

#### **TURKEY**

**AGENT:** Teresa Cuzzope from helloworld Airport West

Day 01

Transfer from Kayseri Airport to the Alfina Cave Hotel for 2 nights.

### Day 02 Cappadocia

Full- day tour of the region, visiting the Unesco world heritage sites of Goreme National Park with its cave churches, and Kaymakli, the underground city used as a refuge for early Christian settlers. The spectacular landscape, with its fabled fairy chimneys and rock formations, is renowned for its dramatic beauty.

### Day 03 Adana

Drive to Adana, visiting 10th- century Eskigumus monastery to see its frescoes and underground caves. A stop will also be made in the city of Tarsus, the scene of one of the first meetings between Mark Anthony and Cleopatra, and the birthplace of St. Paul the Apostle. Visit the ruins of St. Paul's family house and its holy well. Stay 1 night at the Adana Hotel Hilton SA.

#### Day 04 Gaziantep

Morning visit to the second- century Roman bridge and the six minaret Sabanci Central mosque, one of the largest in Turkey. Drive from Adana to Gaziantep and visit the archaeological museum, which houses the world's largest collection of Roman mosaics, the Emine Gogus cuisine museum and fortress. Stay overnight at the Dedeman Hotel.

# Day 05 Sanliurfa

Drive from Gaziantep to Sanliurfa, via Halfeti, best known for its black- coloured roses. Stay 2 nights at the Manici Hotel.

#### Day 06 Harran & Gobekli Tepe

Formerly a large city on the eastern trade routes, Harran is now celebrated for its conical houses that resemble beehives and which are still inhabited. It was also the scene of the battle of Carrhae, between the Roman and Parthian empires. Continue to the excavations at Gobekli Tepe, which is reputed t be the world's oldest temple whose origins are more than 12, 000 years old. Return to Sanilurfa and visit the Pool of Abraham with its holy fish, the tomb of his birth, which is a holy site for Christians and Muslims, and the castle and mosque complex.

## Day 07 Mount Nemrut

Drive from Sanilurfa to Mount Nemrut, via the Ataturk dam, a wonder of modern engineering. Late afternoon visit to the colossal statue heads of King Antiochus and the Greek gods at Mount Nemrut and see the sun set over Mesopotamia while enjoying a glass of the local wine (weather and local conditions permitting). Stay overnight at the Zeus Hotel in Kahta for 1 night.

## Day 08 Mardin

Morning drive to Mardin, via Diyarbakir. Situated close to the Tigris river, Diyarbakir is the largest city in south- east Turkey. View the second longest city walls in the world, the Keldani church and the Grand Mosque. Continue to Mardin and stay 2 nights at the Artuklu Kervansarayi Hotel. [B, D]

## Day 09 Mardin

Morning tour of the city, including the Sabanci Museum, the monastery and the city museum. Afternoon tour to Hasankefy, an endangered cave town.

## Day 10 Transfer to Mardin Airport to continue your journey home