



WINGS OVER GREECE & TURKEY (2024)

Explore the historic and cultural riches of the ancient world, from the glories of Athens and Istanbul, to the Minoan culture of idyllic Crete and the wonders of Cappadocia, flying by chartered air around this fascinating region.

Small Group Journeys, Wings Over the World



Europe, Greece, Turkey



12 days from AU\$61,530 pp



13 Guests

Journey Overview

Wings Over the World itineraries feature private charter flights between destinations, allowing you the convenience of visiting remote places with less time spent getting there.

Explore the historic and cultural riches of the ancient world, from the glories of Athens and Istanbul, to the Minoan culture of idyllic Crete and the wonders of Cappadocia, flying by private chartered air around this fascinating region, and walking historic paths to experience the local life of yesterday and today, up close.

Journey Highlights

- Fly in comfort between iconic locales throughout Greece and Turkey aboard an exclusively chartered aircraft with a dedicated flight crew
- Explore Athens, the birthplace of democracy, learning about Greek civilisation at the Acropolis Museum and viewing the iconic Parthenon
- Discover Crete, where you visit the Palace of Knossos archaeological site, savour lunch at a winery and set out on an exhilarating Jeep safari
- In Turkey, journey to the ruins of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved ancient cities in the world, arriving at, exploring and departing from this legendary site on the same day, thanks to the convenience of privately chartered flights
- Enter Cappadocia's incredible underground city of Kaymakli, view volcanic stone "fairy chimneys" and discover the restored Dark Church
- Stay four nights in historic, legendary Istanbul, as you visit the famed Topkapi Palace and magnificent Hagia Sophia, view spectacular examples of Ottoman architecture and ferry across the Bosphorus to experience life on its Asian bank

Take 10 with an A&K Expert to Hear More About This Journey



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Athens, Greece

Arrive in Athens, where you are met and transferred to your hotel in the city centre. Tonight, join your Resident Tour Director and fellow guests for a welcome dinner.

Hotel Grande Bretagne / Meals: D

Day 2: Athens | Private Rooftop Dinner

This morning, set out on a foodie walking exploration of Athens, visiting some of the oldest neighbourhoods in the city and experiencing its charming streets, street food and traditional dishes for a lively Chef's Table outing. Devote your afternoon to leisure, perhaps exploring on your own. Later, view the Parthenon in the early evening light, and then savour an A&K-exclusive dinner at a 19th-century private townhouse, located on the oldest street in Europe. If the night is warm, dine on the rooftop to take in views of the illuminated Acropolis.

Hotel Grande Bretagne / Meals: BD

Day 3: Crete | Minoan Treasures

Board your private aircraft for the short flight to Crete. On arrival, enjoy lunch before visiting the Heraklion Archaeological Museum, viewing items collected from across the island that date back 5,500 years and offer glimpses into the ancient Minoan civilisation. Afterwards, proceed to your hotel.

Daïos Cove / Meals: BLD

Day 4: Heraklion | A Triumph of the Bronze Age

Explore the Palace of Knossos, the largest Bronze Age archaeological site on Crete. As you do, learn more about the Minoans, the people who built the palace sometime in the 17th century BC and who were named by historians for the mythical King Minos, remembered for constructing the labyrinth that imprisoned the monstrous Minotaur. After lunch at a Cretan winery, return to your hotel to enjoy its many amenities.

Daïos Cove / Meals: BL

Day 5: Crete | Roaming the Countryside

Today, set out on an exhilarating off-road safari to absorb fun information about Greek mythology as well as breathtaking views. Visit a local village and take in majestic vistas over Mirabello Bay. Journey to the plateau of Katharo, along winding dirt tracks, passing through the biggest forest on the island, where the mountains soar to nearly 1,524 metres above the sea, perhaps stopping at a *kafenio* (café) for a refreshment. Later, wind down the mountainside to another plateau, where you savour an al fresco barbecue lunch served with wine. Continue along roads that can only be accessed by four-wheel-drive vehicle, crossing rivers and rugged terrain as you Ride Like a Local to the village of Krassi. Head back to your hotel, passing en route through the Selinari, an area noted for endangered vultures, which you may spot soaring overhead.

Daños Cove | Meals: BL

Day 6: Izmir, Turkey | Ancient Ephesus

Depart for Turkey this morning on an illuminating day trip made possible by privately chartered flights. Touch down in Izmir, where you visit the ruins of ancient Ephesus, some of the most well-preserved remains of an ancient civilisation anywhere in the world. Founded in the fourth century BC, the city has at times been ruled by the Persians and the Romans as well as the Greeks. It was home to Saint Paul for more than three years, and it was here he established the church that became the head of the Seven Churches in Asia Minor. After your exploration of this history-laden site, with its ruins of temples, roads, baths, fountains and far more, re-board your aircraft and continue to Cappadocia.

Argos in Cappadocia | Meals: BLD

Day 7: Cappadocia | Ballooning Over Cappadocia

Lift off on a hot air balloon excursion over Cappadocia and explore the area's volcanic stone "fairy chimneys." Break for lunch while taking in views of the incredible Cappadocian landscape. Afterwards, visit a pottery in Avanos to learn how the region's renowned earthenware is created and observe master potters at their craft. Next, on an A&K-exclusive experience, enjoy private, after-hours access to the rock-carved churches of Goreme, and discover the stunningly restored Dark Church.

Argos in Cappadocia | Meals: BL

Day 8: Istanbul | Lunch with a Local Family

Explore the fascinating underground city at Kaymakli, which dates to as early as the eighth century BC and includes chapels, kitchens, air vents and living quarters carved out of volcanic rock. Then, get to know the Goreme Weavers Association on an engaging artisan visit. Next, meet with a local family and join them for lunch in their home. This afternoon, fly by private charter to Istanbul, and settle into your luxuriously appointed hotel.

Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus | Meals: BL

Day 9: Istanbul | Hagia Sophia & Bosphorus Cruise

Rise early for a private, before-hours opening of the Basilica Cistern, with its marble columns still standing since the sixth century. Continue to the timeless Hagia Sophia for a visit, marvelling at the structure's imposing façade, matched only by the grandeur of its towering, vaulted ceilings. Next, explore Suleymaniye Mosque and take in other highlights of the city, from the Golden Horn to the Hippodrome. This evening, privately cruise the glittering Bosphorus, toasting its beauty with a Scenic Sundowner.

Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus | Meals: BLD

Day 10: Legacy of a Magnificent Ruler

Discover the marvels of Topkapi Palace and its harem, and then proceed to the Grand Bazaar, where you have lunch at a craftsman's eatery. The remainder of your day is at leisure.

Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus | Meals: BL

Day 11: Istanbul | Design Your Day

This morning, set out to explore the magnificent Dolmabahce Palace. Then, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

- **Ferry to the Asian Side of the City**, strolling its vibrant food markets and staying for lunch.
- **Explore Cultural Istanbul at the Pera Museum**, the Galata shopping district and Karakoy's coffeehouses.
- **Indulge in a Historic Hammam Experience** or simply relax in the spa at your hotel.

This afternoon is at your leisure, leaving you free to explore the city on your own. Tonight, gather for a farewell dinner.

Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus | Meals: BLD

Day 12: Depart Istanbul

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to board your departing flight.

Meals: B

Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 6:00 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 11.

Flight Details:

Athens–Heraklion (1 hr)

Heraklion–Izmir (55 min)

Izmir–Cappadocia (1 hr 15 min)

Cappadocia–Istanbul (1 hr 10 min)

Aircraft: Bombardier Challenger 850 or comparable (Aircraft and seating configuration subject to change).

Included with every Wings Over The World Journey

- Unique Itinerary Made Possible by Private Chartered Flights
- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Your Choice of Activity on Design Your Day
- Traveller's Valet Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except for Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support

Customise this Journey

Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.

Map



Accommodation

Hotel Grande Bretagne, Athens



This 18th Century landmark is unquestionably Athens most luxurious hotel. Immaculately restored to the height of its old world grandeur, it is perfectly located at Syntagma Square in the heart of the city. The hotel's palatial interior is lavishly appointed, with restored antiques and wonderful fabrics personalising each of the 320 rooms and suites. Opt for a Junior Suite with butler service to tend to your every need.

The Grande Bretagne is ideally located for exploration of the House of Parliament and National Gardens, whilst the trendy bars, cafés and boutiques of Kolonaki Square are a short walk away.

After a day of exploration retreat to the Winter Garden where the hustle and bustle of Athens is left far behind or head to Alexander's Bar for cocktails where the 18th century tapestry of Alexander the Great is the focal point.

The Grande Bretagne not only dominates the skyline around it, meaning you're looking straight at the Parthenon, but glance to your left and you're looking straight at the Greek Parliament, with the Evzones soldiers trooping around the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier every hour.

Why we like it

- A landmark building of stunning classical architecture, the Grande Bretagne is known as the 'Royal Box' of Athens and provides excellent views of the Acropolis
- Dining options include the GB Roof Garden restaurant & Bar overlooking the Acropolis
- GB Spa with its indoor swimming pool and a fully equipped gymnasium
- The splendid outdoor rooftop pool is a welcome rest from the Athenian sun
- A&K recommends the Deluxe Suites, which provide spacious, stylish accommodation, mixing luxurious furnishings with warm décor to create a wonderful retreat in the heart of Athens

Daivos Cove, Crete



Daivos Cove is a five-star hotel situated within its own secluded cove. Its unique location is perfectly complemented by the stunning architecture. An elegant funicular navigates the cliffside and allows easy access to the private beach.

You have a choice of six bars and restaurants, which offer a great range of cuisine. The luxurious suites feature a separate living room and a lavish marble-lined bathroom with separate bathtub and shower cabin, and many even come with a private pool. Relax at the Finnish sauna, hydro-massage and Thai-massage studio. Make use of the Technogym's equipment too.

On top of the inviting sea views and state-of-the-art facilities, Daivos Cove is great for families. Babies and toddlers are supervised in the Crèche Club. Older kids can enjoy the well-equipped Children's Club, which is led by friendly staff members. There's a child-friendly beach, pool games and babysitting services too.

Enjoy the sea-water infinity pool, water-sports centre and tennis courts. Excursions to all of Crete's historical sites and beauty spots are also a must while staying here.

Why we like it

- Stunning location in a private cove near Agios Nikolaos
- All rooms are built into the cliffside and boast sea views
- The suites and villas are all extremely spacious
- Great range of superb restaurants

Argos in Cappadocia



The Argos Hotel is set in the centre of Cappadocia, famous for its distinctive “fairy house” rock formations and ancient archaeological sites. Gaze out over enchanting churches, monasteries, mansions and the distant Cappadocia Plateau beyond.

Choose from stunning accommodation options including stone houses and mansion rooms. All are furnished with opulent antique rugs and blankets. Some even feature private cave pools. Your immediate atmosphere is steeped in the quaintness of local Turkish life. Your window views capture the open landscape in all its glory. Stroll through tunnels and gardens as you explore the hotel and discover its amenities.

Seki Restaurant showcases the culinary highlights of Cappadocia. Savour locally sourced ingredients and sample high-quality regional wines. Regular concerts are held in the serene atmosphere of Bazirhane, an ancient building with natural acoustics. Be sure to partake in hot air balloon rides, bird watching, hikes and historic adventures on this fabled landscape.

Why we like it

- Restored historic building with tunnels and caves
- Some rooms offer private cave pools
- Stunning quintessentially Cappadocian views
- Delightful locally sourced dining
- The wine cellar includes local and home-grown wines

Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

Jun 10, 2024 - Jun 21, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$61,530 pp	AU\$8,455	Included	Call for Availability

Jun 24, 2024 - Jul 5, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$61,530 pp	AU\$8,455	Included	Call for Availability

Sep 2, 2024 - Sep 13, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$61,530 pp	AU\$8,455	Included	Call for Availability

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