

Writing: Year 3 – Summer 2 Week 5

	Lesson 1 Activity	Lesson 2 Activity	Lesson 3 Activity	Lesson 4 Activity	Lesson 5 Activity
Writing	<p>Writing about Reading: Skimming and scanning</p> <p>Read the <i>Welcome to Egypt</i> and <i>Need to Know</i> pages from the Lonely Planet Travel Guide (Resource 1A).</p> <p>Watch this video on skimming and scanning.</p> <p>Answer the questions below. Identify whether you need to skim or scan the text to find the answer.</p> <p>The colours will help you to look in the correct part of the text for the answer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Look at the <i>Welcome to Egypt</i> page. Write down three general types of attractions that tourists should visit in Egypt. Write down three things that Egypt would not have without the River Nile. What is Cairo famous for? What method of travel does the author recommend for exploring Egypt? When is the best time to visit Egypt? Why? What should visitors to Egypt try not to do at night? 	<p>Gather notes for an information text</p> <p>This week, you are going to produce a travel guide for a Mediterranean country.</p> <p>Choose one of these Mediterranean countries to produce a travel guide for:</p> <p>Egypt, Spain, Turkey</p> <p>Read through the travel guide (Resource 2A) for the country you have chosen and write notes under the headings on Resource 2B. You can add additional headings.</p>	<p>Practise combining ideas</p> <p>Read through your notes from yesterday and practise combining two ideas into one sentence.</p> <p>Use and to combine two ideas into one sentence: <i>Alexandria is Egypt's second largest city and rich in ancient and modern history.</i></p> <p>Use a comma/and to write a list: <i>Alexandria is Egypt's second-largest city, rich in ancient and modern history and particularly famous for the reign of Alexander the Great.</i></p>	<p>Draft an information text</p> <p>You do not need to make a published piece of writing in this session. You need to make sure you have all the sections.</p> <p>Write a GSV introduction. You can watch this video and use Resource 4A to remind you about GSV introductions.</p> <p>*Use your notes and sentences from yesterday to write a draft of your travel guide.</p> <p>Read Resource 4B. Use this as a model to help you write your own travel guide for a visitor to the Mediterranean country you have chosen.</p>	<p>Publish an information text</p> <p>Today you should combine all your draft writing into a final published piece of work. This can be handwritten or produced on a device.</p> <p>Before you start, make sure you use CUPS and ARMS to check your draft writing.</p> <p>Produce a published information text on Mediterranean country you have chosen. You can use Resource 5A as a template or design your own. It can be typed or handwritten.</p> <p>Once you have completed your work, make sure you use CUPS once more to check for errors.</p>
Resources	Resource 1A	Resource 2A Resource 2B		Resource 4A Resource 4B	Resource 5A Resource 5B



Reading: Year 3 – Summer 2 Week 5

		Day 1 Activity	Day 2 Activity	Day 3 Activity	Day 4 Activity	Day 5 Activity
Reading	Whole class	The Adventurers and the City of Secrets, Chapter 1 and 2	The Adventurers and the City of Secrets, Chapter 3, 4 and 5	The Adventurers and the City of Secrets Chapter 6, 7 and 8	The Adventurers and the City of Secrets Chapter 9, 10 and 11	Ruth Awolola Poetry
	Independent	I am a Sea Turtle	A Different Pond (pages 1-15)	A Different Pond (pages 16-32)	A Tiger Grows Up (pages 1-12)	A Tiger Grows Up (pages 13-24)
	*	The Jade Dragon (pages 1-21)	The Jade Dragon (pages 22-43)	The Jade Dragon (pages 44-64)	My First Guide To Magic Tricks	From Mealworm to Beetle
	*	Thorns, Horns, and Crescent Moons: Reading and Writing Nature Poems (pages 1-14)	Thorns, Horns, and Crescent Moons: Reading and Writing Nature Poems (pages 15-25)	The Boy Who Burped Too Much (pages 1-20)	The Boy Who Burped Too Much (pages 21-40)	Dirty Bertie Germs (pages 1-18)
	*					
Spelling		<p>Practice these words this week using the spelling strategies below: consider, continue, decide, describe, caught, thought, different, disappear, aloud, allowed</p> <p>Make sure you know the definition of the homophones by using each word in a sentence. Can you think of a way of remember how to spell each homophone?</p> <p>Challenge: Choose more words from the spelling list below to practice spelling. Challenge: Choose more words from the spelling list below to practice spelling.</p>				

See below for: Day Resources and Spelling Resources.



Welcome to Egypt

Egypt welcomes you with its mighty Nile and magnificent monuments, the beguiling desert and lush delta, and with its long past and welcoming, story-loving people.

● Pyramids & More

With sand-covered tombs, austere pyramids and towering Pharaonic temples, Egypt brings out the explorer in all of us. Visit the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, where Tutankhamun's tomb was unearthed, and see the glittering finds in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Hop off a Nile boat to visit Dendara, Edfu or one of the other waterside temples, cross Lake Nasser to see Ramses II's masterpiece at Abu Simbel, or trek into the desert to find the traces of Roman trading outposts. You never know – your donkey might stumble across yet another find, for that is the way many previous discoveries were made.

● Beaches & Beyond

That empty beach with nothing but a candle-lit cabin, and a teeming coral reef offshore: they're waiting for you in Egypt. The coast along the Red Sea has a rugged desert beauty above the waterline and a psychedelic vibrancy below – rewarding to explore on a multiday outing to one of the globe's great dives or on an afternoon's snorkelling jaunt along a coral wall. There is even more space and just as much beauty in Egypt's vast deserts. Whether you're watching the sun rise between the beautiful shapes of the White Desert or the shim-

mering horizon from the comfort of a hot spring in Siwa Oasis, Egypt's landscapes are endlessly fascinating.

● Going with the Flow

The old saying that Egypt is the gift of the Nile still rings true: without the river there would be no fertile land, no food and a lot less electricity. Although people's lives are increasingly physically detached from the water, the Nile still exerts a uniquely powerful role. Luckily for visitors, the river is also the perfect place from which to see many of the most spectacular ancient monuments, which is one reason why a Nile cruise remains such a popular way to travel.

● Two Religions

Egypt once ruled an empire from Al Qahira – Cairo, the City Victorious. The metropolis is packed with soaring minarets and medieval schools and mosques, some of the greatest architecture of medieval Islam. At the same time, Egypt's native Christians, the Copts, have carried on their traditions that in many respects – such as the church's liturgical language and the traditional calendar – link back to the time of the pharaohs. Tap into the history in Cairo's early churches and in remote desert monasteries.



First Time Egypt

For more information, see **Survival Guide (p471)**

Checklist

- ➔ Ensure your passport is valid for a minimum of eight months.
- ➔ Check your country's foreign office advisory before booking your airline ticket.
- ➔ Organise travel insurance that includes medical cover.
- ➔ Inform your credit/debit card company of your travels before you leave home.
- ➔ Check if you can use your mobile abroad.
- ➔ Book accommodation and domestic flights.

What to Pack

- ➔ Hat, sunglasses and a good sunscreen
- ➔ Two-pin electrical adaptor to recharge gadgets
- ➔ Good mosquito protection
- ➔ A mobile phone compatible with an Egyptian SIM
- ➔ Patience to cope with a different concept of time

Top Tips for Your Trip

- ➔ Visit during the shoulder season (spring and autumn) when the weather is less extreme and there are fewer visitors around.
- ➔ Learn a few words in Arabic – greetings and 'thank you' are the obvious ones – and you'll get a laugh or a smile from the person you are talking to. One of the highlights of the trip is meeting good-humoured Egyptians.
- ➔ Keep small change to hand (LE5 and LE10 notes), as it is useful to give out as much needed baksheesh (tips) just about everywhere.
- ➔ Start your visits early in the morning to avoid the midday heat.
- ➔ Rent a car with a driver rather than driving yourself. Avoid travelling on roads outside cities and towns at night, which can be particularly dangerous.

What to Wear

Egypt is a conservative country, so modest attire is recommended. Out of resort towns, women will usually feel more comfortable wearing loose clothes. There are places (mosques and churches, for instance) where arms and legs should be covered. In resort towns the dress code is more relaxed. Cotton or linen clothing is recommended for the heat, and a fleece or wool sweater is needed for the cooler nights.

The dress code in most places is fairly casual, even at night, although Cairenes do dress up to go to the hip spots in town.

Sleeping

It's generally only necessary to book your accommodation in advance if you are planning to visit during the Christmas, Easter and half-term school holidays.

Hotels Range from dusty fleapits to deluxe accommodation in the larger cities and resorts. In smaller towns accommodation is mostly limited to basic options.

B&Bs Less common in Egypt, and places that call themselves B&Bs are often small family-run one- or two-star hotels.

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Egypt





Need to Know

For more information, see Survival Guide (p471)

Currency

Egyptian pound (LE)

Language

Arabic

Visas

Required for most nationalities. Single-entry, 30-day tourist visas cost US\$25 and are available online (<https://visa2egypt.gov.eg>) for 41 nationalities. Otherwise, visas can be purchased at the airport on arrival. Visa extensions are possible once in-country.

Money

ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are increasingly widely accepted. There is a major shortage of small change; large bills can be difficult to break.

Mobile Phones

Egypt's GSM network has thorough coverage. Bring your passport when purchasing a local SIM card (LE15). Pay-as-you-go data service costs about LE5 per day or LE50 per month.

Time

GMT/UTC plus two hours

When to Go



High Season

(Oct–Feb)

- ➔ Egypt's 'winter' is largely sunny and warm, with very occasional rain (more frequent on the Mediterranean).
- ➔ Be prepared for real chill in unheated hotels, especially in damp Alexandria.

Shoulder

(Mar & May, Sep & Oct)

- ➔ Spring brings occasional dust storms disrupting flights.
- ➔ Heat can extend into October, when crowds are lighter.
- ➔ Warm seas and no crowds at Mediterranean spots in autumn.

Low Season

(Jun–Aug)

- ➔ Scorching summer sun means only the hardest sightseers visit Upper Egypt.
- ➔ Avoid the Western Desert.
- ➔ High season on the Mediterranean when the weather is cooler than elsewhere; the coast is crowded.

Useful Websites

Egypt Tourism (www.egypt.travel) Official tourism site with trip-planning tools.

Daily News Egypt (www.dailynewsegypt.com) Independent English newspaper.

Mada Masr (www.madamasr.com) Independent, progressive online reporting in English.

Egypt Independent (www.egyptindependent.com) Respected online news.

Egyptian Streets (www.egyptianstreets.com) Independent features.

Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com/egypt) Destination information, hotel bookings and traveller forum.

Important Numbers

Drop 0 from the area code when dialling from abroad.

Country code	☎ 20
International access code	☎ 00
Ambulance	☎ 123
Fire	☎ 180
Tourist police	☎ 126

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	LE13.64
Canada	C\$1	LE13.74
Euro	€1	LE21.52
Israel & the Palestinian Territories	1NIS	LE5.08
Japan	¥100	LE16.55
Jordan	JD1	LE24.89
New Zealand	NZ\$1	LE12.69
UK	£1	LE24.26
USA	US\$1	LE17.65

For current exchange rates, see www.xe.com.

Daily Costs

Budget:
Less than LE600

- ◆ Basic double room: LE170
- ◆ Falafel sandwich: LE2.50
- ◆ Cairo–Luxor 1st-class train ticket: LE113–203

Midrange:
LE600–1800

- ◆ Midrange double air-con room: US\$30
- ◆ Two sit-down meals: LE120
- ◆ Flight from Cairo to Luxor: from LE650

Top end:
More than LE1800

- ◆ Luxury hotel room: US\$150
- ◆ Two sit-down meals: LE300
- ◆ High-end Nile cruise: from US\$175 per person per night

Opening Hours

The weekend is Friday and Saturday; some businesses close Sunday. During Ramadan, offices, museums and tourist sites keep shorter hours.

Banks 8.30am–2.30pm Sunday to Thursday

Bars and clubs Early evening until 3am, often later (particularly in Cairo)

Cafes 7am–1am

Government offices 8am–2pm Sunday to Thursday; tourist offices are generally open longer

Post offices 8.30am–2pm Saturday to Thursday

Private offices 10am–2pm and 4pm–9pm Saturday to Thursday

Restaurants Noon–midnight

Shops 9am–1pm and 5pm–10pm June to September; 10am–6pm October to May; in Cairo shops generally open 10am–11pm

Arriving in Egypt

Cairo International Airport Pre-arrange taxi pickup (around LE150) or bargain on arrival (LE120); 30 minutes to one hour to Downtown. Buses LE4; up to two hours to Downtown.

Hurghada Airport Pre-arranged pickup recommended. Hard bargaining required for airport taxi; ideally LE35 to central Sigala district.

Sharm El Sheikh Airport Taxi drivers will rarely drop below LE100 to Na'ama Bay. Pre-arranged pickup recommended.

Luxor Airport Most hotel airport transfers are preferable to having to haggle with taxi drivers at the airport.

Getting Around

Transport in Egypt is fairly efficient and very reasonably priced. Be aware that because of security concerns, some areas and transport modes are or may become off limits to foreign travellers.

Air Most domestic flights go through Cairo. When using EgyptAir's website, switch your home location to Egypt to get the cheapest domestic fares.

Train The most comfortable option for travelling to Alexandria, Luxor and Aswan. The two classes of trains – Spanish and the more expensive Special – both have air-con 1st- and 2nd-class seats.

Bus There are frequent buses between Egyptian cities. Buses are comfortable and reliable. Book in advance.

Car Cars with driver are readily available and reasonably priced.

For much more on getting around, see p489



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B&Bs Less common in Egypt, and places that call themselves B&Bs are often small family-run one- or two-star hotels.

Safety

Although the situation in Egypt has become increasingly unstable in recent years, most of the country is calm most of the time. In the current climate, it pays to be more than usually aware so check government travel advisories before leaving home, and stay up-to-date with the latest local news while on the road. See safe travel (p472) for more.

Bargaining

Bargaining is part of life when shopping in souqs and markets. It may seem an annoyance, but it pays to see it as a game. Just follow the basic rules:

- Shop around to get an idea of prices.
- Decide how much you want to pay, and then offer a lower price than that.
- Don't show any excitement.
- Walk away if you can't agree, and the vendor will follow you if your price was right.

Tipping

Always keep small change as baksheesh is expected everywhere. When in doubt, tip.

Cafes Leave LE5 to LE10.

Guards at tourist sites LE5 to LE20.

Metered taxis Round off the fare or offer around 5% extra, depending on the ride.

Mosque attendant Leave LE5 to LE10 for shoe covers, more if you climb a minaret or have some guiding.

Restaurants For good service leave 10%; in smart places leave 15%.



Fresh hummus with chickpeas

Etiquette

Egypt is a mostly conservative country, so observing the following will avoid any awkward moments:

Sacred ground Remove your shoes before entering a mosque.

Touching Don't touch someone from the opposite sex in public.

Feet Don't show the soles of your feet; it's considered disrespectful.

Hands Eat with your right hand; the left hand is used for ablutions.

Ramadan Don't eat or drink in public during the fasting month of Ramadan.

Eating

Cairo, Alexandria, Luxor and the Red Sea resort towns have a wide variety of eating options (p460). Away from the main centres, choices are more limited.

Restaurants Range from smart and expensive hotel dining, where booking ahead is essential, to canteen-style budget restaurants typically serving Egyptian kebab and stew favourites. European-style dishes can be hit and miss at budget establishments and most don't serve alcohol.

Cafes Usually open for most of the day and night, and they only serve drinks and shisha, no food.

Street food A huge part of the Egyptian food scene. Fast and fresh staples at local prices.

If You Like...

Wildlife

Along the Nile, in the lush river delta and in sprawling salt lakes, bird life flourishes. Underwater coral reefs teem with colour. Even Egypt's arid deserts host a surprising array of plants and critters.

Aswan Get up before dawn to spot squacco herons, hoopoes and more with expert birders. (p247)

Wadi Rayyan This brackish lake, not far from where the ancients worshipped crocodiles, is a life-line for migrating birds. (p153)

Shiatta Gazelles and flamingos frolic at this salt lake in the desert west of Siwa. (p297)

Lake Nasser Take a tour with African Angler to snare some fish for dinner – or just enjoy the view. (p262)

Marsa Alam Reefs off the coast here are home to mantas, spinner dolphins and even sharks. (p367)

Islamic Architecture

Bein Al Qasreen A string of the finest buildings from the Mamluk era, now restored as an open-air museum. (p71)

Mosque of Qaitbey Trek to Cairo's not-actually-that-spooky City of the Dead to admire the most beautiful stone dome in Cairo. (p85)

Al Qasr This oasis town was built in the Ottoman era, starting in the 16th century – check out the beautifully carved lintels over doorways. (p279)

Rosetta's Ottoman Houses Try to find the secret staircase to the women's gallery in one restored residential compound, and admire the millworks at another. (p331)

Al Quseir The old Hajj port is a tumble of Ottoman-era buildings that seem lost in time. (p365)

Deserts

Seeking blissful isolation? The desert landscape in Egypt is vast and surprisingly varied. And there's just as much variety in how you can explore it.

White Desert National Park For a truly mind-bending experience, schedule your overnight trip to this eerie landscape during the full moon. (p286)

Sinai Trail Trek Egypt's first long-distance trail through wadis and vast desert plains to the rugged mountain heartland surrounding St Katherine. (p402)

Monastery of St Simeon For desert beauty without the days-long trek, visit this Coptic site in Aswan. (p245)

Eastern Desert Once criss-crossed by ancient trade routes, with rock inscriptions, gold mines and great landscapes, now only accessible with a guide. (p370)

Markets & Shopping

Whether you're just browsing or searching for gifts for everyone on your list, Egypt's souqs are the perfect destination, with as much entertainment as anything else – not to mention more offers of tea than you could ever drink.

Khan Al Khalili Cairo's medieval trading zone is still a commercial hub – the perfect place to polish your haggling skills. (p129)

Souq Al Gomaa Get in the scrum at this weekly Cairo junk swap, and you might come out with new clothes or old taxidermy. (p112)

Oum El Dounia One-stop shop in central Cairo for the best and most-stylish Egyptian crafts. (p112)

Attareen Antique Market An Alexandrian trove, where you



Open with Google Docs

can find some mid-20th-century gems. (p329)

Habiba An excellent selection of the best of Egyptian crafts. (p225)

Ancient Traces

Given Egypt's Pharaonic riches, you could find something with a story thousands of years old in any destination. These are some of the more out-of-the-way sites to add to your itinerary.

Medinat Madi You need a 4WD to get here, but the sight of sphinxes half-buried in drifting sand is exactly what archaeology buffs come to Egypt for. (p154)

Red Pyramid At Dahshur, south of Cairo, you'll likely be the only visitor to this enormous monument, making the climb inside its tunnels all the more exciting. (p149)

Deir Al Muharraq In Egyptian terms, Christianity is relatively new history – but this Coptic monastery claims the world's oldest church, from AD 60. (p173)



Traditional Arts

Fair Trade Egypt A good starting point for finding traditional Egyptian crafts. (p112)

Makan An intimate space in Cairo hosting an intense Nubian musical ritual called a zar. (p110)

El Dammah Theatre This traditional music space sees regular shows by Suez Canal-area artists and others. (p110)

Eskaleh This Nubian cultural centre and hotel offers guests a chance to immerse in local food and music. (p265)

Itineraries



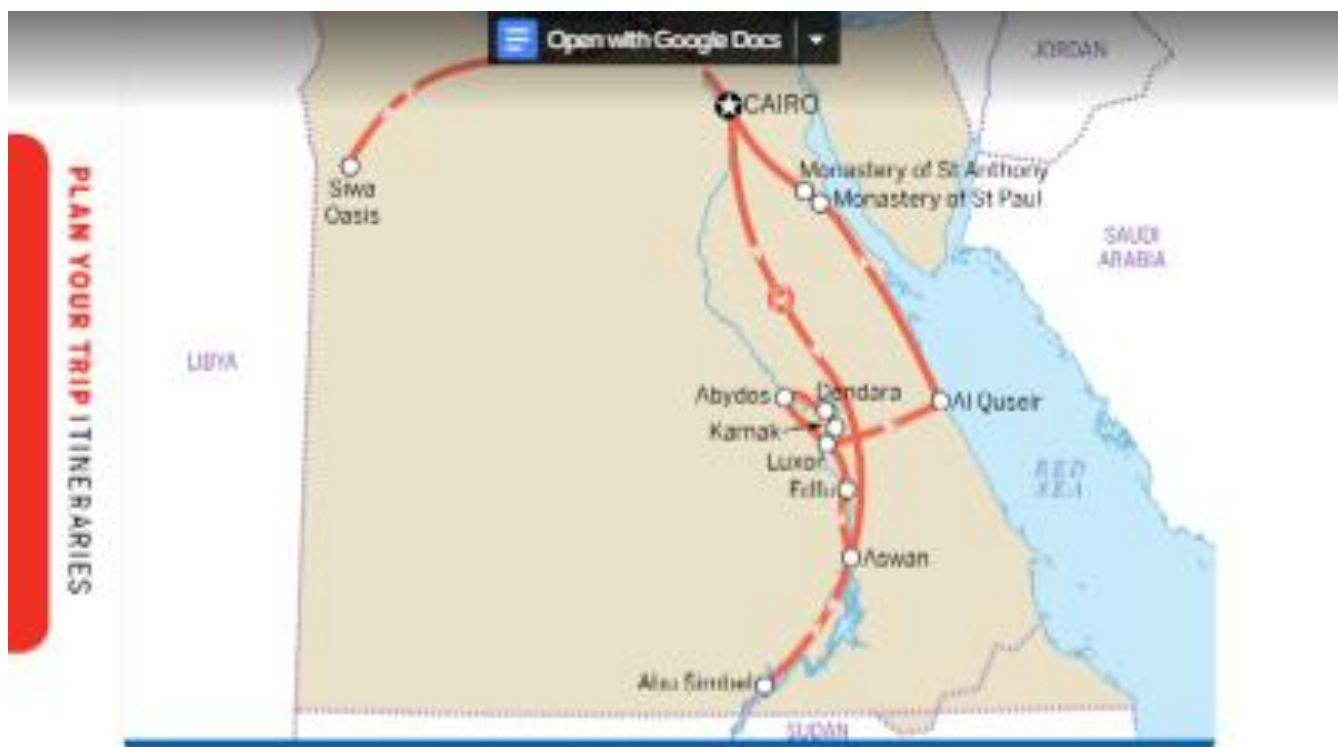
2 WEEKS

Treasures of the Nile

Many visitors now skip Cairo and fly direct to Luxor, the world's largest open-air museum. There's plenty to keep you busy here before spending a few days cruising the Nile, which is definitely the most relaxed way to see Egypt.

In **Luxor** spend two days on the east bank visiting **Karnak** and **Luxor Temple** and the brilliant **Luxor Museum**, as well as strolling through the souq. The next few days cycle around the west bank of the Nile where the major sights include the **Valley of the Kings**, the **Ramesseum** and the **Memorial Temple of Hatshepsut**. Try to save some energy for less-visited sights, such as **Medinat Habu**, the **Tombs of the Nobles** and **Deir Al Medina**, which can be just as rewarding.

In the second week arrange four days sailing up the Nile to **Aswan** on a budget-friendly felucca or a luxurious dahabyya; the shorter version is to find a taxi to take you there, stopping at the temples on the way. From Aswan you can visit the temples at **Abu Simbel**, perched on the edge of Lake Nasser.



4
WEEKS

Egypt Top to Bottom

In a month you can cover most of Egypt's main sights – a trip of nearly 2000km. This takes in Egypt's most romantic desert oasis and snorkelling in the Red Sea, as well as seeing the most important monuments along the Nile and enjoying the urban delights of Cairo.

On the first morning in **Cairo**, visit the Egyptian Museum to get a grasp on the country's long history. Have a few days of urban delights in the modern metropolis. Along with the top sites, make time to sit in one of the city's bustling *ahwas* (coffeehouses), wreathed in sweet shisha smoke. Next, visit the **Pyramids of Giza** and continue to the necropolis of **Saqqara**.

Head south from Cairo on the sleeper train to **Aswan**, where you can soak up Nubian culture and make the side trip for a day or two to the awesome temples of **Abu Simbel**. Sail back down the Nile from Aswan to **Edfu** on a felucca, or take a taxi stopping at various temples along the way, continuing on to **Luxor**. Visit the vast temple complex of **Karnak**, and Luxor Temple on the east bank, and then hang out on the west bank of the Nile for a few days – there is so much to see here. For a great day out of Luxor, take a boat or drive to the sacred site of **Abydos**, visiting the Ptolemaic temple at **Dendara** on the way.

When you've had your fill of ancient ruins, head from Luxor to **Al Quseir** for some days of snorkelling and relaxing on a Red Sea beach. When you're done head back to Cairo, and on the way stop in at the **Monastery of St Paul** and **Monastery of St Anthony**.

Return to Cairo and from there take the train to **Alexandria** and spend a couple of days in its wonderful cafes and museums. From there continue along the Mediterranean coast heading for **Siwa Oasis**, one of Egypt's most idyllic spots. This is the best spot for hanging out for a few days, cycling around the oasis and perhaps going on a desert safari.

2
WEEKS

Desert Escape

The Western Desert offers a wonderful mix of lush oasis gardens, stunning desert landscapes and ancient monuments. There's nowhere in Egypt as peaceful as the oases.

Begin a trip to the amazing Western Desert with a bus from Cairo or Asyut to **Al Kharga Oasis**, and explore the Al Kharga Museum of Antiquities as well as the Graeco-Roman temples and tombs.

From Al Kharga, head northwest to **Dakhla Oasis** to see the fascinating, hive-like mudbrick settlements of Balat and Al Qasr. Next, hop north to the small and quaint **Farafra Oasis**. From there you may be able to make a two- or three-day trip to camp in the stunning **White Desert National Park**, and then head for the closest oasis to Cairo, **Bahariya**.

The desert road from Bahariya to **Siwa Oasis** is currently closed, so you will have a long detour via Cairo to get there. Worth the trouble? Certainly. Perched on the edge of the Great Sand Sea, and surrounded by some staggeringly beautiful desert, Siwa is renowned for its dates as well as for being

1
WEEK

Urban Jaunt

Get a taste of contemporary urban life in Egypt's two largest cities. The heaving metropolis of Cairo allows you to wander through time in its different quarters. In Alexandria, soak up cafe culture and catch a glimpse of the Graeco-Roman achievement.

In **Cairo**, head to the Egyptian Museum to immerse yourself in Egypt's long history and then stroll through the faded elegance of Downtown. The next day visit the **Pyramids of Giza**, and continue to the necropolis of **Saqqara**. For contrast on your third day, take the metro to Coptic Cairo and visit the excellent Coptic Museum. Take a taxi to Al Azhar Park to enjoy lunch and great views over the city and then spend the afternoon in Islamic Cairo. On your last day, cafe-hop in leafy Zamalek, visit some art galleries and end atop the Cairo Tower for a final view.

The next morning, take an express train to **Alexandria**. Follow a morning in the stunning Bibliotheca Alexandrina with a visit to the excellent Alexandria National Museum. On your second day, indulge in nostalgic ride the creaking streetcar and tour Pastroudis and other cafes where the



Welcome to Spain

Passionate, sophisticated and devoted to living the good life, Spain is both a stereotype come to life and a country more diverse than you ever imagined.

An Epic Land

Spain's diverse landscapes stir the soul. The Pyrenees and the Picos de Europa are as beautiful as any mountain range, while the snowcapped Sierra Nevada rises up from the sun-baked plains of Andalucía; these are hiking destinations of the highest order. The wildly beautiful cliffs of Spain's Atlantic northwest are offset by the charming coves of the Mediterranean. And everywhere you go, villages of timeless beauty perch on hilltops, huddle in valleys and cling to coastal outcrops as tiny but resilient outposts of Old Spain. That's where the country's charms truly take hold.

A Culinary Feast

Food and wine are national obsessions in Spain, and with good reason. The touchstones of Spanish cooking are deceptively simple: incalculable variety, traditional recipes handed down through the generations, and a willingness to experiment and see what comes out of the kitchen laboratory. You may experience the best meal ever via tapas in an earthy bar, or via a meal prepared by a celebrity chef in the refined surrounds of a Michelin-starred restaurant. Either way, the breadth of gastronomic experience that awaits you is breathtaking and sure to be a highlight of your trip.

Art Imitates Life

Windswept Roman ruins, cathedrals of rare power and incomparable jewels of Islamic architecture speak of a country where the great civilisations of history have risen, fallen and left behind their indelible mark. More recently, what other country could produce such rebellious and relentlessly creative spirits as Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso and Antoni Gaudí and place them front and centre in public life? And here, grand monuments of history coexist alongside architectural creations of such daring that it becomes clear Spain's future will be every bit as original as its past.

Fiestas & Flamenco

For all the talk of Spain's history, this is a country that lives very much in the present and there's a reason 'fiesta' is one of the best-known words in the Spanish language - life itself is a fiesta here and everyone seems to be invited. Perhaps you'll sense it along a crowded, post-midnight street when all the world has come out to play. Or maybe that moment will come when a flamenco performer touches something deep in your soul. Whenever it happens, you'll find yourself nodding in recognition: *this* is Spain.

Spain

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Need to Know

For more information, see Survival Guide (p879)

Currency

Euro (€)

Language

Spanish (Castilian). Also Catalan, Basque and Galician.

Visas

Generally not required for stays of up to 90 days per 180 days (visas are not required at all for members of EU or Schengen countries). Some nationalities need a Schengen visa.

Money

ATMs widely available. Credit cards accepted in most hotels and restaurants.

Mobile Phones

Local SIM cards are widely available and can be used in European and Australian mobile phones. Not compatible with many North American or Japanese systems.

Time

Central European Time (GMT/UTC plus one hour)

When to Go



High Season

(Jun–Aug, public holidays)

- Accommodation books out and prices increase by up to 50%.
- Low season in parts of inland Spain.
- Expect warm, dry and sunny weather; more humid in coastal areas.

Shoulder

(Mar–May, Sep & Oct)

- A good time to travel: mild, clear weather and fewer crowds.
- Local festivals can send prices soaring.
- Fewer hikers on trails but weather unpredictable.

Low Season

(Nov–Feb)

- Cold in central Spain; rain in the north and northwest.
- Mild temperatures in Andalusia and the Mediterranean coast.
- This is high season in ski resorts.
- Many hotels are closed in beach areas but elsewhere along the coast prices plummet.



Useful Websites

Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com/spain) Destination information, hotel bookings, traveller forums and more.

Fiestas.net (www.fiestas.net) Festivals around the country.

Tour Spain (www.tourspain.org) Culture, food and links to hotels and transport.

Turespaña (www.spain.info) Spanish tourist office's site.

Paradores (www.parador.es) Spain's finest hotel experiences with plenty to get you dreaming.

Renfe (Red Nacional de los Ferrocarriles Españoles; www.renfe.com) Spain's rail network.

Important Numbers

There are no area codes in Spain.

Spain's country code	34
International access code	00
International directory inquiries	11825
National directory inquiries	11818
Emergencies	112

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	€0.67
Canada	C\$1	€0.68
Japan	¥100	€0.76
New Zealand	NZ\$1	€0.61
UK	UK£1	€1.12
US	US\$1	€0.85

For current exchange rates, see www.xe.com.

Accommodation Costs

Budget: Less than €80

- ➔ Dorm bed: €20–30
- ➔ Double room in hostel (budget hotel): €50–65 (€60–75 in Madrid, Barcelona and Balearics)
- ➔ Self-catering and lunch menu del día (set menu): €10–15

Midrange: €80–175

- ➔ Double room in midrange hotel: €65–140 (€75–200 in Madrid, Barcelona and Balearics)
- ➔ Lunch and/or dinner in local restaurant: €20–40
- ➔ Car rental: per day from €25

Top end: More than €175

- ➔ Double room in top-end hotel: €140–200 and up
- ➔ Fine dining for lunch and dinner: €150–250
- ➔ Double room in parador: €120–200

Opening Hours

Banks 8.30am–2pm Monday to Friday; some also open 4–7pm Thursday and 9am–1pm Saturday

Central post offices 8.30am–9.30pm Monday to Friday, 8.30am–2pm Saturday (most other branches 8.30am–2.30pm Monday to Friday, 9.30am–1pm Saturday)

Nightclubs Midnight or 1am to 5am or 6am

Restaurants Lunch 1–4pm, dinner 8.30–11pm or midnight

Shops 10am–2pm and 4.30–7.30pm or 5–8pm Monday to Friday or Saturday; big supermarkets and department stores generally open 10am–10pm Monday to Saturday

Arriving in Spain

Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport (Madrid) The Metro (€4.50 to €5, 30 minutes to the centre) runs from 6.05am to 1.30am; the Exprés Aeropuerto bus (30 to 40 minutes, €5) runs 24 hours between the airport and Puerta de Atocha train station or Plaza de Cibeles. There are also private minibuses or taxis (€30).

El Prat Airport (Barcelona) Buses cost €5.90 and run every five to 10 minutes from 6.10am to 1.05am; it's 30 to 40 minutes to the centre. Trains (€4.10, 25 to 30 minutes to the centre) run half-hourly from 5.42am to 11.38pm. Taxis cost €25 to €30 and reach the centre in 30 minutes.

Getting Around

Spain's public transport system is one of the best in Europe, with a fast and super-modern train system, extensive domestic air network, an impressive and well-maintained road network, and buses that connect villages in the country's remotest corners.

Train Extremely efficient rail network, from slow intercity regional trains to some of the fastest trains on the planet. More routes are added to the network every year.

Car Vast network of motorways radiating out from Madrid to all corners of the country, shadowed by smaller but often more picturesque minor roads.

Bus The workhorses of the Spanish roads, from slick express services to stop-everywhere village-to-village buses.

PLAN YOUR TRIP NEED TO KNOW

First Time Spain

For more information, see **Survival Guide (p879)**

Checklist

- ➔ With huge airfare differences, check all airlines before booking flights.
- ➔ Ask your mobile-phone provider about roaming charges (if any).
- ➔ Book your first night's accommodation to ensure an easy start to your trip.
- ➔ Check the calendar to work out which festivals to visit or avoid.
- ➔ Organise travel insurance.
- ➔ Inform your debit-/credit-card company you're heading away.

What to Pack

- ➔ Passport and/or national ID card (EU citizens) and carry it on you.
- ➔ Spanish phrasebook – not everyone speaks English.
- ➔ Money belt, and padlock for suitcase/backpack.
- ➔ Two-pin continental Europe travel plug.
- ➔ Earplugs for noisy Spanish nights.
- ➔ Renfe (train) app and a hiking one downloaded to your phone.

Top Tips for Your Trip

- ➔ To avoid going hungry, adjust your body clock on arrival. In no time, you'll be eating lunch at 2.30pm and dinner at 9pm.
- ➔ A few words of Spanish can go a long way. English is widely (but not universally) spoken.
- ➔ Spain is a food-obsessed country and you'll miss half the fun if you don't linger over your meals. Always ask for the local speciality.
- ➔ Don't be too ambitious when deciding what to cover. Spain is a large country and you'll do well to zero in on a handful of special destinations.
- ➔ Overnight at least once in a small village. You'll understand the country better if you do.
- ➔ Avoid the motorways and take scenic back roads.
- ➔ Get used to having less personal space and being surrounded by high-volume conversations.

Tipping

Tipping is almost always optional.

Restaurants Many Spaniards leave small change, others up to 5%, which is considered generous.

Taxis Optional, but most locals round up to the nearest euro.

Bars It's rare to leave a tip in bars (even if the bartender gives you your change on a small dish).

What to Wear

Spain has come a long way since the 1950s when visiting tourists were fined and escorted from Spanish beaches by police for wearing bikinis. Just about anything goes now, and you'll rarely feel uncomfortable because of what you're wearing. Northern Spain and much of the interior can be bitterly cold in winter – come prepared with plenty of warm clothing. You should also carry some form of wet-weather gear if you're in the northwest. Spaniards are generally quite fashion-conscious and well-dressed – in the cities in particular, they rarely dip below smart casual.

Eating

Spain is one of Europe's culinary powerhouses, a foodie destination of the highest order. So much of Spanish cuisine has colonised the world, from tapas, paella, *jamón* and *chorros* to Spanish wines and olive oils. But by visiting Spain you can go to the source and enjoy Spanish cooking at its best and in all its infinite variety.

Bargaining

Haggling over prices is accepted in some markets, and shops *may* offer a small discount if you're spending a lot of money. Otherwise expect to pay the stated price.

Etiquette

Greetings Spaniards almost always greet friends and strangers alike with a kiss on each cheek, although two males only do this if they're close friends. It is customary to say 'Hola, buenos días' or 'Hola, buenas tardes' (in the afternoon or evening) when meeting someone or when entering a shop or bar, and 'Hasta luego' when leaving.

Eating and drinking Spanish waiters won't expect you to thank them every time they bring you something, but they may expect you to keep your cutlery between courses in more casual bars and restaurants.

Visiting churches It is considered disrespectful to visit churches for the purposes of tourism during Mass and other worship services.

Escalators Always stand on the right to let people pass.

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Pin/ato (Piscapue López, p156), 5cm/Sebastian

PLAN YOUR TRIP FIRST TIME SPAIN

Sleeping

Spain's accommodation is generally of a high standard, and prices are reasonable, especially outside the big cities.

Hotels From boutique to family-run, with a wide range of rates.

Hostales Small, simpler hotel-style places, often with private bathrooms.

Casas Rurales Rural homes generally with rustic, simple rooms that can be reserved individually or as a block.

Paradors These state-run hotels often inhabit stunning historic buildings and can be surprisingly well priced, especially off-season.

Hostels Quality varies, but these budget spots are great places to meet other travellers.

Campsites Located across the country, amid lovely natural settings.

Reservations

Reservations for accommodation and long-distance trains are highly advisable in the main Spanish holiday seasons – Semana Santa (the week leading up to Easter Sunday), July, August and around other main public holidays.

If You Like...

Incredible Art

Spain's artistic tradition is one of Europe's richest and most original, from local masters to Europe's finest, who flourished under Spanish royal patronage. The result? Art galleries of astonishing depth.

Museo del Prado Quite simply one of the world's best galleries. (p94)

Centro de Arte Reina Sofia Picasso's *Guernica*, Dalí and Miró. (p91)

Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza Works by seemingly every European master. (p90)

Museo Picasso Málaga More than 200 works by Picasso, Málaga's favourite son. (p753)

Museo Picasso Unrivalled collection from Picasso's early years. (p268)

Museo Nacional d'Art de Catalunya Epic collection that includes some extraordinary Romanesque frescos. (p288)

Teatre-Museu Dalí As weird and wonderful as Salvador Dalí himself. (p362)

Museo Guggenheim Bilbao Showpiece architecture and world-class contemporary art. (p446)

Museo de Bellas Artes Goya, Velázquez, El Greco, Sorolla,

and they're just the start; in Valencia. (p803)

Spanish Food

Spain obsesses about food with an eating public as eager to try something new as they are wary lest their chefs stray too far from one of Europe's richest culinary traditions.

Pintxos in San Sebastián Spain's culinary capital, with more Michelin stars than Paris and the country's best pintxos (Basque tapas). (p469)

Paelia in Valencia The birthplace of paella and still the place for the most authentic version – think chicken, beans and rabbit. (p809)

Catalan cooking in Barcelona Home city for Catalonia's legendary cooking fuelled by Spain's finest food markets. (p301)

Tapas in La Latina, Madrid Rising above Madrid's modest home-grown cuisine, this inner-city barrio (district) showcases the best tapas from around Spain. (p118)

Seafood in Galicia The dark arts of boiling an octopus and the Atlantic's sea creatures (goose barnacles, anyone?) are pure culinary pleasure. (p580)

Roasted meats in the interior *Cochinillo asado* (roast suckling pig) and *cordero asado lechal*

(roast spring lamb) are fabulous staples. (p172)

El Celler de Can Roca Girona's finest has been named the world's best restaurant twice in recent years. (p354)

Islamic Architecture

Almost eight centuries of Muslim empires bequeathed to Spain Europe's finest accumulation of Islamic architecture, especially in Andalucía, the heartland of Al-Andalus (the Moorish-ruled areas of the Iberian Peninsula), which encompassed Granada, Córdoba and Seville.

Alhambra An extraordinary monument to the extravagance of Al-Andalus, breathtaking in scope and exquisite in detail. (p722)

Mezquita Perfection wrought in stone in Córdoba's one-time great mosque, one of Al-Andalus' finest architectural moments. (p705)

Real Alcázar Exquisite detail amid a perfectly proportioned whole in Seville. (p637)

Giralda The former minaret represents a high point in Seville's Islamic skyline. (p636)

Aljaferia A rare Moorish jewel in the north. (p407)

Alcazaba Málaga's 11th-century palace-fortress. (p754)

Teruel A splendid, little-known collection of Mudéjar design, proof that Islam's influence outlasted Islamic rule. (p438)

Alcazaba Splendidly preserved fortress overlooking Almería. (p785)

Outdoor Adventure

Getting active in the Spanish wilds is getting better with each passing year, and adventure sports are growing exponentially in popularity.

Alquézar This stunning Aragonese village is brilliant for canyoning. (p433)

Tarifa Mainland Spain's southernmost tip is Spain's centre for kitesurfing and windsurfing. (p701)

Zamora Natural Kayaking in Castilla y León's west is just the start of what this outfit offers. (p384)

Ainsa Not just a beautiful hill town, but increasingly a base for mountain biking in Aragón. (p429)

Baqueira-Beret-Bonaigua Considered by many to have the Pyrenees' best snow. (p384)

Sierra Nevada Europe's southernmost ski resort with 108km of runs. (p742)

Mundaka Unreliable, but one of Europe's most celebrated waves. (p461)

Music

Spain pulsates with music wherever you go, and whether it's the soulful strains of flamenco or a vibrant music festival, Spain has your soundtrack.

Jerez de la Frontera Spine-tingling live flamenco in the cradle of the genre. (p686)

Seville One of flamenco's most prestigious stages. (p656)



Top: Mountain biking on Aragonese Pyrenees (p417)

Córdoba Fabulous festivals, such as the Festival de la Guitarra de Córdoba and Noche Blanca del Flamenco. (p712)

Cafe Central One of Europe's most respected jazz venues; in Madrid. (p133)

Palau de la Música Catalana Marvellous classical performances in an extraordinary Barcelonian venue. (p326)

Casa das Crechas Wednesday-night Galician folk jam sessions in Santiago de Compostela featuring bagpipes, fiddles and accordions. (p566)

Sónar World-class electronica festival in Barcelona, worth planning your trip around. (p295)

Beaches

Despite Spain's summer popularity, the country's surfeit of coastal riches means that an unspoiled beach experience remains a possibility. You just need to know where to look.

Cabo de Gata A wildly beautiful reminder of the Andalusian coast as it once was. (p790)

Costa de la Luz Unbroken stretches of sand along a beautiful coast from Tarifa to Cádiz. (p697)

Playa de la Concha One of the most beautiful city beaches anywhere in the world. (p463)

Costa Brava Rugged coast with windswept cliffs, pristine hidden coves and wide sandy beaches. (p339)

Rías Baixas Dramatic long ocean inlets and islands strung with many a fine sandy strand. (p583)

Staying Out Late

From sophisticated cocktail bars to beachside *chiringuitos* (bars), from dance-until-dawn nightclubs to outdoor

terrazas (bars with outdoor tables), Spanish nightlife is diverse, relentless and utterly intoxicating.

Madrid Bars, nightclubs, live-music venues and nights that roll effortlessly into one another. (p126)

Valencia Barrio del Carmen and Russafa nights are famous throughout Spain, with a roaring soundtrack in the city's oldest quarter. (p812)

Barcelona Glamorous and gritty nightspots for an international crowd. (p317)

Zaragoza The heartbeat of Aragón with fabulous tapas and drinking bars that don't crank up until well after midnight. (p410)

Seville Long, hot nights and the essence of Andalucía's passion come to life. (p656)

Sitges Gay-driven, but hetero-friendly, Sitges is coastal Catalonia's party town. (p389)

Cathedrals

Catholicism stands at the heart of Spanish identity, and cathedrals, with their rich accumulation of architectural styles, form the monumental and spiritual centrepiece of many Spanish towns.

La Sagrada Família Gaudi's unfinished masterpiece rises above Barcelona like an apparition of some fevered imagination. (p274)

Catedral de Santiago de Compostela One of Spain's most sacred (and beautiful) sites, with a magnificent Romanesque portico. (p560)

Catedral de Burgos A Gothic high point with legends of El Cid lordling it over the old town. (p198)

Catedral de Toledo Extravagant monument to the power of

Catholic Spain in its most devout heartland. (p217)

Catedral de Sevilla Vast and very beautiful Gothic cathedral with the stunning Giralda bell tower. (p636)

Catedral de León Sublime 13th-century Gothic structure with Spain's best stained-glass windows. (p189)

Wildlife

Spain has exceptional wildlife-watching opportunities with a fine mix of charismatic carnivores, pretty pink flamingos and a bird list without peer in Europe.

Doñana Thousands of deer and wild boar, more than 300 bird species and elusive Iberian lynxes roam Andalucía's Guadalquivir wetlands. (p664)

Parque Natural Sierra de Andújar Your best chance to spot the Iberian lynx; also rare black vultures, black storks and Spanish imperial eagles. (p778)

Parque Natural de Somiedo Track brown bears high in the mountains of Asturias. (p545)

Sierra de la Culebra Home to the Iberian wolf and the best place to watch wolves in Europe. (p184)

Tarifa Watch as whales and dolphins pass through the Straits of Gibraltar. (p700)

Parque Nacional de Monfragüe Birds of prey wheel high above a dramatic canyon. (p621)

Laguna de Gallocanta *Grullas* (cranes) winter here in their thousands in Aragón. (p438)

Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas Good for red and fallow deer, ibex, wild boar, mouflon, red squirrels, griffon vultures and golden eagles. (p783)



Itineraries



Barcelona & Around

A lifetime in Barcelona may not be enough, filled as it is with so many intensely wonderful experiences. But drag yourself away, and you'll soon discover that the wider Catalonia region is a brilliant place to explore.

You'll need a *minimum* of two days in **Barcelona** to soak up Gaudí, taste the city's culinary excellence and wander its old town. When you can tear yourself away, rent a car and head north, passing through **Tossa de Mar** and its castle-backed bay, then **Calella de Palafrugell** and **Tamarit**, two beautifully sited coastal villages, before heading inland to pass the night in wonderful **Girona**. The next day is all about Salvador Dalí, from his fantasy castle **Castell de Púbol** to his extraordinary theatre-museum in **Figueras**, and then his one-time home, the lovely seaside village of **Cadaqués**. The next morning leave the Mediterranean behind and drive west in the shadow of the Pyrenees. Your reward for the long drive is a couple of nights in **Taüll**, gateway to the magnificent **Parc Nacional d'Aiguestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici**. A loop south via Lleida then east has you back in Barcelona by mid-afternoon on your final day.



Grand Spanish Tour

If you have a month to give, Spain will reward you with enough memories to last a lifetime.

Begin in **Barcelona**, that singular city of style and energy that captivates all who visit. Count on three days, then catch the high-speed train to **Madrid**, a city that takes some visitors a little longer to fall in love with, but it will only take a couple of days to fall under its spell of high (fantastic art galleries) and low (brilliant hedonistic nightlife) culture. We recommend that you spend an extra two days here, using the capital as a base for day trips to **Segovia** and **Toledo**. Catch another train, this time heading for **Salamanca**, that plateresque jewel of Castilla y León. After a night in Salamanca, travel north by train to **León** to stay overnight and see the extraordinary stained-glass windows of its cathedral, and then continue on to **Bilbao**, home of the Museo Guggenheim Bilbao and so much that is good about Basque culture. Spend a night here, followed by another couple in splendid **San Sebastián**. A couple of days' drive on the Cantabrian, Asturian and Galician coasts will take you along Spain's most dramatic shoreline en route to **Santiago de Compostela**, where a couple of nights is a minimum to soak up this sacred city. Wherever you travel in the north, from San Sebastián to Santiago, make food a centrepiece of your visit.

Catch the train back to Madrid, then take a high-speed train to **Córdoba** for two nights and **Seville** for two nights. While you're in the area, detour north by bus or train to the Roman ruins of **Mérida** for a night, the fabulous old city of **Cáceres** for another night and medieval **Trujillo** for a third night. Return to Seville and make immediately for **Granada**; plan on two nights. Add an extra couple of nights and a rental car and you can visit the lovely villages of **Las Alpujarras**. Keep the car (or catch the train) and travel from Granada to **Valencia** to spend a couple of days enjoying its architecture, paella and irresistible energy. You've just enough time to catch the high-speed train to cliff-top **Cuenca** for a night.





10 DAYS **Andalusian Adventure**

There's more to Andalucía than the monument-rich cities, although these are not to be missed. This route takes you through three iconic cities and some of the region's most beautiful villages. Begin in **Málaga**, whose airport receives flights from almost every conceivable corner of Europe. It has enough attractions to keep you occupied for one very full day. No Andalusian itinerary is complete without at least a couple of nights in peerless **Granada** with its astonishing Alhambra, gilded Capilla Real and medieval Muslim quarter of Albayzín. Rent a car and make for the other-worldly valleys of **Las Alpujarras** with their fine mountain scenery and North African-style villages. If you've kept the car, head west for three days along quiet back roads to some of Andalucía's most spectacular villages and towns: Mudéjar **Antequera**, spectacular **Ronda**, whitewashed **Tarifa**, beguiling **Vejer de la Frontera**, and **Arcos de la Frontera**, one of Andalucía's most glorious *pueblos blancos* (white villages). With three days left, leave the car and spend a night in **Jerez de la Frontera**, allowing time to visit its sherry bodegas, then catch a train north to flamenco-rich **Seville**, where you'll find the essence of Andalucía.



2 WEEKS **Essential Spain**

If you want to understand why many visitors fall in love with Spain and never want to leave, look no further than its vibrant, passionate, extraordinarily beautiful cities. This itinerary takes you through the best Spain has to offer.

So many Spanish trails begin in **Barcelona**, Spain's second-biggest city and one of the coolest places on earth. Explore the architecture and sample the food, before catching the train down the coast to **Valencia** for a dose of paella, nightlife and the 21st-century wonders of the Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias. A fast train whisks you inland to the capital, mighty **Madrid**, for the irresistible street energy, the pretty plazas and one of the richest concentrations of art museums on the planet. Yet another fast train takes you deep into Andalucía, with **Córdoba** your entry point into this wonderful corner of Spain; the most obvious highlight is Córdoba's 8th-century Mezquita. From Córdoba it's a short hop to fabulous **Seville**. But we've saved the best until last: **Granada** boasts the extraordinary Alhambra, its soulful alter ego the Albayzín, and an eating and drinking scene that embraces Spanish culture in all its variety.



2 WEEKS Castilla & Aragón

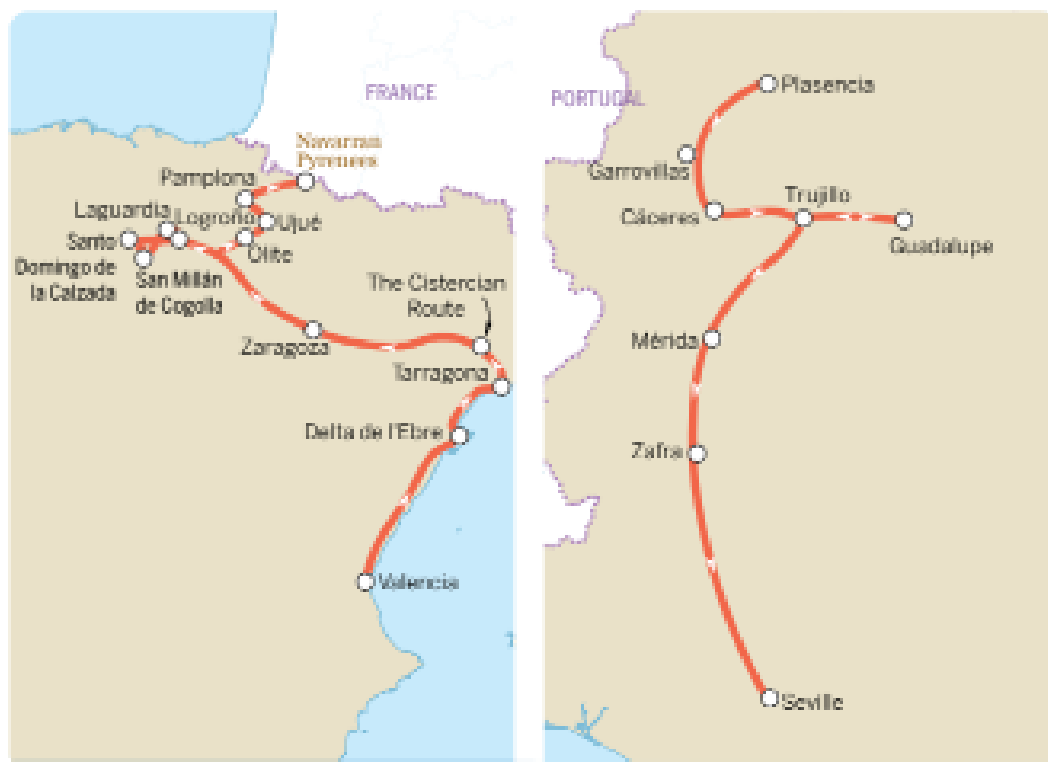
The Spanish interior may not fit the stereotype of sun, sand and sangría, but we love it all the more for that. This route takes in a stirring mix of lesser-known cities and stunning villages.

From **Madrid**, head to some of the loveliest towns of the Spanish heartland: **Segovia**, with its Disney-esque castle and Roman aqueduct, walled **Ávila** and vibrant **Salamanca** will occupy around four days of your time with short train rides connecting the three. Trains also connect you to **León** and **Burgos**, home to two of Spain's most extraordinary churches. Spend at least a day in each. An extra night in Burgos will allow you to take a day trip to the medieval villages of **Covarrubias** and **Santo Domingo de Silos**. Make for **Zaragoza**, one of Spain's most vibrant cities, with a wealth of monuments and great tapas - two days is a must. Rent a car and head for the hills where **Sos del Rey Católico** looks for all the world like a Tuscan hill town. Drive south for an overnight stop in dramatic **Daroca**, then on to **Teruel**, filled with Mudéjar gems. Finish your journey in **Albarracín**, one of the most spectacular villages.

10 DAYS Northern Spain

Spain's Mediterranean Coast may get the crowds, but the country's northern coastline from San Sebastián to Santiago is one of the most spectacular in Europe.

There is no finer introduction to the north of the country than **San Sebastián**, with its dramatic setting and fabulous food. Two nights is a minimum. West of San Sebastián by train, **Bilbao** is best known as home to the showpiece Museo Guggenheim Bilbao and warrants at least a night, preferably two. To make the most of the rest of the coast, you'll need a car. Cantabria's cobblestone **Santillana del Mar**, the rock art at **Altamira** and the village of **Ribadesella** will fill one day, with another taken up by the steep valleys of the **Picos de Europa**. After a third night in irresistible **Oviedo**, tackle Galicia's coastline, one of Spain's great natural wonders, punctuated with secluded fishing villages and stunning cliffs. Don't miss **Cabo Ortegal**, dynamic **A Coruña** and the **Costa da Morte**. For the last two nights, linger in **Santiago de Compostela**, a thoroughly Galician city, a place of pilgrim footfalls, fine regional cuisine and a cathedral of awe power.



PLAN YOUR TRIP ITINERARIES

2 WEEKS Mediterranean to Mountains

This journey takes you from the shores of the Mediterranean to the deep valleys of the Pyrenees. You'll need a car to cover this in two weeks. Your reward is a chance to visit some of northwestern Spain's lesser-known jewels. Begin in **Valencia**, that most appealing of Mediterranean cities, then drive northeast, pausing in the flamingo-rich **Delta de l'Ebre** en route to **Tarragona**, one of Catalonia's most underrated destinations, with its fabulous Roman ruins. From Tarragona, head inland along the **Cistercian Route**, then cut through Aragón to vibrant and historic **Zaragoza**. After a couple of days in the Aragonese capital, and six days after leaving Valencia, pause overnight in the engaging provincial capital of **Logroño**. Continue west through the fine monastery towns of **Santo Domingo de la Calzada** and **San Millán de Cogolla** and then on into La Rioja, Spain's premier wine-producing region - **Laguardia** is a wonderful base. Head out into the eastern reaches of Navarra, for the beguiling fortress towns of **Olite** and **Ujué**, then on to pretty **Pamplona**. From here, climb into the **Navarran Pyrenees**, at their most beautiful in the Valle de Baztan and Valle del Roncal.

10 DAYS Extreme West

Extremadura is one of Spain's least known corners, which is all the more reason to visit.

Begin with a night in Extremadura's north, in **Plasencia**, which is jammed with notable buildings, churches and convents. From Plasencia, catch the bus or train to **Cáceres**, whose Ciudad Monumental is one of the finest surviving medieval cores in any Spanish city. After two nights here, including a half-day excursion to charming **Garrovillas**, regular buses take an hour to nearby **Trujillo**, a smaller but equally enchanting relic of the Middle Ages. Spend two nights here: one to explore the warren of cobbled lanes, and another to rent a car for a day trip to the charming hill town and pilgrims' destination of **Guadalupe**. From Trujillo it's just over an hour by bus south to **Mérida**, but the journey spans the centuries: Mérida boasts some of Spain's most impressive Roman ruins, and you'll need at least two nights here to take it all in. Further south again by bus across the plains lies whitewashed **Zafra**, a precursor to Andalucía in spirit, architecture and geography. After a night in Zafra, all roads lead to **Seville**, one of Andalucía's (and Spain's) most captivating cities.

Welcome to Turkey

A richly historical land with some of the best cuisine you will ever taste, scenery from beaches to mountains and the great city of İstanbul.

Epic History

From the ancient port city of Ephesus (Efes) to the soaring Byzantine dome of Aya Sofya, Turkey has more than its fair share of world-famous ruins and monuments. A succession of historical figures and empires - including the Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans - have all left their mark on this former stopover along the Silk Road. Experiencing their legacy takes you from the closeted quarters of the sultan and his harem in İstanbul's sprawling Topkapı Palace to the romantic and mysterious Lycian ruins on Mediterranean beaches.

Lyrical Landscapes

Turkey's diverse landscapes, from Aegean olive groves to eastern steppe, provide a lyrical setting for its many great ruins. The country's most magical scenery is to be found in Asian Anatolia, where beautiful vistas are provided by the vertiginous Mediterranean coastline, Cappadocia's otherworldly 'fairy chimney' rock formations and wavy valleys, the alpine pastures of the Kaçkar Mountains, and golden beaches such as 18km-long Patara. Whether you settle down with a çay to enjoy the view across mountain-ringed Lake Eğirdir or explore the hilly hinterland, Turkey's landscapes leave a lasting impression.

Activities Galore

Turkey offers activities to suit every temperament, from outdoors adventure to cultural enrichment. Watery fun includes diving, windsurfing, rafting and canyoning in mountain gorges, kayaking over Kekova's sunken ruins, and traditional *güfel* cruises on the Mediterranean and Aegean. Or take to the air with Ölüdeniz' thrilling paragliding flights or a hot-air balloon ride over Cappadocia. For a fresh angle on stunning Turkish scenery, trek to highland pastures or walk part of the Lycian Way trail. In town, take a culinary course, soak in the hamam or hit İstanbul's Grand Bazaar to buy a carpet or flat-weave kilim rug.

Culinary Exploration

The best thing about sampling Turkey's delicious specialties - ranging from meze on a Mediterranean harbour to a pension breakfast featuring ingredients fresh from the kitchen garden - is that they take you to the heart of Turkish culture. For the sociable and family-orientated Turks, gathering together and eating well is a time-honoured ritual. So deepen your understanding of Turkey by getting stuck into olive-oil-lathered Aegean vegetables or spicy Anatolian kebabs, drinking a tulip-shaped glass of çay and contemplating some baklava for dessert.

Turkey

Open with Google Docs





Need to Know

For more information, see Survival Guide (p589)

Currency

Türk Lirası (Turkish lira; ₺)

Language

Turkish, Kurdish

Visas

For stays of up to 90 days, most Western nationalities either don't require visas or should purchase one in advance from www.visa.gov.tr.

Money

ATMs are widely available. Credit and debit cards are accepted by most businesses in cities and tourist areas.

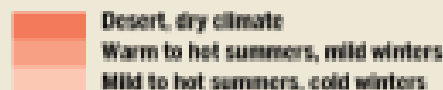
Mobile Phones

Most foreign phones work on international roaming. Local SIM cards are widely available and cost from ₺65, including ₺35 credit. Data bundles cost from ₺20 for 1GB. Networks block unregistered foreign phones after 120 days.

Time

Eastern European Summer Time all year round (GMT/UTC plus three hours)

When to Go



High Season (Jun–Aug)

- Prices and temperatures highest
- Expect crowds, book ahead
- Turkish school holidays mid-June to mid-September
- Christmas–New Year and Easter also busy

Shoulder (May & Sep)

- Fewer crowds, apart from around Kurban Bayramı holiday (currently late August/early September)
- Warm spring and autumn temperatures, especially in the southwest

Low Season (Oct–Apr)

- October is autumn; spring starts in April
- Accommodations in tourist areas close or offer discounts
- High season in ski resorts
- Istanbul's low season is November to March

Useful Websites

Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com/turkey) Destination information, hotel bookings, traveller forum and more.

Turkey Travel Planner (www.turkeytravelplanner.com) Useful travel info.

Turkish Cultural Foundation (www.turkishculture.org) Culture and heritage; useful for archaeological sites.

Go Turkey (www.goturkey.com) Official tourism portal.

Good Morning Turkey (www.goodmorningturkey.com) Turkish news in English and Turkish.

All About Turkey (www.allaboutturkey.com) Multilingual introduction.

Important Numbers

Turkey country code	☎90
International access code from Turkey	☎00
Ambulance	☎112
Fire	☎110
Police	☎155

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	₺2.12
Canada	C\$1	₺2.14
Europe	€1	₺3.31
Japan	¥100	₺2.60
New Zealand	NZ\$1	₺1.95
UK	£1	₺3.99
USA	US\$1	₺2.95

For current exchange rates see www.xe.com.

Daily Costs

Budget: Less than ₺150

- ◆ Dorm bed: €7–24
- ◆ Istanbul–Gallipoli Peninsula bus ticket: ₺45
- ◆ Bakı ekmeğ (fish kebab): ₺8–10
- ◆ Beer: ₺7–12

Midrange: ₺150–350

- ◆ Double room ₺90–180
- ◆ Double in Istanbul and Bodrum: €90–200
- ◆ Istanbul–Cappadocia flight: from ₺50
- ◆ Fish and meze meal: ₺40
- ◆ Boat day trip: ₺35

Top end: More than ₺350

- ◆ Double room: more than ₺180
- ◆ Double in Istanbul and Bodrum: more than €200
- ◆ Four-day gulet cruise: €200–300
- ◆ Hot-air balloon flight: €160–175
- ◆ Car hire per day: from €20

Opening Hours

We've provided summer high-season opening hours in our coverage; hours will generally decrease in the shoulder and low seasons. The following are standard opening hours.

Information 8.30am–noon and 1.30–5pm Monday to Friday

Eating 11am–10pm

Drinking 4pm–late

Nightclubs 11pm–late

Shopping 9am–6pm Monday to Friday (longer in tourist areas and big cities – including weekend opening)

Arriving in Turkey

Atatürk International Airport (p136; Istanbul) Metro and tram to Sultanahmet (₺8, 6am to midnight, one hour); Havataş bus to Taksim Meydanı (₺11, 4am to 1am, 45 minutes); taxi to Sultanahmet (₺45, 35 minutes), taxi to Beyoğlu (₺55, 45 minutes).

Sabiha Gökçen International Airport (p136; Istanbul) Havataş bus to Taksim Meydanı (₺14, 3.30am to 1am, 1½ hours), from where a funicular (₺4) and tram (₺4) travel to Sultanahmet (30 minutes); Havataş bus to Kadıköy (₺9, 4am to 1am, one hour); taxi to Sultanahmet (₺155, 1½ hours) and Beyoğlu (₺140, one hour).

Büyük İstanbul Otogarı (p136; Istanbul) The metro service between Aksaray and Atatürk International Airport runs to Zeytinburnu (₺4), from where trams continue to Sultanahmet and Kabataş/Taksim (₺4, one hour total); a taxi to Sultanahmet or Taksim Meydanı costs about ₺35 (30 minutes).

Getting Around

Bus Generally efficient and good value. Frequent services between major cities and tourist spots. Often fewer services in winter.

Air Domestic flights reduce travel time. More route choices if flying to/from Istanbul.

Train The growing network of high-speed services offers rapid routes across Anatolia. The bus is often quicker than normal trains.

Car A great way to explore rural areas, with rental operators in cities and airports. Drive on the right. Petrol is expensive.

First Time Turkey

For more information, see Survival Guide (p589)

Checklist

- ➔ Check your passport will be valid for at least six months after entering Turkey.
- ➔ Check if you need a visa and purchase it at www.evisa.gov.tr.
- ➔ Inform your credit-card provider of your travel plans.
- ➔ Check travel vaccinations are up to date.
- ➔ Book flights and hire car online.
- ➔ Book accommodation for popular areas.
- ➔ Organise airport transfer.

What to Pack

- ➔ Passport
- ➔ Photocopy of passport – to take out and about
- ➔ Paper copy of e-visa
- ➔ Credit and debit cards
- ➔ Bank's contact details
- ➔ Back-up euros/dollars
- ➔ Oral rehydration salts
- ➔ Conservative clothing for mosque visits
- ➔ Toilet roll/paper
- ➔ Soap or hand sanitiser
- ➔ Chargers and adaptor
- ➔ Insurer's contact details

Top Tips for Your Trip

- ➔ Turkey is like a few countries rolled into one; the east is sparsely populated and devoutly Muslim, whereas much of the Aegean, Mediterranean and Istanbul are more Westernised.
- ➔ Turkey is predominantly Muslim, but certainly tolerant and welcoming to non-Muslims.
- ➔ Tourist areas are mostly well developed and the infrastructure runs efficiently.
- ➔ Turkey is a nationalistic country: Turkish flags and portraits of founding father Atatürk abound; be respectful, as Turks are extremely proud.
- ➔ Make an effort to get off the beaten track; village hospitality and home cooking are memorable experiences.
- ➔ Suicide bombers have brought negative publicity, but Turkey remains largely safe.
- ➔ Marches and demonstrations are a regular occurrence, but best avoided as they can lead to clashes with the police.

What to Wear

Istanbul and the Aegean and Mediterranean resort towns are used to Western dress, including bikinis on the beach and short skirts in nightclubs. In eastern and central Anatolia, people are conservative; even men should stick to long trousers. In staunchly Islamic cities such as Erzurum, even T-shirts and sandals are inadvisable. Women do not need to cover their head unless they enter a mosque. To decrease the likelihood of receiving unwanted attention from local men with misconceptions about Western women's 'availability', dress on the conservative side throughout Turkey.

Sleeping

It's generally unnecessary to book accommodation in advance. However, if you are visiting a popular place such as Istanbul or Bodrum in high season, it's worth reserving well ahead. Turkey has a range of accommodation options to suit

Islam & Ramazan

Turkey is predominantly Islamic, but tolerant of other religions and lifestyles. This is especially true in western Turkey, where there are as many bars as mosques and it is sometimes easy to forget you are in an Islamic country. Do bear in mind, however, that Ramazan, the holy month when Muslims fast between dawn and dusk, currently falls in May and June. Cut the locals some slack; they might be grumpy if they are fasting, in hot weather. Don't eat, drink or smoke in public during the day, and if you aren't a fasting Muslim, don't go to an *iftar* (evening meal to break the fast) tent for cheap food.

Bargaining

Haggling is common in bazaars, as well as for out-of-season accommodation and long taxi journeys. In other instances, you're expected to pay the stated price.

Tipping

Turkey is fairly European in its approach to tipping and you won't be pestered for baksheesh. Tipping is customary in restaurants, hotels and taxis; optional elsewhere.

Restaurants A few coins in budget eateries; 10% to 15% of the bill in midrange and top-end establishments.

Hotel porter Give 3% of the room price in midrange and top-end hotels only.

Taxis Round up metered fares to the nearest 50 kuruş.



PLAN YOUR TRIP FIRST TIME TURKEY

Language

English is widely spoken in Istanbul and touristy parts of western Turkey; less so in eastern and central Anatolia, where knowing a few Turkish phrases, covering relevant topics such as accommodation, is invaluable. Learning a few Turkish phrases is also appreciated by Turks. Turkish is fun to learn as pronunciation is easy. Learning Turkish is more useful than Kurdish, as most Kurds speak Turkish (but not vice versa). Many Turks speak German.

Etiquette

Religion Dress modestly and be respectful around mosques.

Restaurants Generally, whoever extended the invitation to eat together picks up the bill.

Alcohol Bars are common, but public drinking and inebriation are less acceptable away from tourist towns.

Greetings Turks value respect; when meeting a group of people, shake hands with all, male and female.

Relationships Do not be overly tactile with your partner in public; beware miscommunications with locals.

Politics Use tact; criticising Turkish nationalism can land you in prison.

Shopping Visiting the bazaar, be prepared to haggle and drink tea with shopkeepers.

If You Like...

Bazaars

Centuries ago, Seljuk and Ottoman traders travelled the Silk Road, stopping at caravanserais to do business. The tradition is still alive and so is haggling in Turkey's labyrinthine bazaars.

Grand Bazaar Hone your bargaining skills in Istanbul's original and best shopping mall. (p85)

Kapalı Çarşı Bursa's 14th-century Old Mirrored Market houses shadow-puppet shops. (p293)

Spice Bazaar Jewel-like lokum (Turkish delight) and pyramids of spices provide eye candy at Istanbul's fragrant bazaar. (p89)

Kemeraltı Market Izmir's labyrinthine bazaar features shops, eateries, artisans' workshops, mosques, coffeehouses, tea gardens and synagogues. (p199)

Hamams

Hamams are also known as Turkish baths, a name coined by Europeans introduced to their steamy pleasures by the Ottomans. Have a massage or just soak in the calming atmosphere.

Sefa Hamamı This restored 13th-century gem in Kaleiçi (Old Antalya) retains many of its Seljuk features. (p367)

Kılıç Ali Paşa Hamamı The service matches the stunning interior of this restored 16th-century Istanbul hamam. (p107)

Yeni Kaplıca 'New thermal bath' is actually Bursa's oldest, founded by the 6th-century Byzantine emperor Justinian I. (p296)

Kelebek Turkish Bath Spa Cappadocia's most luxurious hamam experience, with a full range of spa-style added extras. (p458)

Beaches

Turkey is surrounded by the Mediterranean, the Aegean, the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara, offering numerous beaches for reclining by the 'wine-dark sea' (as Homer called the Aegean).

Kaputaş The pale sandy cove and brilliant azure waters near Kalkan look brochure-perfect. (p348)

Kabak Take a steep ride or follow the Lycian Way down to this Mediterranean beach hideaway. (p342)

Patara One of the Mediterranean's longest beaches, with 18km of white sand, ruins and sea turtles. (p347)

Ayazma A ruined Greek Orthodox monastery overlooks Bozcaada's best beach. (p177)

Gökçeada You might have the little-visited Aegean island's beaches to yourself. (p172)

Kızkalesi Warm water invites you to swim to the 12th-century Byzantine fortress just offshore. (p393)

History

Turks are proud of their long, eventful history, and it's easy to share their enthusiasm at the country's mosques and palaces, ruins and museums.

Topkapı Palace Istanbul's historic significance can be felt everywhere, but particularly in the greatest Ottoman palace. (p76)

Gallipoli Peninsula Poignant memorials and cemeteries recall the battles fought here in WWI. (p154)

Kayaköy Places like this ghost town recall the Greeks displaced by a century-old population exchange. (p339)

Zelve Open-Air Museum Turkey's many Christian sites include these rock-cut

monasteries in a Cappadocian valley. (p467)

Hattuşa Explore off the beaten track to the capitals of Anatolian civilisations, including the Hittite HQ. (p428)

Food & Drink

Turkey has epicurean indulgence nailed, from street snacks to gourmet restaurants. Not only does every region offer local dishes, you can sample them in individualistic eateries and panoramic terraces.

Cappadocia Home Cooking Sample true home-style Cappadocian cooking, surrounded by the family's organic garden in a valley village. (p483)

Limon Aile Lokantası On the Rodrum Peninsula, Limon offers an original take on the much-loved Angran meze-and-seafood experience. (p271)

Alex's Place One of the hole-in-the-wall cocktail bars taking over in fashionable Beşiktaş, İstanbul. (p124)

Hatay Sultan Sofrası The mezes and spicy kebabs are good examples of Antakya's Syrian and Arab culinary influences. (p408)

Zeytin Bağı Overlooking the Bay of Edremit, this foodie retreat serves what may be Turkey's best breakfast. (p184)

Activities

Turkey's many outdoor activities make the most of its beautiful and diverse terrain, from mountain ranges to beaches – and çay and baklava, or Efes beer and meze, await afterwards.

Walking Opportunities range from half-day wanders through



Cappadocia's valleys to 500km Mediterranean trails. (p37)

Saklıkent Gorge The 18km-long fissure near Fethiye is Turkey's top spot for canyoning. (p344)

Water Sports On the Aegean and Mediterranean, diving, windsurfing, kiteboarding, canoeing and waterskiing are on offer. (p40)

Yusufeli Northeastern Anatolia's activity capital offers adrenaline-pumping white-water rafting and mountain walking. (p532)

Kekova Island Sea kayak over walls, shattered amphorae and other remains of the Lycian 'sunken city'. (p361)

Uludağ National Park The ski resort above Bursa is one of several across the country. (p301)

Ruins

Whether in a city centre or atop a craggy cliff, the country's ruins bring out the historical romantic in you. Excavations continue at many, giving new glimpses of ancient history.

Ephesus (Efes) The best-preserved classical city in the eastern Mediterranean evokes daily life in Roman times. (p226)

Nemrut Dağı Atop Mt Nemrut are the toppled heads of statues built by a 1st-century-BC king. (p550)

Pergamum The Hellenistic theatre is a vertigo-inducing marvel and the Asclepion was Rome's pre-eminent medical centre. (p192)

Ani The 10th-century Armenian capital features fascinating remnants of ancient cultures, from Georgian to Zoroastrian. (p543)

Landscape

Apart from a toe sticking into Europe, Turkey is part of Asia, so it should come as no surprise that its landscapes are varied and stunning.

Cappadocia The fairy chimneys (rock formations) and smooth valleys are best explored on foot or horseback. (p451)

Mt Ararat Turkey's highest peak (5137m) is typical of northeastern Anatolia's rugged scenery. (p549)

Amasra to Sinop A great drive takes you past Black Sea beaches and green hills. (p500)

Behramkale The hillside village has dreamy views of the Aegean coast. (p180)

Eğirdir Gölü The mountain-ringed Anatolian lake, like those at Bafa and İznik, is among Turkey's unsung glories. (p315)

Dalça & Bozburun Peninsulas Raw landscape dividing the Aegean and Mediterranean, riddled with coves and pine forests. (p279)

Nemrut Dağı Mountain-top stone heads gaze at the Anti-Taurus Range. (p660)

Ala Dağlar National Park Waterfalls crash down limestone cliffs in the Taurus Mountains. (p488)

Architecture

Turkey's legacy of mighty empires has left a bounty of imposing buildings: palaces, mosques, churches, monasteries and caravansaries are a few of the ancient structures evoking bygone eras.

Aya Sofya The greatest surviving Byzantine building, just

one of the glorious edifices in Sultanahmet, Istanbul. (p66)

İshak Paşa Palace Perched above the steppe, this 18th-century pile mixes Seljuk, Ottoman, Georgian, Persian and Armenian styles. (p546)

Ulu Cami & Darüçşifası Stone portal carvings so intricate that locals say they prove the existence of God. (p438)

Safranbolu From this heritage town to the Aegean's old Greek villages, boutique hotels occupy Ottoman mansions. (p423)

Istanbul Naval Museum The exhibition hall, displaying 19th-century rowboats, is among Istanbul's attractive contemporary gallery and museum buildings. (p99)

Museums

In a country marked by great dynasties, from Hittite hill men to Ottoman sultans, every self-respecting town has a museum to preserve its local history.

Istanbul Archaeology Museums Istanbul's museums range from long-standing institutions like this complex in Gülhane Park to contemporary galleries. (p83)

Göreme Open-Air Museum Only in surreal Cappadocia could a valley of rock-cut Byzantine churches be called a museum. (p454)

Museum of Anatolian Civilisations Ankara's star attraction examines the ancient civilisations that warred and waned on the surrounding steppe. (p411)

Ephesus Museum Selçuk's fine collection contains artefacts from Ephesus, including the famous effigy of phallic god Priapus. (p234)



Amasra (p486)

Museum of Underwater Archaeology Housed in Bodrum's 15th-century Castle of St Peter, it displays bounty from ancient shipwrecks. (p259)

Izmir Museum of History & Art One of Turkey's richest repositories of artefacts, including stunning sculptures from the Aegean's ancient sites. (p199)

Hatay Archaeology Museum Reopened in new premises that do justice to Antakya's great collection of classical mosaics. (p405)

Cities

Turks are a regionalist bunch; they will invariably tell you their town is *en çok güzel* (the most beautiful) – but these are the best places to experience urban Turkey.

Istanbul The world's only city on two continents, the megacity was once the capital of empires. (p58)

Antalya The classically beautiful and stylishly modern gateway to the Turkish Riviera. (p365)

Izmir Turkey's third-largest city is right on the Aegean; its kordon (seafont promenade) is a joy. (p198)

Antakya (Hatay) The site of the biblical Antioch has a distinctively Arabic feel. (p405)

Konya The Anatolian boomtown is historical and mystical with its Seljuk architecture and whirling dervish heritage. (p442)

Boutique Hotels

From half-timbered Ottoman mansions to Greek stone houses, Turkey's

converted into small, one-off hotels. These distinctive properties offer a local experience with a stylish twist.

Kelebek Hotel Take up residence in a fairy chimney and experience troglodyte life in luxury. (p460)

Alaçati Scores of the Aegean village's stone Greek houses have been converted into boutique digs. (p217)

Safranbolu Among rocky bluffs, the fairy-tale town is an idyllic setting for hotels in Ottoman piles. (p425)

White Garden Pansion A smattering of boutique hotels adds further charm to Antalya's Roman-Ottoman old quarter. (p369)

Nişanyan Hotel A 19th-century renovated stone house in the hill village of Şirince near Ephesus. (p242)

Itineraries



10
DAYS

Classic Turkey

Most first-time visitors to Turkey arrive with two ancient names on their lips: **Istanbul** and **Ephesus**. This journey across the Sea of Marmara and down the Aegean coast covers both.

You'll need at least three days in **Istanbul** to even scrape the surface of its millennia of history. The top three sights are the **Aya Sofya**, **Topkapı Palace** and the **Blue Mosque**, but there's a sultan's treasury of other sights and activities, including a cruise up the **Bosphorus**, nightlife around **Istiklal Caddesi**, and the **Grand Bazaar**.

From **Istanbul**, instead of schlepping out to the city's main otogar (bus station), hop on a ferry to **Bandırma**. From there, you can catch a bus or train straight down to **Selçuk** (for **Ephesus**) via **Izmir**, but it's more interesting to head west to **Çanakkale**, a lively student town on the **Dardanelles**. A tour of the nearby **Gallipoli Peninsula's** poignant WWI battlefields is a memorable experience.

From **Çanakkale**, it's a 3½-hour bus ride to **Ayvalık**, with its tumbledown old Greek quarter and fish restaurants. Finally, another bus journey (via **Izmir**) reaches **Selçuk**, a pleasantly rustic town and the base for visiting glorious **Ephesus (Efes)**, the best-preserved classical city in the eastern Mediterranean.



3 WEEKS

Coastal Cruise

After a few days in **Istanbul**, hop on a ferry to **Bandırma** and then catch the bus or train straight down to **Selçuk** via **İzmir**. Time your visit to coincide with Selçuk's sprawling Saturday market, and pair the magnificent ruins of **Ephesus** with a trip to the mountaintop village of **Şirince**.

Next, hit the southern Aegean coast in cruise port **Kuşadası**, which is more fun than a karaoke bar and offers 'PMD' day trips to the ruins of **Priene**, **Miletus** and **Didyma**. These sites, respectively two ancient port cities and a temple to Apollo, are interesting additions to an Ephesus visit, giving a fuller picture of the region in centuries past. Spend a day or two nibbling calamari and sipping cocktails on the chichi **Bodrum Peninsula** and cross the Gulf of Gökova by ferry to the **Datça Peninsula**. With their fishing villages and rugged hinterland of forested mountains, Datça and the adjoining Bozburun Peninsula are excellent for revving up a scooter or just putting your feet up.

Continuing along the Mediterranean coast, beautiful **Ölüdeniz** is the spot to paraglide from atop **Baba Dağ** (Mt Baba; 1960m) or lie low on a beach towel. While in the area, consider basing yourself in secluded **Kayaköy** with its ruined Greek town. You're now within kicking distance of the 509km-long Lycian Way. Hike for a day through superb countryside to overnight in heavenly **Faralya**, overlooking Butterfly Valley; further inroads along the trail will definitely top your 'next time' list.

Also on the Lycian Way, laid-back **Kaş**' pretty harbourside square buzzes nightly with friendly folk enjoying the sea breeze, views, fresh meze and a beer or two. One of Turkey's most beguiling boat trips departs from here, taking in the sunken Lycian city at **Kekova Island**. From Kaş, it's a couple of hours to **Olympos**, famous for the naturally occurring Chimaera flames and beach treehouses.

A 1½-hour bus journey reaches the city of **Antalya**. Its Roman-Ottoman quarter, Kaleiçi, is worth a wander, against the backdrop of a low-drooping mountain range. From Antalya you can fly back to Istanbul.



2 WEEKS

Cappadocia Meander

From Istanbul, catch a bus or hop on the fast train to **Ankara**, the Turkish capital. The political town is no match for that show-stealer on the Bosphorus, but two key sights here give an insight into Turkish history, ancient and modern: the Anıt Kabir, Atatürk's hilltop mausoleum, and the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations, a restored 15th-century *bedesten* (covered market) packed with finds from the surrounding steppe. Tying in with the latter, a detour east takes in the isolated, evocative ruins of **Hattuşa**, which was the Hittite capital in the late Bronze Age.

Leave three days to explore Cappadocia, based in a cave hotel in **Göreme**, the travellers' hang-out surrounded by valleys of fairy chimneys. The famous rock formations line the roads to sights including Göreme Open-Air Museum's rock-cut frescoed churches and the Byzantine underground cities at Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu. Among the hot-air balloon trips, valley walks and horse riding, schedule some time to just sit and appreciate the fantastical landscape in çay-drinking villages such as **Mustafapaşa**, with its stone-carved Greek houses and 18th-century church.

Fly straight back to Istanbul or, if you have enough time and a penchant for Anatolia's mountains and steppe, continue by bus. Stop in **Konya** for lunch en route to **Eğirdir**, and tour the turquoise-domed Mevlâna Museum, containing the tomb of the Mevlâna (whirling dervish) order's 13th-century founder. Lakeside Eğirdir, with its road-connected island and crumbling old Greek quarter ringed by beaches and the Taurus Mountains (Toros Dağları), is a serene base for walking a section of the **St Paul Trail**. Possible day trips include the stunning ruins of **Sagalassos**, a Greco-Roman city at 1500m in the Taurus Mountains.

From Eğirdir, you can catch a bus back to Istanbul or fly from nearby Isparta. If spending your last night in Anatolian tranquility appeals more than the hustle-bustle of Istanbul, head to lakeside **Iznik**, its Ottoman tile-making heritage on display between Roman-Byzantine walls. You'll find a bus to Eskişehir or Bursa to get there, while the final leg of the journey is a ferry across the Sea of Marmara to Istanbul.



3 WEEKS

Anatolian Circle

Begin with a few days among mosques, palaces and some 14 million folk in **Istanbul**, former capital of the Ottoman and Byzantine empires. Next, head east to **Safranbolu**, with its winding streets of Ottoman mansions, before turning north to **Amasra**, where Turkish holidaymakers wander the Byzantine castle and eat fresh fish on the two harbours. Amasra is the beginning of the drive through rugged hills to **Sinop**, another pretty Black Sea port town and the birthplace of Greek philosopher Diogenes the Cynic.

Next, it's a six-hour bus journey via Samsun to **Amasya**, with its Ottoman houses, Pontic tombs and castle. Take it all in from a terrace by the Yeşilirmak River, and drink several tulip-shaped glasses of çay, before another long bus ride across the Anatolian steppe to Cappadocia. This enchanting land of fairy chimneys and cave churches is wholeheartedly back on the beaten track, but you can escape the tour buses by exploring the valleys on foot or horseback. Likewise, Göreme and Ürgüp are the usual bases, but you could stay in a less-touristy village such as **Ortahisar**, with its craggy castle. South of central Cappadocia, see rock-cut churches without the crowds in **Soğanlı**, where Byzantine monastic settlements occupy two valleys. Then head into the **Ala Dağlar National Park** for some of Turkey's most breathtaking scenery in the Taurus Mountains (Toros Dağları).

Konya, its magnificent mosques recalling its stint as capital of the Seljuk sultanate of Rum, makes a convenient hunch stop en route to Eğirdir. Lakeside **Eğirdir** has views of the Taurus Mountains and little-visited local sights such as **Sagalassos**, a ruined Greco-Roman city at an altitude of 1500m. There are more impressive classical ruins at **Hierapolis**, an ancient spa city overlooking the village of **Pamukkale** from atop the travertines, a mountain of calcite shelves. Nearby **Afrodisiyas**, once a Roman provincial capital, is equally incredible; you might have the 30,000-seat stadium to yourself.

From Denizli (near Pamukkale) it's just a few hours' drive by bus or train to **Selçuk**, base for visiting Efesus. From here, head back to Istanbul from nearby **Izmir**, or continue overland via our Classic Turkey itinerary.

Resource 2B: Gathering notes

<p>_____ is... <i>(Country)</i></p>	<p>Need to know:</p> <p>Currency:</p> <p>Language:</p> <p>Time:</p> <p>Money:</p> <p>Exchange Rate:</p>	<p>Where to visit:</p> <p>-</p> <p>Where to eat:</p> <p>-</p>	<p>If you like... go to... (don't put a place twice!)</p> <p>Choose most appropriate three from: Shopping, Sports, Theatre, History, Art, Walking/Hiking, Dancing</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>
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Resource 4A: GSV Introduction



Resource 4B: London Tourist Guide Draft

One of the world's most visited cities, London has something for everyone. There's fascinating history, varied culture to fine food and good times.

First stop, **Westminster Abbey** for an easy intro to the city's (and nation's) history and then to **Buckingham Palace** for the **Changing of the Guard**. Walk up the Mall to **Trafalgar Square** for its architectural grandeur and photo-op views of **Big Ben** down Whitehall. Art lovers will make a beeline for the **National Gallery** and its outstanding collection of European paintings.

Lunch Eat at the **Portrait** for excellent set lunches and unparalleled views.

After, with your pre-booked ticket for the **London Eye**, walk across pedestrian Hungerford Bridge to the South Bank and enjoy a 30-minute revolution in the city skies and superb views, notably of the **Houses of Parliament**. Afterwards stroll along the river and head into the bowels of the **Tate Modern** for some grade-A art. Aim your camera at **St Paul's Cathedral** on the far side of the elegant **Millennium Bridge**.

Dinner Grills or more complex dishes at Skylon.

Depending on what mood you're in, you might catch a performance at **Shakespeare's Globe**. 'Groundling' (standing) tickets can be bought last minute but book ahead for seats. Otherwise, join the post-work crowds in the **pubs** around **London Bridge** for real ales and historical surrounds.

Need to know

Currency: British Pound, **Language:** English, **Visa:** Mostly not required for up to 90 days, **Time:** Central European Time, **Money:** GBP £,

Exchange Rate:

Australia 1A\$ = £ 0.50

Canada 1C\$ = £ 0.40

Euro 1E = £0.80

USA 1US\$ = \$0.60

If you like...

Shopping head down to Oxford street for some of the busiest shopping in the world.

Sports head down to one of the many famous football grounds such as **Cheslea's Stamford Bridge** or **Arsenal's Emirates Stadium**.

Music for classical fans, the Southbank centre is a must see. For those who love huge pop concerts, The O2 is the perfect place to listen to your favourite stars.

Resource 5A: Tourist Guide Model

London - England

One of the world's most visited cities, London has something for everyone. There's fascinating history, varied culture to fine food and good times.

Need to know

Currency:
British Pound

Language:
English

Visa:
Mostly not required for up to 90 days

Time:
Central European Time

Money:
GBP £

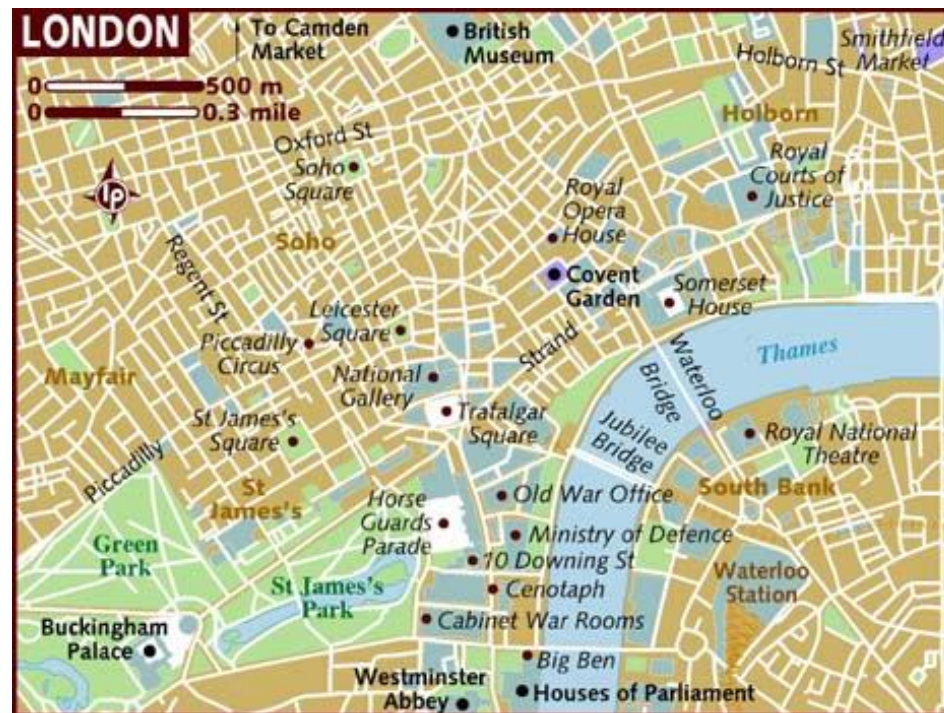
Exchange Rate:
Australia 1A\$ = £ 0.50
Canada 1C\$ = £ 0.40
Euro 1E = £0.80
USA 1US\$ = \$0.60

Itinerary

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Cathedral on the far side of the elegant **Millennium Bridge**.

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Resource 5B: Publishing proforma

