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Private Cappadocia Highlights And Underground City Tour

8 hrs 30 min · Private · from Istanbul

Check availability & book online »



At a glance

Start	7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 9:30 AM
Duration	8 hrs 30 min
Pickup	Pickup is included from the listed pickup points — choose yours when you book. Pickup is up to 45 minutes before the start time; we confirm your exact pickup time before the tour.
Cancellation	Free cancellation up to 24 hours before the tour starts.

Itinerary

> **Start**

Istanbul
Starts at 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 8:30 AM · pickup up to 45 min earlier

1 **Uchisar Castle**

You'll be picked up in a private vehicle to begin your Cappadocia journey, with your first stop at the magnificent Uçhisar Castle.Standing as the absolute highest point in all of Cappadocia at 1,350 meters above sea level, Uçhisar Castle is a colossal volcanic rock fortress carved directly into soft tuff rock by ancient civilizations. Unlike a conventional castle, this remarkable structure features an intricate honeycomb network of interconnected rooms, tunnels, passages, and storage chambers carved across multiple levels. Its history dates back to the Hittite period, later serving as a key Byzantine-era watchtower and continuing through the Seljuk and Ottoman periods as both a fortress and refuge. Your expert guide will reveal its fascinating strategic history as you explore the dramatic rock-cut architecture before ascending to the summit for breathtaking 360-degree panoramic views stretching from the fairy chimneys of Göreme to the snow-capped peaks of Mount Erciyes.

2 **Pigeon Valley**

Leaving the towering rock citadel of Uçhisar Castle behind, your private tour brings you to the spectacular Pigeon Valley — Güvercinlik Vadisi. Stretching 4 kilometers between Göreme and Uçhisar, this beautiful valley is renowned for the thousands of historic dovecotes carved directly into the soft volcanic cliffs. For centuries, local farmers painstakingly created these multi-tiered pigeon houses and collected the birds' droppings as nutrient-rich fertilizer for Cappadocia's vineyards and orchards — a tradition so effective that Cappadocian fruits are still considered the sweetest and most succulent in all of Turkey. Along the way, don't miss the famous Evil Eye Tree — a small tree hung with hundreds of blue glass nazar beads — one of the most photographed spots in all of Cappadocia. As you admire the panoramic viewpoint, Uçhisar Castle rises proudly in the distance, making it the ultimate postcard-perfect location to capture incredible photographs.

3 **Derinkuyu**

Leaving the scenic overlooks of Pigeon Valley behind, your private tour descends into the legendary Derinkuyu Underground City — the deepest underground city in Cappadocia, reaching 85 meters below the surface across 8 visitable levels and once capable of sheltering up to 20,000 people. Carved out of soft volcanic tuff rock during the Hittite period and significantly expanded by early Christians hiding from invading armies, this massive subterranean complex served as a multi-level sanctuary for entire communities. Your expert guide will navigate you through a fascinating maze of low stone tunnels, revealing how ancient families lived completely self-sufficient lives underground. Explore rock-cut kitchens, ventilation shafts, storage cellars, communal stables, and early churches, while marveling at the massive rolling stone doors — weighing up to 500 kilograms — used to seal off the complex from outside dangers.

4

Avanos Pottery Workshop

After emerging from the underground tunnels of Derinkuyu, your private tour shifts from ancient history to local artistry as you journey to the historic town of Avanos — the pottery capital of Anatolia for over 4,000 years — situated on the banks of the K?z?l?rmak (Red River), Turkey's longest river. The river's distinctive iron-rich red clay, first used by Hittite potters as far back as 2000 BC, gives Avanos pottery its characteristic terracotta color and has been shaped by local artisans ever since. At a traditional family-run pottery workshop, watch experienced master craftsmen demonstrate time-honored techniques on a hand-powered spinning wheel unchanged for millennia. You will then have the unique opportunity to step up to the wheel yourself and try shaping the clay under a master artisan's guidance. Don't miss the fascinating underground ceramic museum carved into the tuff rock, showcasing pottery from the Hittite period through to the Ottoman era.

5

Love Valley

After experiencing the hands-on creativity of the Avanos Pottery Workshop, your private tour journeys into one of Cappadocia's most celebrated landscapes — Love Valley (A?k Vadisi). Located within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Göreme National Park, this remarkable valley is home to some of the tallest and most distinctive fairy chimneys in all of Cappadocia, with towering pillar-shaped formations reaching up to 40 meters in height. Your expert guide will explain how volcanic eruptions millions of years ago covered the region in thick ash that solidified into soft tuff rock, gradually sculpted by wind and water erosion — with harder basalt caps protecting the softer rock below, creating these extraordinary natural pillars. From the scenic panoramic viewpoint at the valley entrance, enjoy sweeping views of the dramatic formations and the broader volcanic landscape, making it an ideal spot to capture truly unforgettable photographs.

6

Devrent Valley

After admiring the majestic geological pillars of Love Valley, your private tour takes a deeply creative turn as you head into the surreal landscapes of Devrent Valley. Unlike other valleys in Cappadocia, Devrent was never inhabited by cave-dwellers or monks; instead, it is a fascinating natural sculpture gallery shaped entirely by millions of years of volcanic erosion. Often called "Imagination Valley," its lunar-like landscape is filled with whimsical, rose-colored rock formations that mimic animal shapes. Your expert guide will point out the most iconic formations—including a massive rock that perfectly resembles a seated camel, alongside shapes looking like dolphins, seals, and fairytale characters—offering you a fun, visually stunning experience where your imagination can run wild.

7

Pasabag Vadisi

After exploring the whimsical rock sculptures of Devrent Valley, your private tour reaches its grand finale at the legendary Pa?aba? Valley — also known as Monks Valley. Home to some of the most iconic fairy chimneys in all of Cappadocia, this remarkable valley features spectacular double- and triple-capped mushroom-shaped rock pillars rising 10 to 15 meters above the valley floor — a geological phenomenon found almost nowhere else on Earth. Your expert guide will lead you to the most iconic three-headed chimney, where you can step inside the Byzantine-era chapel and hermitage cells dedicated to Saint Simeon — the 5th-century monk who inspired generations of Christian hermits to carve out solitary dwellings directly inside the rock pillars. The perfect, awe-inspiring setting to capture your final postcard-perfect photos before your private vehicle comfortably returns you to your hotel.

o

Drop-off

Back in Istanbul
About 8 hrs 30 min in total

For reference only – the order and timings can change on the day. Your confirmed details come with your booking.

What's included

+ Professional guide
+ Private transportation
+ Air-conditioned vehicle
+ Museum entrance fees
+ Lunch

Not included

- Tips & gratuities
- Food & drinks

Know before you go

- Stroller / pram accessible
- Public transportation is nearby
- Infant seats available

Custom pickup & drop-off

We can arrange a custom pickup and drop-off location. Pickup and drop-off at most downtown hotels and the cruise terminal are free. Pickup or drop-off at the airport, or outside the city limits, costs extra – contact us to arrange airport pickup and drop-off.

Contact us for airport pickup »

Rated 4.6 out of 5 by 794 travelers **Read reviews ›**

Ready to book?

Pick your date online: theatlantictours.com/tour/cappadocia-highlights-underground-city-private...

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