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The National Park  
of Cappadocia  
Turkey

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‘Words fail one in attempting to describe the  
appearance of this extraordinary locale’

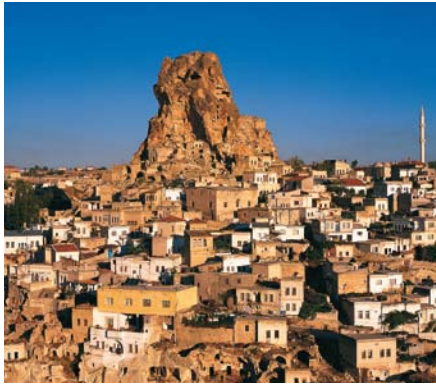
W. J. HAMILTON, ENGLISH GEOLOGIST, JULY 1837.

Subterranean cities, cave houses, tunnels, fairy  
chimneys, deep winding valleys and an  
enchanted landscape – Cappadocia is quite simply one  
of the most extraordinary places on the planet.



Exclusive Escapes

There is really no adequate way to convey the quite inspirational feeling created by the surrealistic landscape of The National Park of Cappadocia – even photographs struggle to do it justice. You simply have to experience the gargantuan landscapes, the enormity of the skies and the sheer awe-inspiring natural beauty first hand. A beauty not flattered by comparison with the great natural wonders of the world!



Many literary travellers before and since Hamilton (see quote above) have struggled to capture the essence of this astonishing region – Paul Lucas reporting to the French Royal Court as long ago as approximately 1730.

“Here stood countless – heretofore unknown – pyramidal formations... Each of these formations possessed a beautiful door, a charming staircase by which to gain entrance and large windows in all the rooms to secure illumination. Within a single rock mass had been hewn a number of living quarters, each lying one above the other... They numbered not several hundreds, but more than a couple of thousand.”

#### GEOLOGY

Millions of years ago there were three major volcanoes in the area and over a long period of time their eruptions covered a large area in tufa, lava, ash and boulders. Heavy rains and strong winds, floods, rivers and temperature changes then eroded this base, resulting in deep narrow canyons, valleys and ravines being carved out and peculiar rock formations sculpted. These tufa formations are between five and eleven million years old.

#### HISTORY

The bizarre landscape, fertile soil and central location attracted many peoples from the Neolithic periods onward. Assyrians, Hittites, Persians and Romans have all left their mark on this remarkable region.

The early Christians fleeing persecution from Rome settled here and created many churches and monasteries throughout the valleys – which house an amazing array of

well-preserved frescoes. Seljuk Turks built ‘motels’ for camel caravans travelling along the Silk Road and Ottomans embellished the area with mosques, medreses (religious school) and bridges.

Houses, churches, stables, storage places and dove cotes were chiselled out of the eroded soft tufa, which is easily shaped when moist and hardens fast in contact with air. The temperature in these ‘caves’ is more or less the same throughout the year (12–15°C) making them perfect for food storage.

Now they have a different use, being ideal for the famous Cappadocian Cave Hotels (see our properties). They are naturally air-conditioned – cool in hot summers and warm and easy to heat in harsh winters.

The tufa rock allowed extraordinary underground settlements to be created which were used over many years to escape the attentions of invaders. Some of these settlements extend an astonishing 17 stories below the ground. Museums have been established which permit visitors to explore some of these settlements – offering a fascinating insight.

Cappadocia is quite simply one of the most extraordinary landscapes on the planet.

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#### What to do in Cappadocia

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##### HOT AIR BALLOONING - KAPADOKYA (SIC) BALLOONS

The must have experience in Cappadocia!

The professional and well-reputed Swedish/English team of Lars and Kaili have been flying for 24 years and escort you on this magical journey above a mythical landscape. This early morning flight is a glorious experience and one that we cannot recommend highly enough.

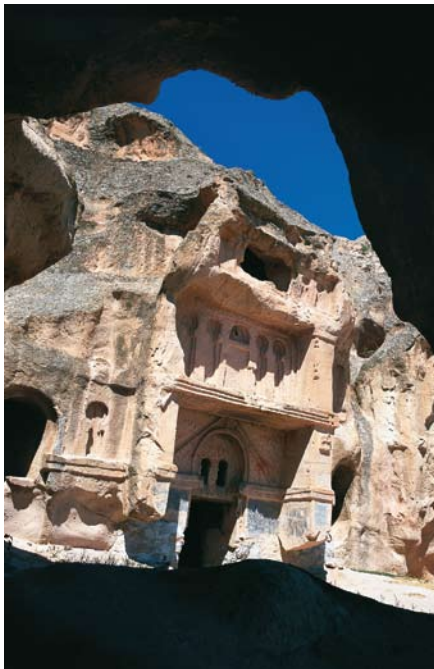
Floating high above the landscape and low between the canyons, the balloon flight is a memorable and invigorating experience and one that we enjoy on every visit to the National Park of Cappadocia.

We are pleased to offer *Exclusive Escapes* guests the opportunity to fly with Lars and Kaili at this special rate which may be pre-booked prior to your departure.

Deluxe Long Flight:..... £220  
(approx two-and-a-half to three hours)

1 Hour Flight:.....£150





#### TREKKING, MOUNTAIN BIKING & HORSERIDING

The unique terrain of Cappadocia is ideally suited to trekking of all levels. All manner of trails abound – leading through the hearts of the canyons beneath the trees on the valley floors, and up above on the cliff edges, with dramatic views across the entire landscape.

Many of these trails are open to mountain bikes and others to horses. There is an excellent riding school in the region which caters to all abilities, from gentle ambles for the novice child, through to exhilarating overnight treks for the confident equestrian.

#### HISTORIC & RELIGIOUS SIGHT SEEING

There is much for the cultural visitor to learn from the region. You could explore the plethora of cave churches that are scattered throughout the canyons and valleys. Or you may decide to visit the many museums such as the wonderfully preserved Göreme Open Air Museum where the story of the region is told in clear and graphic detail.

You can explore rock churches dating from the fourth century and frescoes from the eighth. Alternatively experience the surreal feeling of exploring one of the underground settlements such as the one at Kaymakli.

#### BOTANY, ORNITHOLOGY & PAINTING

The region is home to all manner of flora and fauna as well as being an ornithologist's delight. The unusual light is why so many artists have made the region their home.

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## How To Get The Most Out Of Cappadocia

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### PRIVATE GUIDED ITINERARIES – DO I NEED A PRIVATE GUIDE?

Cappadocia is there to be explored freely by all. However, as the region is so vast and the places of interest so many and varied, we feel so strongly that a guide will enhance your enjoyment of the region that our prices include the services of one of our highly specialist Private Guides.

Our guides are extremely knowledgeable and they will discuss an itinerary that is most suited to your interests – be that trekking, cultural, religious, artistic, flora and fauna, relaxation or any combination thereof!

Your guide is certain to provide you with a fascinating insight into the history and culture of this wonderful region. You will have the opportunity to discover areas rarely visited and experience Cappadocia in a way that would be impossible to do on your own.

Naturally, should you prefer to go without the services of a private guide, a reduction is applicable to our rates.

### HOW LONG SHOULD I STAY IN CAPPADOCIA?

Many visitors choose to visit Cappadocia for just two or three days. This is fine to get a taste, however the region will undoubtedly leave you wanting more! We would recommend a stay of five to seven days in order to allow time to relax and truly appreciate the stunning National Park without having to rush through it.



The travel to such a seemingly remote location is remarkably simple, with scheduled flights from Heathrow and Manchester routing almost daily to Cappadocia (Kayseri) via Istanbul.

### CAPPADOCIA ONLY OR COMBINED WITH ISTANBUL AND/OR THE LYCIAN COAST?

It is easy to visit Cappadocia on a short break. However, the vast majority of our guests visit Cappadocia in combination with either Istanbul and/or the Lycian Coast.

We like to consider ourselves expert in arranging individual holidays of this nature – indeed any holiday involving exploration of Turkey.

The contrast provided by the cultural overload and hustle and bustle of Istanbul combined with the inspiring landscapes of the National Park of Cappadocia and/or the peace and beauty of one of our coastal retreats makes for a perfectly balanced holiday of many differing experiences.

Please refer to the menu above for full travel and pricing information.

### GUIDE BOOKS

Once in Cappadocia you are sure to develop an overwhelming desire to learn as much as you can about the region. We would recommend the following Guides for general knowledge: Rough Guide, Lonely Planets and Michelin Guide.

We usually find Stanford's Map and Travel Book Shop to be a more than useful source of information: [www.stanfords.co.uk](http://www.stanfords.co.uk)

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## Cappadocia Hotels Why Our Selection?

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We are extremely proud of the fact that our guests are so well thought of that the vast majority of our boutique properties are exclusively presented to UK guests by *Exclusive Escapes*.

As is also the case in Istanbul, our carefully selected portfolio of properties provides our guests with the opportunity to experience the region in a way only very few are able to. All offer a real sense of character and individuality that certainly suits our philosophy, a long way removed from the feel of an antiseptic and impersonal city hotel chain.

Please view our property portfolio online.