



2023  
**TURKEY**  
& ANATYLA

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AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAVELERS



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# MEET THE TEAM



**Lawrence McLean**

**GEO/FOUNDER OF AAT  
TRIP HOST**

Lawrence McLean developed the concept of AAT in 2012, as a result of the constant let down of friends backing out of travel plans, or simply not sharing his interest in traveling any further than the Caribbean. He started the group, African American Travelers of Philadelphia, followed by another chapter in New York, on meetup.com. Since, he has led thousands from around the country, on the most epic, unforgettable, international tours. AAT's groups have perused six continents, including its, signature, annual NYE in Dubai experience, and taking travelers "Home for the Holidays" to the beautiful motherland, Africa, year after year. According to "Madame Noir" Lawrence has been recognized as one of the three US entrepreneurs who is changing the perception of travel to Africa!



**Carey Bradshaw**

**PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER  
TRIP HOST**

Carey Bradshaw is a self-educated photographer constantly pushing the boundaries of traditional photography by infusing digital photo manipulation. Armed with experience and knowledge of photography and graphic design, Carey is commissioned to shoot on location in NYC, Europe, Asia, and Africa to create stunning visual masterpieces for his clients in the industries of Entertainment - Music/Television/Fashion, Travel, Real Estate, Corporate and personal portraits. Carey Bradshaw is currently based in NYC



**Andrea McLean**

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER  
HOST ASSISTANT**

Andrea McLean is known for traveling with style, She has worked in customer service and sales for many years, mastering 60-second pitches since the spunky age of 6! She is focused on customer satisfaction, engagement, and bringing a smile to our travelers faces. Some believe that she may have been a comedian in her past life. Whenever she is around, there is always laughter.



**William McLean**

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER  
HOST ASSISTANT**

William Mclean is our newest addition to the team. William is currently in college majoring in business acquiring relevant skills that will not only enhance your traveling experience with African American Travelers but ensure that your experience is our top priority. William loves building connections and meeting new people, as our entire team is incredibly eager to present our customers with the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and memories as that will last forever.

**“Great things in business are never done by one person. They’re done by a team of people.”**

**– Steve Jobs**

# THE ITINERARY

## DAY 1

 USA → TR

**ARRIVE IN ISTANBUL**



ISTANBULHOTEL

**3:00 PM CHECK IN**



**8:00 PM**

BLACK & GOLD HOST DINNER

## DAY 2



### TOUR OF INSTABUL

**9:00 AM** DEPART FOR TOUR OF INSTANBUL

- Blue Mosque
- Hippodrome
- Hagia Sophia Mosque
- Topkapi Palace
- Grand Bazaar Jewelers

**5:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

## DAY 3



### DEPART FOR CAPPADOCIA

**10:00 PM** CHECK OUT

**1:25 PM** DEPART FOR NEVSEHIR FLIGHT TK2004

**2:35 PM** ARRIVE IN NEVSEHIR



NEVSEHIR HOTEL

**3:20 PM CHECK IN**

## DAY 4



### CAPPADOCIA TOUR

- 6:00 AM** BALCONY PHOTOS
- 10:00 PM** DEPART FOR TOUR OF CAPPADOCIA
- Goreme National Park
  - Love Valley
  - Pasabag
  - Sultans Seramik
  - Devrent Valley
  - Pigeon Valley
  - Kaymakli Underground City
- 5:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

## DAY 5



### FREE TIME

(For those who didn't book add-ons)

### ATV AND HOT AIR BALLOONS

- 6:00 AM** DEPART FOR HOT AIR BALLOON
- 9:00 AM** RETURN TO HOTEL
- 4:00 PM** ATV TOUR
- 6:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

## DAY 6



### FREE TIME

(For those who didn't book add-ons)



### FLYING DRESS PHOTOSHOOT

- 6:00 AM** DEPART FOR FLYING DRESS PHOTOSHOOT
- 11:00 AM** RETURN TO HOTEL



### TURKISH NIGHT SHOW

- 6:00 PM** DEPART FOR SHOW
- 9:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

# THE ITINERARY

## DAY 7



### BACK TO ISTANBUL

- 11:00 AM** CHECK OUT AND TRANSFER TO AIRPORT
- 3:20 PM** DEPART FOR ISTANBUL / FLIGHT TK2005
- 4:40 PM** ARRIVE IN ISTANBUL / TRANSFER TO HOTEL



- 8:30PM**  
FAREWELL DINNER

## DAY 8



### CHECK OUT / FLY HOME

- 11:00 AM** CHECK OUT HOTEL / TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

# THE EXTENTION

## DAY 8



**FREE TIME**

## DAY 9



ISTANBUL HOTEL

**10:00 AM CHECK OUT**

**1:25 PM DEPART ON FLIGHT TK2428**



**FLY TO ANTALYA**



ANTALYA HOTEL

**2:30 PM CHECK IN**

## DAY 10



### ANTALYA TOUR

- 9:00 AM** DEPART FOR TOUR OF ANTALYA
- Lower Duden Waterfalls
  - Upper Duden Waterfalls
  - Kaleici
  - Old City Marina
  - Tunektepe Teleferik Tesisi

**5:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

## DAY 11



### SULUADA ISLAND BOAT TOUR

**7:00 AM** DEPART FOR SULUADA ISLAND BOAT TOUR

**6:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

## DAY 12



**FREE TIME**

## DAY 13



**FLY BACK TO HOME**



## TOUR OF INSTANBUL

Istanbul is a major city in Turkey that straddles Europe and Asia across the Bosphorus Strait. Its Old City reflects cultural influences of the many empires that once ruled here. In the Sultanahmet district, the open-air, Roman-era Hippodrome was for centuries the site of chariot races, and Egyptian obelisks also remain. The iconic Byzantine Hagia Sophia features a soaring 6th-century dome and rare Christian mosaics



## BLUE MOSQUE

For the past 400 years, right in the heart of Istanbul, a magnificent building has stood as a statement of Ottoman achievement and greatness. It is a beautiful building, built on the site of the palace of Byzantine emperors and next to Hagia Sophia. The Blue Mosque not only asserts Ottoman wealth, but also presents the Ottoman Empire as the successor and inheritor of Roman and Byzantine imperial culture. Because it was built in the neighborhood surrounding Hagia Sophia and on the grounds of a former imperial Byzantine palace, it asserts a physical and architectural Ottoman dominance over a formerly Byzantine area and illustrates the Ottoman Empire's self-perception as the successor to a Roman-Byzantine cultural and architectural legacy. This need for expression of cultural and physical dominance came from the Ottoman sultan Ahmed I, who wanted more than anything to overshadow his failed military conquests with an architectural masterpiece. The building of the Blue Mosque was Ahmed I's way of trying to cement a legacy similar to his great-great-grandfather, Suleyman the Magnificent. The location and close proximity to Roman-Byzantine architecture makes it very clear that the Blue Mosque was built by Ahmed I to profess that the Ottoman Empire was greater culturally and architecturally than its predecessors.



## HIPPODROME

The Hippodrome has long since disappeared, its building materials cannibalised for other structures, but its outline is clearly marked out, several metres above the original level, in the form of a public park complete with what remains of the serpent column and two original obelisks in modern downtown Istanbul..



## HAGIA SOFIA MOSQUE

The Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque, with its innovative architecture, rich history, religious significance and extraordinary characteristics has been fighting against time for centuries, was the largest Eastern Roman Church in Istanbul. Constructed three times in the same location, it is the world's oldest and fastest-completed cathedral. With its breathtaking domes that look like hanging in the air, monolithic marble columns and unparalleled mosaics, is one of the wonders of world's architecture history. The sheer dazzling beauty of mosque with its magnificent play on space, light, and color provokes worship in the believer! Hagia Sophia pose on the ground of the first hill of Istanbul, precisely at the tip of the historic peninsula, surrounded by the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn on three sides.



## TOPKAPI PALACE

Topkapi Palace and Harem are likely to have more colourful stories than most of the world's museums put together. Libidinous sultans, ambitious courtiers, beautiful concubines and scheming eunuchs lived and worked here between the 15th and 19th centuries when it was the court of the Ottoman empire. A visit to the palace's opulent pavilions, jewel-filled Treasury and sprawling Harem gives a fascinating glimpse into their lives.



## GRAND BAZAAR JEWELERS

At the forefront, Turkish jewelry is known for its unique style and use of gemstones. Popular gemstones in Turkish jewelry today include stones like ruby, emerald sapphires, turquoise, chalcedony and agate. Another defining characteristic has to do with the metal. The main difference here in Turkey is the quality and creativity of the designs plus the excellent workmanship. The price of gold is the same all over the world but gold jewellery here tends to be cheaper than many places due to lower labour costs.



## TOUR OF CAPPADOCIA

Embark on an awe-inspiring tour through Cappadocia, a semi-arid region in central Turkey, is known for its distinctive “fairy chimneys,” tall, cone-shaped rock formations clustered in Monks Valley, Göreme and elsewhere. Other notable sites include Bronze Age homes carved into valley walls by troglodytes (cave dwellers) and later used as refuges by early Christians. The 100m-deep Ihlara Canyon houses numerous rock-face churches



## GOREME NATIONAL PARK

Located on the central Anatolia plateau within a volcanic landscape sculpted by erosion to form a succession of mountain ridges, valleys and pinnacles known as “fairy chimneys” or hoodoos, Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia cover the region between the cities of Nevşehir, Ürgüp and Avanos, the sites of Karain, Karlık, Yeşilöz, Soğanlı and the subterranean cities of Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu. The area is bounded on the south and east by ranges of extinct volcanoes with Erciyes Dağ (3916 m) at one end and Hasan Dağ (3253 m) at the other. The density of its rock-hewn cells, churches, troglodyte villages and subterranean cities within the rock formations make it one of the world’s most striking and largest cave-dwelling complexes. Though interesting from a geological and ethnological point of view, the incomparable beauty of the decor of the Christian sanctuaries makes Cappadocia one of the leading examples of the post-iconoclastic Byzantine art period.



## LOVE VALLEY

The Cappadocia Love Valley is a real place just outside of the city Goreme in Turkey’s Cappadocia region. Standing erect between the Goreme open air museum and the town of Goreme, one finds this valley of the Super-sized Slongs. If you’ve got a good sense of humor and some hiking boots, you too can rummage through the underpants of this Turkish countryside. The site is free and is definitely worth a peak. We all know that blue sky make for the most optimal photo, take it in stride if you have a hard gray day and stiff winds.



## PASABAG

At Pasabag Valley the rocks are not as tall but they are just as interesting since they look more like mushrooms. The trunks are wider at the bottom and the top is a much darker brown. In some areas you will also see rocks dividing into several conical shaped heads. In the other valleys the fairy chimneys are all standalone structures.



## SULTANS CERAMICS

The handicrafts that was started in b.c. 2000 by Hittite Civilization had continued through Iznik designs in 15th century in the Ottoman Empire period so that as the follower of the handicraft traditions, Sultans Ceramic family has introduced the handicrafts by meeting with the art-lovers through its marketing activities in national and international levels and by using its 250 years experience in the area of 4500 m<sup>2</sup> that was constructed by carving entirely with the hand workmanship in the rock in Avanos in Cappadocia region.



## DEVRENT VALLEY

Unlike other valleys in the Cappadocia region, Devrent Valley was never inhabited by humans. There are no rock-hewn churches or ancient castles, nor are there any troglodyte caves or pigeon homes. Instead what draws visitors to Devrent Valley is the incredible pink-hued rock formations and geological anomalies that have been formed by centuries of erosion. Wind and water have worked away at the soft volcanic tuff to leave behind compelling pillar-like shapes and other odd forms. Many have dubbed this region the Lunar Landscape or Moonscape for its unearthly appearance and it is necessary to see the area from above to fully appreciate why it has earned this name.



## **PIGEON VALLEY**

Guvercinlik Vadisi (Pigeon Valley) earned its name from the countless man made dovecotes (Pigeon Houses) that have been carved into the soft volcanic tuff. Since ancient times Pigeons have been used in the Cappadocia region for food and fertiliser for the infertile soil. While pigeons no longer play such an important role in the area, their rocky homes have still been maintained by locals and can be found atop rock pillars and inside excavated cave houses and churches throughout the region, however, they are particularly numerous in this valley.



## **KAYMAKLI UNDERGROUND CITY**

BURIED BENEATH THE SURFACE OF Turkey's Cappadocia are a number of stunning underground cities built in ancient times to protect the local population from marauding armies and roving bands of invaders, but the Kaymaklı Underground City dwarfs them all with its sprawling layout. The underground cities of the region were likely initially built by peoples around 2000 BCE and later expanded upon by later civilizations as they moved in and out of the area. The multi-chambered city contains areas for storage, living quarters, wine-making, and stables like many of its sister cities in the region.



## **HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE**

The magically unique landscape of Cappadocia is like nothing you have ever seen. As the balloon slowly ascends at sunrise, the surreal lunar landscape that unfolds below will simply astound you. The balloon drifts silently and effortlessly through the valleys and over the famous fairy chimneys, vineyards, and orchards. The stunning colors of the rock formations will take your breath away. No matter how long you plan to stay in Cappadocia, hot air ballooning is a wholly unique experience not to be missed.



## **ATV TOUR**

ATV riding is a great activity that has the potential to be fun for almost any individual. While it can be intimidating to new people, you will quickly pick it up and be excited to spend your free time riding, exploring, bonding with people, and getting good exercise.



## **FLYING DRESS PHOTOSHOOT**

You've seen them all over IG and FB, so there is absolutely no way you can fly all the way to Santorini and not get yours. We've got you covered! We've reserved the entire morning and afternoon in Santorini so you can get yourself the infamous flying dress photo! Each appointment is 30 minutes and gets you a flying dress rentals 30 photos plus 4 professionally retouched photos. Options for professional makeup & additional dresses will be made available closer to the trip date? Bringing your boo with you? They can join the shoot at no additional cost, they just need to come with their flyest apparel to not ruin your shoot.



## **TURKISH NIGHTS SHOW**

Experience Turkish culture and traditions as you're entertained by the performers in a Turkish Night Show. Enjoy an evening of drinks, appetizers, and dinner as you take in the show at one of Cappadocia's cave restaurants.



## ANATYLA CITY TOUR

Antalya is a Turkish resort city with a yacht-filled Old Harbor and beaches flanked by large hotels. It's a gateway to Turkey's southern Mediterranean region, known as the Turquoise Coast for its blue waters. Remnants remain from Antalya's time as a major Roman port. These include Hadrian's Gate, built to honor the Roman emperor's visit in 130 A.D and 2nd-century Hidirlik Tower, with



## LOWER DUDEN WATERFALL

If you are looking for an amazing walk to enjoy the breathtaking landscape of Antalya, Lower Düden Waterfall is definitely one of the most dazzling natural shows to see in the city. Lower Düden Waterfall is a unique beauty located in Düden Park in the Lara district of Antalya. It's a powerful water attraction to see from the sidewalk and also from a boat in the water.



## UPPER DUDEN WATERFALL

Upper Düden Waterfall is also called "Alexander Falls". It's said that Alexander the Great, who conquered Pamphylia between 334-333 BC, gave water to his horses while passing through this region. This recreation spot is preferred by those who want to get away from the city center and find peace in nature. The pleasure of visiting the waterfall on a hot day is always welcome. There are places for observing picturesque panoramas, as well as restaurants and cafes. You can find plenty of restaurants on the both sides of the lake. It's also possible to bring your own food and enjoy in the picnic areas. It is very refreshing to have a picnic by the creek and to soak your feet in the water to cool off.



## ***KALEICI***

Kaleiçi is the historic city center of Antalya, Turkey. Until modern times, almost the entire city was confined within its walls. It has structures dating from the Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk, Ottoman and modern Turkish republican eras. Most of it however, dates to the late 18th and 19th centuries.



## ***OLD CITY MARINA***

The old Marina is set at the foot of Kaleiçi old town in Antalya. Passing a picturesque bazaar you descend a steep hill via alleys or steps and reach the horseshoe shaped marina. During the day many boat excursions start from here, while at night it's more relaxing with cafes and restaurants you can visit.



## ***TUNEKTEPE TELEFERIK TESISI***

One of the best ways to observe Antalya from a high spot is to get a ride on the Tünektepe Cable Car called the Tünektepe Teleferik in Turkish. You should definitely add Tünektepe to your route as it's the best attraction in Antalya. You will see a spectacular view of Antalya and get fresh air with the scent pine trees, all while being able to take amazing pictures of the skyline.



## ***SULUADA ISLAND BOAT TOUR***

Suluada is one of the best spots to swim in Antalya with its crystal clear sands and sparkling turquoise waters. The name Suluada is a composite word meaning “watery island” referring to the fresh water sources on the island. Suluada is 2 km away from the mainland and is approximately 1,200 meters long. If you take to a boat tour, the first stop is usually Suluada, a unique beauty near Adrasan. It’s also called the “Maldives of the region” with its clear turquoise waters and white sands. If the boat goes directly to Suluada, the trip will take about 40 minutes. The water gets its color and clarity from microorganisms called foraminifera on the island. The boat tour continues in the direction of Adrasan Bay and Cıralı with several swimming breaks and a lunch break. There are two swimming beaches on Suluada. Both beaches have mostly white pebbles with tiny black pebbles mixed in. The beach on the west side is larger but has more waves. The beach on the mainland (north) is preferable because it is less wavy. Be sure to bring your goggles because Suluada is also home to many sea creatures and has a rich underwater world with a natural reef area. According to experts, Suluada should be put in a special protection zone as soon as possible. Dolphins and Mediterranean Monk Seals are among the most frequent visitors to the island.

# ACCOMODATIONS



ANTAYLA HOTEL



# ACCOMODATIONS



ISTANBUL HOTEL



# ACCOMODATIONS



CAPPADOCIA HOTEL

