



The Mount Ararat

code : A1



" In the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat."

(Genesis 8, 4)

You do not climb to Ararat. We descend from it. We all are, it seems back-grandchildren of Noah. The decor is planted. For mystics the Mountain of Ararat is sacred par excellence, the abode of the Most High, to the point to search any crevice in search of small remains of craft. To skeptics, its 5165 meters crowned with pure snow is enough to impose its respect.

This is worth the trip.

You'll understand Ararat is not a mountain like others and climb the summit has special significance. But no matter what motivates the climb, it is a true mountain race that awaits you, relatively committed to midst of an impressive landscape, between Iceland and Mongolia in the East of Turkey as it remind us the great palace of Ishak Pasha, a marvel of Islamic art in Turkey, the palace of Miles and a Night.



Highlights:

- . Total chance of scenery in the East of Turkey.
- . The ascent of Mt Ararat, Turkey's top.
- . The palace of Ishak Pasha.

Grade : D

Scale Level:

A: Ride discovery, rare altitude changes on good trails.

B: Walk hiking, some elevation changes can sometimes be important, but sometimes stony paths good to very stony.

C: Hiking with important difference of altitude for most of them. This also applies to trips that take a B rated higher difficulty level (B to C) due to excessive heat, which may strain organisms.

D: Hike where all steps have with some important change of altitudes .

Duration :	8 days
Portage :	Only your daily items
Accommodation:	Hotel, camp
Framing :	English speaking tour guide
Meal :	Restaurant, picnic

Cappadocia :



Dates of departure :

from 07/07/13 to 14/07/13
from 04/08/13 to 11/08/13

from 01/09/13 to 08/09/13

Program :

Day 1 : Istanbul

Reception at the airport and transfer to the city. Installation at the hotel, close to the most interesting historical monuments (quarter of Sultanahmet). Free day (depending on arrival time) to discover the both East and West riches of this city. Opportunity to visit the *Blue Mosque*, *Topkapi Palace*, the *Hagia Sophia Museum*, *Grand Bazaar*. Night in hotel.

Transfer : 30 minutes

Accommodation: hotel

Meal:----

Walk:----

Day 2 : Istanbul – Van – Dogubayazit

Transfer to the airport and flight to eastern Turkey, the city of Van. Arrival in Van and transfer to Dogubayazit, large village planted on the eastern plateau at the foot of Mount Ararat. We will visit the Palace of Ishak Pasha. This palace, former caravanserai is a real gem. At the end of the seventeenth century, the Kurdish governor of the region built on the heights a summer residence, which was not completed until the following century by his son, Ishak Pasha. The architect has succeeded in bringing together a harmonious architectural forms of Persian, Armenian, Georgian, Seljuk and Ottoman periods. The result is simply wonderful. The sixteenth century mosque is richly decorated in the style of Iran.

Note : The visit of the palace of Ishak Pasha can be either before or after the ascension.

Transfer : 4h

Accommodation: hotel

Meal:morning

Hike : ----

Day 3 : Dogubeyazit - camp I of the Mount of Ararat (Yesil Camp 3200m)

Early departure from the village of Eli (2500) where our hike begins to our base camp at 3200m altitude. The luggage is loaded on animals (horses and mules). At the heart of the steppe, the view offers a wide panorama that includes the small Ararat (3900m) and the Iranian territories. We join the organizing team at the base camp, the camp of Yesil, located 3200 meters above sea level.

Transfer : 1h

Accommodation: camp

Meal : Morning, noon, evening

Walk : + 700m ; 4h

Day 4 : Camp I - camp II - camp I

The second day on Mount Ararat will be for acclimatization and preparation both physically and psychologically. In the early morning, we climb to the high camp at 4200 meters. Back to Camp I and free time.

Transfer : ----

Accommodation: camp

Accommodation

Hike : + - 1000m ; 4-5h

Day 5 : Camp I - camp II (Yasser Camp)

As the day before, we take the path that leads to Camp II, after a reminder by the guide on the use of ice axes and crampons and gestures mountaineering base. Arrival at the camp of Yasser (4200 m).

Transfer : ----

Accommodation: camp

Meal : Morning, noon, evening

Walk : + 1000m ; 3-4h

Day 6 : Camp II - mount of Ararat (5165 m) - camp I

This is the big day! Early morning departure for the ascent of Mount Ararat (5165 m), the highest point and spectacular views on the mountains of the Caucasus, the chain of Kaçkar. The cold and wind altitude have shortened the night, and we go to the front around 4 am. Not cautious and quiet along the steep and slippery scree where winds our rocky path. Markup along the slope indicates altitudes. Around 9 am, we arrive at the coast 5000, the lower limit of the glacier. Spikes are often necessary to set foot on the large glacier plateau easily about 1000 meters long where the slope is low. After about a mile, until last passage steep summit dome, to the east. Arrival at around 10 am..

For the final ascent, we often need to use technical equipment provided (crampons, ice ax), as well as a few snow fields below. The summit of Ararat, Strombolian volcano which last erupted in 1840, is isolated above an arid steppe and dominates the borders with Iran and Armenia, Turkish strategic location and magnificent panorama for trekkers. Back to the base camp after this unforgettable day.

Transfer : ----

Accommodation: camp

Meal : Morning, noon, evening

Hike : + 965m ; - 1965m ; 8-9h

Day 7 : Camp I - Eli – Van

Descent to the village of Eli and transfer to Dogubayazit. Then departute by minibus to the city of Van, the ancient capital of the kingdom Tushpa Urartian. Possibility to visit the church of Akdamar on boat on the Lake of Van (1720m), the largest in Turkey.

Transfer : 4h

Accommodation: hotel

Meal : Morning and noon

Walk : - 700m ; 3h

Day 8 : Van - Istanbul - France

Transfer to airport and fly back to France.

Transfer : 30 min

Accommodation:----

Meal : Morning

Hike :----

Prices : Ask us

6-9 pax	9-14 pax
850,00 €	780,00 €

Departure guaranteed from 6 persons.

The price includes:

- . Land transfers required for an orderly program.
- . The accommodation described, based on double occupancy in a hotel, pension.
- . Full board throughout the journey except meals in Istanbul and Van Dogubayazit.
- . Mineral water for restaurant meals (indicative 1 bottle for 3 people).
- . Camp equipment and the mountaineering equipment if you do not (crampon and ice ax).
- . Permit required for the ascent of Mount Ararat.
- . Accompaniment by a english speaking hiking guide.
- . Domestic flights Istanbul-Van-Van and Istanbul.

The price does not include:

- . Air transports.
- . Sites entries.
- . Drinks and personal expenses.
- . The insurance cancellation - interruption for journey and assistance.
- . Anything that is not written in "the price includes".

To pay on the spot:

- . The lunch and dinner in Istanbul and Van Dogubayazit: between 8 and 15 € per meal.
- . Entries in the sites, monuments and museums: 2-10 € per person according sites and visits.

Tips:

They are part of the culture. It is a tradition to create a pool provided at the end of the trek team cooks, muleteers, drivers ... (as an indication, approximately 20 to 25 € per participant), and the guide (as an indication, approximately 15 to 20 € per participant). This gesture of thanks, in which everyone participates according to his satisfaction, is always appreciated.

Extend in Istanbul :

Enjoy being in Turkey and the exceptional location of our partner hotels in Istanbul to explore famous sites and monuments. Galata bridge by Atatürk, the Golden Horn and Galata Tower are superb visit. In the Sultanahmet district, the bustling, narrow streets and small gardens, are Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Grand Bazaar, Beyazit Tower, etc..

- . Local guide in Istanbul : **125 € per day.**
- . Sup nights / person

room	single	double	triple
hotel 3*	70€	45€	40€
hotel 4*	100€	65€	55€

----- **IMPORTANT NOTES – THANK YOU FOR READING** -----

The ascent of Mt Ararat requires permission from the Ministry of Tourism, we need the following informations **two months before departure**:

Name, date and place of birth, passport number, date of issue and expiry of the passport (the best is a scan of your passport because the spelling is very important)

Additional Informations:

On the spot

The team

- . A hiking guide speaking english.
- . A driver for driving the bus.
- . A permanent camp with full team of chefs. Luggage transferred to the vehicle and / or mules (for steps with mules, mule presence).

Movements

Land transfers: the vehicles are private and reserved for the group. Minibus and / or 4x4 vehicles depending on the terrain.

Accommodation

In Istanbul, Van and Dogubaazit: comfortable hotels based on double occupancy, three local standard stars.

Outside cities, pensions: very friendly small hotel, based on double occupancy.

Non-exhaustive list of hotels / pensions:

<http://www.themetropolhotel.com/>

<http://www.hotelisfahan.com/>

<http://www.meritsahmaranotel.com/>

Note, however, according to the date of departure, we can use different accommodations of equivalent category.

Meals

In cities and villages: breakfast and dinner in the restaurant (sometimes homestay). There are also lunch in the restaurant. During the marches: cold lunch as picnic.

Drinks: tea, coffee, raki (water aniseed spirits), wine, beer and drink yoghurt. With mineral water in every meal and arrival in the camps. For your use during the hike, plan to buy bottled water when possible, or take tablets or type Micropur Hydroclonazone to purify water.

Gastronomy : we strive to make you discover a great variety of dishes component Turkish cuisine, which is excellent varied appetizers (mezze): marinated anchovies, mashed beans, eggplant with tomato and garlic cucumber yogurt statement garlic, cheese from sheep or goat, stuffed vine leaves with rice. Different soups: bouillon raised lamb lemon soup with red lentils, meat: adana kebab (spicy minced meat), grilled chicken, lamb, beef, desserts.

Transport of the luggage :

Each participant moves with a small backpack for the day or half day (water bottle, camera, picnic lunch, protective clothing ...). The rest of the equipment is transported daily by pack animals or vehicles, according to the steps.

Currency :

The currency is the New Turkish Lira (TRY).

Exchange rates (indicative price): 1 € = 2.30 TRY We advise you to take euros in cash, you change on the spot. In large cities, the credit card is accepted in shops and there are important ATMs.

Plan before the departure

Administrative formalities

A valid passport or identity card valid for at least 90 days after return. In this case, at the entry into the country, the police Turkish air stamped paper presents a need to present the return.

Children are subject to the same obligations as adults, as described above. Note: Registration of minors to the parents' passports are now impossible, minors must possess an individual passport or personal identity card. If he is accompanied by a person holding parental authority, the child may leave home territory with his national identity card. In this case, the customs authorities may require proof that is accompanying the parent (family book or birth certificate for example). If he is traveling alone or with a third party, the minor shall submit, in addition to his identity card valid, a certificate of exit of home territory, issued at the request of the holder of parental authority by the Mayor the municipality of residence.

Health

No vaccine is mandatory.

The vagaries of travel

The adventure even prepared with the greatest care, custody fortunately its share of unforeseen events. They should not throw you off to the point of spoiling your enjoyment of travel. Circumstances beyond our control may change the course of your trip (weather, road cut, canceled flights, strikes, local festivals, etc ...). Our guides will make every effort to deal with these hazards, with their experience and professionalism, by modifying the program if necessary.

Safety is our main goal, regardless of the terrain traversed and the level of difficulty of your trip. In the case of an accident, your group, led by the guide, will face most often by their own means or by relying on local infrastructure. Be ready to accept remote and risks that may result from (lack of structure sometimes held back, little or no communication network), knowing that your guide, and the entire team of Terra Anatolia will propose solutions best suited to the situation. In case of serious mishaps, your help and participation they will need.

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