



# RIDE WORLD WIDE

## TURKEY

### CAPPADOCIA 2025

#### RIDE INFORMATION

The amazing landscapes of Cappadocia were formed between 2 and 10 million years ago by volcanic eruptions on the Anatolian plateau. While cooling, the warm ashes turned into layers of 'tuff' of varied colours and density and with the passage of time, water, wind and man have eroded and carved this soft rock. The result is a breathtaking landscape of deep canyons and fantastically shaped rock formations, with churches, houses and dovecots intricately carved into them. The history of the area is equally fascinating. The first major civilisation, the Hittites, appeared around 2000 BC and since then numerous subsequent invasions and peoples - including the Greeks under Alexander the Great, the Romans, Mongols and Ottomans - have each left their mark. Combined with traffic along the Silk Road, this has given the area an incredible mix of cultures. Cappadocia - meaning 'the land of beautiful horses' a name given by the Persians when they saw the wild mountain ponies that still live on the slopes of Erciyes Volcano - is unlike anywhere else. The rides are organised by Nicolas and Helene Guillo, and Ibrahim Caliskan and are a marvellous way to explore this amazing area.



#### DATES

Rides are run from set dates March to December, with other dates available on request. 3 different itineraries are offered, all are progressive, the Adventure ride being the most physically demanding (endurance style) and the Classic Ride being the least taxing program. Please see departure dates overleaf and contact Ride World Wide to check availability.

#### HORSES

The horses used for the rides are from two separate stables, those of the Guillo's and those of Ibrahim. They are all locally bred Arab and Arab crosses of between about 14.2 and 15.2hh. Some of the horses have qualified in national endurance races. There is a good mix with some forward going and energetic horses but also calmer schoolmaster types if preferred on the Classic Ride. The horses are all well suited to the terrain.

## TACK

Saddles are 'McClellan' style on the Classic Ride, and one Active & Adventure Rides special made trail saddles are used. All are and comfortable for long hours, fitted with breastplates and with saddle bags provided. All the horses are ridden in snaffles or pelhams and are used to light contact.



## RIDING

The Active Ride itinerary includes 5 days riding, the Adventure & Classic rides include 6 days. There is usually 5 or 6 hours in the saddle on full days (with breaks to rest and for lunch) and one shorter/ half day in the week. All itineraries start with a little time to try horses and tack on the first day, in some cases including a short route with different obstacles that might be encountered during the week to be sure everyone is confident on, and well matched to, their horse. As well as riding there is always some walking, leading horses, during the week. Generally you lead for 10 minutes or so to warm up before starting and again to cool off at the end of the day and may be asked to lead up and down steep hills and perhaps in villages out of politeness to the locals. All participants therefore need a good level of overall fitness, particularly for the Adventure program (where you need to lead your horse but up and down hill for up to 25 minutes), and must be comfortable walking on uneven ground as well as up and down steep gradients. You should also be able to mount unassisted. Riders are encouraged to spread out where possible, rather than always riding in single file, although on tracks through narrow gorges or winding around the rock formations, this is not possible. Please note the Adventure & Active rides are **not suitable for the riders who have serious vertigo**. Maximum riding group is 8 guests and rides are lead by an experienced guide. Luggage and camping equipment is transported ahead by back up vehicle. **On all rides, you are expected to groom, tack-up / un-tack, and help feed and water your horse in the evenings.** Saddles are checked before you set off.



## WEIGHT LIMIT

85kg / 13st 5lbs (clothed); occasionally heavier, experienced riders can be taken by arrangement, with an extra charge for second horse, *but* we need accurate details in advance to approve this (note- you may be weighed on arrival and if heavier than the weight notified, will not be allowed to ride!)

## PACE

Rides are at a moderate pace overall. The terrain in the area means most riding is at a walk and there are some quite steep mountain tracks and a bit of road work through towns and villages each day, but there are also good places to canter. The Adventure and Active Rides cover about 35 kms and 28kms on full riding days respectively, with chances to canter every day, including some lovely long and exhilarating canters (the longest canter on the Adventure ride is about 15 mins) along valley floors, between towering rock formations and along paths across wheat fields. The Classic Rides are a little slower, but still with good opportunities to canter. Some of the more touristy villages can be quite busy with people and traffic, but the horses are used to this and are calm and sensible on the road.



## RIDING EXPERIENCE

All programs are aimed at reasonably experienced, confident riders and to participate you must feel relaxed, comfortable and secure in the saddle on a well-schooled horse at a walk, trot and fast canter. You should also be used to riding for reasonably long hours, outside in an open environment and on varied and sometimes challenging terrain, including up and down hill. The horses are sensible, but have a generally lively temperament so they suit confident, relaxed riders. You are asked to tack up your own horse and also to mount and dismount several times each day without assistance. The Cappadocia Adventure is the most demanding itinerary and includes more technical canters, sometimes downhill slopes and sharp corners. This requires the highest ability and is for fit and advanced level riders only. The Active rides include similar riding hours and still at a good pace but avoids the difficult passes as far as possible; there are also fewer occasions to dismount – it is designed for fit strong intermediate to experienced riders. The Classic Ride is the least demanding, but still requires good fitness, mounting & dismounting unaided, leading your horse for short distances (sometimes up steep hills) and an intermediate level of riding is still required.

## TERRAIN

Cappadocia is known for its dramatic scenery and unique landscapes and is a popular tourist destination but one of the outstanding features of these rides is that as well as showing you the sights the area is known for, they take you off the beaten track to areas visitors seldom see. Much of the riding is through the fantastic rock formations for which the area is famed, but you also ride up onto high plateaux with wonderful views and through fields and fruit orchards where the scenery varies with the season. In April fruit trees blossom; in May and June there are wild flowers (wild irises, dog rose, thyme, poppies, vetch, yellow sage and cornflowers to name a few); July and August are hot and sunny, the time of the melon harvest; in September, grapes and other fruit ripen in the orchards, whilst October rides have all the colour of turning leaves. Eagles, buzzards and Egyptian Vultures are often seen soaring above rocky ridges and you may also see golden orioles, hoopoes and black headed siskins as well as small mammals such as marmots, foxes and hares whilst you ride. There is also always plenty of cultural interest - ancient churches and dovecots carved into rock, shepherds tending flocks high in the hills, underground villages, ruins and the typical Cappadocian villages of today. Exploring the towns and villages, which can be quite busy, means there will necessarily be short distances to ride on tarmac or where you may encounter traffic, but overall the region is lovely for riding with spectacular, varied scenery, many incredible views and good chances to move on each day.



## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is all characterful, with carefully chosen hotels and guesthouses that are typical of the area and in the traditional “Cappadocia style”. They are usually family run and generally equivalent to an international 2\* standard, often have rooms that are excavated into the rock, might have rough unfinished stone walls and sometimes few windows! Bedrooms have private bathroom. On a couple of nights it is possible to upgrade to ‘boutique’ hotels of a slightly higher standard, attractively renovated and furnished, roughly about international 3\* equivalent and again always rooms with private bathroom; they may also have extras such as a swimming pool, a hamam or good restaurant. Ride rates are based on twin / double or triple occupancy although single rooms can be arranged, subject to availability, for a supplement.



## MEALS

Turkey has a reputation for delicious food and you will be able to sample some excellent, traditional Turkish dishes. Breakfast is at your hotel or guesthouse is generally a selection of fresh bread, butter, jam or honey, perhaps with eggs, with tea or coffee to drink. (Tea and coffee are usually drunk black in Turkey, in small glasses; milk powder is sometimes available but not often fresh milk). Lunch is either a picnic out riding or you may stop at a restaurant or café and in the evening, dinner is at your hotel / guesthouse and may be eaten ‘Turkish style’, sitting on a carpet around a round tray or 'chai' table. At guesthouses and hotels dinner is often 3 courses, perhaps rice, yoghurt and mint soup to start, followed by lamb and bean stew with couscous and apricots in syrup to finish. Main meat dishes are usually chicken or lamb, with local specialities such as 'bostan kebap' (aubergines, lamb and cheese cooked in a clay pot) some days. Vegetarians can, of course, be catered for, but please let us know in advance on your booking form. Wine is produced locally and different Cappadocian wines are available to buy. They are quite young and not as cheap as one might expect (around 15 to 25 Euros a bottle in hotels depending on quality) - the white wines tend to be a better standard. Locally brewed beer is about 3 Euros a bottle and is easily bought at restaurants, bars or general stores.



## WEATHER

Rides are run from set dates April to October when weather in the area is best. During winter months Cappadocia can be cold and desolate. In mid summer temperatures can be high but there is usually a breeze and as you are at some altitude (approx 1000 - 1500 meters) the heat is dry and it is still pleasant for riding. **cont.**

## WEATHER cont.

Average daytime temperatures between April and October are roughly - April 13°C; May 19°C; June 25°C; July 30°C; August 30°C; September 25°C; October 17°C - although it may be about 5 degrees hotter at midday and 5 degrees colder at nightfall. Cappadocia is semi-desert and rainfall is minimal although possible at any time of year so you need to be prepared for this. Most precipitation occurs between November and May.



## WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.

## ITINERARIES

The following are examples of the itineraries planned for the Adventure & Active Rides (please enquire for the Classic day by day itinerary). Please note that the below are just examples and day-by-day arrangements and routes ridden may be changed by your guides in their absolute discretion according to weather, riders' ability and other local conditions. We highly recommend the hot air balloon flight which can be arranged very early in the morning on one day. We also thoroughly recommend adding a night (or more) in Istanbul before or after your ride - an amazing city, once capital of the western world. The Blue Mosque, St Sophia Museum, Topkapi Palace and the famed covered bazaar are all well worth a visit and the city has some excellent hotels and restaurants.



**Cappadocia Adventure Ride** This is the most demanding of the itineraries offered, requiring a good level of physical fitness and strong intermediate or above riding ability. You ride around 25 to 40 kms a day (200 kms over 6 days), the majority at a walk but with good canters everyday (the longest about 15 minutes) and some riding up and down hill. There is also some walking, leading your horse (maximum about 25 minutes downhill / 15 to 20 minutes & 400 metres uphill) and **you need to control a forward going horse in a group at a fast canter, and must be able to get on and off unassisted.**

## CAPPADOCIA ADVENTURE ITINERARY cont.

**Day 1** - Arrive Kayseri before 18.00. Transfer about 50 minutes by airport shuttle bus, to a small hotel in Urgup, within the Cappadocia National Park. Meet your guide at the hotel for dinner. Night in Urgup. (D)

**Day 2** - Breakfast at the guesthouse before being collected and driven to the ranch to meet the horses. An introduction to the horses and tack with a short trial ride to ensure you are comfortable and well suited. Then, mount up to head off, with the first hour's riding following a stream through lush vegetation in the Uzengi canyon. Stop for lunch, cooked for you on a wood fire by the villagers, at the foot of abrupt rock walls in which citadels of dovecotes are carved. In the afternoon your first long canter takes you to Avlak mountain, with magnificent views of Cappadocia and rocky hills that could provide a back drop to a western movie! Then continue riding through a large valley where you pass the ghost village of Karain. Continue a short way out of the village of Akkoym and picket the horses. After untacking you can enjoy a drink in your hotel, watching the horses. Dinner and night in Akkoym. (B,L,D)



**Day 3** - Breakfast and saddle up. The day starts with a canter through fields of barley, wheat, oat and beans on the high Anatolian plateau (1600 m), then dismount for a 20 minute walk, leading the horses down a steep narrow trail, to Damsa lake. A winding canter to an old monastery where again the local villagers will cook lunch for you. In the afternoon ride on, following a route that overlooks a valley of fairy chimneys and the bare hills surrounding the lake (in good weather perhaps a swim in the lake with your horse). Chances to trot and canter along tracks of soft red clay and through a hidden canyon to the village of Ayvali. Dinner and night a guesthouse in Ayvali. (B,L,D)



**Day 4** - After saddling up set off again. A quick canter takes you to Gologli, with time to visit the underground village and see the church hewn into the rock. From here the route takes you well off the beaten track through extraordinary rock formations, vineyards and orchards, surrounded by table-mountains. Reaching the old Greek village of Mustafapasa, you ride through the centre of town, admiring the beautiful Greek architecture, and perhaps stopping for a drink (or for lunch if the weather is not good). From Mustafapasa climb to the plateau again, where there are more chances to canter. A short ride brings you back to the hotel at Ayvali, where if the weather is sunny you have a late lunch by a swimming pool with the afternoon to relax. Dinner and second night in Ayvali. (B,L,D)

**Day 5** - A good breakfast then set off again, first along narrow tracks, through small canyons, crossing farm land and the wide, open spaces of Subasi, where shepherds look after their flocks. Winding through a lush, **cont. over**

## CAPPADOCIA ADVENTURE ITINERARY cont.

**Day 5 cont** - narrow canyon you reach a second and different type of underground village: “Kirkule”. After your visit, long canters take you through vineyards and orchards and over rolling hills of white tuffa to reach the fairy chimneys of the Gomed valley. More fun riding through the narrow corridors and arches of the canyon of Gumuslu, then heading up a hill you reach one of the best lunchtime restaurants “Babayan evi”, where bread is cooked on a wood fire and there are often delicious local specialities. From this picturesque village, start to ascend the ‘twin hills’ of Cappadocia, reaching a viewpoint that takes in northern Cappadocia and the towering rock fortress of Uchisar. The ride to the village where the next two nights are spent, reveals the multicoloured rock formations of the famous Pigeon Valley and Uchisar’s picturesque fairy chimneys. Dinner and night in a guesthouse in Uchisar with lovely views. (B,L,D)

**Day 6** - This morning, the option of a hot air balloon ride over the fantastic landscapes of Cappadocia (extra cost payable locally, if you choose to take the hot air balloon ride you will need to wake up at around 03.30). Return to the guesthouse for breakfast, then set off riding again, picking your way through the rock tunnels, arches and small woods of the spectacular, 4 km-long canyon called the Green Valley. A detour through the famous Love Valley with its gigantic phallic rock formations, then onto Sword Valley and Red Valley. With its citadels of red, pink and ochre rock, and its beautiful troglodytic churches, this is Cappadocia's most spectacular ensemble of geological formations. Lunch at a cave café in an ancient monastery and in the afternoon, continue through Red and Rose Valleys, then ride out into the fields, surrounded by the rocky hills of north Cappadocia. The winding paths of the Shepherd’s Valley take you back to Uchisar, in time for a drink on the terrace at sunset. Dinner and night Uchisar. (B,L,D)



**Day 7** - Riding from the guesthouse enter the beautiful White Valley, passing stone labyrinths, lush vegetation, and the impressive fairy chimneys of yet another Love Valley. Crossing the picturesque village of Çavuşin, dismount for a short walk to reach the plateau of Boz daha. A wonderful canter along the ridge, overlooking Red Valley on one side and Devrent Valley, with its strangely shaped fairy chimneys, on the other. Further canters take you through a maze of sandy paths and the woods of Urgup to reach the valley of Pancarlik and its multicoloured rock formations, gardens and orchards, before finally arriving back at the ranch by early afternoon. Farewell tea on the terrace, then you are driven back to the guesthouse in Ortahisar or Urgup. A visit to the local Hamam can be arranged (50€ per person, including wellbeing treatments for body relaxation, payable locally) (B,L,D).

**Day 8** - Breakfast and airport shuttle transfer to Kayseri for your flight to Istanbul (ideally between 10 and 12 noon). (B)

**Cappadocia Active Ride** - You ride about 28kms a day, much is at a walk but with good canters everyday. The route avoids the difficult passes and there is not much time leading your horse. A hot air balloon trip, for a wonderful birds eye view over Cappadocia, is an option very early one morning at extra cost. The following is an example of the program:

**Day 1** - Arrive Kayseri before 18.00. Transfer about 50 minutes by airport shuttle bus, to the town of Urgüp within the Cappadocia National Park. Meet your guides for dinner and the night at a hotel in Urgüp. (D)

## PASHA RIDE ITINERARY cont.

**Day 2** - Breakfast at your hotel / guesthouse before being collected and driven to the ranch to meet the horses. An introduction to the horses and tack with a short trial ride to ensure you are comfortable and well suited. Then set off riding, with a long canter to ascend the Avlak mountain (this route will be avoided if raining), from where there are magnificent views of Cappadocia. From here you ride on to reach the old Greek village of Mustafapasa, you tie up the horses and stop for lunch. Time to wander through the village, admiring the old stone houses, the painted church and Ottoman madrasa. In the afternoon then continue riding, crossing wide open spaces where shepherds look after their flocks, before arriving at your guesthouse in Ayvali. Dinner and night Ayvali. (B,L,D)

**Day 3** - Breakfast and saddle up. The day starts with a canter through fields of barley, wheat, oat and beans on the high Anatolian plateau (1600 m), then ride down a steep narrow trail, to Damsa lake. Stop for lunch and the chance to visit an old monastery. In the afternoon ride on, following a route that overlooks a valley of fairy chimneys and the bare hills surrounding the lake and visit the underground village of Golgoli. Then chances to trot and canter along tracks of soft red clay and through a hidden canyon back to Ayvali. Dinner and second night in Ayvali. (B,L,D)



**Day 4** - Breakfast at your hotel or guesthouse, then set off riding again, today's ride exploring the beautiful northern valleys of Cappadocia. Trots and canters through vineyards and orchards and over rolling hills of white tuffa to reach Ibrahimpasa. From this picturesque village, start ascending the 'twin hills' of Cappadocia to reach a viewpoint taking in northern Cappadocia and the towering rock fortress of Uchisar. The ride to the village where the next two nights are spent, reveals the multicoloured rock formations of the famous Pigeon Valley and Uchisar's picturesque fairy chimneys. A late lunch on the terrace then time to explore the town, or to visit Goreme Open Air Museum, or hike in the Pigeon Valley. Dinner and night in a guesthouse in Uchisar. (B,L,D)

**Day 5** - This morning, the option of a hot air balloon ride over the fantastic landscapes of Cappadocia (extra cost payable locally, if you choose to take the hot air balloon ride you will need to wake up at around 03.30). Return to the guesthouse for breakfast, then set off riding again, picking your way through the rock tunnels, arches and small woods of the spectacular White Valley. Then onto Sword Valley and Red Valley. With its citadels of red, pink and ochre rock, and its beautiful troglodytic churches, this is Cappadocia's most spectacular ensemble of geological formations. Lunch at a cave café in an ancient monastery and in the afternoon, continue through Red and Rose Valleys, before riding out into fields, surrounded by the rocky hills of north Cappadocia. The winding paths of the Shepherd's Valley take you back to Uchisar, in time for a drink on the terrace at sunset. Dinner and night Uchisar. (B,L,D)

**Day 6** - Breakfast and then set off riding through the beautiful, 4 km-long canyon of Green Valley. A detour through the famous Love Valley with its gigantic phallic rock formations, then ride on to the village of Ortahisar where you stop for lunch. In the afternoon canters take you through a maze of sandy paths lined with trees and cross the valley of Pancarlik and its multicoloured rock formations, gardens and orchards, before finally arriving back at the ranch in the afternoon. A short transfer your hotel in Urgup for dinner. A visit to the local Hamam can be arranged (50€ per person, including wellbeing treatments for body relaxation, payable locally) (B,L,D).

**Day 7** - Breakfast and airport shuttle transfer to Kayseri for your flight to Istanbul (ideally between 10 and 12 noon). (B)



## DATES & RATES 2025

**Please note due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, ride rates are quoted in Euros. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the euro/sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay.**

### **Cappadocia Adventure (7 nights) Euros 3000 per person (or as listed)**

9th to 16th March (€ 2400)	20th to 27th April	28th September to 5th October
30th March to 6th April (€ 2800)	11th to 18th May	11th to 18th October (€ 3500)
12th to 19th April (€ 3500) (single supplement 380 Euros)	7th to 14th September	19th to 26th October

### **Cappadocia Active (6 nights) - Euros 2400 per person (or as listed)**

2nd to 8th March (€ 2000)	4th to 10th May	21st to 27th September
23rd to 29th March (€ 2200) (single supplement 326 Euros)	31st August to 6th September	

### **Cappadocia Classic (7 nights) - Euros 2000 per person (or as listed)**

16th to 23rd March (€ 1820)	11th to 18th May	19th to 26th October
30th March to 6th April (€ 1920)	7th to 14th September	26th October to 2nd November
6th to 13th April	14th to 21st September	9th to 16th November (€ 1920)
13th to 20th April	28th September to 5th October	23rd to 30th November (€ 1820)
20th to 27th April	5th to 12th October	7th to 14th December (€ 1740)
27th April to 4th May (single supplement 400 Euros)		

**Rates INCLUDE** - Twin or triple accommodation, all riding, guiding and equipment, meals and shuttle bus transfers from / to Kayseri within set times (08.00 to 22.00). Rates assume twin bedded rooms in hotels please see below for information about the single supplement.

**Rates EXCLUDE** - International flights / travel to Kayseri and taxes, any visa fees, personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have), bar bills, airport transfers outside set times, optional activities (eg balloon flight, Open Air museum etc.), personal extras at hotels / guesthouse (laundry, telephone calls etc) and any tips you may wish to leave. (Active & Adventure Rides only)

Upgrade to boutique accommodation for 2 nights -75 Euros per person twin; or 110 Euros per person single. (Active & Adventure Rides only)



## DATES & RATES cont.

**Single travellers** - Single accommodation can be booked (subject to availability) on paying the supplement. If you are travelling alone you will need to pay the supplement though solo lady travellers who are happy to share a twin or triple room if required are not always required to pay this. For those upgrading to boutique accommodation the single supplement will apply to single travellers.

**Hot Air Balloon flight** - An hour's balloon flight over Cappadocia is highly recommended. The cost is approx. 300 Euros per person, subject to change, paid locally in Euros. The team in Cappadocia are happy to book for you in advance (flights get booked up a long way ahead so it's not usually possible to book when you are there). Payment will be to the Hot Air Balloon company direct.

## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS & TRAVEL

For Cappadocia rides you need to fly to Kayseri via Istanbul. Transfers between Kayseri and the first nights accommodation / start point of the ride are arranged by airline shuttle service. **Arrival should be before 18.00.** Both Turkish Airways and British Airways currently have daily direct flights from London to Istanbul. Turkish Airways then have onward flights to Kayseri (or you can go by bus, a journey of about 12 hours). On the return you take a shuttle back to Kayseri in time for a morning flight, ideally departing between 10 and 12 noon, to Istanbul. Flights prices vary but expect to pay around £350 to £550 Economy return plus taxes depending on time of year, airline and availability. If you plan to connect straight through to Kayseri please allow **plenty** of time between flights - particularly if using different carriers (eg British Airways in conjunction with Turkish Airways). There are often long visa queues and immigration can be time consuming. For further advice on flights please call us (our ATOL number for flight bookings is ATOL 6213).

## GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

NB this is a brief outline - further information will be sent to you if you make a confirmed booking.

**Visas** UK citizens and citizens from the EU are currently exempt and do not require a visa for entry to Turkey. For other nationalities visas for Turkey should now be obtained in advance online at: <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/>

**Health** No inoculations are legally required to enter Turkey from Europe but the TravelHealthPro website (NaTHNaC) recommends most travellers are up to date with inoculations for Polio and Tetanus - you should consult a health professional for further and more detailed advice in any case.

(DRAFT 26/12/2024)

