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Private Cappadocia Red Tour Castles Valleys

7 hrs 30 min · Private · from Istanbul

Check availability & book online »



At a glance

Start	5:00 AM, 5:30 AM, 6:00 AM, 6:30 AM, 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM
Duration	7 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 5:00 AM, 5:30 AM, 6:00 AM, 6:30 AM · pickup up to 45 min earlier

1 **Pa?aba? Vadisi**

Pasabag Valley, also known as Monks Valley, is one of Cappadocia's most iconic natural attractions, famous for its remarkable fairy chimneys with distinctive double- and triple-capped rock formations. Formed by volcanic activity and shaped by erosion over millions of years, these unique rock pillars are among the best-preserved examples of Cappadocia's geological landscape. During the Byzantine period, Christian monks and hermits carved small chapels, prayer rooms, and living quarters into the soft volcanic rock, giving the valley its historic name. Today, Pasabag offers a striking blend of extraordinary natural formations and centuries-old rock-cut heritage.

2 **Zelve Open Air Museum**

Leaving the whimsical mushroom-capped pillars of Pasabag Valley behind, your private tour continues just a short drive away into the sprawling canyons of the Zelve Open Air Museum. This incredible historical site spans three parallel valleys and represents one of the earliest monastic settlements and longest-inhabited cave towns in Cappadocia. As you wander along the rustic trails surrounded by dramatic pointed rock faces, your expert guide will lead you through a labyrinth of ancient troglodyte dwellings, rock-cut mills, historic stables, and early Byzantine churches, including the famous Direkli (Columned) Church. You will learn the fascinating history of this resilient rock village, which served as a peaceful, multi-faith sanctuary for centuries and remained actively inhabited until the 1950s—making it the ultimate authentic window into Cappadocia's cave-dwelling past.

3 **Devrent Vadisi**

After exploring the historic rock-cut settlements of Zelve, 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.

4 **Avanos Pottery Workshop**

After exploring the imaginative rock formations of Devrent Valley, you arrive in the historic town of Avanos, situated on the banks of the K?z?l?rmak (Red River). Renowned for its pottery tradition dating back to the Hittite period, Avanos has long been known for its skilled ceramic artisans, who use the river's distinctive red clay to create handmade pottery. At a traditional pottery workshop, visitors can watch experienced craftsmen demonstrate time-honored techniques on a pottery wheel while learning about the history of this enduring craft. Many workshops also offer the opportunity to try shaping clay on

the wheel, providing an interactive introduction to one of Cappadocia's oldest artistic traditions.

5

Goreme Panorama

After your visit to Avanos, the journey continues to Göreme Panorama, one of Cappadocia's most popular viewpoints. Perched on a ridge overlooking Göreme Valley, the viewpoint offers expansive views of fairy chimneys, rock-cut churches and dwellings, and the surrounding volcanic landscape. From here, visitors can appreciate how millions of years of volcanic activity and erosion shaped Cappadocia's distinctive terrain. The panoramic setting also provides an excellent vantage point for photography and for taking in the region's remarkable natural and cultural landscape.

6

Uchisar Castle

Leaving Göreme Panorama behind, the journey continues to Uçhisar Castle, the highest natural rock formation and one of the most prominent landmarks in Cappadocia. Formed from volcanic tuff and shaped by erosion, this towering rock was carved into a fortified settlement containing interconnected rooms, tunnels, storage areas, and passageways. The castle served as a defensive refuge and strategic lookout for centuries, particularly during the Byzantine period, when it played an important role in protecting local communities. From its summit, visitors enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding valleys, fairy chimneys, and the volcanic landscapes that define Cappadocia.

7

Love Valley Cappadocia

Leaving the towering rock citadel of Uçhisar Castle behind, your private tour arrives at its final destination: the famous Love Valley. Renowned for having among the most distinctive geological formations in Cappadocia, this remarkable valley is home to massive, free-standing fairy chimneys that rise like giant pillars above a landscape of vineyards and walking trails. Your expert guide will explain how layers of volcanic ash, deposited millions of years ago, were gradually sculpted by wind and water erosion to create these extraordinary natural formations. From its scenic viewpoints, Love Valley offers sweeping views of Cappadocia's unique volcanic landscape, making it an ideal place to admire the region's remarkable geology and capture memorable photographs before concluding your journey.

8

Cappadocia

After an unforgettable day exploring Cappadocia, your guide will take you back to your hotel, the airport, or the location where you were picked up, marking the end of your tour.

o

Drop-off

Back in Istanbul
About 7 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 licensed guide
+ Air-conditioned vehicle

+ Private transportation
+ Bottled water
+ Hotel transfers
+ Lunch
+ Museum entry fees

Not included

- Foods & drinks
- Tips & gratuities

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-red-castles-valleys-private-tour/

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