



# RIDE WORLD WIDE

## Turkey 2012

### Riding Trip Information Sheet

Cappadocia was formed between 2 and 10 million years ago by volcanic eruptions on the Anatolian plateau. While cooling, the warm ashes turned into layers of 'tuff' of varied colours and density. Water, wind and man have eroded and carved the soft rock, giving birth to a wonderland of deep canyons and fantastically shaped rock formations. The history of this area is also fascinating, with the first major civilisation, the Hittites, appearing around 2000 BC. This was followed by numerous invasions, Lydians, Persians, the Greeks under Alexander the Great, Romans, Byzantines, Selcuk Turks, then the Mongols and the Ottomans. Each has left its own mark on the area and this, combined with traffic along the Silk Road, has created a wonderful mix of culture. Cappadocia means 'the land of beautiful horses', a name given by the Persians who saw the wild mountain ponies of the region which still live on the slopes of the Erciyes Volcano. The dramatic rock formations in wonderful shades of yellow and red have made the area famous and there are many churches, houses and dovecots carved into these. The rides are based from a small ranch just outside the town of Ortahisar and are guided by Nicolas Guillo, who is part owner of the ranch, and his assistant Cornelia (Coni) Zieglmeier.

**Dates** 7 night trips are run from set dates between April and October, with other dates available on request. There are three different itineraries, the progressive Guesthouse and Camping Rides, and the double based Ottoman Ride. There also the option to upgrade accommodation etc on the Ottoman itinerary, listed as the Pasha Ride. Please see overleaf for departure dates and contact Ride World Wide to check availability.



**The Horses** The horses used for these rides are mixed breeds, locally bred, mainly Arab and Arab crosses. They are generally between 14.2 and 15.2hh, are forward going but also adaptable and well suited to the terrain. Maclellan saddles are used, similar to a western style saddle and comfortable for long hours, and these are fitted with cruppers and breastplates. Saddle bags are provided on each saddle. If you wish to use a seat saver (there are some provided) a gel pad is recommended rather than a fitted saver. The horses are all ridden in hackamores and are used to light contact. There is a strict weight limit when fully clothed, of 90kg / 14st 2lbs. Please note that you may be weighed on arrival and if above this weight you will not be allowed to ride.

**Riding** The progressive rides include 5 full days and 1 half day riding and there are generally between 5 and 6 hours in the saddle on the full days, with breaks to rest and for lunch, although riding time does vary. On the Ottoman Ride and the Pasha Ride there are 4 full days and one half day riding, with an optional 6th day riding (extra charge on the Ottoman Ride, included as an option on the Pasha Ride). One day is free for other activities and sightseeing for those who wish. There will be some walking, leading the horses - you will generally lead the horses for 10 minutes or so to warm them up in the morning before starting the ride and again to cool them off after riding at the end of the day. You will also be asked to get off to lead up (you might even be asked to hold the tail of the horse in front to help pull you up!) - or down any steep hills, so you do need to be comfortable walking on uneven ground and on a gradient - and of course mount your horse unaided. You may also be asked to dismount in villages out of politeness to the inhabitants. You are encouraged to spread out where possible, taking your own line, rather than single file, though when riding through narrow gorges and tracks through the rock formations this will not be possible. Luggage and camping equipment is transported for you by back up vehicle. Groups are limited to a maximum of 10 guests on the Camping Ride, and 8 on other rides. You are expected to groom, tack-up / un-tack and generally look after your horse yourself. Your guide is on hand if you need any help and your saddle is always checked before you set off.

**Pace** The rides are at a slow to moderate pace overall due to the terrain but there are some lovely canters along valley floors between towering rock formations, and along paths between wheat fields. There are some quite steep mountain tracks, which dictates a slow pace, and there is also a bit of road work through towns and villages. Traffic can be quite busy in some of the more touristy villages but the horses are used to this and are sensible on the road.

**Riding Experience** The rides are aimed at reasonably experienced, confident riders. To join them you must feel relaxed, comfortable and secure in the saddle on well schooled horses at a walk, trot and fast canter. You should also be used to riding for reasonably long hours, outside in an open environment and on sometimes challenging terrain. The horses are sensible, but they have a generally lively temperament so they suit confident, relaxed riders. You need to be able to tack up a horse and also mount and dismount several times each day without assistance.



**Fitness** As with all our rides, you will enjoy your trip much more if you are fit - both riding fit and with a good level of general fitness - and this is particularly necessary for the progressive ride. There are places each day where riders need to dismount to walk over rough ground - both uphill and down - and you need to be quite physically fit. There is less walking on the Ottoman and Pasha Rides. If you do not ride regularly at home, and are not in good physical shape, then we recommend some concentrated training in the months before you go to get used to the hours you will spend in the saddle and also the time spent leading the horses up and down hillsides.

**Terrain** Cappadocia is well known for its dramatic scenery and is visited by many tourists. The rides take you off the beaten track to areas which are seldom seen by many of its visitors though you will ride short distances on tarmac and through villages which can be quite busy. Much of the riding is through the rock formations for which the area is famous, but you also ride up onto the high plateaux and through fields and fruit orchards. Overall the area is lovely for riding with varied scenery, many wonderful views and some chances to move on each day. In April there is blossom on the fruit trees, in May and June there are many wild flowers (wild irises, dog rose, thyme, poppies, vetch, yellow sage and cornflowers to name a few). July and August are hot and sunny with little chance of rain and the melons are being harvested. In September grapes and other fruit are ripe in the orchards. October rides have all the colour of turning leaves. Eagles, buzzards and Egyptian Vultures can be seen soaring above the rocky ridges and there are other beautiful birds including golden orioles, hoopoes and black headed siskins. Small marmots, foxes and hares are common and there are wolves in the hills which can sometimes be heard at night. There is always also plenty of cultural interest including churches carved into the rock, shepherds tending their flocks high in the hills and the typical towns of Cappadocia.

**Accommodation** There are different levels of accommodation available, either in boutique hotels (Pasha Ride) guesthouses (Ottoman Ride and Guesthouse Ride), or in a combination of guesthouses and camps (Camping Ride). On the progressive ride guesthouses are traditional and family run, generally equivalent to international 2\* hotels. Rooms have private bathrooms. On the Ottoman Ride accommodation is a higher level with 5 nights spent in a guesthouse in Urgüp and 2 nights in a villa in Uchisar, the former Greek-Ottoman mansion, the latter a Troglodytic villa. On the Pasha Ride you stay in carefully selected boutique hotels. Rooms have their own bathroom and are nicely renovated and furnished. Ride rates are based on twin / double occupancy and if you want a single room then these can be arranged subject to availability for a supplement (this is payable locally. In high season single rooms cannot be guaranteed every night on the guesthouse ride). Camping is basic but you should be reasonably comfortable. Sleeping tents are large, white canvas 'tipi' shaped tents, the same design as those used by the local nomads, tall enough to stand up in the middle of the tent, with a waterproof groundsheet, rugs and 2" thick mattresses supplied. You are expected to put up / take down your tent and stow it all away in the back up trailer each morning. There is a central 'mess' tent which is again in traditional nomadic style with kilims and rugs on the floor and low Turkish 'chai' tables. A 'shower' tent, which has a large basin and jugs for pouring hot water, is set up for the group - there is not always time for everyone to have a shower every night. Loos when camping are open air!



**Meals** Turkey has an excellent reputation for delicious food, there are some superb restaurants in Istanbul, and on the rides you will have the chance to sample some of the traditional Turkish dishes. Meals on the Camping Ride are eaten Turkish style, sitting on a carpet around a round tray or 'chai' table. Breakfast is eaten in camp or at your guesthouse and is generally fresh bread, butter and jam or honey with eggs, cheese, tomatoes and olives and tea or coffee to drink. (Tea and coffee are usually drunk black in Turkey, in small glasses - there is sometimes milk powder available but not often fresh milk). On the Camping Ride lunch is generally a picnic, carried in your saddle bags, which might be a salad with herbs, stuffed peppers or sausages cooked on the fire, or pancakes stuffed with meat or cheese (gozleme) served with a salted yoghurt drink as well as tomatoes, cheese and fresh bread with perhaps some fruit for pudding. On the other rides lunch is a combination of a picnic, restaurants and on the last day cooked over a wood fire in the traditional manner. In the evening meals are either cooked in camp or are served at the guesthouse/hotel. At guesthouses they will often be 3 courses, perhaps rice, yoghurt and mint soup to start, followed by lamb and bean stew with couscous, and apricots in syrup to finish. In camp dinner is usually just one fairly simple dish - grilled chicken, or pasta - followed by fruit. Typical dishes include stuffed vine leaves, peppers and aubergines etc. Main dishes are usually of chicken or lamb, with specialities such as 'bostan kebab' (aubergines, lamb and cheese cooked in a clay pot). Vegetarians can, of course, be catered for, but please let us know in advance by filling in the dietary requirements on the booking form. Wine is produced locally and different Cappadocian wines are readily available for purchase. They are quite young and not as cheap as one might expect (around 10 euros per bottle in camp, 15 to 25 euros in guesthouses depending on quality). Beer is about 3 Euros a bottle, also brewed locally and again easily bought at restaurants, bars or general stores.



**Weather** The rides are run from set dates between April and October when the weather in the area is best. During winter months Cappadocia can be cold and desolate. In the mid summer temperatures can be high but there is usually a breeze and as you are at some altitude (approx 1000m) the heat is dry and it is still pleasant to ride in. Average daytime temperatures between April and October are roughly as follows - April 13°C; May 19°C; June 25°C; July 30°C; August 30°C; September 25°C; October 17°C - though it may be about 5 degrees hotter at midday and about 5 degrees colder at nightfall. Cappadocia is semi desert and rainfall is minimal but it is possible at any time of year so you need to be prepared for this. Most precipitation falls in April, May and December.

**What to bring** We will send you a list of things to bring when you make your booking.

**Before the ride** We thoroughly recommend a night (or two) in Istanbul before the ride - this is an amazing city, once the capital of the western world. The Blue Mosque, St Sophia Museum, Topkapi Palace, and the famed covered bazaar are all well worth a visit and Istanbul has some excellent restaurants. We are happy to recommend / book hotels.

### Example itineraries

Please note that these itineraries are an example, and day by day arrangements may be changed at the discretion of your guide depending on weather and local conditions.

### Camping Ride

**Day 1** - You will be met on arrival in Kayseri from flight TK2018 at 19.40 and driven about an hour to a guesthouse in Ortahisar, within the Cappadocia National Park. Dinner and night at the guesthouse. (D)

**Day 2** - You will be driven to the stables in the early morning to meet the horses, and get acquainted with the riding equipment. Set off leading the horses for the first few minutes, then mount up and after a short time begin climbing a narrow path along a ridge which overlooks the valley of Uzengi, where abrupt rock walls shelter stone citadels of dovecotes. After lunch at the natural rock circus of Taslik you take a path carved into the rock down to the ancient Greek village of Mustafapasa / Sinasos. The route then takes you through the valley of Cemece, an expanse of land resembling the Mongolian steppes, past Lake Damsa and on into camp in an old orchard. About 5 hours riding. Dinner and the night in camp. (B,L,D)



**Day 3** - After tacking up and leading the horses for a short while, you mount up and head toward the plateau of Avlak immediately above camp. Dismount for a steep climb of about 15 minutes to the plateau. From here there are wonderful views of Cappadocia and in the background the majestic Mt Erciyes, an extinct volcano. After a canter on the plateau's larger tracks, you arrive at the picnic spot overlooking Karlik valley, passing tombs carved out of the mountain by the Romans as you go to water the horses. A barbecue lunch with views of Mount Hodul, Mt Erciyes and the renowned Taurus Mountain chain. After trots and canters on the plateau, you ride down to Damsa valley passing through orchards and vineyards for tea in the camp close to an ancient troglodyte monastery of Keslik, near the village of Cemilkoy. About 6 hrs riding. Dinner and the night in camp. (B,L,D)

**Day 4** - The ride today is about 3 ½ hours. Following a track worn by generations of muleteers, you ride along the flank of the mountain to reach a vast rocky plateau overlooking the south of Cappadocia. The cliff-top view is breathtaking. You descend into a lush valley planted with trees, where you stop for a short break. Ride on through the green countryside, crossing narrow streams, winding your way through gardens and small woods. Further on you reach open grassland where shepherds herd their flocks, helped by their impressive Turkish Kangal dogs. After a last canter across the steppe, you arrive at camp, where the horses will stay the night. Lunch is cooked over a wood fire and you are then transferred to a guesthouse in Urchisar, one of Cappadocia's most picturesque villages. You can spend the rest of the day visiting the village's troglodytic quarters, walk through nearby Pigeon Valley or you may want to take a taxi to Goreme (4 km away) to visit the Open Air Museum or to shop for souvenirs and local crafts. Dinner and night at the guesthouse in Uchisar. (B,L,D)



**Day 5** - Early this morning there is the opportunity for an optional hot air balloon flight over Cappadocia's magical landscape at sunrise. Breakfast and a short drive back to meet the horses. Saddle up and set off from the valley of Sorkumlu; some parts of the valley are so narrow that they form a deep canyon with many hidden treasures. You canter on a long sandy path lined with orchards and gardens, still cultivated by the locals using horses or mules. You will stop in a green field, surrounded by walls of soft colourful rock, where the horses can rest and graze. After a picnic and a siesta at the foot of a pear tree, you saddle up again and continue over rolling hills of white 'tuff' that leads you to a rock pinnacle before you start winding your way through the rocky labyrinths, tunnels and arches of the splendid Green Valley. Camp is set up overlooking the valley. After untacking the horses and settling them on their long ropes to graze you can admire the valley's strangely shaped pink rock formations while sipping tea. About 5 hours riding. Dinner and the night in camp. (B,L,D)

**Day 6** - Again a sunrise balloon flight is possible (conditions have to be perfect but hopefully one of the two days will be possible). Set off riding from camp through extraordinary rock formations before leaving the village of Goreme behind and riding into the aptly named Love Valley where you stop for a short break at the foot of the fancy fairy chimneys. Your small, agile horses are able to pick their way up the valley and on into the White Valley through a narrow path carved in the rock. Climbing to the plateau again there will be a long canter before stopping for lunch in the shady woods of the Sheep Valley. After lunch and a siesta, saddle up and ride on, cantering on the large sandy tracks which lead to the ancient village of Cavusin, where you stop for a tea break, or perhaps a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice. A scenic path carved in the red rock of Mount Boztepe leads you to the famous rock formations of Pasabag. After a long canter across the plain, you reach the troglodyte camp in Yeni Zelve. Here, you can watch the sun set above Devrent valley while dinner is cooking over the campfire. About 5 ½ hours riding. Dinner and the night in camp (B,L,D)



**Day 7** - The ride proceeds through the forest of fairy chimneys in Devrent Valley. You will dismount to ascend the Boz Tepe mountain in order to reach the mausoleum of local saint Alil Dede. From his resting place, you have a 360° view over Cappadocia. Descend through the maze of tracks and paths up the crests and down the canyons of the Red Valley. With its rock castles of red, pink and ochre rock, this is Cappadocia's most spectacular valley. A secret passage leads to a vast nave carved in the rock: here is the Church of the Cross, where you stop for lunch. In the afternoon you leave the tortuous paths behind you to take advantage of wider tracks for a long gallop. Cross the Valley of Pancarlik and arrive back at the ranch by late afternoon. About 5 and a half hours riding all told. After a farewell tea on the terrace, you are driven back to the pension in Ortahisar. Those who wish can visit a 'hamam' (Turkish baths and massage) in the nearby town of Urgüp, or you can spend the last hours of the day visiting the small Museum of Anatolian Culture at Ortahisar's Museum Restaurant. Dinner and overnight at the pension in Ortahisar. (B,L,D)

**Day 8** - Breakfast and transfer to Kayseri in time for Turkish Airways flight TK2011 to Istanbul departing at 09.40 and onward flight home. (B)

**Guesthouse Ride** This itinerary is slightly changed and now allows you to ride directly to the guesthouse each night without vehicle transfers in the afternoon / morning as the horses will spend the night in gardens near the guesthouses. Lunches will be village restaurants on most days of the week rather than picnics.

**Day 1** - You will be met on arrival in Kayseri from flight TK2018 at 19.40 and driven about an hour to a guesthouse in Ortahisar, within the Cappadocia National Park. Dinner and night at the guesthouse. (D)

**Day 2** - After breakfast you are driven to the ranch to meet your horse, and get acquainted with the riding equipment. The route begins with a climb up Avlak mountain, giving an almost bird's eye view of the land you will be exploring in the week ahead. Stop for a picnic in a shady canyon cut deep in the mountain, then continue on across the open hills surrounding Lake Damsa, trotting and cantering along tracks of soft red clay to the village of Mustafapasa and the ancient Greek mansion which is your base for the next two nights. The horses will spend the night in the nearby garden. Time before dinner to stroll among Mustafapasa's old stone houses, its Ottoman madrasa and its painted church. Dinner and the night in the guesthouse. (B,L,D)

**Day 3** - Ride from the guesthouse up the valley of St Nicholas towards the far south of Cappadocia. The route is well off the beaten track through extraordinary rock formations, vineyards and orchards, surrounded by table-mountains. You enter the village of Ayvali through a hidden canyon, and stop for lunch at a restaurant nestled in the rock. In the afternoon, the riding is varied, narrow tracks, small canyons, farmed land, and the wide-open spaces of Bahceli, where shepherds lead their flocks. You sneak your way along the lush, narrow canyon of Sorkumlu, before the chance for some fast riding on broad sandy tracks. The circular and varied route leads you back to the guesthouse in Mustafapasa for dinner and the night. (B,L,D)



**Day 4** - A good breakfast then a 3 ½ ride in the morning with the afternoon free to explore the area at your own pace. The morning ride takes you through vineyards, orchards and over rolling hills of white 'tuff' to reach Ibrahimpaşa. From this picturesque village, you start ascending the 'twin hills' of Cappadocia to reach a panoramic viewpoint taking in northern Cappadocia and the towering rock fortress of Uchisar. The ride to the village where you will spend the next two nights reveals the multicoloured rock formations of the famous Pigeon Valley, and Uchisar's picturesque fairy chimneys. Ride to your panoramic guesthouse where lunch on the terrace awaits. You may spend the rest of the day exploring Uchisar or hiking to the churches of Göreme's Open Air Museum through the Pigeon Valley. An excursion to the underground cities can also be organised on request. (B,L,D)

**Day 5** - Optional hot-air balloon flight in the early morning. Today you sneak your way through the rock tunnels, arches and small woods of the spectacular, 4 km-long canyon called the Green Valley. You make a detour through the famous Love Valley and its gigantic phallic rock formations, then onto the Sword Valley and Red Valley. With its citadels of red, pink and ochre rock, and its beautiful troglodytic churches, this is Cappadocia's most spectacular ensemble of geological formations. Lunch is at cave café located in an ancient monastery. In the afternoon, you continue through 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 Uchisar, in time for a drink on the terrace at sunset. Dinner and the night at the guesthouse. (B,L,D)



**Day 6** - Another opportunity for a hot-air balloon flight at dawn. Riding from the guesthouse you enter the beautiful White Valley riding through stone labyrinths and lush vegetation, and pass the impressive fairy chimneys of yet another Love Valley. Crossing the picturesque village of Çavuşin, you follow a path carved in the red rock to reach the famous formations of Paşabağı, and then onto Zelve, an ancient troglodytic settlement which you can visit during the lunch break at a family restaurant. In the afternoon, there are opportunities to canter across the plain of Avanos to viewpoints overlooking Devrent valley. The chance for more long trots and canters through the maze of woody, sandy paths of the valley of Urgup to Ortahisar. Dinner and night at a guesthouse in the village's ancient quarters located above a canyon where the horses will spend the night. (B,L,D)

**Day 7** - The route today leads through the valley of Pancarlık with its multicoloured rock formations, gardens and orchards, then through lush vegetation and along the stream of the Uzengi canyon. Villagers cook lunch for you on the wood fire, at the foot of troglodytic citadels of dovecotes carved out of the sheer rock walls. In the afternoon thread your way through the fairy chimneys of Gümüslü valley, then canter on the large tracks leading to the natural rock circus of Taslık. More fun riding awaits in the narrow corridors and arches of the canyon of Tahtali. You ride uphill to reach to the brow, then follow a spectacular, narrow path along a cliff overlooking the canyons. You return to the ranch in the late afternoon where you bid the horses farewell. After tea on the terrace, you have an option to be driven to the hamam in Ürgüp for a relaxing steam bath and massage (free minibus transfer). Short transfer back to your guesthouse in Ortahisar and farewell dinner. (B,L,D)

**Day 8** - Breakfast and transfer to Kayseri in time for Turkish Airways flight TK2011 to Istanbul departing at 09.40 and onward flight home. (B)

**Ottoman Ride** Accommodation on this ride is in two guesthouses. The first, 2nd, 3rd, 6th and final nights are spent in an ancient Greek-Ottoman mansion in the town of Urgüp with vaulted and caved rooms which have been beautifully refurbished and furnished in Anatolian style. The guesthouse is just 10 minutes drive from the ranch / stables and has its own hamam (traditional Turkish steam bath) which guests can use free of charge. The small market town of Urgüp is known for its ancient troglodyte quarters, craft and carpet shops, cafes, bars and restaurants, along with its wine making and its lively Saturday market. The 4th & 5th nights are spent in the village of Uchisar in a cosy troglodytic villa overlooking the famous Pigeon Valley. It is a short distance from Goreme and the Open Air Museum of churches. The programme is 7 nights, with 5-6 hours riding on 4 days and 3 ½ riding on one day. There is also the option of riding on a 6th day (extra charge). One day is free for those who wish for other activities and sightseeing. This is an excellent choice for those looking for a more flexible programme without compromising on the riding or scenery. When you are not riding, you can simply relax at your guesthouse / hotel or take the time to visit Cappadocia's troglodyte villages and frescoed churches, fly above the magical landscape in a hot-air balloon, explore the famous underground cities or attend a whirling-dervish ceremony at the caravanserai.

**NB** mid summer dates include the use of swimming pools at lunchtime.

**Day 1** - You will be met on arrival in Kayseri from flight TK2018 at 19.40 and driven about an hour to the town of Urgüp within the Cappadocia National Park. Dinner and night at the guesthouse in Urgüp. (D)

**Day 2** - Breakfast and a short transfer to the ranch. After getting acquainted with your horse and riding equipment, you set off riding to explore the scenic green valleys of Yatak and Pancarliik. Your sure-footed horse takes you safely along the rocky paths carved by generations of muleteers, passing ancient troglodytic churches which are well off the beaten track. Follow the stream towards the village of Ortahisar where you stop for lunch at a traditional guesthouse overlooking the canyons, or in the summer, at a hotel with a swimming pool. In the afternoon, you launch into a long canter on a sandy track leading you to the churches of Gomedra. Continue along a spectacular cliff, stopping en route to admire the panorama over south Cappadocia, and then on back to the stables. A short transfer back to your guesthouse in Urgüp for dinner and the night. (B,L,D)

**Day 3** - After breakfast transfer back to the ranch. The day begins riding through the lush canyon of Uzengi, where abrupt rock walls shelter troglodytic citadels of dovecotes. You ride through the fairy chimneys of the Gümüslü valley and then canter towards the valley of Tartali. Pass through the valley's natural rock arches and narrow rock corridors to reach the village of Mustafapasa for lunch. Time to stroll among the village's old Greek mansions, or relax by the restaurant's swimming pool. In the afternoon, the landscape changes radically as you ride across Avlak mountain. Here, large expanses of bare lands resemble the Mongolian steppes. Back to the ranch in the evening light, through small woods and green gardens. A short transfer back to your guesthouse in Urgüp for dinner and the night. (B,L,D)



**Day 4** - The ride today takes you to the beautiful valleys of north Cappadocia, and to the village of Uchisar. You trot and canter through vineyards and orchards and over rolling hills of white tuff to reach Ibrahimpassa. From this picturesque village, you start ascending the 'twin hills' of Cappadocia. A nice canter at the top takes you to 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. Arrive at the villa where the night is spent and enjoy a late lunch on the terrace. The horses will stay in one of the terraced gardens below the villa. You may spend the rest of the day exploring the village, resting by the swimming pool of a nearby hotel, or walking through the Pigeon Valley to visit the churches of Göreme's Open Air Museum. Dinner and night at the guesthouse in Uchisar. (B,L,D)

**Day 5** - Breakfast and ride out from the villa, sneaking your way through the rock tunnels, arches and coves of the beautiful Green Valley. Later, the landscape opens up with a magnificent panorama over the Bozdaga mountain. After this you ride through the famous Love Valley and its gigantic phallic rock formations, before entering the village of Göreme, where you stop for lunch by the swimming pool. In the afternoon, you set off riding along the top of a ridge, with trots and canters on tracks of white tuff, surrounded by the rocky hills of north Cappadocia. The winding paths of the Shepherd's valley take you back to your villa in Uchisar, in time to admire central Cappadocia at sunset. Dinner and night at the guesthouse in Uchisar. (B,L,D)

**Day 6** - Leaving the villa in Uchisar, set off riding along another beautiful canyon called the White Valley. The route takes you through rock arches and lush vegetation and onto the majestic Red Valley, also called the Valley of the Roses. This has some of Cappadocia's most spectacular formations of red, pink and ochre rock. Stop to visit the cave churches carved into the rock walls, and then for lunch at an ancient troglodytic monastery. After a siesta on the restaurant's comfortable terrace, you leave the tortuous paths behind to enjoy a long gallop on a sandy track lined with trees. Cross the Valley of Pancarlik and its multicoloured fairy chimneys and you arrive at the ranch in the late afternoon. A short transfer back to the guesthouse in Urgüp for dinner and the night. (B,L,D)



**Day 7** - Today you have another day to spend at your leisure. Optional activities include hot air balloon flights; visits to Göreme's Open Air Museum; excursion to the underground cities; excursion to churches and dovecotes in the remote valley of Soganli. Activities & lunch at your own expense. Dinner and the night at the guesthouse in Urgüp. (B, D)

Alternatively you can ride for an extra day (extra charge of 120 euros) to the remote villages of Ayvali and Bahceli, in the far south of Cappadocia. Here, ancient traditions are still alive and people still tend their gardens with horses and donkeys. You ride through the wide-open, steppe-like landscape surrounding lake Damsa, enjoying canters on tracks of soft red clay, surrounded by the table-mountains of south Cappadocia. Ride into the village of Ayvali through a hidden canyon, and stop for lunch at a restaurant nestled in the rock. In the afternoon, the canyon takes you further down to the ancient troglodytic quarters of Bahceli. Ride through a maze of paths lined with orchards and vineyards, then a last long canter along dusty tracks takes you back to the ranch. A short transfer back to your guesthouse in Urgüp for dinner and the night. (B,L,D)

**Day 8** - Breakfast and transfer to Kayseri in time for Turkish Airways flight TK2011 to Istanbul departing at 09.40 and onward flight home. (B)

**The Pasha Ride** follows the same route as the Ottoman Ride but offers superior boutique hotel accommodation and includes a balloon ride, and activities on Day 7. The Pasha Ride is available on request (though not usually possible over the set dates below).

### Dates 2012

#### Guesthouse Ride

22nd to 29th April  
13th to 20th May  
20th to 27th May  
3rd to 10th June  
16th to 23rd September  
30th September to 7th October  
7th to 14th October  
21st to 28th October

\* with swimming pools

#### Camping Ride

17th to 24th June  
1st to 8th July  
2nd to 9th September

#### Ottoman Ride

1st to 8th April  
8th to 15th April  
29th April to 6th May  
8th to 15th July\*  
22nd to 29th July\*  
5th to 12th August\*  
19th to 26th August\*  
28th October to 4th November

Other dates / Pasha Rides possible on request, for a minimum of 2 participants.

### Rates 2012

**Please note that due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, ride rates are now quoted in euros. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the euro/sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay.**

Guesthouse Ride - Euros 1190 per person

Camping Ride - Euros 1090 per person

Ottoman Ride - Euros 1070 per person

Ottoman Ride with swimming pools - Euros 1130 per person

(single supplement for all above 25 Euros per night)

Pasha Ride - Euros 2480 per person (single supplement 350 Euros)

Rates assume a minimum of 2 people for Guesthouse, Ottoman and Pasha Rides, with a maximum of 8. The minimum for the Camping ride is 4, maximum 10 riders

**NB.** If less than 4 people, the Camping Ride will be run as the Guesthouse Ride and supplement of Euros 100 per person

**Rates include** - 7 nights twin accommodation, all riding, guiding and equipment, transfers from / to Kayseri and all meals. Rates assume twin bedded rooms in hotels / tents, please see below for information about the single supplement.

**Rates do NOT include** - International flights / travel to Kayseri, any visa fees, personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have), your bar bill, airport transfers outside set times, optional activities (balloon flight, Open Air museum etc. except on the Pasha Ride), and any tips you may wish to leave. On the Ottoman Ride lunch and activities on non-riding day or the optional extra day riding (cost 120 euros) are also not included.



**Single travellers** - Single supplements are not usually available on the camping rides. When using guesthouse accommodation single rooms can be booked at an extra 25 Euros per night (subject to availability), but solo travellers need not pay the supplement if they are happy to share if required. On the Ottoman and Pasha Rides the supplement will apply if you are travelling alone unless you are prepared to share a room AND we have a sharer for you (if we do not have a sharer, the supplement is charged).

**Travel arrangements** For these rides you need to fly to Kayseri via Istanbul and meeting is at the airport at 19.40 from flight TK2018. (Transfers between Kayseri and Ortahisar can be arranged outside set times for an extra charge). Both Turkish Airways and British Airways currently have direct flights from London to Istanbul daily. Turkish Airways then have onward flights to Kayseri (or it is possible to go by bus, a journey of about 12 hours). On the return you are driven back to Kayseri in time for the 09.40 flight TK2011 to Istanbul. Flights range from around £250 to £400 economy return plus taxes depending on time of year, the airline used and availability. If you plan to connect straight through to Kayseri then please allow plenty of time between flights - particularly if you are using different carriers (eg British Airways in conjunction with Turkish Airways). There are often long queues for visas and immigration and it can all be quite time consuming. If you would like further advice on flights, a quote for a flight inclusive holiday or to book flights, please call us (our ATOL number for flight bookings is ATOL 6213).

**Transfers** Set transfers to tie in with the above Kayseri flights are included in the ride price. However, should you need them it is possible to arrange special airport transfers for around 10 Euros per person one way, between 08.00 to 22.00. Transfers for late night arrivals and early morning departures will still be charged at 65 Euros one way (for the car). Please avoid late night arrivals, Please remember that all special transfers must be paid directly to the driver.

Nevsehir airport offers several flights a week from/to Istanbul's Ataturk airport, and can be a good alternative if flights to Kayseri are fully booked or expensive. Special transfers for this airport can be arranged at the same conditions as for Kayseri airport.

**General visa and health information** - further information will be sent to you if you make a confirmed booking)

**Visas** Visas for Turkey are obtained on arrival at the airport in Istanbul at a cost (currently) of £10.

**Health** No inoculations are legally required to enter Turkey if travelling from Europe but Polio and Tetanus are recommended - you should consult a health professional for further and more detailed advice in any case.

(Draft 24/10/11)

