spread and becoming a bigger problem around the world. Bite prevention is vital to avoid contracting any of these diseases as there are no vaccines or specific treatments available. Health professionals have issued warnings for pregnant women travelling to areas affected by the Zika virus.

The mosquito usually bites between the hours of dusk and dawn and so covering up by wearing long-legged and long-sleeved clothing, preferably light coloured and buttoned at the wrists, can help. Do not sleep without closing windows, use a mosquito net where possible and use mosquito repellent applied directly to your skin or soaked into your clothing.

Vaccinations

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection vary according to different regions and recent bulletins issued by health authorities. It is essential to get the latest advice on the region(s) you are planning to travel in so please check with either your doctor or travel clinic in good time before you travel.

We also recommend you check out any specific health advice for the country you are travelling to either via your GP or the following websites: www.nathnac.org or www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

In the UK, we have been working with Nomad Travel for many years and their website has comprehensive,

up-to-date vaccination and health information. You will receive a 10% discount off all vaccinations given at Nomad Travel clinics.

Activities

Included activities are listed in the day-to-day itinerary, all other activities are optional and at your own expense. If you choose not to participate in the included activities on this itinerary, the cost will not necessarily be refunded; this is something you will need to check with your leader.

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an endorsement or recommendation. Please note that certain activities may not be available on your particular visit if they are overbooked, underbooked, out of season, or for any other reason - the list of activities is made according to our latest information and in the best faith, but please be aware that things may change between our last visit and your arrival. Please also note that it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination, and it is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there.

If you do any optional activities, you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities.

Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you have comprehensive travel insurance. Without evidence of valid travel insurance you will not be allowed to start the trip. This can be arranged by Imaginative Traveller through our website or by contacting our team of travel consultants.

If you prefer to arrange your insurance independently, it should have a minimum medical (including repatriation) cover of £2,000,000. We recommend that any policy also has a minimum level of cover for Personal Liability of £2,000,000 and for Cancellation and Curtailment of £5,000. Cover for loss of baggage, personal effects, money and other inclusions are down to personal choice although please bear in mind that personal effects are more likely to go missing whilst travelling and you should ensure that your policy is adequate to cover the value of your personal effects e.g. cameras, tablets, phones etc. Please note that Imaginative Traveller and our partner operators are not responsible for your personal effects and are not insured for their loss.

If you prefer to arrange your insurance independently, it should cover you for any activities that you may wish to participate in, such as white-water rafting, trekking, horse-riding, etc. and the 24-hour Emergency Assistance Company must be experienced in handling situations in developing countries if applicable (e.g. they have the ability to arrange repatriation from remote areas such as the Sahara or trekking in the Andes). If you are travelling to high altitude (such as embarking on a trek to the summit of Kilimanjaro), please make sure that this is also covered.

Please double check if you have annual travel and/or credit card policies to ensure they have the cover you require, as many of these policies are not suitable with adventure travel to remote areas. Many credit card medical insurance policies are not valid for travelling outside your country of residence or outside the EU.

Please also check the age limits on any policy you wish to take out and make sure that you thoroughly inform the insurance company of any pre-existing conditions.

Passports

Check that your passport will still be valid for 6 months after the end of the trip - this is important as some countries WILL refuse entry to anyone whose passport is due to expire. A temporary or emergency passport is not valid on our trips. You will need to provide us with your passport details prior to departing for your trip. If you change your passport please remember to inform us.

Pre and Post Trip Accommodation and Transfers

At Imaginative Traveller we believe you should make the most of the places you visit, so if you would like to see more of the joining or finishing point cities, why not book additional accommodation to extend your stay? We can take away the hassle of time zones and language barriers by making the booking for you. This accommodation is only available at the joining or finishing city of your trip, immediately before or after the trip you are travelling on. Please note our rates do not reflect last minute walk-in rates or internet specials.

We can also book arrival airport transfers for you as long as we have your flight arrival details. These are normally payable in cash upon arrival; however we do have pre paid transfers in a few destinations.

Please contact our reservations team for details of the accommodation and transfers that we can offer, as not all hotels offer this service.

Responsible Tourism

Imaginative Traveller is committed to ensuring that we have a positive impact on local communities and that we implement policies to minimise any negative impact on the local environment. We recognise that we are guests of local communities and strive to make them benefit directly from our visit. You can find full details of Imaginative Traveller's responsible tourism policy on our website.

Issues on the trip

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on

customer-relations@imtrav.net

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! We rely on your feedback. We read it carefully. Feedback helps us to understand what we are doing well and what we could be doing better, and it allows us to make improvements for future travellers.