

WILD FRONTIERS



Wild Walk in the Taurus Mountains with Mike Belton Turkey

This wonderful walk on the St Paul Trail, Turkey's second marked long-distance trekking route, offers a true insight into some of Central Anatolia most beautiful rural parts. Utilising ancient Roman roads and paths, we pass through some of the most diverse and surreal landscapes you are ever likely to have seen, from towering limestone rock columns to high altitude pastures and forests of fragrant cedar pine. We will encounter shepherds with their flocks and incredible ancient and deserted archaeological sites. We will eat fresh cherries from the trees and swim in the rivers. We will drink from fresh mountains springs, one - so they say - that St Paul drank from on his epic journey to convert the pagans of Asia Minor in the 1st century AD. The route takes in the natural highlights of the beautiful Taurus Mountains, including canyons, rivers, and the spectacular 40km long lake at Egirdir. The walking is mostly medium grade, but there are some steepish climbs. Accommodation ranges from comfortable hotels & pensions, to basic homestays in village houses, but will always be interesting; food is mainly traditional village food and will be one of the highlights of the trip. The trip finishes with a visit to the stunning Aspendos theatre, perhaps the world best-preserved Roman theatre.

'I did this trip to see what it was like and if it was up to the Wild Frontiers standard. All I can say is it passed with flying colours... honestly one of my most enjoyable trips ever.'
Jonny Bealby

HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk in the footsteps of St Paul
- Stay in village houses
- Roman Theatres at Selge & Aspendos
- Spectacular views in Koprulu Canyon
- An insight into the people and culture of rural Turkey

Duration: 9 Days

Average group size: 5 - 12

Start: Sat 28 Apr 12

Finish: Sun 06 May 12



Why Wild Frontiers?

As a young, innovative company, Wild Frontiers is delighted to have been voted one of the 'Top 10 Tour Operators' by the readers of both Wanderlust and National Geographic Adventure. We are frequently asked what makes us different from other tour operators, and feel that the factors below answer this important question.

The Traveller's Ethos: WF is a company that has been set up by travellers for travellers, and our ethos is to help adventurous souls get to incredible and inaccessible places in safety and as much comfort as local conditions allow. We are firm believers that travelling is all about the experience and it's the details that make the trip - we specialise in drawing on our own extensive local knowledge and array of contacts to give our clients the very best experience possible.

Personal Service: Our London office is manned by experienced expedition leaders and every trip we run stems from their extensive knowledge - in short, we run the kind of trips that as passionate travellers, we like to do ourselves! When you ring our office, you can be guaranteed to chat to someone that knows the trips and the terrain, and is able to offer sound and practical advice.

Authentic Experiences: Our unique, original itineraries allow our clients to take journeys that venture beneath the surface of the region. Unlike the plethora of 'world specialists' out there who purport to know a hundred destinations, we concentrate on the locations we know and love. We don't run the same tour over and over, thus running the risk of creating a 'tourist circuit' and spoiling untouched regions. Instead, we rarely run any tour more than a couple of times a year and they are on routes we have discovered for ourselves, meaning we are able to give a truly authentic, off-the-beaten-track experience.

Be the First: Our style of travel is all about exploration, and nothing excites us more than opening up new routes to genuine travellers. We keep abreast of new destinations and are often the first to return to places that have vanished from the tourist map. We were the first back into Pakistan after 9/11, the first to return to Kashmir after a decade of tourist isolation, and the first to run a commercial travel trip to Afghanistan for almost 30 years. Since then we have helped bring Colombia, Yemen and Georgia back into the tourist fold, specialising in groundbreaking reconnaissance trips and imaginative expeditions.

Small Group Size: We believe it is imperative to keep the group sizes small. Most trips are limited to a maximum of approximately 12 travellers, thus giving you more access to fragile cultures, better opportunities to interact with local people, and the knowledge you are making less of an impact while there.

Cost of Tours: We believe in an honest, upfront pricing system so you know exactly what the tour will cost before you book. We avoid local payments, 'optional extras' or forcing our clients to split every meal bill. Our tours are provided on a predominantly full board basis, with mineral water, government permits, entrance fees and transport all included.

Added Value: We aim to give our clients the very best (not the least expensive) experience through whatever facilities are available to us. We always try to provide accommodation that is interesting, characterful and convenient, and transport - another important part of any tour - that is as varied and comfortable as possible.

Our clients: Your companions can make or break a trip, and it's lucky therefore that our clients are our greatest asset. Travelling to remote regions is not for everyone, and as such we tend to attract open-minded travellers looking for genuine experiences, and a desire to reach those hard to get to places.

Responsible Travel: Awarded 5 star status by AITO (Association of Independent Tour operators), responsible tourism has always been an integral part of our company ethos and our adventures are designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. For further details please refer to the RT section on this dossier.



Day 1: Antalya: The tour starts at an Ottoman style pension in the old town. We'll have a traditional Turkish evening meal in a courtyard restaurant before retiring for the night.

Hotel (D)

Day 2: Antalya - Egridir: This morning we leave Antalya and take a short drive north into the Taurus. We will take our first hike from the shepherd pastures above the village of Balkiri. Under the shadow of the peak of Sivri Dag, we will get superb unobstructed views of Egridir and the lake (Turkey's 4th largest) on which it is situated. We'll then descend to the village of Akpınar and continue onto our overnight stop.

Approx 3hrs walking.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 3: Egridir - Davraz: After a look around town, we'll take a short drive to the foothills of Mt Davraz to start our hike. Climbing up through forested ridges and crossing high shepherd pastures, we'll have superb views of the imposing west face of the Davraz massif. We'll continue to our accommodation in a mountain lodge, overshadowed by Mt Davraz itself (2,635m).

Approx 5hrs walking.

Mountain Lodge (B, L, D)

Day 4: Davraz - Kasimlar: Today we'll climb south up the flank of Mt Davraz - this includes some scree and possibly some snow patches. Several nomad

encampments dot the far side of the ridge and we hope to meet some of these hardy individuals who make these high pastures their summer home. After a picnic lunch, our walk heads down through beautiful mature forest (including the rare Volcanic Oak) to Yukari Gokdere, famed for its cherry and apple orchards. We'll then take a short transfer to nearby Kasimlar.

Approx 7hrs walking.

Village house (B, L, D)

Day 5: Kasimlar - Caltepe: We'll walk down into the valley from Kasimlar, cross the bridge and head up through pine forest and dramatic rock-outcrops to a skyline pass. As we continue on to Kesme, with intermittent views into the canyon, we'll make a brief visit to Roman ruins on Asar hill and then transfer to Caltepe.

Approx 6hrs walking.

Village pension (B, L, D)

Day 6: Caltepe - Selge: We'll take a cross-country trek today along a variety of terrains - from dirt track, sections of paved Roman and Ottoman driving roads, through to isolated hamlets and mature forest all the way to Selge. On the way we should see some of the bizarre rock formations, known locally as the "rock-fathers". Tonight we'll have a traditional village meal before spending the night in a simple lodge room almost in the shadow of the theatre of this remote place almost 1,000m up in the mountains.

Approx. 6hrs walking.

Village house terrace (B, L, D)

Day 7: Selge - Tevfik's House: Today sees us taking two shorter walks. The first is a circular route visiting Selge's Roman theatre and some of the other remains scattered across the hilltops above the pretty village of Altinkaya, The second takes us down into the valley through a mixture of pine and strawberry trees, before crossing the river and continuing up to Tevfik's house.

Approx 5hrs walking.

Tevfik's cabins (B, L, D)

Day 8: Tevfik's House - Antalya: Our final walk of the trip takes us to the Oluk Roman Bridge, gracefully spanning the Koprulu River. Downstream from here we'll have a good riverside lunch before visiting the ancient theatre of Aspendos and returning once more to the old town

of Antalya, where there'll be free time for personal exploration.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 9: Antalya: The tour finishes today in Antalya.

(B)

Wild Extensions:

Arrive early to adjust to a new time zone or just to get a feel for the country before your tour starts. Explore the country after your tour on a bespoke Wild Extension or just allow a few days to relax afterwards. Maybe choose all of the above and get cheaper flights mid-week?

A sample of what you could do...

3-Day Istanbul: Break your inward or outward journey at Turkey's cultural capital which straddles both Europe & Asia. Highlights include the Aya Sophia, Blue Mosque & Topkapi Palace.

Or if you have more time, the list is literally endless! From the WWI battlefields of Gallipoli to the lunar landscapes of Cappadocia and the "beehive houses" of Harran, Turkey has much to offer.

Contact the office for extension specifics.

MIKE BELTON

Since 1986 Mike has worked in a wide variety of destinations around the world, designing and operating activity, adventure and cultural tours. Somehow Turkey always pulled him back and, in 1994, he settled in the country and founded his own tour company.

Mike and his wife Karen combine their passionate love of Turkey with a commitment to customer satisfaction: they research all new itineraries themselves and strive continually to keep programmes fresh and interesting. This has made Mike of the country's most respected and admired tour leaders, both within and outside the industry.

Since 2008, Mike has been working closely with Wild Frontiers on all aspects of our Turkish tours.

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Code: WWT/B

Tour price: All our tours are priced on a LAND ONLY basis, giving you maximum flexibility when deciding how to get to and from your tour.

Single Supplements: These are NOT compulsory for any Wild Frontiers tour. Where single supplements are available please note that a single room cannot always be guaranteed for every night of the tour as depending on the destination, rooms may be limited. On this tour we are happy to offer an optional single supplement that will cover you for the nights in Antalya, Egirdir & Davraz.

Flights: If you would like us to send you a quote for the suggested tour flight (see GETTING THERE) or on any alternative flight that may suit you better, please let us know.

In all cases, for the latest prices, please refer to our website or contact the office.

Please remember that all Wild Frontiers tour prices mean NO hidden extras, NO local payments or kitty and NO compulsory single supplements.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Full services of a Wild Frontiers Tour Leader - Mike Belton - with local guides and drivers.
- Meal plan as detailed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner) with mineral water as required.
- All transport as outlined in the itinerary.
- All accommodation
- All entrance fees, as per itinerary.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Visas
- Local airport taxes
- Tips
- Beverages & any costs of a personal nature.
- International Flights
- Airport transfers (unless booking suggested flights through WF office)

GETTING THERE

For this trip our suggested flights (subject to change) are:

28APR TK1980 LHR-IST 11:25/17:20
28APR TK2424 IST-AYT 20:05/21:20
06MAY TK2411 AYT-IST 10:35/11:55
06MAY TK1985 IST-LHR 13:10/15:15

Key:

LHR - London Heathrow

IST - Istanbul

AYT - Antalya

TK - Turkish Airlines

NB If you wish to arrange your own flights you are completely free to do so and in this case we can arrange any transfers or supplementary accommodation that you may require.

Please note that if you are making your own flight arrangements, we recommend that you only purchase flights that are totally flexible and refundable as due to the nature of adventure travel, itineraries can change at any time. For more information, please refer to our booking conditions.

PRACTICALITIES

Accommodation will be highly variable - from good hotels to village guesthouse. Selge village, until recently, was so short of water that there were no washing facilities, and only an earthen closet. Our facilities there, whilst simple, are much improved. There will be limited privacy in village houses. Depending on the destination, rooms may be limited and could be dormitory accommodation.

Any accommodation mentioned in the itinerary is subject to availability and if not available substitutes will be of a similar quality.

Transport on the tour will be in a minibus and obviously on foot!

Trip Grading:

Adventure Rating ❖❖❖❖❖

Comfort Grade ❖❖❖❖❖

Fitness Level ❖❖❖❖❖

Cultural Interest ❖❖❖❖❖

Please note that this grading is an indication only and should you have any concerns please contact the office.

Fitness...

Anyone in a decent state of health and reasonably fit will enjoy this trip. There will be 4-7 hrs walking per day, often uphill or on loose stone paths. You'll be expected to carry your own picnic in a daypack. Medium grade walking.

It may sound obvious but...

Wild Frontiers tours are not always for everyone and it is important to us that the tour you choose is the most suitable. Please therefore take time to read the dossier carefully. All our tours are graded to give an overall picture of the trip but these are only guidelines and you should check the daily itinerary. Should you have any concerns about your ability to partake in any aspect of the tour then please contact the office.

Insurance: Insurance that provides cover for emergency repatriation in case of a medical emergency is compulsory for all tours. You should be aware that many standard insurance policies may not cover you adequately for all aspects of a Wild Frontiers trip and so we strongly recommend that you purchase a suitably designed insurance policy. One such policy is the "Wild Frontiers" policy underwritten by Travel & General Insurance Company plc, which is available to UK and Republic of Ireland residents through our website or via the insurance company direct on 0845 408 0583. Under this policy there are two different levels of cover available and for this trip the minimum requirement would be the Standard policy

Cover explained:

Standard policy: a comprehensive travel insurance policy that provides cover for all Wild Frontiers activities, including trekking up to 6,000m. This policy does not provide cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel.

Elite policy: provides the same comprehensive level of cover as the standard policy. In addition the Elite policy also provides cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel. The policy

will not provide cover for any claims arising from or relating to the reasons why the FCO is advising against travel.

If purchasing the Elite policy you also have the option to **extend the cover** provided by the policy to include cover for claims arising from a terrorist act in an area where the FCO is advising against travel. You can add this cover to your policy when purchasing online or over the telephone.

These policies are only available to those travelling on a Wild Frontiers holiday.

For more information and to purchase your policy online please visit the Insurance section of our website.

The cover is underwritten by the International Insurance Company of Hannover Limited (IICH), who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). Wild Frontiers Limited is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Travel & General Insurance Company plc, details of which can be found at the FSA's website www.fsa.gov.uk.

If you do decide to purchase alternative insurance, then you must ensure that it covers you for every aspect of this trip.

Visas: Visas are necessary for many of the destinations we travel to and while we aim to provide you with the most up-to-date information, requirements frequently change and as such we advise that you check with the relevant embassies or contact our recommended visa agency, Travcour (020 7223 5295) www.travcour.com for the latest advice. For this tour, UK passport holders currently require a visa for Turkey available on entry.

Non-UK passport holders should contact the relevant embassies for individual requirements.

Further details will be sent out to you on booking, however ensuring that correct and valid visas are obtained remains the sole responsibility of the client.

Responsible Travel: Responsible travel and sustainable tourism are fundamental ideas that Wild Frontiers has been committed to since our birth. It is our

strong belief that these words should not be simply 'tagged on' to dossiers and websites but should be at the very core of each trip, and our adventures are therefore designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. We believe that a successful trip not only delivers a unique and unsurpassable journey for our clients, but that it also benefits the peoples whose lands we are privileged to visit.

The Wild Frontiers Foundation: In order to facilitate an enduring support structure for the communities we visit, and to show a commitment to these values, Wild Frontiers has set up a charitable foundation through which we can channel funds to both existing NGOs and our own development projects. In addition to organising ethically sensitive tours, having our own charitable foundation allows us to raise money - through the cost of our tours, charity trips and fund raising events - which can then be used to fund various projects in education, sanitation, reforestations and a number of other important issues facing developing communities. Wherever possible we are happy for our clients to visit these projects to see for themselves where and how this money is being spent. For a comprehensive list of all partner NGOs please visit our website. Should you wish to donate to the foundation please contact the office for details.

The Environment: Trying to do our bit for the environment, in 2005 we were among the first UK-based travel companies to automatically offset every client's international flight (if booked with us) with a payment to Carbon Clear to help promote sustainable energy.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO): The FCO travel advice highlights potential hazards people might experience when travelling abroad. Given the nature of destinations offered by Wild Frontiers it is inevitable that from time to time some itineraries contravene this advice. Whilst WF takes the safety and security of its clients extremely seriously, we will not necessarily cancel a trip because of the FCO advice. It is recommended therefore that clients check this advice before booking and contact us if they have any queries or concerns. Please see our website for further information.

Climate: From mid September to early May it is pleasantly warm to hot (around 30°C) during the day and cool to cold (around 15°C) at night. Altitudes during the walk vary from about 500m to 1800m. It can be cold at night.

Further information:

When you make a confirmed booking with Wild Frontiers we will send you our confirmation pack with complete pre-departure information giving you details on visas, health and vaccinations, packing lists, suggested reading on the region, insurance, photography and other useful tips to make your trip more enjoyable.



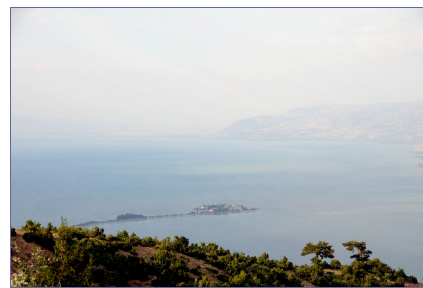
Egirdir: Egirdir, in Byzantine times called Acrotiri, is built on the only piece of level land facing two islands in the vivid green Lake Egirdir (40km long!). An ancient castle defended the shore road, but the two islands have now been linked to the land with a 1km-long causeway. The town has some medieval Seljuk buildings including a mosque and Medrassa (school) with huge decorated doorways. A harbour with fishing craft, a litter of modern pensions and abandoned Greek mansions complete the picture. On the shore, Turkish commandos have their training camp, and, slim and handsome, with their camouflage fatigues and blue berets, they fill the cafes and billiard hall. In winter the lake freezes, the wind screams down from Siberia, but in summer all is calm and sunny. The ring of mountains reflected in the lake tempts you to climb to upper lands.

TURKEY - THE FACTS



Turkey has multiple identities, poised on two continents between East and West. Although in some respects Western, Turkey retains its contradictions: mosques coexist with churches, and Roman remnants crumble alongside ancient Hittite sites. Politically, modern Turkey was almost entirely the creation of one man, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Turkey is an explicitly secular republic, though the majority of its people are Muslim. It's a vast country and a great place to travel, not least because of the people, whose reputation for friendliness and hospitality is richly deserved.

Antalya: Antalya is a walled old city surrounded by modern sprawl. We'll spend the night in the old city, in a reconstructed Ottoman mansion, and we'll eat at a traditional restaurant, which serves the typical cuisine of the Black Sea (fish, olive oil, and unusual vegetables). In the morning, if you get up early, you can explore the old harbour and narrow maze of streets lined with tumbling wooden and stone houses. Don't get lost!



Davraz Mountain: Davraz, at 2635m, towers above Egirdir. The stony scree slopes are a stiff climb above the ski lodge. We spend a night in the modern, comfortable lodge, with huge bedrooms, with the view of the peak above and the summer pasture of Kulova in front. At snowmelt, Kulova hosts a sea of wild crocus, scilla and buttercups; the goats devour the lot. Our route onwards leads

over the ridge where the black tents of goat herds huddle and down towards Yukari Gokdere.



Kasnak Forest: Kasnak is a unique forest, preserved because it shelters a magnificent 600-year-old specimen of the endemic Volcanic Oak. Around this grandfather tree cluster all his seedlings, and also, in June, wild peonies, in a deep magenta with golden stamens. Wild irises, magnificent cedars, orchids and fritillaries complete the picture.

Kasimlar: Kasimlar is a village, dragged into modernity by being chosen to host a major secondary school. The teashop, tiny village shops and council offices cluster round a square with a fountain where the old men reminisce about bygone days. The young people have mainly fled to the cities. But from the village are magnificent views down the gorge of the Koprulu River, which has excavated a huge and unstable V through the soft shale. Light and shade play on the sheer, blue-grey slopes, distant farmhouse roofs add colour, and the river is a trickle of silver at the bottom.



Selge: Selge is a magnificent site, brought to grief by lack of water. The present-day village sits atop the jumbled ruins of a huge site, with baths, theatres, temples, a forum, and a stadium; many of the old houses are built from the old stones. In the evening, we climb the old theatre to the seats of the gods and watch the sunset over the canyon.

Oluk Bridge: After a night at a farmhouse near Byzantine ruins in the canyon bottom, we walk the short distance to the Oluk Bridge - one of the original Roman bridges which spanned the canyon. The drop from the parapet is worthy of a bungy jump.

How to book:

In order to confirm your booking we need to have a completed signed booking form for each client together with a £400 deposit per person. You can either return your booking form to us by post or by booking online at www.wildfrontiers.co.uk

You can contact the office by email to info@wildfrontiers.co.uk or we are very happy to take your call on 020 7736 3968.

Wild Frontiers is a fully licensed and bonded tour operator and our ATOL number is 5975. You can book your holiday with Wild Frontiers in complete confidence that all monies you pay to us for your tour are fully protected.

We are also bonded with the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO). AITO members comply with the highest standards of consumer protection. Every AITO holiday is backed not only by AITO's Quality Charter but also by full financial protection.

We do recommend that you take out adequate travel insurance at the time of booking in the event that you are no longer able to travel as all deposits are non-refundable - full booking conditions can be found on the booking form and online at our website.