Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

+44 (0) 1905 388977 info@equus-journeys.com

Last updated 25/11/2026

Wonders of Cappadocia

TURKEY

Enjoy a sportive **horse riding trail** in the beautiful Cappadocia region in central Turkey. This progressive trail ride will take you on a 6-day tour of this mysterious region, and is ideal for competent riders looking for a **fast trail ride**. On horseback, discover the region's famous rock formations and canyons, steppe-like plateaus and orchards. A great adventure for those who want to experience the beauty of **Cappadocia** and learn about its unusual geography and cultural heritage.

Fast Ride	**8 days (6 riding)**	**From £2,632**		Open to non-riders


Riding in Cappadocia is quite the experience!


Enjoy a fast trail ride through this mysterious region


Wonders of Cappadocia

ITINERARY

Highlights

- A sportive trail with many opportunities for canters and fast gallops - the trail is approx. 200 km.
- Discover the historical and cultural heritage of the area, including troglodyte (cave) citadels and churches now part of the UNESCO world heritage list.
- Comfortable accommodation in different guesthouses during the week
- Experience the warmth and friendliness of the local people
- Small groups of 8 riders max

Day 1 — 1: ARRIVE IN KAYSERI - URGUP

Hotel Surban

Arrive at Kayseri airport.

Transfers are included (shuttle bus will be booked for you from the airport to your hotel). We strongly recommend that your flight arrives 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 allocate the horses. 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').

Please note: this is a sportive trail and you must be riding fit. Some walking is involved: every morning you start with 5-10 minute walk to warm up, and the same in the evenings to cool down. There will also be some steep paths where you will be asked to dismount and lead your horse on foot (up to 20 min). We have an alternative itinerary (the Cappadocia Explorer) which involves less walking and so is less physically demanding. The pace will be similar, with regular and/or long canters.

Day 2 — 2: URGUP - AKKOY - 5-6 hours riding

You are driven to the ranch in the morning to meet the horses and get acquainted with the riding equipment. You will have time to try your horse on a training course at the farm.

The trail then begins with some riding through lush vegetation and along the stream of the Uzengi canyon. A canter across a high plateau will bring you to Avlak mountain, offering a magnificent view of Cappadocia. (The rocky hills could provide the perfect background to a Western movie).

At lunchtime, a delicious home-cooked meal is prepared for you as the horses graze nearby. After lunch, you spend the afternoon riding through a vast valley to the ghost village of Karain. Arriving in Akkoy, the horses are left close to the hotel, and you can enjoy a well-earned drink and a snack.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Akkoy.

Day 3 — 3: AKKOY - LAKE DAMSA - MUSTAFAPASA - AYVALI - 5-6 hours riding

Hotel Dilek Tepesi

Today starts with a canter across the fields of the high Anatolian plateaus (1600m above sea level). There's a fair amount of walking this morning, including when you reach a steep trail leading down to Lake Damsa. Here you will be asked to dismount and lead your horse on foot for about 20 minutes. After riding around the lake, you'll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, you will ride through expanses of bare hills surrounding the lake. Later, you'll head through the centre of the old Greek village of Mustafapasa, and eventually, you'll arrive the village of Ayvali where you'll spend the night.

Dinner and overnight in the hotel in Ayvali.

Day 4 — 4: AYVALI - GOLGOLI - KESLIK MONASTERY - AYVALI - 5-6 hours riding

Hotel Dilek Tepesi

The morning, you will have a canter that will bring you to the underground village of Golgoli. On sure-footed horses, you will go off the beaten track and follow a scenic path through curious rock formations, vineyards and orchards, surrounded by table-mountains.

Later you'll arrive at the Keslik Monasteri, which you can explore before delicious lunch cooked on the fire.

In the afternoon, you'll enjoy canters along tracks of soft red clay, finally leading you back to the village of Ayvali through a hidden canyon.

Overnight at the hotel in Ayvali.

Day 5 — 5: AYVALI - GOMEDA VALLEY - CANYON OF GUMUSLU - UCHISAR - 5-6 hours riding

Kilim pension

This morning's ride will take you through varied scenery of narrow tracks, small canyons, farmed land and the wide-open spaces of Subasi. Ride along the lush, narrow canyon of a remote village, before a gallop on large sandy tracks, and then visit a different type of underground village: Kirkule. A long canter on a sandy path lined with vineyards and orchards will then take you to the fairy chimneys of Gomeda valley, before you explore the canyon of Gumuslu.

Lunch at an excellent local restaurant. You then start the ascent of the ‘twin hills' of Cappadocia to reach a panoramic viewpoint encompassing northern Cappadocia and the towering rock fortress of Uchisar. As you ride towards the village, you can admire the multicoloured rock formations of the famous Pigeon Valley and Uchisar’s picturesque fairy chimneys. You will then reach your panoramic guesthouse and enjoy a drink on the terrace.

Overnight at the hotel in Uchisar.

Day 6 — 6: UCHISAR - VALLEY OF ROSES - UCHISAR - 5-6 hours riding

Kilim pension

Optional hot-air balloon flight to see the sunrise: travel with the wind over Cappadocia's magical landscape in the early morning. (To be paid for separately, see dates and prices).

Set out on horseback through rock tunnels and arches, reaching the 4 km-long canyon called the Green Valley. You will also ride to the famous Love Valley and its gigantic phallic rock formations, then into the Sword Valley and Red Valley. With its citadels of red, pink and ocre rock, and its beautiful troglodytic churches, this is Cappadocia's most spectacular ensemble of geological formations.

A cave cafe located in an ancient monastery welcomes you for lunch. In the afternoon, you keep exploring the 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 your guesthouse in Uchisar, in time to admire north Cappadocia at sunset.

Overnight at the hotel in Uchisar.

Day 7 — 7: BOZ DAHA' PLATEAU - URGUP - 5-6 hours riding

Hotel Surban

Today's ride will take you to a beautiful canyon called the White Valley, named after the colour of its rock. You will ride through stone labyrinths and lush vegetation, and pass impressive fairy chimneys. Crossing the picturesque village of Çavuşin, you will dismount for a short walk to reach the plateau of Boz daha. Next, enjoy a canter along the crest overlooking the Red valley on one side and the Devrent valley the other.

There will be more long canters through the maze of woody, sandy paths of the valley of Urgup before reaching the valley of Pancarlik and its multicoloured rock formations, gardens and orchards. You will return to the ranch in the afternoon. After tea on the terrace, a short transfer will take you back to your guesthouse for a farewell dinner.

Overnight at the hotel in Urgup.

Day 8 — 8: DEPARTURE

After breakfast you will transfer to Kayseri (or Nevsehir) Airport in time for your flight back home. Please book a flight departing after 08:30am.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
28/03/2027	04/04/2027	£2,632	Open
18/04/2027	25/04/2027	£3,070	Open
01/05/2027	08/05/2027	£3,070	Open
23/05/2027	30/05/2027	£3,070	Open
05/09/2027	12/09/2027	£3,070	Open
26/09/2027	03/10/2027	£3,070	Open
17/10/2027	24/10/2027	£3,070	Guaranteed departure

Price details

- Flights or transportation to your destination (international/domestic) 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 9 international riders, plus guides.

- If you sign up to the ride as a solo rider and there are no other riders likely to share your room, you will be charged a single room supplement of approx. €480 / £415 / $555 in 2026 and 2027. You will then be reimbursed if a sharer is found for you at a later date. Please note: single rooms cannot always be guaranteed, please check with your travel advisor.

- Transfers are included (shuttle bus from the airport to your hotel) if riders arrive in Kayseri by 10:30pm. We strongly recommend you book a flight arrive by 6:00pm on the first day 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 hotel night for you. We recommend staying in Ürgüp or Avanos rather than in Kayseri. Please contact your travel advisor for details and rates.

- Please note: The first shuttle service for return departures runs between 6:00am and 6:30am. There are regular shuttles throughout the day. Please

book a flight departing after 08:30am.

- There may be an option to upgrade your accommodation on the first and last nights (to stay at Selcuklu Evi instead of the Surban Hotel), subject to availability. The price is an extra €90 / £80 / $105 per person (for a shared or single room). The Surban and Selcuklu hotels are next door. Dinners and breakfast will be taken all together.

- An optional air balloon flight can be arranged during your trip, payable locally in cash (euros). Availability is limited during the high season so please let us know as soon as possible if you'd like to book.
Prices per person vary throughout the season between €170 and €250. Prices will be confirmed on arrival.

- There may also be an option to visit a hammam during your stay, you will need to organise this directly with the hotel.

- Non-riders will be offered a hiking programme. You will hike for around 4 hours each day and meet the riders for lunch. Please contact us for prices.
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
1 cook

INLAND TRANSPORT

Private minibus
Airport transfers on set times (late arrivals will have to pay a taxi)

ACCOMMODATION

Double, twin or triple room in hotels along the trail.

MEALS

Full board from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8, including water, tea and coffee

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

EXTRAS

Hot air balloon flight or additional activities

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, but are overall spirited and forward going. Horses average around 1,50-55 m, 15hh.

Guide & local team

Your guide will be French-born Nicolas Guillo. He has been organising trail rides in Cappadocia for many years. He speaks English and also Turkish.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You must be an experienced rider with a very good level of physical fitness to join this trail. You should be able to mount and dismount your horse unassisted, and you should be confident at all paces over varied and sometimes uneven terrain, and during group canters. You should should ride regularly at home and be able to canter in a light seat. Previous experience trail riding over several days is necessary.

Rider weight limit is a maximum of 85 kilos / 187 lbs / 13.3 st including your riding gear.

PACE

This an active ride - the pace is varied to include trots and some long, technical and/or regular canters (up to 10-15 minutes). Some canters are in single file, and some are spread out. There may be some fast canters, but there are not normally gallops on this trail.

You will also have to lead your horse from the ground over steep and rocking terrain for up to 20 minutes.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Riders are each responsible for their own horse, and asked to tack, untack, water and feed their horse each day.

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, sometimes on steep paths up to 20 minutes. The days in the saddle are long (5-6 hours almost every day) and you should not underestimate the physical demands of this trail. The weather can be hot, in which case you will take a longer lunch break to get some rest in the shade (bring a book!).

Experience of trail riding 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.
Helmets are mandatory and not available to borrow on this ride.
Seatsavers are provided and available to borrow locally.

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 and accept card payments.

The first and last nights are spent at a hotel in Urgup, close to the ranch/stables. Night 2 is spent in Akkoy. Nights 3 and 4 are spent at a hotel in Ayvali. Nights 5 and 6 are spent in Uchisar.
Please note: It may be possible to upgrade the accommodation on the first and last nights of the holiday, subject to availability. Please check “Dates and Prices”.

MEALS

Turkish and continental breakfast at hotels.
You will enjoy quality picnic lunches provided by the local team, or lunches in small, local restaurants along the trail. At restaurants, lunch often includes soup and salad alongside hot food.
Dinners are taken at the hotels and usually include starters, mains and desert.

Water, tea and coffee are included. Cappadocia wine, beer and other drinks are available but not included in the price, and payable locally.

Vegetarian meals and gluten free options are available but please let us know in advance.

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.

The weather can still be hot during spring and autumn, in which case you will take a longer lunch break to get some rest in the shade.

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 and appreciated but are left to your discretion.

PACKING LIST

Please pack carefully and sensibly: the following guide is here to give you an idea of what to bring. Your luggage will be transferred by a logistics vehicle. Please try to bring a soft-sided bag, instead of a suitcase, as this can more easily be transported.

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 (highly recommended, as it can be dusty).

Upper body
- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun and dust.
- T-shirts.
- Fleece, jumper or jacket - the evenings can be cool.
- 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.
- Casual clothes for the evening.

Hands and Feet
- Please bring half chaps to wear with hiking/riding shoes with good grip -- please note, some of the passages you will take on foot are steep and rocky, and normal riding boots with smooth soles 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
- Water bottles - 2x 500ml, to fit in the saddlebags and water holder.
- Warm clothes if you decide to do the hot air balloon ride.
- Swimwear (if you opt for a hammam).
- Phone holder.
- Ear plugs and eye mask, (if you are a light sleeper).

Cosmetics, personal items and medicines
- Any medication you regularly take (and a list of any allergies).
- Sunscreen and lip balm - must be high factor.
- Insect repellent.
- Pain killers.
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs.
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc.
- Rehydration sachets (dioralyte or similar).
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses.

Our recommendations:
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes / any essentials and valuables in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- Please print copies of your passport and insurance documents and take them with you.
- Please carry any valuables in your hand luggage.
- Backpacks should not be worn whilst riding. Small saddlebags are provided on this ride for you to carry small items you'll need during the day.

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 .