

CAPPADOCIA

AND THE WONDERS OF

ANATOLIA

A PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR BY AYTEK CETIN



*Where ancient stone and Anatolian light shape
a landscape unlike anywhere on Earth...*

MAY 2027



AYTEK CETIN

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JOURNEY OVERVIEW

Welcome to a Cappadocia Photography Tour designed for photographers and nature lovers who want more than beautiful images — they want connection, depth, and a richer creative experience.

This journey explores two of Anatolia's most extraordinary regions:

The Badlands — Anatolia's untouched geological wonder

A remote landscape carved by millions of years of erosion, glowing with colors and textures that shift dramatically at sunrise and sunset. Wild, quiet, and endlessly photogenic.

Cappadocia — the iconic heart of Anatolia

A land shaped by ancient volcanic eruptions and sculpted by centuries of wind and rain. Here, fairy chimneys rise from the valleys, wildflowers bloom in spring, and the soft golden light transforms the landscape into a dreamlike canvas.

Throughout this tour, I'll guide you personally, helping you read the light, build powerful compositions, and express your own visual story with confidence. Whether you join with a professional camera or simply your phone, you'll experience the true magic of Anatolia through exploration, creativity, and meaningful guidance.

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Photograph Cappadocia in Spring

Capture fairy chimneys framed by seasonal wildflowers — one of Anatolia's most inspiring combinations of texture, color, and atmosphere.

The Badlands of Anatolia

Explore dramatic ridges, multicolored hills, and ancient geological formations shaped by time. A landscape that feels untouched, quiet, and visually powerful.

Yılıkı Horses Beneath Mount Erciyes

Photograph over 50 horses and a horseman at sunset with a volcanic mountain as the backdrop — one of the most cinematic scenes in Turkey.

Expert On-Field Guidance

From light to composition, timing to visual storytelling, I'll be by your side throughout the journey, helping you turn each moment into a strong, meaningful image.

A Premium Small-Group Experience

With only six participants, everyone receives personal attention, flexibility, and the space to explore creatively without crowding.

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ITINERARY

Day 1 — Arrival in Ankara & Sunset in the Badlands

We'll meet at Ankara Esenboğa Airport by 11:00 a.m. and begin our journey toward the Badlands, a remote geological wonder shaped by millions of years of erosion. After checking into our hotel and having lunch, we'll head into this surreal landscape for our first photography session. As the sun drops toward the horizon, the ridgelines shift through soft golds and deep shadows, revealing textures and colors that feel almost otherworldly. It's the perfect moment to ease into the rhythm of the tour, slowing down, observing the land, and creating your first meaningful compositions.



"Shaped by ancient sediment and wind, the Badlands unfold natural leading lines that guide you into bold, expressive compositions."



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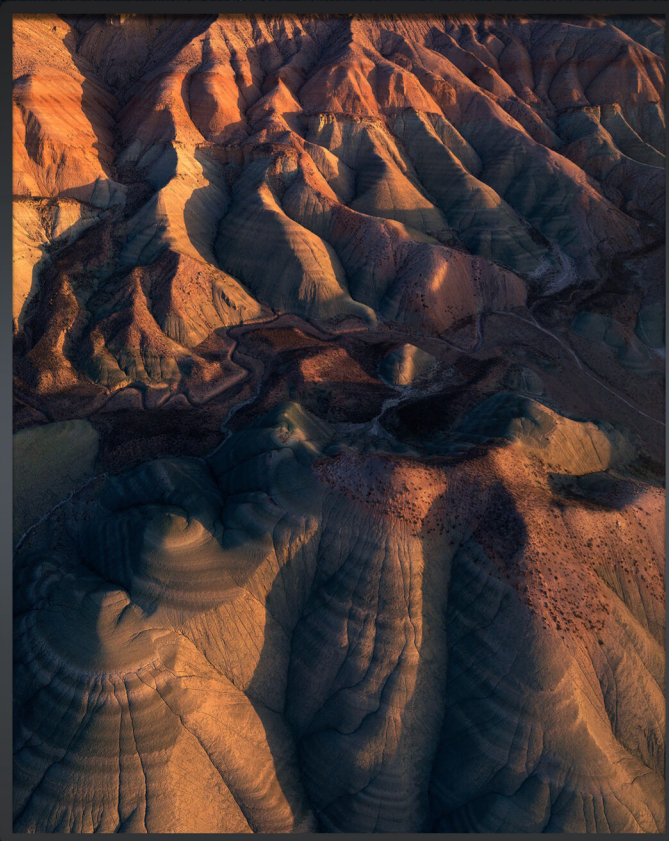
ANATOLIA

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"The colorful hills made of limestone, gypsum, marl, and clay soils with a history of 10 million years will allow us to take magnificent photos from the air and the land."



Aerial perspectives reveal patterns and textures that remain completely hidden from the ground.

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Day 2 — Sunrise in the Badlands & Transfer to Cappadocia

At dawn, we return to the Badlands to capture a quieter, more atmospheric mood — soft light on the ridgelines above and striking cracked earth in the foreground, creating a powerful balance of pastel tones and bold textures. After breakfast, we'll begin our drive to Cappadocia and settle into our hotel. In the evening, we head into one of Cappadocia's most photogenic valleys for golden-hour photography — exploring fairy chimneys shaped by volcanic history and capturing the region's timeless atmosphere.



"From the raw textures of the Badlands to the sculpted forms of Cappadocia, the landscape shifts from bold geological drama to timeless volcanic shapes — offering two distinct worlds of photographic inspiration in a single day."

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Day 2



"As the evening light carves across Cappadocia's volcanic forms, luminous contours and ancient silhouettes emerge from the landscape — revealing expressive compositions shaped by time, erosion, and shifting atmosphere. It's a rare moment when nature's sculpted geometry and cinematic depth align, offering photographers a powerful blend of clarity, drama, and creative possibility."



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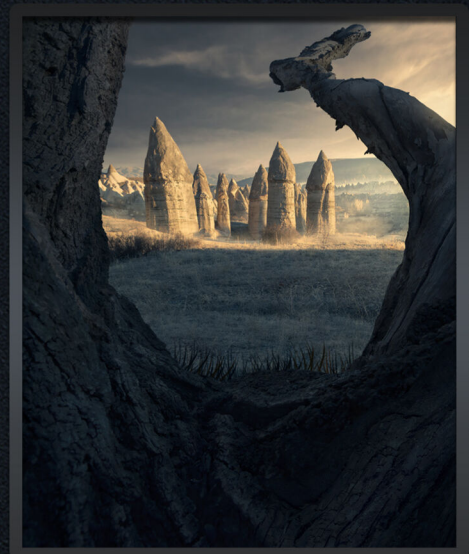
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Day 3 — Exploring Cappadocia's Valleys

Today we dive deeper into Cappadocia's geological world. We'll photograph fairy chimneys, eroded ridgelines, and textured rock formations carved by centuries of wind and rain. Throughout the day, I'll guide you on composition, reading the light, and finding perspectives that reveal the region's timeless beauty.



"Early spring brings touches of wildflowers (especially irises) to Cappadocia's valleys. We'll seek them in the exact places they bloom, adding elegant foregrounds to the sculpted landscape. With a bit of luck, these brief seasonal details turn into unforgettable images."

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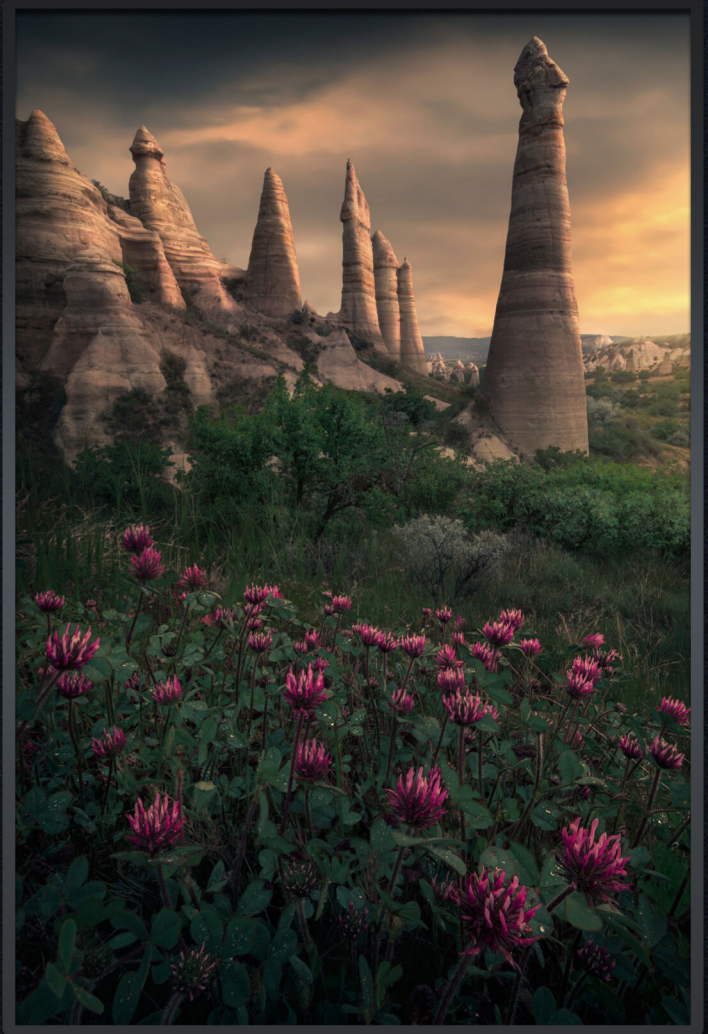
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Day 4 — Cappadocia's Hidden Angles & Creative Field Guidance

We'll explore new valleys and vantage points, each offering a different mood and structure — from sweeping panoramas to intimate details among the wildflowers. Our focus will be on storytelling through light, understanding depth and layering, and refining your creative approach in the field.



"Framing branches and soft spring blooms introduce gentle layers to the scene, revealing quiet compositions shaped by form, contrast, and natural depth."

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Day 4

As the day begins to soften, we'll explore one of Cappadocia's most distinctive valleys, where knife-edged rock spires rise sharply from the landscape. Along the way, we'll look for natural framing elements, seasonal details, and the changing character of the light to create thoughtful compositions built around shape, atmosphere, and depth.



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Day 4

"Knife-edged spires rise sharply from the valley floor, their sculpted forms offering dramatic lines and striking storytelling potential."



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Day 5 — The Art of Seeing from Above

The day begins with an aerial photography session above some of Cappadocia's most remarkable valleys. From above, we'll work with the available light and atmospheric conditions to reveal layers of rock formations, natural patterns, and striking contrasts across the landscape. This unique perspective opens up exciting opportunities for creative compositions, allowing us to capture the scale, depth, and character of Cappadocia in a way that simply isn't possible from the ground.



"Light drifts across the valleys, revealing patterns and forms often hidden from the ground."

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Day 5 — The Art of Seeing from Above

"Viewed from above, the valleys unfold as a landscape of light, shadow, and layered forms."



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Day 5 — Yılki Horses at Sunset

Later in the day, we head toward Mount Erciyes to capture one of the most cinematic scenes in Anatolia: over 50 free-running Yılki horses moving through dust and golden light, framed by a towering stratovolcano. It's a powerful moment — dynamic, emotional, and unforgettable through the lens.



"As the herd moves through dust and golden light beneath Mount Erciyes, the scene transforms into a cinematic blend of power and grace — a rare opportunity to capture raw motion, emotion, and timeless Anatolian heritage."



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Day 6 — Final Sunrise & Departure

Our final sunrise session offers a quiet, reflective atmosphere — a chance to create your last images of this extraordinary landscape. Afterward, we enjoy breakfast, check out, and drive back to Ankara, where we say our goodbyes, leaving with a renewed sense of creativity and a portfolio filled with meaningful photographs.



"Rising pillars and vibrant irises create a natural harmony of soft light, bold forms, and timeless Anatolian character."

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Post-Processing Mastery

During our midday breaks, we'll gather for focused editing sessions where I'll walk you through my full post-processing workflow. We'll explore how to strengthen light, build dynamic range, enhance atmosphere and mood, and shape clean, impactful color that supports the story within your images.

These sessions also touch on composition principles and visual decision-making, and when time allows, we can review your portfolio or selected images together — offering additional guidance tailored to your artistic direction.

Every editing session throughout the tour will be recorded, and all videos will be shared with participants. This way, you can revisit each step once you're back home and continue refining your workflow at your own pace.



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What to Bring for the Tour

In Cappadocia, spring days can shift quickly — cool, quiet mornings, warm afternoons, and the occasional light rain. Packing thoughtfully will keep you comfortable in the field so you can focus on what matters most: creating strong, meaningful photographs.

For early starts and breezy evenings, bring a **warm jacket**, along with a light **rain shell** in case of passing showers. A few **breathable t-shirts** and a pair of **comfortable pants** will be perfect for our valley explorations. **Comfortable shoes** are ideal; we only have light hikes on the first two days, and the rest of the tour involves short walks to our shooting locations.

With the region's strong highland sun, **50 SPF sunscreen** and **sunglasses** are essential.

Travel light, stay comfortable, and you'll be ready to enjoy Cappadocia's sculpted landscapes from sunrise to sunset — every moment offering a new photographic opportunity.

Recommended Camera Gear & Drone Equipment

Cappadocia and the Badlands offer a wide range of photographic opportunities, so a balanced kit will help you respond to every scene with confidence.

- **Ultra-wide lenses** (10mm, 14–24mm or 15–35mm) are perfect for close foregrounds such as spring flowers, mudcracks, and immersive valley compositions.
- **Mid-range zooms** provide flexibility for shifting light and quick adjustments in the field.
- **Telephoto lenses** (70–200mm) excel during the Yilki horse session, and in the Badlands, where adding a person for scale creates dramatic, layered compositions.

Bring at least **three camera batteries** to stay fully prepared for long sunrise and sunset sessions.

A light tripod is useful for low light or precise compositions.

ND filters are optional for long exposures, and **a polarizer** can enhance clarity on rock formations.

Drone Recommendations

For the most creative aerial photography opportunities, a DJI Mavic 4 Pro is highly recommended. Its telephoto capabilities allow us to isolate distant rock formations, compress layers within the landscape, and create compositions that are often impossible to achieve with wider lenses.

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A Thoughtfully Crafted Experience

Why photographers choose this journey

This tour is designed to help you create stronger, more meaningful photographs — with the right light, the right locations, and clear guidance at every step.

Each shooting session is carefully timed, based on years of experience in Cappadocia and the Badlands. You'll work in the best conditions, explore the most photogenic angles, and receive practical field guidance, along with focused editing sessions during the tour.

If you're looking for a thoughtfully crafted photographic experience that balances creativity, learning, and inspiration, this tour is designed for you.



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Tour Price: € 3,390

(Twin Share, Single Room + € 650)

Deposit: € 1,500

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- All in-tour transportation & fuel
- Hotel Accommodations
- Breakfast
- Photo editing sessions during the trip
- Access to Aytek's editing video library (+15 tutorials from previous workshops)

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Flights
- Personal expenses
- Lunch, dinner
- Any extras not included in the list of inclusions



Group Size

6 People



Fitness Level

Difficulty: Easy

Tour Leader

Aytek Cetin



FAQ

Is this tour suitable for different photography skill levels?

Yes. This tour is suitable for photographers of all levels, from beginners to advanced. On-location guidance will be provided throughout the tour.

How much hiking is involved?

On the first day in the Badlands, we'll have an easy 20-minute walk one way to reach our sunset shooting location. On the morning of the second day, we'll walk the same route again, about 20 minutes one way. For the rest of the tour in Cappadocia, we'll only do very short explorations of around 10 minutes per day.

What type of hotels will we be staying in?

In the Badlands region, we will stay at a four-star hotel. In Cappadocia, we will be staying at a cave hotel that is equivalent to a four-star standard.

What is Turkish cuisine like?

Turkish cuisine is rich, flavorful, and incredibly diverse. From fresh meze and grilled dishes to regional specialties, it's an experience on its own. Many guests find themselves missing these flavors long after the tour — and some even say it's a reason to come back to Turkey again.

Will we photograph hot air balloons during the tour?

Hot air balloons fly only at sunrise and only when weather and wind conditions allow. From the valleys we'll be working in, balloons are often visible in the distance. On days when they fly, participants who wish can photograph them naturally as part of the scene — and in many cases, balloons will already appear in the background of our compositions.

Will we be doing drone photography during the tour?

Yes. The Badlands region is an exceptional location for drone photography, offering truly dramatic and unique perspectives. In Cappadocia, drone photography is also possible. As long as we stay within the permitted altitude limits and follow local regulations, there won't be any issues.

Is Cappadocia safe?

Yes, Cappadocia is a very safe region. It has been welcoming visitors from all over the world for many years and is well accustomed to international tourism. The local people are warm, friendly, and genuinely welcoming, making visitors feel comfortable and at ease throughout their stay.

Will we be doing any night photography?

This detail isn't specifically mentioned in the tour program or the PDF, but if you'd like, we can arrange a night photography session at a suitable day. That way, we can include a bit of night photography experience as well.

What will the weather be like during the tour?

Since May is a spring month, mornings can be a bit cool, typically around 46–50°F (8–10°C). During the day and early evening, temperatures can rise up to around 77°F (25°C). We generally expect partly cloudy and sunny conditions, with the possibility of occasional short rain showers.

This tour is not only about photography — it's about slowing down, observing the landscape, and experiencing Cappadocia with intention.

Over the years, I've learned that the most memorable journeys are created not just by locations, but by atmosphere, timing, and the people who share the experience. This tour is designed with that philosophy in mind — thoughtful, unhurried, and deeply connected to the places we photograph.

If you feel that this journey resonates with you, it would truly be a pleasure to welcome you and host you in Cappadocia. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any details, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

I look forward to sharing this experience together.

Aytek Çetin

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