40 CELEBRATING OUR 40TH SEASON!

Est. 1988

Adventureline

WALKING HOLIDAYS

Türkiye

10 DAYS EXPLORING CAPPADOCIA

12th - 21st May 2027



Bespoke walking tours Melding *Nature*, *History* and *Story Telling* into an art

To view our 2027 Türkiye tour, please go to the *'Holiday Availability'* page on our website to see the latest availability.
Space is limited, early booking is recommended.

"Sabır Acıdır Ama Meyvesi Tatlıdır"
(Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet)

Turkish proverb

10 days exploring Cappadocia

Human settlement in the Cappadocia region dates back to the Paleolithic era. The lands where the Hittites once lived have been one of the most important centres of Christianity in later periods. Houses and churches carved into the caves and rocks turned the region into a huge haven for Christians escaping from the dominance of the Roman Empire.

Tour Highlights

- **Cappadocia** - Explore this unique landscape of enchanting valleys, *'fairy chimneys'* and cave dwellings.
- **Ihlara** - Walk along this narrow valley dotted with rock-cut churches and well-preserved Byzantine frescoes.
- **Kaymakli** - Visit an historic city carved out as a safe haven for local inhabitants in turbulent times.
- **Uchisar** - Climb the rock-cut *'castle'* and take in the views down over the region.
- **Goreme** - Enjoy seven nights in the small town at the heart of Cappadocia.
- **Museum of Goreme** - A visit to this open air marvel.

Come and see one of the great natural wonders of the world before mass tourism begins to spoil it. Cappadocia is already well known, yet until now it has not been spoiled by too much tourism. We believe it's best to visit now, as that will certainly change over the coming years, for the Turks are a people who are well versed in making the most of any opportunity. When Martin was first there 3 years ago, he visited a Pottery workshop, where he bought an amazing item that the local potters had created/invented during the Pandemic lockdown, just to amuse themselves. We won't reveal what it is, as no doubt you will discover it for yourself when you are there, but it just goes to show how ingenious they are!

The tour Pete is leading, together with his excellent English speaking local guide Faruk, will be in the area known as Cappadocia, in Central Anatolia, about 500 kms from Istanbul. It is a fairly compact area and our tour will never have drives of more than an hour or two. In fact, on most days the transfers will be very short. The region is dominated by three ancient volcanoes, Mount Erciyes (Argeus), Mount Hasan and Mount Güllü. These volcanoes have in the distant past erupted quite violently and spewed vast quantities of ash and lava over the region, completely burying the original geology. However, since those times, wind, rain and ice have eroded away much material, leaving an incredible mix of mountains, gorges, valleys and plains in Cappadocia - all made of tufa. Tufa is just compressed ash and although it forms quite a hard rock, it is nevertheless easily eroded and makes an ideal medium into which people have (over many centuries) carved homes, store rooms, pigeon houses (dovecots), churches and other useful spaces. During our tour, we will explore this region on foot and see all the incredible geological formations, with many fine examples of early Christian churches, complete with frescoes, some as old as 5th century. Of course, today, Türkiye is a Moslem country and there are many mosques to be seen. In Springtime and we should see much blossom and trees coming into leaf. There are many fruit and nut trees in the region - particularly Pistachios.

As Türkiye is a long way to visit for just 10 days, we are assuming that most people would want to spend a number of days 'doing their own thing' (probably in Istanbul) before the actual Cappadocia tour commences. This would make sense for most people, as being guided around a huge city such as Istanbul would be madness, as everyone has their own ideas about that they'd like to do.

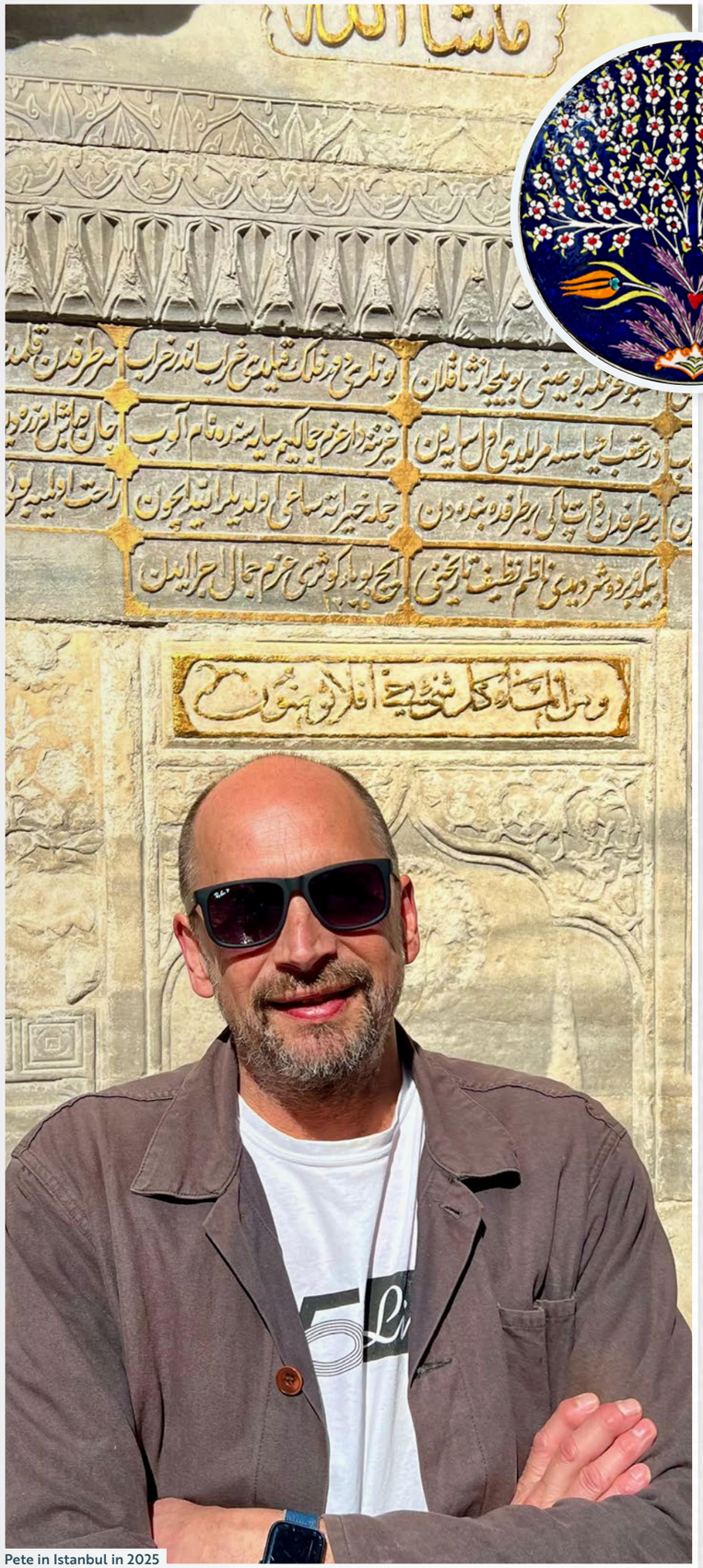
We would suggest up to 5 nights in central Istanbul from where you can easily explore some of this amazing city. 5 nights/4 whole days is just about a sufficient amount of time to see many of the main sites and to take magnificent cruises on The Bosphorus.

We can recommend a nice little hotel that is situated in Sultanahmet area, called The Garden House Hotel. It is about a 10 minute walk from The Blue Mosque, The Topkapi Palace and The Hippodrome. The famous Grand Bazaar is about a 20 minute walk, as is the equally fascinating Spice Market.

There are of course other options for places to visit in Türkiye before we fly to Cappadocia and we can make various suggestions for you.

Wherever you might choose to visit first, we will meet and travel on **Wednesday 12th May** at **Istanbul Airport (IST)** for our flight to Kayseri, where we will meet our local guide Faruk and transfer by private bus to our hotel, settle in and have dinner!

On May 21st we will be transported to Kayseri Airport for our return flight to Istanbul and any onwards travel.



Pete in Istanbul in 2025

Your host

Pete Isaac

Over 39 years ago, Martin Hunt spearheaded his unique discovery walking holidays in Cornwall and founded what became the very first walking tour operator in Cornwall in 1988 - Adventureline, now often mimicked, but never equalled. Back in the mid to late 90's, Martin began to broaden his horizons and has since run tours in many countries for the past 28 years or so. Consequently, it has become popular with nature lovers and adventurers of all ages, nationalities - and of many different backgrounds.

Now joined by Martin's son Pete, Adventureline manages to maintain an intimacy and cohesion (with humour!), which is warmly appreciated by all.

Pete is always interested in others, so you will be appreciated and enjoyed too, for whoever you are and wherever you come from. Adventureline's groups often turn out to be an eclectic International mix too.

Pete, along with our amazing local guide Faruk are passionate about enabling our guests to have fun learning about wherever they might happen to be, by stopping for an informal lecture, taking a closer look at the natural flora and fauna and history, enjoying an exploratory scramble, taking a swim - or exploring some of the awesome caves and underground churches.

Pete has been with Adventureline for 3 years now, but also has a rich history of adventuring going back to the early 80s!

Pete and Martin also lead walking tours to other destinations in Great Britain and abroad - see our website: https://adventureline.co.uk/ for further information on any of these tours.



Our local guide Faruk

Walking Through Mysterious Cappadocia - Itinerary

Discover Cappadocia on foot, following ancient paths through a mysterious landscape shaped by volcanoes, time and human history. Walk through hidden valleys, vineyards and orchards, explore underground cities and rock-cut churches, and experience the region's unique villages and panoramic viewpoints. This carefully designed journey combines scenic walks, cultural discoveries and peaceful moments in the heart of Cappadocia.

Day 1
Meet at Istanbul airport

Arrival at Kayseri Airport, followed by a transfer to Cappadocia. Check in at the hotel and enjoy free time to relax.

Day 2
Ihlara Valley – 16 km walk.

Transfer to Ihlara Valley and begin the walk through the spectacular canyon, passing rock-cut churches, orchards and traditional village landscapes. Continue towards Selime, enjoying the dramatic volcanic scenery.

- Full-day walk, with breaks.
- Difficulty: Moderate to challenging due to uneven valley terrain.



Ihlara Valley

OPTIONAL EXTRA



Hot air balloon flights
Cappadocia is world famous for its massed hot air balloon flights, early every morning - weather permitting. Just Google Cappadocia and you'll see what I mean! Timed to see the sunrise from the air, depending on weather and wind conditions, most experiences last about 2 hours in total, with a typical flight time of 1 hour. It is difficult to book in advance, as the price fluctuates wildly (from 180 euros to 450 euros), depending on the duration of actual flight time, demand and numbers. However, as a group, we can make a decision once we arrive as to what we would like to do *(and how much we are willing to pay)* and book it.

Day 3
Mazı Underground City & Zemi Valley - 8 km walk.

Visit Mazı Underground City, one of Cappadocia's impressive underground settlements. Continue to Uçhisar and enjoy an afternoon walk through Zemi Valley, following peaceful trails through the valley landscape.

- Half-day walking programme, plus time for the underground-city visit.
- Difficulty: Easy to moderate; some uneven surfaces and steps may be encountered underground and on the valley trails.

Day 4
White Valley, Uçhisar & Pigeon Valley - 12 km walk.

Walk through White Valley towards Uçhisar. Visit Uçhisar Castle and enjoy panoramic views over Cappadocia. Continue through Pigeon Valley to Göreme.

- Full-day walking programme, including sightseeing breaks.
- Difficulty: Moderate; valley paths may include uneven ground, gradual ascents and descents.

NOTE

A word of caution

We have learned over the years to not set an itinerary in stone. Weather can and often will play a crucial role in determining the day's activity.

Rest assured, with 4 decades of experience, along with our local guide's intimate knowledge of our options for adventure, we can make it up as we go along and you will not be left wanting for a challenge!

Remember, some of the best experiences in life are the ones you weren't expecting!

Day 5
Free Day in Cappadocia.

A free day to explore Cappadocia at your own pace. Optional activities may include exploring Göreme, visiting local villages or enjoying a traditional Turkish bath.

- Flexible and self-guided.
- Walking difficulty: Easy, depending on the activities selected.

Day 6
Gomeda Valley Walk to Mustafapaşa - 12 km walk.

Transfer to the starting point near Gomeda and begin the walk through the countryside and vineyards of the region. Continue through Gomeda Valley, enjoying its distinctive rock formations and rural landscapes, before reaching Mustafapaşa.

- Full-day walk, with breaks.
- Difficulty: Moderate; the route includes uneven valley paths and countryside terrain.

Day 7
Sword & Kızılçukur Valleys – Göreme - 11 km walk.

Walk through the peaceful Sword Valley and continue into the spectacular Kızılçukur (Red Valley). Explore the distinctive rock formations and historic cave churches before reaching Göreme.

- Full-day walk, with time for sightseeing and breaks.
- Difficulty: Moderate; some sections may be uneven, with ascents and descents typical of valley trails.

Day 8
Gemril Mountain – İbrahimpaşa – Balkan Valley – Ortahisar - 9 km walk.

The tour begins with a morning hike on Gemril Mountain, offering panoramic views over the Cappadocian landscape. Continue to İbrahimpaşa Village and take a break at a local village coffeehouse, where guests may enjoy Turkish tea or coffee.

The walk then continues through Balkan Valley, passing historic pigeon houses and fruit orchards, before finishing in Ortahisar. The tour concludes with free time to relax at a local bar.

- Half-day to full-day programme, depending on breaks and time spent in İbrahimpaşa and Ortahisar.
- Difficulty: Moderate; the route includes mountain and valley terrain with uneven surfaces and possible ascents and descents.

Day 9
Departure.

Transfer to Kayseri Airport according to the flight schedule. Hopefully with enough time for a leisurely group breakfast to enjoy tales of our adventures in Cappadocia together!

End of the tour.



Turkish tea



Spectacular domes

This photo is of Rustem Pasa mosque's dome in Istanbul. There are hundreds of incredible mosques in the city! I was surprised at the fact that even when praying, visitors are welcome (no shoes!) and the children can run around laughing and playing without upsetting anyone.

A few days in Istanbul before our tour starts is highly recommended!



Interesting weathered shapes!



A landscape hewn from rock

This is what Cappadocia is all about - practically everything is hewn from rock. Why build something when you can simply carve it out?

Millions of years ago, the region was home to far more volcanism than it experiences today. You can find plenty of shield volcanoes dotted around the country today; most are extinct, but a handful are expected to be dormant, if not active.

What is now Cappadocia certainly saw its fair share of eruptions, with most of the activity taking place around 3 to 9 million years ago. First came the layers of ash, then came the lava effusions, which fell over the fine glassy powder like the newly baked crust of a cake.

This tuff - the rock type left behind by the consolidation of said ash - was stronger in some places, and weaker in others. Weathering beat away at it and carved out these extraordinary minaret-like forms, whose peaks of erosion-proof basalt rock remained in place. These otherworldly, inverted cones appeared long before humans had even evolved, and they stood unadulterated for millennia upon millennia.

Around the 4th century, at a time when the Romans ruled the roost, Christians who were often being persecuted fled across the region, hoping to hide. Some made their way to Göreme, where they came across these unusual forms. Discovering that the tuff was easy to carve, they began excavating the region, building statues, accommodation, and churches out of the volcanic remnants. Caves expanded into subterranean metropolises, and between the years 300 and 1200, the region was a monastic centre. Today, it's a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and it's not difficult to see why.





Carved Landscape

On some of our hikes, we'll walk through tunnels carved out over time by water. Here, the ash layers in the tuff can be clearly seen and we are reminded that this would not have been place to be hanging out at - had humans been around at the time of the original eruptions! We are also constantly reminded that the world as we know it is made up of rock - some of it having been erupted from volcanoes and other rocks being of sedimentary origin. Most of us live somewhere that is either urban and the bedrock is not visible, or we live where soil and vegetation cover the bedrock, making it kind of invisible. But here in Cappadocia, we realise that life just rocks!

MEET YOUR GUIDE

Faruk Yildiz

Meet Faruk, your local mountain guide who has a wealth of local knowledge and history

Faruk's connection with nature began during his childhood in the Cappadocian countryside. Growing up in a village, he was surrounded from an early age by trees, open landscapes, valleys and the natural rhythms of rural life. During his university years, his interest in camping, hiking and mountaineering gradually developed into a lifelong passion for the outdoors. He later discovered scuba diving and spent several years working at a diving school, gaining not only professional experience but also the opportunity to discover more about himself and develop a wide range of new skills.

His guiding story began in Kaş, on Türkiye's Mediterranean coast. Working for Begonvil Travel, he guided a wide variety of activities, from scuba diving and hiking to mountain biking, canyoning and sea kayaking. Those years gave Faruk much more than experience in outdoor sports. They taught him how to work with all kinds of people, adapt to changing conditions and appreciate that, in the outdoors, the best days are not always the ones that go exactly according to plan.

After obtaining his professional national guiding licence in 2009, Faruk had the opportunity to work and explore throughout Türkiye. From the high routes of Mount Ararat to long-distance treks in the Taurus Mountains, and from Anatolia's rich cultural heritage to its small village paths, these years allowed him to discover the country on a scale few people ever manage. He became someone who did not simply talk about Türkiye's mountains, valleys, ancient sites and people, but someone who had genuinely experienced them.

Around five years ago, Faruk returned to the land where he was born and raised and began a new chapter in Cappadocia. Here, he brought together his love of nature, passion for outdoor sports and fascination with Türkiye's culture, leading hiking, cycling and cultural tours. He particularly enjoys sharing Cappadocia's lesser-known paths, quiet valleys and the small details that many visitors might otherwise miss. For Faruk, a good tour is not simply about seeing a beautiful landscape, but about feeling its story, its smells, its sounds and its spirit.

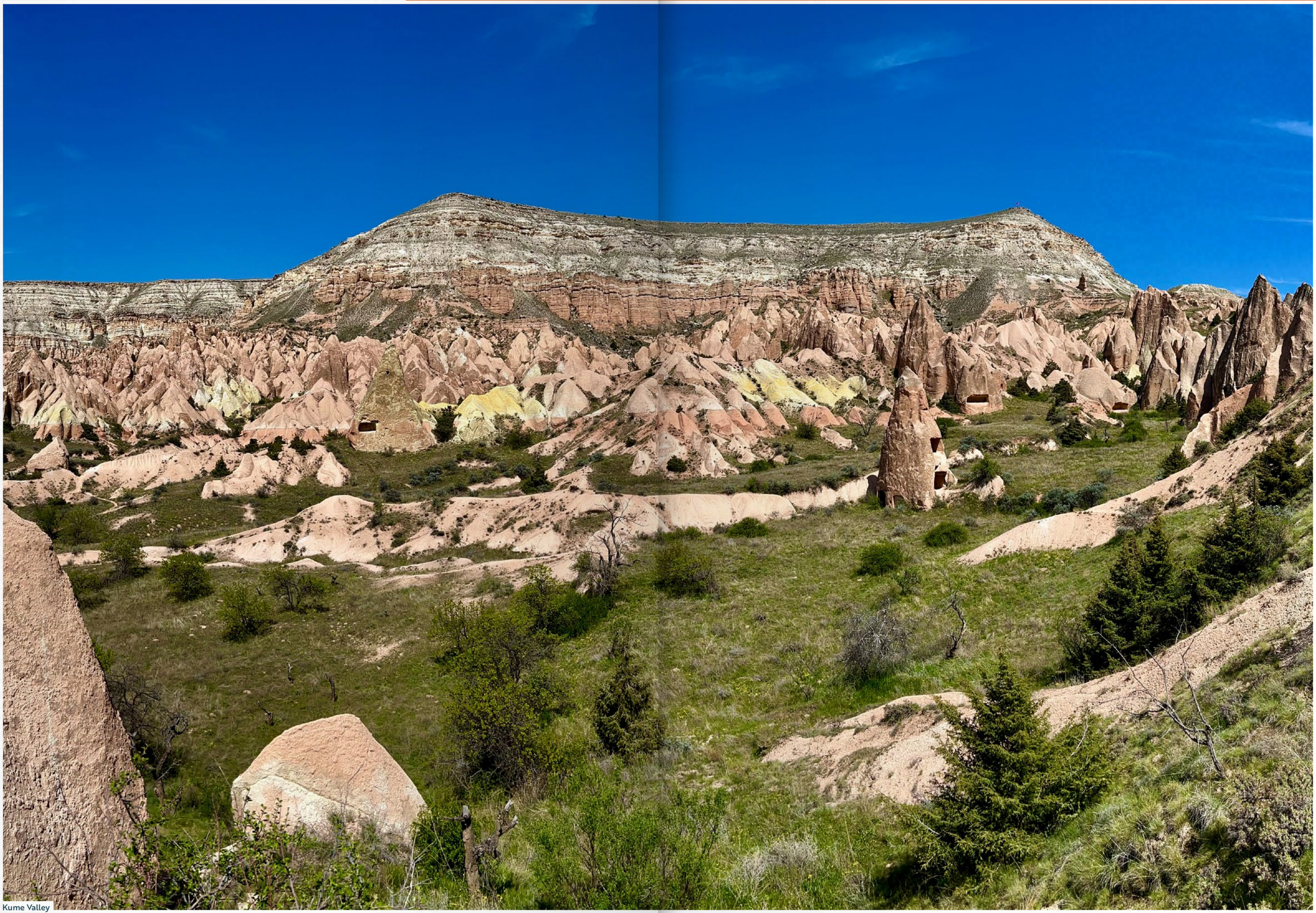
Meeting new people through the international touring world has, over time, led to some wonderful friendships, one of which brought Faruk and Martin and his son Pete together. Martin's experience, enthusiasm for life, colourful background and great sense of humour have turned their collaboration into something much more than a professional partnership — it has become a genuine friendship, now continuing with Pete. Today, Faruk enjoys doing more than simply showing people Türkiye. He invites them into a country that he himself has never stopped exploring.



Goreme National Park



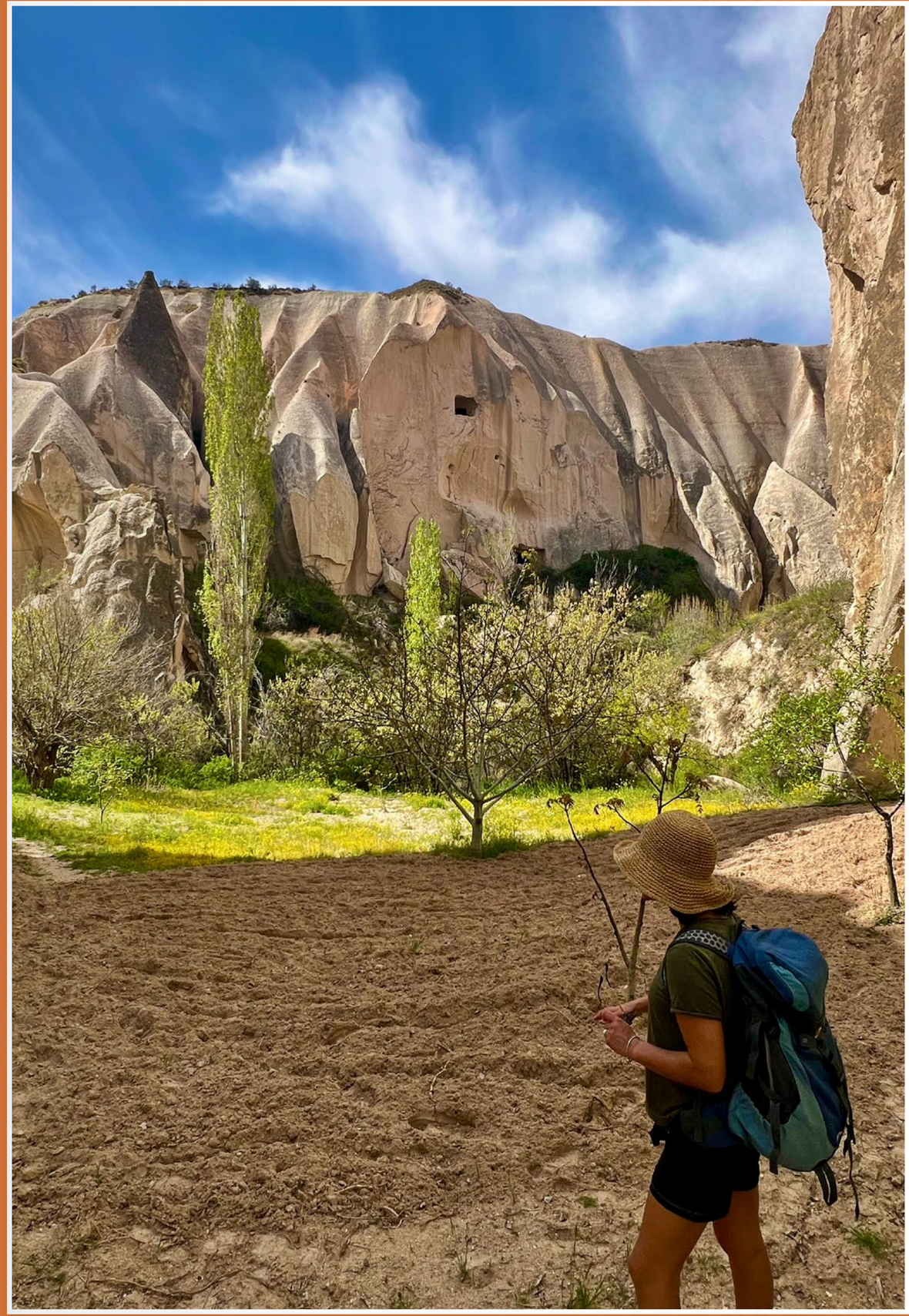
Faruk, our friendly local guide in Ihlara Valley



Kume Valley



Kume Valley again - carved out church and orchards



Our Philosophy...

...is to enrich our guests lives and enjoy our work on a daily basis, providing impeccable customer service and promoting long-term sustainability of ecology, economy and community.

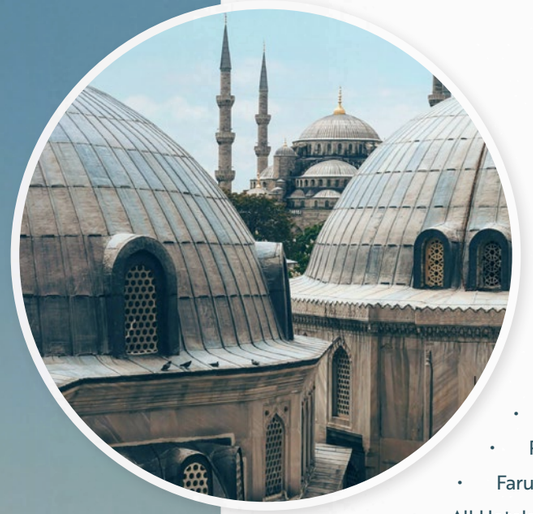
See what our many satisfied clients say about us - you'll be surprised!
https://adventureline.co.uk/testimonials/

Read more reviews: **Trip Advisor** | **Google Reviews**

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Balloons over Cappadocia. Picture: Kateryna Ivanova. Inset picture: Daniel Burka



Booking

Tour cost
£2,175 pp / Single room supplement £204

Our great package includes:

- All airport transfers in Cappadocia.
- Pete's dedicated services.
- Faruk, our bilingual English speaking guide.
- All Hotels in Cappadocia (good quality).
- All meals, except lunch on free day.
- Museum and historical site entrances.
- Bus driver, motoring and parking costs are included.
- One free day to relax in Goreme, doing as you please. Perhaps a massage or a Turkish bath?

Adventurelines' unique formula for a relaxing yet stimulating holiday (in good company) is well rounded and is good value for money too. Early booking is recommended as we have limited capacity per trip.

Not included:

- Insurance.
- International Flights.
- Alcoholic drinks, personal expenses.

Booking and cost:

1. All prices are as stated in the booking request.

2. We will also provide assistance with your travel planning from Istanbul to Keyseri Erkilet Airport (ASR). It will be most practical if we all meet at Istanbul International Airport and fly together, usually in the late afternoon.

4. We will hold any provisional reservation for you, provided you confirm your travel arrangements with us within a month.

5. We will require a £250 non refundable deposit, unless we know you well!
Final balances are due 2 months before tour commences.

Please feel free to contact us by phone or email for further information, or for details of any of our other holidays around the world, our terms and conditions, or to make a reservation. Phone: +44 (0)1209 820847 | adventureline@btinternet.com

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to have the pleasure of your company in Türkiye in May 2027.

Pete Isaac

Pete Isaac



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All pictures: Martin Hunt unless otherwise credited
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