



With fewer than 70 total eclipses per century, the chance to see one is, for most of us, an once-in-a-lifetime event... **SOLAR ECLIPSE 2006**



Witnessing a total eclipse of the sun is a unique experience that cannot be put into words or simply reflected by a photograph. Especially experiencing it “the Turkish way” within the education and experiences those are gained at the canyons, rivers, mountains, and national forests, of California. All combined harmonically with sweet and spicy ambient of Anatolia.

*Nomadic Excursions* is hosting you on a special journey that is custom designed only for **New Kapadokia**. On our expedition, we gently roll the down wheat fields and olive groves, which cover much of the land. Enjoy the smoothness of Cappadocia-land of fairy chimneys- where the scent of the almond blossom carries on the air and the meadows are filled with wildflowers. Or simply you can stroll into an ancient temple or count the diverse tones of blue and green while sailing down turquoise coastline. You can make a beeline for the nearest sun-warmed bay or simply relax and enjoy the ride.

Turkey offers a visual and spiritual wealth of ancient creations such as stunning pieces of art and various cultures. Anatolia is a land of mountains, plateaus and unique Mediterranean beaches with breath-taking summits enfolded by 8,000 years of history. It also is a country of larger-than-life land where traditions and modernity exist together in a dynamic atmosphere, which proudly entitles Turkey to be known as the meeting point of the **East and the West**.



Dates: March 24 - April 4, 2006

Difficulty Level: II-III (*you can check difficulty ratings at [www.nomadicexcursions.com](http://www.nomadicexcursions.com)*)

Accommodations: Hotel and local lodges

Activities: Hiking, trekking, sailing on Mediterranean coastline, wine tasting, exploring, socializing with locals and exploring colorful life style of Anatolians, Turks.

Group Size: Minimum 6, maximum 12

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Site	First Contact (h:m:s)	Second Contact (h:m:s)	Maximum Eclipse (h:m:s)	Third Contact (h:m:s)	Fourth Contact (h:m:s)	Umbral Duration (h:m)
Nevsehir/ Kapadokya	12:37:33	13.54:24	13:55:59	13:57:34	15:12:47	03:11

**PRICE:**

6 participant: \$ 2352.50  
7-9 participants: \$ 2090.00  
10-12 participants: \$ 1931.50

**Includes:**

- Welcoming at the airport
- Airport transfers during the entire trip
- Transportation during the entire trip with AC equipped vehicles
- Meals during the trip as stated in itinerary – 31 meals  
(Restaurants that are chosen for the itinerary are selected carefully as requested to reflect variety and culture of Turkish Cuisine)
- Accommodations as stated in the itinerary (11 nights). Accommodation will be provided at 4-Star or S-type hotels or boutique hotels with touch of the local area it represents.
- Domestic airfares as stated in the itinerary (2 domestic flights) Istanbul to Kayseri, Antalya to Istanbul
- National parks, camping and permit fees for all the sites will be visited during the entire trip
- Turkish and English speaking culture, history and adventure guides
- Bottled spring water
- Special glasses designed to observe Solar Eclipse
- Sailing on Mediterranean coast

**Excludes:**

- International airfares
- Foreign airport taxes
- Single accommodation is optional
- Liquorish drinks during the trip
- Items of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, etc.
- Visas (\$20)
- Travel Insurance

## **ITINERARY:**

*This is a representative itinerary. Our actual day-to-day itinerary will be flexible, and at the discretion of our trip leader and group decision, to allow for local conditions and the particular interests of the group.*

**Day 1:** Arrive Istanbul. After Onur Bozada, trip leader, welcomes the group at the airport, you will be transferred to your hotel in the old town of Istanbul, Sultanahmet. Overnight in hotel, Istanbul (D)

**Day 2:** Wake up to a new day. After breakfast we will start exploring Istanbul. Our first stop is St. Sophia Museum (Ayasofya – Hagia Sophia). One of the greatest marvels of architecture constructed as a basilica. A thousand masons and ten thousand apprentices worked on the building, the aim being to finish it as soon as possible. The work began in 532 A.D., was completed in five years, 11 months and 10 days, and the church was consecrated on 27th December, 537 by the Emperor Justinianus ... However this is just the beginning of the story.



It is followed by a short walk to Hippodrome Square, takes us back to time where Byzantine chariot races, athletic events, and political activities took place. Just around the corner, architectural beauty, Blue Mosque is waiting for us. With slender minarets visible for miles around it is known as the Blue Mosque for its blue-themed interior, replete with panels of floral-motif tiles (20,000 of them) and graceful arabesque stenciling.

Before the lunch, we stop at Basilica Cistern. It was used to store water for the Great Palace among the other buildings on the Firth Hill. After lunch we will provide free time for the ones who wants to wonder around and shop at the center of Istanbul. We will all meet at a designated meeting point to indulge ourselves with a unique Turkish bath, followed by dinner at mouthwatering Kebab House in Istanbul. Overnight in hotel, Istanbul (B/L/D)

**Day3:** We will explore the highlights of Istanbul to day. We will start to our day with early visit Topkapi Palace, heart of the Ottoman Empire and home of the sultans for four centuries, is a marvelous imperial labyrinth set on the tip of a peninsula where the Golden Horn joins the Bosphorus. Although the original palace was constructed in the 15th century, most of the buildings we see today date from the 18th century. Of particular fascination is the Harem,



the set of "forbidden" apartments where the Sultan's wives, concubines, and eunuchs lived. Topkapi is also the place to feast your eyes on the fabulous treasures of the sultans, from jewel-encrusted daggers to golden caskets to the 86-carat Spoonmakers Diamond.

Walking through the streets of Istanbul guides us to historical trade center Grand Bazaar. Now comprised of well over four thousand shops stretching over a maze of sixty-odd winding streets, it easily holds the title of largest covered market in the world.

Inside? - the famous hand-made carpets and kilims (a woven-style of rug), leather goods, and everything from belly-dancing outfits to 'cezve' (the special copper pots for brewing Turkish coffee). Tonight we are all going to a Turkish night. Hypnotic rhythms, belly dancers and more Overnight in hotel (B/L/D)

**Day4:** Start day with Spice bazaar, built in 1663 with its domed and vaulted shops selling spices and herbs along with a wide variety of commodities.

Before lunch, we will continue our day by taking a boat tour on Bosphorous. Embark the boat from the Golden Horn and sail through the waterway separating the two continents - Asia and Europe - with a possibility of taking pictures of the marble palaces, ancient wooden villas of Ottoman architecture besides modern Istanbul residents. During this trip Ciragan Palace Hotel, Dolmabahce Palace, Beylerbeyi Palace, Bosphorous and Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridges will be seen.

Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. After lunch we will visit Rumeli Fortress and Dolmabahce Palace before we make our way to Camlica Hill, highest point looking to the city with a spectacular panoramic view. Overnight in hotel, Istanbul (B/L/D)

**Day 5:** After breakfast, we will check out from our hotel to catch a domestic flight to Kayseri, Cappadocia. After a short drive (90 minutes or so) to Cappadocia region we will continue our journey by exploring Uchisar Castle, with its panoramic views of the Cappadocia region, and the beautiful Zelve Valley, with its interesting churches carved from tufa cones that are reminiscent of Christian churches of the interior. Overnight in hotel, Cappadocia (B/L/D)



**Day 6:** Solar Eclipse 2006. Optional hot air balloon rides over Cappadocia early in the morning (*Early booking advised*). In the morning, we'll visit one of the underground clay pottery workshops to see how the pottery is produced just as was done in ancient times. If interested participants are welcome to participate and share their artistic skills with the rest of the group. During the day we will hike on easy trails 1½- to 2-hours in one of the valleys. In the afternoon, we'll watch the Solar Eclipse from a panoramic viewpoint overlooking Cappadocia and Mount Erciyes. Tonight we can celebrate the Solar Eclipse with a traditional Turkish Night. Overnight in hotel, Cappadocia (B/L/D)

**Day 7:** We spend the morning on a pleasant hike through the "Love Valley," famous for its phallic rock formations. Afterwards, a short drive takes us to Derinkuyu, one of Cappadocia's famous underground cities. Derinkuyu may have once accommodated thousands of individuals in its honeycomb of rooms and passageways carved deep below ground into volcanic tufa. Several Cappadocia cities were built this way so that entire populations could retreat underground and remain safe from the passing armies that swept through between the 9th and 12th centuries. The cities were well engineered with ventilation shafts, wells, churches, public meeting rooms, and stables and even the community's herds of livestock could be maintained underground for months. We wander as far down as the 8th level of this 12-story-deep "human ant farm." We depart Cappadocia towards Konya, home of Rumi and whirling dervishes. Before we arrive Konya, we will be visiting Agzikarahan (Silk Road) and Sultanhan Caravanserai. Overnight in hotel, Konya (B/L/D)



**Day8:** We begin the day with a visit to the museum devoted to Mevlana Celeleddin Rumi, the world-renowned Sufi mystic and founder of the Whirling Dervish order. We also visit the large Selimiye Mosque next door, built by Sultan Selim, the Ottoman ruler most influenced by the work of Mevlana.

We depart Konya towards south – Antalya, a principal resort of the Mediterranean with a majestic coastline of beaches and rocky coves. The towering Taurus Mountains provide a magnificent backdrop. Since its founding in the 2nd century BC by Attalus II, a king of Pergamon, Antalya has had a vibrant history. Along the route we will be stopping either at Beysehir Lake or an ancient city Perge dating from 300 B.C. that lies just outside of Antalya. Perge includes buildings from the Greek, Roman, and Byzantine periods. We'll visit its well-preserved baths complete with underground heating pipes, and walk along the long colonnaded street flanking an ancient channel where water once flowed from cooling fountains. Overnight in hotel, Antalya (B/L/D)

**Day 9:** Start enjoying the beauty and the peacefulness of Mediterranean. We start the day in the ancient city of Phaselis. Disguised by fragrant pine woods, born as a colony of Rhodes then flourished as an important trade center and have survived over Persian, Greek, Lycian, Roman, Byzantium, and Ottoman governances. The rest of the day is dedicated to Mythology. We'll first travel through the Olympus Valley, with its Damascus pines and oleander and laurel bushes. The Lycian Way will bring us to the ruins of the ancient city of Olympus. The Greco-Roman ruins of Olympus include a monumental gateway and an acropolis framed in a romantic setting along a pebbly shore. Hike will be followed by dinner at a beach side restaurant in Cirali. The name Cirali comes from Chimaera. According to mythology, a fire-breathing monster was slain here by Bellerophon, the Lycian hero who rode on his winged horse, Pegasus. The flames that still bursts today from the ground at this site are



best seen after sunset. After dinner those who want to whiteness this breathtaking phenomena will need another hike. Overnight in Cirali (pension), (B/L/D)

**Day10:** Today we'll finally be in the turquoise waters of the Mediterranean. We'll drive to Demre and take a daily boat tour to Kekova Island also called as "The Sunken City" because of the underwater Lycian ruins around the Island. Across the island, on the mainland located the Kale (Castle) village is. A small fisherman village with no road access to mainland is the prefect place for a trout lunch. The village's name comes from the medieval castle located on top of the peninsula after lunch if the groups is up for it, we will visit the castle. Overnight in loveliest and most laid-back Mediterranean town of Kas. (pension) (B/L/D)

**Day11:** After an easy morning, we will catch a domestic flight to Istanbul, and transfer to our hotel. Everybody has the rest of the day free... Don't get lost in the magnetic charm of Istanbul. We gather this evening for our festive farewell dinner. Overnight in hotel, Istanbul (B/L/D)

**Day 12:** Transfer to the airport.