



Equus Journeys

HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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Cappadocia Explorer

TURKEY

This **riding holiday** takes place between Urgup and Ortahisar, in some of Turkey's most spectacular scenery. Ride along lush canyons and steppe-like landscapes that will lead you to breathtaking views over the troglodytic treasures of **Cappadocia, in central Turkey**. You will be staying in charming hotels in different villages, experiencing the legendary Turkish hospitality and trying out traditional cuisine. This mobile trail is ideal for experienced riders ready to take on the challenges of riding in the unusual landscapes of Cappadocia.

Trail Riding	 7 days (5 riding)	 From £2,017		Open to non-riders
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ITINERARY

Highlights

- A more relaxed, less strenuous version of our "Wonders of Cappadocia" trail ride.
- Enjoy the picturesque landscapes of the Pigeon Valley and its fairy chimneys
- Explore the underground village of Golgoli
- Stay in picturesque, comfortable hotels located in ancient stone houses or in renovated cave houses, typical of the local architecture.

Day 1 — 1: HOME - KAYSERI AIRPORT- URGUP

 Hotel Surban

International flight to Kayseri or Nevsehir (flights are not included, but can be booked upon request).

Transfers are included (shuttle bus from the airport to your hotel). We strongly recommend that you book a flight arriving by 6:00 pm at the latest, so you can enjoy dinner with the guides and the group on the first night. This is important, as this is when your guides will make the final horse allocations. If necessary, you can fly in a day early and we can book an extra night at the hotel you will stay in on the first night (see dates and prices).

Day 2 — 2: MUSTAFAPASA - 5 hours riding

 Hotel Dilek Tepesi

You are driven to the ranch in the morning to meet the horses and get acquainted with the riding equipment. You then will have your first long canter along the Avlak mountain (subject to weather conditions). You will then make your way to the old Greek village of Mustafapasa where you will have lunch. Afterwards, you can take a nap on the nearest sofa or, if you are feeling energised, you can explore the village's old stone houses, its Ottoman madrasa and even its painted church. In the afternoon, ride along small canyons, through narrow tracks and wide-open fields where you may encounter


local shepherds and their flocks, before arriving at your guesthouse in Ayvali.

Day 3 — 3: KESLIK MONASTERY - 5 hours riding

 Hotel Dilek Tepesi


This morning, expect long canters across the fields of the high Anatolian plateau (1600 m above sea level). Make your way through a steep trail that will lead you to the Damsa lake. Before visiting the monastery, you will enjoy a lunch prepared by villagers on a wood fire. The afternoon scenery includes hills surrounding the lake, and you may visit the underground village of Golgoli. Continue your ride along tracks of red clay and through hidden canyons that will lead you to your hotel.

Day 4 — 4: UCHISAR - 3 hours riding

 Kilim pension

Today's itinerary will take you to the beautiful valleys of north Cappadocia, and to the village of Uchisar. Trot and canter through vineyards and over rolling hills of white tufa to reach Ibrahimpassa, where you will have lunch. From this picturesque village, you will start to climb the "Twin Hills" of Cappadocia. A nice canter at the top takes you to a panoramic viewpoint surrounding northern Cappadocia and the towering rock fortress of Uchisar. As you ride towards the village, you'll be able to admire the multicoloured rock formations of the famous Pigeon Valley and the picturesque fairy chimneys. In the afternoon, you are free to explore Uchisar.


Day 5 — 5: RED VALLEY - 5 hours riding

 Kilim pension

In the morning, we can arrange an optional hot-air balloon ride to enjoy Cappadocia's magical landscape at sunrise (this is paid for separately, check dates and prices).

Start your riding day by heading to the White Valley canyon, where you will ride across rocky labyrinths and lush vegetation. From there, make your way to the Sword Valley and Red Valley. Ride through its multicoloured citadels and beautiful troglodyte churches. This is Cappadocia's most spectacular ensemble of geological formations. You will stop to have lunch at a unique cave café located in an ancient monastery. In the afternoon, keep exploring the Red and Rose valleys. The winding paths of the Shepherd's valley will take you back to your guesthouse in Uchisar in time to enjoy the sunset.

Day 6 — 6: BALKAN VALLEY - 5 hours riding

 Hotel Surban

After breakfast, you will leave Uchisar and make your way to the Green Valley canyon, through rock tunnels, and natural arches. You will make a small detour to visit the famous Love Valley before heading to Ortahisar, where you will stop for lunch. In the afternoon you will have the opportunity to go on some long canters along sandy tracks. Cross the Valley of Pancarlik and its multicoloured fairy chimneys before arriving to the ranch. Transfer to your overnight location in Urgup.

Day 7 — 7: KAYSERI AIRPORT - HOME

Transfer to Kayseri (or Nevsehir) Airport in time for your flight back home.

DATES & PRICES			
DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
04/05/2025	10/05/2025	£2,017	Last seats
31/08/2025	06/09/2025	£2,017	Open
21/09/2025	27/09/2025	£2,017	Open

Price details

- Flights or transportation to your destination are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin or triple room during the ride.
- Groups are composed of a minimum of 2 riders and a maximum of 8 international riders, plus guides.
- Transfers are included (shuttle bus from the airport to your hotel). We strongly recommend your flight to arrive at 6:00 pm at the latest so you can enjoy dinner with the guides and the group on the first night - this is important as this is when your guides will make the final decision to match horses with riders. If necessary, you can fly in a day early and we can book an extra night at the hotel that you will stay in on the first night. For a single room, half board, the price is approximately £110/€132/\$145 in 2025.
- There is no single supplement if you are willing to share a room/tent with another guest of the same sex (twin or triple rooms), policy valid for females only. The single supplement rate is £275/€326/\$355 in 2025.
- With accommodation, there is a 'luxury upgrade' option available for the first and last nights. This is an extra £65/€75/\$85 per person for a shared room, and £95/€110/\$120 for a single room in 2025. For a private group, a full luxury option can be organised for the 7 nights.
- The minimum age to participate in this riding holiday is 12.
- An optional air balloon flight can be arranged. The price is generally around €210-€230 per person (prices fluctuate depending on the season and fuel price - this will be reconfirmed on request). If interested, please contact us in advance. Availability can be difficult in the high season so please make sure to let us know with plenty of notice if you are interested. This is payable locally in cash.
- There may be an option to visit a hammam on day 4, which you would need to organise directly with the hotel. Price is approx. €100.
- Non-riders will be offered a hiking programme, in autonomy with GPS device and roadbook. You will hike for around 4hrs a day and meet the riders for lunch. Price on request.

- There is a N 85 kg / 13.3 stone / 190 lbs rider weight limit on this trail (including riding gear). If you weigh more than that, an additional horse can be arranged at a supplement, please contact us before booking.

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

1 English-speaking horse guide

LOGISTICS

1 vehicle and driver

INLAND TRANSPORT

Airport transfers during the day (late arrivals will have to pay a taxi)

ACCOMMODATION

Twin or triple room - guesthouse

MEALS

Full board from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

Saddle bags

First aid kit

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages and personal extras

TRANSPORT

International flights

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team

Park, museum and other site entry fees

INSURANCE

Visas and personal purchase

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement

Upgrade to luxury accommodation

EXTRAS

Hot air balloon flight

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

The herd comprises forward-going Anatolian, Arab and cross-Arab mares. They are robust and sure-footed, responsive and respectful of their riders. There are no big horses (on average 1,50-55 m, 15hh) so there is a strict 85 kg / 13.3 stone / 190 lbs rider weight limit on this trail (including riding gear). If you weigh more than that, an additional horse can be arranged at a supplement, please contact us before booking.

Guide & local team

Your guide will be French-born Nicolas Guillo. He decided to make Cappadocia his home over 11 years ago and has been organising trail rides every since. He speaks English and also Turkish.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You must be an intermediate or advanced rider. You must be able to mount your horse unassisted, and be confident over rough terrain and during group canters.

There is a strict 85 kg / 13.3 stone / 190 lbs rider weight limit on this trail (including riding gear). If you weigh more than that, an additional horse can be arranged at a supplement, please contact us before booking.²

PACE

Pace is walk, with some good canters. Although not as active as our Wonders of Cappadocia trail ride, this is not a slow ride.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Riders are responsible for their horse. You will be asked to help tack, untack, water and feed your horse.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You must be in good physical condition. On some occasions you will have to dismount and walk with your horse for short periods of time (shorter than on our "Wonders of Cappadocia ride") and to warm up the horses. The weather can be hot, in which case you will take a longer lunch break to get some rest in the shade.

There are cliffs and canyons in Cappadocia so if you have an issue with heights/vertigo, this may not be suitable for you. In July and August, the temperatures are really hot. You will therefore ride early in the morning and late in the afternoon, with a long midday break.

This is a more relaxed, less strenuous version of the Wonders of Cappadocia ride for riders who feel like they might not match the fitness requirements for that ride, but it is not a slow trail.

An experience of trail rides over several days is necessary. Riders should be comfortable with heights as the terrain is challenging with cliffs and low altitude passes.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

The riding equipment includes comfortable trail saddles, made and designed by Nicolas, with saddle bags and a small, front, water bottle pocket. We recommend that our riders wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit. Helmets are not provided on this ride.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

You will stay in picturesque, comfortable hotels located in ancient stone houses or in renovated cave houses, typical of the local architecture. All of them are chosen for their authenticity, intimacy and warmth.

Most hotels offer internet access and a laundry service.

Note: There's the possibility to upgrade the accommodation throughout the holiday, please check the "Dates and Prices" tab to know more.

MEALS

Turkish and continental breakfast at the guesthouses

Lovely lunches - either good quality picnic lunches (with tables and chairs) or in local restaurants.

Dinners are taken at the guesthouses - starter, main and desert.

Water, tea and coffee are included. Cappadocia wine, beer and other drinks are available and payable locally. Vegetarian meals are available on request.

CLIMATE

Cappadocia has a continental climate and stands at over 1000 m above sea level. Expect cool nights from May through late June and possible rain during the day (average temperature is 15°C). This is a good time to visit and it also marks the beginning of the hot air balloons season. The summers are dry and hot with the hottest weeks from late July to late August.

TIPS

Tips and gratuities are not mandatory in Turkey, although it is customary to leave a tip at restaurants (some already include a 10% in the bill). Tips to the local team are appreciated but are left to your discretion.

PACKING LIST

Your luggage will be transferred by a logistics vehicle. You should pack several, lighter bags rather than one large, heavy suitcase.

Head

- Equus Journeys strongly recommend that you wear a riding helmet and that you take your own to ensure a correct fit. Helmets are not provided on this ride.
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana

Upper body

- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun and dust
- T-shirts
- Fleece, jumper or jacket - the evenings can be cold
- Waterproof jacket - the rains can be difficult to foresee in spring and it's better to be prepared. Layering is key to cope with the fluctuations in temperature between day and night

- Casual clothes for the evening

Legs

- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Shorts for lazy lunchtimes
- Casual clothes for the evening
- A swim suit may be useful

Hands and Feet

- Please bring hiking shoes with half chaps as some of the passages you may take on foot can be steep. Riding boots are not suitable as they don't have enough grip.
- Sandals, flip-flops or trainers for the evening
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun whilst riding

Nightwear

- Pyjamas

Other useful items

- Mandatory: Water bottle (1.5 litre or two x 1 litre)
- Hand sanitiser
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Headtorch or small torch

Medical kit

- Sunscreen and lip balm - must be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Any medication you regularly take
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Rehydration sachets (dioralyte or similar)
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Ear plugs, particularly if you are a light sleeper

Our Recommendations

- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- You should also bring a copy of your passport/insurance in case you lose your documents. You can also save a copy into your mobile phone.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please [see this page](#).