



## **Canyons of the Taurus Mountains**

**Continent:** Europe

**Destination:** Turkey

**Tour Type:** Self-guided hotel and bike tour with a support vehicle following the group during the entire program

**Language:** English

**Duration:** 8 Days / 7 Nights / 6 Cycling Days

**Arrival Airport:** Antalya International (AYT)

**Departure Airport:** Antalya International (AYT)

**Road Condition:** 95% Asphalt and tarmac road and 5% gravel road

**Short Route:** 286 km in total, daily average 48 km and 460 m elevation gain (Grade 2 Moderate)

**Long Route:** 460 km in total, daily average 77 km and 983 m elevation gain (Grade 4 Challenging)

### **Highlights:**

- ✓ Wander in the ancient harbor of Antalya and enjoy the sunset over the Antalya Gulf
- ✓ Bike through the Taurus Mountain Range with its canyons, lakes, and remote roads with minimal traffic
- ✓ Explore the ancient city of Adada with its temples and walk over the well-preserved Roman road in the footsteps of Apostle Paul
- ✓ Ride along the incredible rock formations and the limestone ridges of Koprulu Canyon
- ✓ Hike through the Yazili and Tazi canyons with breathtaking vistas
- ✓ Visit the best-preserved Roman theater and aqueducts in Aspendos
- ✓ Discover legendary Turkish hospitality in family-run village home stays
- ✓ Tour the Zeytintas Cave with its unique spaghetti stalactites and the 765 m long Zindan Cave with its Roman bridge
- ✓ Finish your ride with white-water rafting or hike in the ancient city of Selge

### **Experience:**

Away from the beach resorts along the Mediterranean, this superb bike tour experience represents the real essence of Turkish rural lifestyle and discovers the natural beauty of the Taurus Mountains. Biking in the Taurus Mountains offers a challenging but rewarding network of the quiet roads along canyons and lakes with minimal traffic of remote villages. The best-preserved Roman roads, theaters, temples, and aqueducts astonish visitors in their idyllic and majestic settings in ancient Pisidia and Pamphylia. En-route we use the best boutique hotels for five nights and family-run village home stays for two nights. Lunches are served mostly in family-run village restaurants while cycling through remote regions and dinners with local delicacies in the hotels and village homes. This incredible bike program combines ancient times with natural beauty and the legendary Turkish hospitality with authentic rural lifestyle.

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## Day-by-Day Tour Program

### Day 1 Sunday, Welcome to Antalya, Turkey

Arrive at Antalya International Airport (AYT) and take your transfer to the hotel in Antalya Old Town. Upon your arrival, check-in to the hotel and enjoy your rest. Then take an orientation walk through the Antalya Old Town and ancient harbor with your guide before dinner. Tonight, dinner is on your own in one of the local restaurants with the sunset and night view of the Antalya Gulf.

**Meals:** No meals

**Destinations:** Arrival in Antalya Airport (AYT) at any time of the day

**Accomplished:** No riding – 3km walk in the old city and ancient old harbor

**Accommodation:** Aspen Boutique Hotel, <https://www.aspenhotel.com.tr>

### Day 2 Monday, Kursunlu Waterfall – Lake Karacaoren

Greet the day with a Turkish breakfast in the hotel. A short transfer takes us to Kursunlu Waterfall. Explore the karstic formation and the waterfall before our exciting day. After getting fitted to our bikes, we leave the coastal plain behind and cycle to the outskirts of the Taurus Mountains with a gradual climb. We pass through several villages and enjoy our lunch in a local restaurant. At the end of our climb, the ancient city of Miliias awaits us with her remote monuments hidden in the vegetation and trees. After exploring the site by foot and visiting its majestic theater overlooking the entire valley, our bike ride ends with a descent to Lake Karacaoren Lake. Drive 15 minutes to our hotel and enjoy the peaceful view by the pool overlooking the lake in the late afternoon. Dinner is served in the hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Destinations:** Kursunlu, Camili, Kocaaliler, Lake Karacaoren

**Accomplished:** 40 km Elevation: +582 m / -399 m (Grade 2 Moderate)

**Long Option** 78.4 km Elevation: +1205 m / -1067 m (Grade 4 Challenging)

**Accommodation:** Secret Lake Chalets,

[www.secretlakechalets.com/?sayfa=ana\\_sayfa&lang=en#](http://www.secretlakechalets.com/?sayfa=ana_sayfa&lang=en#)

or Botanik Golevleri Hotel, <http://www.botanikgolevleri.com/>

### Day 3 Tuesday, Çandır - Egirdir

After a leisurely breakfast take a transfer to Yazili Canyon National Park (38km). After a short hike along the canyon, diving into the brisk water of the river revives our muscles before our daily ride. Drive to the ancient city of Adada to explore the temples, theater, and agora and walk along one of the best-preserved Roman roads in Turkey. A picnic lunch in the ancient agora and food market will be one of the highlights of our adventure. Get on the bikes and cycle in the remote highlands of the Lake Region with its wild horses. Through several small villages our ride takes us to the picturesque shore of Lake Kovada. Pedal through rolling hills and pine tree canopies along the lake; the scenery is a never-ending tableau of deep, lush forest and serene stretches of small coves. From Lake Kovada to Egirdir a flat plain is an easy ride at the end of the day, or you can take the support van to the hotel by Lake Egirdir. Our day covers one canyon, a Roman city, two lakes and amazing bike routes in between. Walk along the island during sunset and take pleasure of your dinner on your own along Lake Egirdir.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Destinations:** Çandır, Yazili Canyon, Adada, Yenikoy, Sagrak, Lake Kovada and Egirdir

**Accomplished:** 45,4 km Elevation: +478 m / - 996 m (Grade 2 Moderate)

**Long Option** 75 km Elevation: +744 m / -1052 m (Grade 4 Challenging)

**Accommodations:** Nis Hotel in Eskiciler Mansion, <http://www.nishotels.com/eskicilerkonagi/>

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#### **Day 4 Wednesday, Lake Egirdir – Kasımlar**

After breakfast enjoy your free time for shopping in town along the lake. The long route starts from the hotel or you can take the transfer to the starting point of the short option. After riding through the highlands at over 1000 m of elevation, we join the valley of the Aksu river fed by melted snow water. Explore the 765 m long Zindan (dungeon) Cave and its amazing natural formations. After lunch in a local restaurant with Turkish pide, ride along the cascading white water of the Aksu river for 30 km with a gradual descent. The ride snakes in smooth left and right curves through the river valley and the fresh air of the river energizes us continuously. The route ends with an optional 5km climb with average 5% grade at the end of the day. If you want to skip the climb feel free to take the support van and drive to the hotel. We will stay overnight at a family run bed&breakfast in Kasimlar Village. Dinner is served by our host family and we will learn about their lifestyle during our dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast / Dinner in village house

**Destinations:** Lake Egirdir, Aksu, Ayvalipinar, Kasımlar

**Accomplished:** 60 km Elevation: +423 m / - 836 m (Grade 3 Active)

**Long Option** 88 km Elevation: +1150 m / -1021 m (Grade 4 Challenging)

**Accommodations:** St. Paul Yol Pansiyon, <http://www.stpaulyolpansiyon.com>

#### **Day 5 Thursday, Kasımlar – Caltepe**

A real village breakfast with fresh eggs, cheese, and homemade jams is what we need for a good start. Say good-bye to our host family and explore the valley of the Koprulu river on bike today. The sheer cliffs at the entrance of the canyon are our morning scenery while we descent to the riverbed. The next 20 km ride with average an 1.5% gradual climb is decorated with massive rock formations and endless mountain views. Besides the minimal traffic, this remote region amazes all bikers with its unspoiled nature. Our lunch is served in a family-run restaurant along the way and another one-hour downhill ride takes us to our village home run by a hospitable young couple and their children. After check-in and some rest, discover the composite rock formations with an astonishing hike in the national park. Dinner is served around the campfire under the stars.

**Meals:** Breakfast / Dinner in village house

**Destinations:** Kasımlar, Kesme, Yesilbag, Caltepe

**Accomplished:** 51.5 km **Elevation:** +557 m / - 1125 m (Grade 2 Moderate)

**Long Option** 61.5 km **Elevation:** +829 m / - 1425 m (Grade 3 Active)

**Accommodations:** Erdinç Bed&Breakfast <https://erdinc-pansiyon.business.site/>

#### **Day 6 Friday, Caltepe – Tazi Canyon – Karabuk**

Enjoy your breakfast with fresh air and morning dew. Hop on the bikes for another adventurous day with canyons, rivers, and ancient bridges to pedal over. The first hour of our ride is a smooth descent with bended rock layers at one side and a riverbed on the other. The next 10 km climb is worth the push because a breathtaking vista over Tazi Canyon awaits us! (The short route uses the support van for this climb). We leave our bikes and hike for 20 minutes to reach the vista point of the canyon where the sheer cliffs are decorated with various rock formations and vegetation. Enjoy your free time and walk back along the well-marked path for our lunch prepared by the villagers. A descending ride to the ancient bridge is through the shaded road with pine trees and endless scenery. Take a picture of the ancient bridge with crystal clear water of the Koprucay river. Our hotel is just next to the river for an afternoon siesta. Explore the ancient city of Selge and enjoy your hike through the conglomerate rocks in the late afternoon or an optional rafting/kayaking tour along the river before our dinner in the hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Destinations:** Caltepe, Tazi Canyon, Koprulu Canyon, Koprucay River

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**Accomplished:** 34,6 km **Elevation:** +282m / -1000 m (Grade 2 Moderate)  
**Long Option** 68.3 km **Elevation:** +1033 m / -1332 m (Grade 4 Challenging)

**Accommodations:** Eco Family Park Hotel, <http://www.ecofamilypark.com>

#### **Day 7 Saturday, Aspendos Aqueduct - Zeytintas Cave - Kanyon Restaurant**

After a leisurely breakfast check-out the hotel and transfer to the start point of the last ride. Our bike ride begins at the lower end of the Koprucay river and takes us to the best preserved aqueducts in Aspendos. After learning about their ancient architecture and engineering, ride through farming lands to Zeytintas Cave. Strictly under the protection of the national parks, this cave is full of spaghetti stalactites and you can still observe their active formation. After visiting the cave with the park rangers and a refreshment break, enjoy your cycling along the remote roads with limited traffic among the small villages. Finish the ride in a restaurant for lunch and a toast for our adventures. After visiting best preserved Roman theater of Turkey in Aspendos, drive back to Antalya (50 km-50 min) and check-in to our hotel in the afternoon. Dinner is at a local restaurant overlooking the Antalya Gulf and the Taurus Mountains.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Destinations:** Aspendos, Zeytintas Cave, Koprucay River

**Accomplished:** 54.6 km **Elevation:** +470 m / -480 m (Grade 2 Moderate)

**Long Option** 89 km **Elevation:** +936 m / -1070 m (Grade 4 Challenging)

**Accommodations:** Trend Park Hotel, <http://www.trendparkhotel.com/en/index.html> or Aspen Boutique Hotel, <https://www.aspenhotel.com.tr>

#### **Day 8 Sunday, Good-bye**

After the last breakfast (if possible, in accordance with your flight's time) transfer to the airport and say good-bye to your driver. Have a safe flight back home and see you next time.

**Meals:** Breakfast

#### **What is included?**

We include more on our bike programs than any other bike tour company to provide our guests with the most unforgettable and joyful travel experience in Turkey.

- ✓ Best boutique hotel accommodations for 5 nights and family-run village home stay with private facilities for 2 nights
- ✓ Meals as indicated on the daily program; all breakfasts and 2 dinners in village houses
- ✓ Driver service and complete van support to enjoy your vacation at your own pace during the entire program
- ✓ Arrival and departure transfers to/from airport
- ✓ All taxes

#### **What is excluded?**

- International and domestic flights, their taxes, and surcharges
- Gratuities for driver
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Travel and health insurance
- Bike rentals; for Ghost Square Hybrid or Merida Cyclocross 500 – €140 per week and for E-Bike €210 per week
- Entrance fees to the sites and museums
- Any details not mentioned in the included items
- Visa if applicable

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## **PRICES per PERSON in DOUBLE ROOM in EURO for SCHEDULED SELF-GUIDED TOURS**

Minimum 2 guests for the guaranteed departures

€795 per person in double occupancy

€140 single supplement for the entire program (limited availability)

Please add €60 per person for the departures in June, July, August, and September

## **GUARANTEED DATES for SELF-GUIDED DEPARTURES in 2021**

### **6 Departures from Sunday to Sunday**

April 11 - 18

May 16 - 23

June 13 - 20 (+€60 per person)

October 03 – 10

October 10 – 17

## **PRIVATE GROUPS**

### **Any date chosen by private groups between 15 March and November 15.**

We provide a support vehicle that sets you on your way, carries your luggage, and follows you during your rides. Our support staff is always there when you need assistance or if you need a rest in the support vehicle. Maximum 12 guests.

## **PRICES per PERSON in DOUBLE ROOM in EURO for PRIVATE GROUPS**

<b>GROUP SIZE</b>	<b>PRICE per PERSON</b>
10+	€795 maximum 12 guests
8 - 9 guests	€845
6 - 7 guests	€895
4 - 5 guests	€945
2 – 3 guests	€995

Single Supplement €140 for the entire program (limited availability)

Please add €60 per person for the departures in June, July, August, and September.

## **PAYMENT and CANCELLATION**

€200 down payment upon reservation.

31 days prior to the tour departure; full payment.

Cancellation within 40 to 31 days prior to the tour departure; down payment,

Cancellation within 30 to 21 days prior to the tour departure; 50% of tour cost,

Cancellation within 20 to 11 days prior to the tour departure; 75% of tour cost,

Cancellation within 10 to 0 days prior to the tour departure; 100% of tour cost will be charged as the cancellation fee.

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