



WIN a trip to Turkey for two

Vast, diverse Turkey is a cultural heavyweight and dramatic adventure playground that offers something for every traveller. And you could be heading there yourself thanks to **The Turkish Culture & Information Office**

Turkey is central to the world as we know it. At a cultural crossroads, spanning continents, it has been a home to more than 30 known civilisations over the millennia. Today, it continues to be a land of immense historical richness, spectacular geography and cultural vibrancy. It is the home of sparkling turquoise seas and towering mountains. It is the home of dark, intense coffee and sweet Turkish delights. It is the home of underground cities and long-distance trails, Whirling Dervishes and Nobel Prize winners. It is the home of ancient Troy and modern funky bars. It is the home of unique experiences.

HOME OF... ACTION & ADVENTURE

Turkey is the perfect playground for adventure-lovers. From whitewater rafting and canoeing to

diving, kite-surfing and caving, from cycling and hiking to paragliding and hot-air ballooning, you will be enthralled by what Turkey has to offer.

With 379 Blue Flag beaches, a warm climate and a spectacular coastline that stretches for thousands of miles, Turkey is ideal for watersports. Alacati, Cesme, Foca and Bitez all offer excellent conditions for wind-surfing. Diving has taken off too – thanks to the clear, warm waters, where visibility of 30m is not uncommon. Or you could paraglide across the Oludeniz lagoon, mountain-bike through the wild Koprulu Canyon or tackle the rapids of the Coruh River, one of the fastest-flowing in the world.

Turkey has three official long-distance footpaths, the Lycian Way, the St Paul Trail and the Abraham's Path – all abundant in spectacular scenery and ancient history. Other cultural routes include the Evliya Celebi Way, from near Istanbul to Izmir, and the Phrygian

Way, which traverses central Anatolia. Serious climbers should explore Turkey's rich interior and mountainous east – or perhaps return for fantastic, great-value skiing and snowboarding. Indeed, in Antalya it is possible to ski in the Taurus mountains and laze on the beach, both in the same day.

HOME OF... HISTORY & HERITAGE

Turkey is a country of unique cultural wonders, a number of which adorn the UNESCO World Heritage List. Added to the list in 2014 were the ancient city of Pergamon and the city of Bursa (the Ottoman Empire's first capital) and its village of Cumalikizik.

Troy is perhaps one of the most evocative names in ancient history. Homer immortalised Troy in the *Iliad*, his tale of passion, betrayal and cunning; in recognition, a replica wooden horse stands at the

site. The ancient city was reconstructed nine times, and the Archaeological Site of Troy, a UNESCO site, is home to remains that date back to 3000BC.

Turkey is the home of many more venerable sites. For example, there's the City of Safranbolu, renowned for its Ottoman houses; the huge stone heads of Mount Nemrut; and the Neolithic Site of Catalhoyuk, which has wall paintings regarded as some of humanity's earliest artworks. Istanbul alone is a treasure trove of historic masterpieces, its riches including the sixth-century Hagia Sophia, the ancient Hippodrome of Constantine, elegant Topkapi Palace and the beautiful Blue Mosque.

The year 2015 marks the centenary of the Battle of Gallipoli. Visitors can tour Gallipoli's battlefields, explore ANZAC Cove and the Ari Burnu Cemetery, and attend the event that takes place on 25 April each year to commemorate the Gallipoli campaign.

HOME OF... UNIQUE LANDSCAPES

Turkey is scenically spectacular, with large areas of unspoiled countryside providing wonderful natural reserves for an extraordinary variety of wildlife, flora and fauna. There are 180 mountains over 3,000m,

dotted with friendly villages, remote historic sites, glacial lakes and lush alpine meadows. For example, the Kackar Mountains National Park is home to more than 2,500 varieties of plants, 160 of which grow only in the Kackar Mountains.

With its otherworldly landscapes, rock-carved churches, underground cities and cave hotels, the Cappadocia region offers a one-of-a-kind experience. Millions of years ago two volcanoes erupted with such force that in some places the once molten lava, or *tufa*, was up to 100m thick; over time, weather has sculpted the sensual curves of the Cappadocian landscape, forming the pinnacles now known as fairy chimneys. It's a paradise for outdoor activities – you can hike, bike or horse-ride through scenic valleys. Or take a hot-air balloon flight – the region's spectacular scenery and calm weather make it one of the world's best locations for ballooning.

Turkey's Antalya region has been crowned the 'Turkish Riviera', a place of glorious beaches with a gorgeous green backdrop of pine forests. Beyond this lies a world of ancient ruins, plunging waterfalls and dramatic canyons, just waiting to be discovered.

How to enter

The Turkish Culture & Information Office are offering one *Wanderlust* reader return flights for two, for an exciting three-night break to Istanbul, staying at **Sub Karakoy**, a boutique hotel in trendy Karakoy. To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer the following:

Q: How many UNESCO World Heritage sites is Turkey home to?

- 1) 11
- 2) 12
- 3) 13

To enter, go to www.wanderlust.co.uk/competitions or send your answer to the *Wanderlust* office (address p2). The closing date is 1 January 2015. The prize must be taken by 30 November 2015, subject to availability and exclusions. State 'no offers' if you'd rather not be contacted by Wanderlust or sponsors. See website for full terms & conditions.



For more information, call 0207 839 7778 or visit www.gototurkey.co.uk