

Green Tour – Cappadocia Cultural & Nature Discovery Tour

TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour Name:** Green Tour – Cappadocia Cultural & Nature Discovery Tour
- **Destination:** Cappadocia, Türkiye
- **Tour Type:** Full-Day Guided Cultural & Nature Tour
- **Duration:** Approximately 7–9 Hours
- **Difficulty Level:** Easy to Moderate
- **Transport:** Air-conditioned vehicle + guided walking sections
- **Guide:** Licensed Professional Tour Guide
- **Group Type:** Regular / Private Options Available
- **Departure _Return Time:** 09:30 am– 05:30 pm

The Green Tour offers a journey through the natural wonders, deep valleys, and ancient **underground worlds** of Cappadocia—where geology, history, and human ingenuity come together in a truly unique landscape. From subterranean cities carved into volcanic rock to lush canyons shaped by rivers over millennia, each stop reveals a different layer of this extraordinary region.

Throughout the day, you will explore sites that reflect the resilience of early civilizations, the spiritual heritage of Anatolia, and the timeless connection between people and nature. **Kaymaklı Underground City** introduces the fascinating world beneath the surface, while **Ihlara Valley** unveils a hidden green canyon filled with rock-cut churches and centuries-old frescoes. **Selime Monastery** rises dramatically at the end of the valley as a monumental rock-carved complex blending religion, architecture, and strategic life.

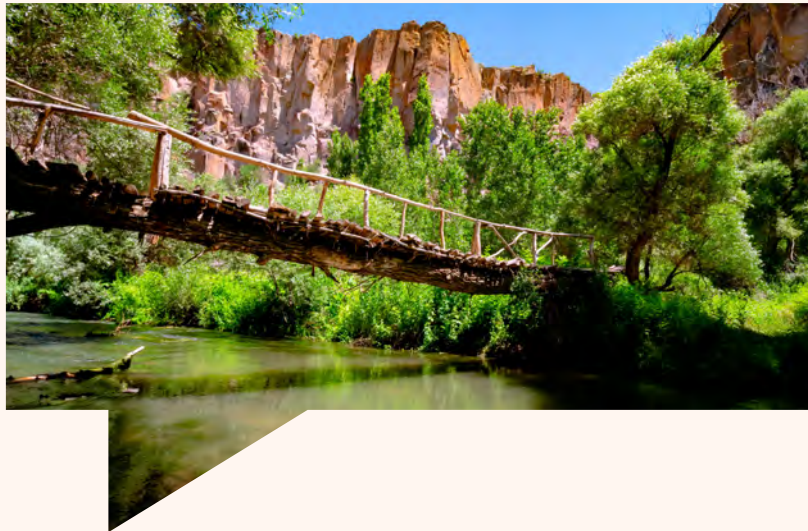
The journey continues through **Pigeon Valley**, where cultural traditions and agricultural practices have shaped the landscape for centuries, before concluding with a visit to a traditional **onyx workshop**—where Anatolia’s ancient craftsmanship is reinterpreted into contemporary artistry.

More than a sightseeing route, the Green Tour is an immersive experience into the cultural DNA of Cappadocia, where every stop tells a story shaped by time, nature, and civilization.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the fascinating Kaymaklı Underground City, one of Cappadocia's largest subterranean settlements.
- Hike through the breathtaking Ihlara Valley, following the scenic Melendiz River.
- Visit the magnificent Selime Monastery, the largest rock-cut religious complex in Cappadocia.
- Enjoy authentic Turkish cuisine at a traditional riverside restaurant.
- Capture unforgettable views at the Pigeon Valley Viewpoint.
- Discover the craftsmanship of Cappadocia's famous Onyx Stone Workshop.
- Experience Cappadocia's unique blend of history, nature, culture, and local traditions in a single day.



TRIPADVISOR GUEST REVIEWS

REAL EXPERIENCES • CAPPADOCIA WITH KELEBEK TRAVEL

FRIENDS' EXPERIENCE



David D
2 contributions



Top notch travel experience!

Our guide, Nigar and driver Memo were exceptional! Private 1 on 1 descriptions of the underground city, open air museums, pottery lessons and more! The included restaurant was amazing 🍽️ Possibly the biggest benefit to the private tour was the guide's knowledge of how to avoid the busiest times at all the sights! We loved our experience with Nigar, Memo and the whole Kelebek Travel family! Thanks to all! 🙌

Visited May 2026 • Traveled with friends
Written May 18, 2026



PRIVATE TOUR EXPERIENCE



Danielle H
17 contributions



Amazing tour "highlights of Cappadocia"

The tour was amazing. Our guide, Khadir was really knowledgeable, gave us great information about the valleys and attractions we visited. The driver Mustafa was also very kind and attentive. Our kids were tired, so they also organized transport for the awesome private dinner at the farm - which was delicious and what to say about the setting - gorgeous spot, the ladies who baked us lunch were very kind and generous. We loved the underground city - it's a must see. We also visited open air museums and several valleys. This private tour is 100% recommend if you want a relax, personalized experience with a decent price.

Visited May 2026 • Traveled with friends
Written May 18, 2026



FAMILY EXPERIENCE



Mehmet Caner K
3 contributions



A fantastic Green Tour experience and flawless organization!

My wife and I joined Green Tour during our Cappadocia vacation and we were incredibly satisfied in every way. The tour organization was truly professional and flawless. While exploring challenging routes like the Kaymaklı Underground City and the Ihlara Canyon, our guide, M. Toros, made the trip very special for us with his energy and incredible knowledge of the region. We would also like to thank our driver, M. Ibrahim, for providing us with a safe, calm, and comfortable journey throughout the day. If you ever find yourself in Cappadocia, you can choose this destination without hesitation.

Visited May 2026 • Traveled with family
Written May 19, 2026



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THREE JOURNEYS • ONE UNFORGETTABLE CAPPADOCIA

ITINERARY

STOP 1 | KAYMAKLI UNDERGROUND CITY



Step into the mysterious underground world of Cappadocia. Carved into soft volcanic rock thousands of years ago, Kaymaklı Underground City served as a safe refuge for ancient civilizations and early Christians. Descend approximately 20–30 meters below ground and explore four levels of one of Cappadocia's most remarkable underground cities. Explore its fascinating network of tunnels, living quarters, storage rooms, ventilation shafts, and defensive passages while discovering how thousands of people once lived beneath the surface. This remarkable engineering masterpiece offers a unique journey into Cappadocia's hidden past.

- Average Visit Duration: 45–60 minutes

STOP 2 | IHLARA VALLEY HIKE



Experience one of Cappadocia's most breathtaking natural wonders. Carved over thousands of years by the Melendiz River, Ihlara Valley is a spectacular canyon filled with lush greenery, hidden rock-cut churches, ancient cave dwellings, and stunning landscapes. As you walk along the peaceful riverside trail, you will discover a unique blend of nature, history, and spirituality that has attracted travelers for centuries.

- Average Visit Duration: 60–90 Minutes

-LUNCH Delicious lunch with traditional flavors.

STOP 3 | SELIME MONASTERY



Discover the largest rock-cut monastery in Cappadocia, dramatically carved into towering volcanic cliffs. Once an important religious and cultural center, Selime Monastery features impressive chapels, monks' quarters, kitchens, storage rooms, and a cathedral-like church carved directly into the rock. Its remarkable architecture and rich history make it one of the most remarkable landmarks in the region.

- Average Visit Duration: 40–50 Minutes

STOP 4 | PIGEON VALLEY VIEWPOINT



Enjoy one of Cappadocia's most iconic panoramic viewpoints. Named after the countless pigeon houses carved into its cliffs, Pigeon Valley offers breathtaking views of fairy chimneys, ancient cave dwellings, and the unique volcanic landscape of the region. It is the perfect location to capture unforgettable photos and admire the beauty of Cappadocia from above.

- Average Visit Duration: 20–30 Minutes

STOP 5 | ONYX WORKSHOP VISIT



Discover the artistry behind Cappadocia's famous onyx stone. Visit a traditional workshop where skilled craftsmen transform natural volcanic and semi-precious stones into beautiful handmade jewelry, ornaments, and decorative pieces. Learn about the craftsmanship passed down through generations and witness the creation process up close.

- Average Visit Duration: 30–40 Minutes

Stop1 I Kaymaklı Underground City

● Explore the Hidden World Below.

Descend approximately 20–30 meters below ground and explore four levels of one of Cappadocia's most remarkable underground cities. Although Kaymaklı consists of eight levels in total, visitors can currently access the first four levels, which provide a fascinating insight into the daily lives of the people who once lived here.



As you walk through narrow tunnels and interconnected chambers carved into soft volcanic rock, you will discover living quarters, kitchens, food storage rooms, wine cellars, stables, ventilation shafts, and communal areas. The city was carefully designed to support thousands of people during times of danger, with ingenious ventilation systems, water supplies, and massive circular stone doors used to seal entrances from potential invaders.

Your guide will explain how early Christian communities used these underground spaces as places of refuge and how entire families could live here for extended periods. The visit offers a unique opportunity to experience the engineering, resilience, and daily life of Cappadocia's ancient inhabitants.

More than just underground cities, Cappadocia's subterranean settlements are living monuments to thousands of years of history, where faith, culture, and human ingenuity converged to shape the region's remarkable past.

Underground Cities of Cappadocia

Where Survival Became a Way of Life.



Created by Ai

Stop2 I Ihlara Valley – The Hidden Canyon of Cappadocia

● Discover Cappadocia's Green Heart.

Ihlara Valley is one of Cappadocia's most remarkable natural and historical treasures. Formed over thousands of years by the erosion of volcanic rock carved by the Melendiz River, this spectacular canyon stretches for 14 kilometers and reaches depths of up to 200 meters.

Beyond its breathtaking scenery, Ihlara Valley is an open-air museum that reveals the rich spiritual heritage of the region. From the 4th century onward, Christian monks and hermits sought refuge within the valley's secluded landscape, carving churches, chapels, and living spaces directly into the rock. Today, visitors can discover dozens of these rock-cut sanctuaries, many adorned with remarkably preserved frescoes depicting biblical scenes and saints.



The journey into the valley begins with a descent through the famous 382-step staircase, leading visitors into a lush world hidden beneath the Cappadocian plateau. Following the peaceful course of the Melendiz River, the walking trail offers stunning views of towering cliffs, unique rock formations, and centuries-old cave churches.

Among the valley's most significant landmarks are Ağaçalı Church, Yılanlı Church, Sümbüllü Church, Kırkdamalı Church, and Direkli Church, each showcasing distinctive architecture, religious art, and fascinating stories from Cappadocia's past (Uysun, 2025, pp. 519-579).



Ihlara; The Green Heart of Cappadocia

Combining extraordinary natural beauty, impressive geological formations, and a rich cultural legacy, Ihlara Valley offers an unforgettable experience for travelers seeking to explore the deeper history and hidden wonders of Cappadocia.

Ihlara Valley is a protected natural canyon and one of the richest ecological zones in Cappadocia, known for its remarkable biodiversity and unique landscape formed by the Melendiz River.

The valley is home to more than 100 rock-cut churches and monasteries carved into the canyon walls over centuries. Inside these churches, visitors can observe well-preserved frescoes depicting important biblical scenes, including stories from the life of Prophet Daniel, as well as scenes featuring Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary.



Combining natural beauty with deep historical and religious significance, Ihlara Valley offers a unique open-air museum experience where nature and faith history coexist.

In Kokar Church, frescoes depict key scenes from the life of Jesus Christ, including the Nativity, the First Bath, the Annunciation to the Shepherds, and the Visit of the Magi (Three Wise Kings) (Uysun, 2025, p.543).



Stop3 | Cappadocia's Rock Cathedral: Selime Monastery

● Selime: Where Stone Becomes Sacred

Located at the magnificent end of the Ihlara Valley, Selime Monastery is the largest rock-cut religious complex in Cappadocia and one of the region's most impressive historical sites. It served not only as a religious center but also as an administrative hub, a military fortress, and a resting place for merchants traveling along the Silk Road.

What Will You See?

Monumental Cathedral: Visit the enormous church located on the eastern side of the monastery, known by locals as the "Cathedral within the Fortress." This remarkable structure once served as a gathering place for soldiers, merchants, diplomats, and travelers.

Selime Fortress (The Lord's Residence): Explore Selime Fortress, one of Cappadocia's largest elite residences, situated at the most prominent point of the settlement. It is believed to have been the residence of the local ruler and the administrative center of the entire community.

Ancient Frescoes and Stone Craftsmanship: Observe the remains of frescoes dating back to the 10th and 11th centuries, along with impressive architectural details carved directly into the rock using only simple tools.

A Complex Network of Daily Life: Walk through churches, chapels, monks' quarters, kitchens, storage rooms, and large stables carved into the cliffs, offering a glimpse into the daily life of early Christian communities.





A Unique Experience

- **Architectural Discovery:** Selime Monastery showcases one of Cappadocia's most advanced architectural designs, featuring two separate courtyards and two large halls with different layouts.
- **Panoramic Views:** Climb to the upper levels and enjoy breathtaking views of the surrounding valleys, volcanic formations, and Selime Village.
- **For Photography Enthusiasts:** The towering rock chambers and the valley's natural light create outstanding opportunities for memorable photographs.

Did You Know?

Selime Monastery was an important educational center during the Byzantine period. Historical records indicate that notable figures, including the Georgian diplomat George Hagiorites, stayed here in 1059. Surrounding the monastery was a settlement of smaller and more modest homes belonging to local villagers, reflecting the social structure of the time.



Prepare to explore this extraordinary rock-carved complex, where history, faith, architecture, and nature come together in perfect harmony.

Stop 4 | Discover Pigeon Valley: The Intersection of Nature and Heritage

● Pigeon Valley: A Valley of Nature & Heritage

Pigeon Valley (Güvercinlik Vadisi), stretching majestically between the towns of **Göreme and Uçhisar**, is one of Cappadocia's most scenic and iconic landscapes. This valley is not only a natural wonder but also a living testament to the region's "**architecture without architects**," showcasing how local communities have lived in harmony with nature for centuries.



The Silent Helpers: Pigeons of Cappadocia

The valley takes its name from the thousands of pigeon houses (dovecotes) carved into the soft volcanic cliffs. For generations, pigeons were the backbone of the local economy. In an era before chemical fertilizers, their nutrient-rich droppings were meticulously collected to fertilize the famous Cappadocian vineyards and fruit orchards. Beyond agriculture, these loyal birds also served as vital messengers between isolated villages.



A Masterpiece of Rock-Cut Art

As you walk through the valley, look up to see the intricately designed entrances of the dovecotes. These structures feature:

- **Slippery Protection:** The exterior surfaces around the "flight windows" were often smoothed and coated with a specialized mixture of lime, plaster, and egg whites to prevent predators like snakes, foxes, and martens from climbing into the nests.
- **Vibrant Decorations:** Many dovecotes are adorned with traditional patterns painted in mineral colors, such as "Yoğa" (a local iron-oxide red), which helped attract the pigeons and added a touch of artistic beauty to the rugged cliffs.
- **The "niche" Interior:** Inside, you would find rows of carved nesting niches called "Niche" designed to accommodate hundreds of bird families.

Hidden Engineering: The Ancient Water Tunnels

Deep beneath the visible beauty of the valley lies a hidden **marvel of medieval hydraulic engineering**. Pigeon Valley hosts a remarkable system of water tunnels, with the longest known channel reaching a total length of 3,600 meters. These tunnels were designed to manage irrigation, feed underground cisterns in Uçhisar, and protect the narrow valley floors from erosion and floods.

An Unforgettable Panorama

Whether you are exploring the valley floor or enjoying **the breathtaking panoramic views** from the Uçhisar viewpoints, Pigeon Valley offers a fascinating insight into Cappadocia's agricultural heritage and the timeless bond between its people and the land.



Keeping a Timeless Tradition Alive

Pigeon Valley is one of **Cappadocia's** most iconic landscapes, named after the thousands of pigeon houses carved into its soft volcanic cliffs. For centuries, pigeons played an important role in local agriculture, as their droppings were used as a natural fertilizer for vineyards and farmlands.



In recent years, **Mr. Ali YAVUZ**, founder of the Kelebek Group (Kelebek Travel), contributed to the preservation of this unique heritage by initiating a project that reintroduced thousands of pigeons into the region, helping sustain the traditional pigeon culture. Today, the valley offers stunning panoramic views and a living example of the deep connection between nature, culture, and local history.

Stop 5 | Onyx Workshop Visit

● ONYX: The Art of Stone

Jewelry remains one of the strongest cultural links we still share with our ancient ancestors. It reflects not only aesthetic values but also the social structures and symbolic meanings of antiquity. Across Türkiye's museums, you can encounter a wide range of rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and other ornaments inherited from past civilizations.



Although crafted from gold, silver, precious stones, and natural materials, the true value of these pieces lies in the history and meaning they embody.

As one of the most engaging stops of the Green Tour, the onyx workshop visit allows you to witness how this ancient tradition continues today, where local artisans reinterpret centuries-old craftsmanship into contemporary jewelry within a modern workshop setting.

Cappadocia Stone & Jewelry Workshop

Step into a traditional Cappadocia workshop and explore the region's rich craftsmanship in natural stones and precious materials.

During the visit, you will discover how local artisans transform onyx, semi-precious gemstones, and other natural stones into finely crafted decorative pieces and jewelry. You will also see collections featuring gold and silver jewelry, where modern design meets Anatolian craftsmanship.

Expert craftsmen demonstrate the production process, from raw material selection and cutting to shaping, polishing, and final detailing. Each piece reflects a blend of traditional techniques and contemporary design approaches. This visit offers not only a chance to observe handmade production up close, but also to understand the cultural and artistic value behind Cappadocia's long-standing jewelry and stone-working heritage.

Although crafted from gold, silver, precious stones, and natural materials, the true value of these pieces lies in the history and meaning they embody.

As one of the most engaging stops of the Green Tour, the onyx workshop visit allows you to witness how this ancient tradition continues today in Cappadocia, where local artisans reinterpret centuries-old craftsmanship into contemporary jewelry within a modern workshop setting.

The flower adorning this gorgeous piece of jewelry from the 14th century BC is widely known as the **Egyptian lotus**, which symbolizes rebirth.



Although only a single piece from the pair has survived, this gold earring from **the Middle Bronze Age** is preserved in remarkably pristine condition. Crafted from gold, it is adorned with a striking green serpentine stone, a material historically valued not only in jewelry but also in architectural applications for centuries.

Here's an exquisite necklace from Anatolia, dating back to the ancient **Lydian period** (7th–6th century BCE). This remarkable piece of gold craftsmanship comes from the Karun Treasure, featuring delicate glass beadwork shaped like small acorns, showcasing the refined artistry and symbolism of its era.



These unique necklaces from **the Late Neolithic Period** were made from soft shells and stones thousands of years ago. Today preserved at the Niğde Museum, they offer a fascinating glimpse into Anatolia's earliest traditions of personal adornment.

GREEN TOUR

CAPPADOCIA CULTURAL & NATURE DISCOVERY TOUR

📍 Cappadocia, Türkiye

🕒 Approx. 8–9 Hours

📅 Full-Day Guided Tour



DIFFICULTY LEVEL

EASY – MODERATE WALKING REQUIRED



- ✓ Our tour is generally easy, but includes some walking sections and gently sloped terrain.



WHAT TO BE PREPARED FOR



COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES
Some walking on uneven and rocky terrain will be involved.



SUN PROTECTION
Hat, sunglasses and sunscreen are recommended.



WATER
Please bring enough water for the day.



SEASON-APPROPRIATE CLOTHING
Layered clothing is recommended.



CAMERA
Don't miss the breathtaking views!



DURATION
Approx.
8–9 Hours



TRANSPORT
Air-conditioned vehicle
+ guided walking
sections



GUIDE
Licensed Professional
Tour Guide
(English & Other Languages)



GROUP TYPE
Regular / Private
Options
Available



ENJOY WITH CONFIDENCE

- ✓ Carefully planned route for a comfortable and memorable experience.
- ✓ Frequent stops at key attractions and scenic viewpoints.
- ✓ Suitable for all ages and fitness levels.
- ✓ Take your time to explore, learn and enjoy.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Explore Cappadocia's unique valleys, fairy chimneys and natural wonders.



Visit historical sites, cave churches and ancient settlements.



Discover local culture, traditional art and handicrafts.



Enjoy spectacular panoramic views and photo opportunities.



Experience authentic local life and warm hospitality.

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📍 Göreme, Cappadocia, Türkiye

BOOK NOW



WHAT'S INCLUDED:



Licensed English-speaking guide



Hotel pick-up & drop-off



Entry fees & taxes



Air-conditioned luxury transport



Lunch at a local restaurant



NOT INCLUDED:



Tips for guide/driver



Beverages

About Kelebek Travel and Kelebek Tour Programs



Kelebek Group is a family-owned company founded by the Yavuz family, originally from Göreme, Cappadocia. Through its tourism investments, the group is committed to preserving Anatolia's cultural heritage while promoting local communities, sustainability, and visitor satisfaction.

Beyond tourism operations, Kelebek Group supports various social responsibility and environmental initiatives. Its projects are developed in collaboration with archaeologists, academics, gastronomy experts, art historians, and other cultural heritage professionals to create authentic and meaningful visitor experiences.

Although Göreme Kelebek Travel was officially established in 2019, the group's tourism experience dates back to 1993 through its hospitality operations in Cappadocia. Today, Kelebek Travel provides comprehensive travel services across Türkiye and is an active member of TÜRSAB.

The company organizes both private and group tours in Cappadocia, as well as multi-day cultural journeys throughout Türkiye. In addition, it designs tailor-made experiences, including special events, celebrations, weddings, corporate gatherings, and exclusive activities that showcase the unique character of the region.

For more information, please visit our website. <https://www.kelebek-group.com>

Kelebek Travel GÖREME

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Kelebek Group is committed to sustainable tourism that respects people, culture, and nature while creating lasting value for the region and its communities.

- SUPPORTING LOCAL PEOPLE AND ECONOMY**
We collaborate with women's cooperatives, women entrepreneurs, and local producers to strengthen local economies and preserve traditional products and cultural values.
- CULTURAL AND EXPERIENTIAL TOURISM**
Through cultural and experiential tourism, we enable our guests to connect directly with local life, traditional production practices, and cultural heritage, contributing to both economic and cultural sustainability.
- PRESERVING HERITAGE, INSPIRING THE FUTURE**
Cultural programs such as the Hittite Route increase awareness of excavation sites, promote regional cultural assets, and foster stronger connections between visitors and heritage. These initiatives also contribute to the recognition and encouragement of excavation teams working to uncover and preserve Anatolia's past.
- RESPONSIBLE TOURISM**
STRONGER TOGETHER
LASTING VALUE FOR THE REGION
RESPECTING NATURE AND CULTURE

Experience Cappadocia. Support the Future.

LOCAL IMPACT CULTURAL HERITAGE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Together for Cappadocia



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