

TURKISH MESOPOTAMIA

FAM TRIP — THE CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION

8 DAYS | 7 NIGHTS

An exclusive professional FAM trip across Istanbul and Southeastern Anatolia — the true cradle of civilization. From a strategic luxury stopover in Istanbul to the profound, untouched history of Mesopotamia: Göbekli Tepe (older than Stonehenge), the golden stone city of Mardin, Abraham's Şanlıurfa, the Syriac heartland of Tur Abdin, and the UNESCO gastronomy of Gaziantep. A high-margin "blue ocean" destination designed for premium agents, MICE planners and boutique tour designers.

ARRIVAL
DEPARTURE

WARSAW → ISTANBUL
GAZIANTEP → WARSAW

FAM TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Göbekli Tepe: The World's Oldest Temple

Step back 12,000 years at the world's most significant archaeological site. Discover the monumental T-shaped pillars of Göbekli Tepe, a prehistoric marvel that predates Stonehenge and the Pyramids, rewriting the very history of human civilization.

Mardin: The Golden Stone City

Get lost in the narrow, honey-colored streets of Old Mardin. Perched on a hill overlooking the vast Mesopotamian plains, this open-air museum is famous for its intricate Artuqid architecture, ancient monasteries, and vibrant multicultural heritage.

Istanbul, the Capital of Three Empires

Experience the magic of Istanbul, where Byzantine churches, Ottoman palaces, bustling bazaars, and shimmering Bosphorus waters come together in a city that has connected continents, cultures, and civilizations for thousands of years.

Abraham's Heritage in Şanlıurfa

Immerse yourself in the spiritual soul of Şanlıurfa — the city of the Prophet Abraham. Visit the sacred Balıklıgöl, historic bazaars, and ancient mosques, where legend, tradition, and pilgrimage heritage come together.

Tur Abdin: The Heart of Syriac Christianity

Journey into Tur Abdin, the “Mountain of the Servants of God.” Visit ancient Assyrian and Syriac villages, where the Aramaic language is still spoken today, and the serene Mor Gabriel Monastery, standing since the 4th century.

FAM TRIP ITINERARY

DAY 1 Warsaw – Istanbul

OVERNIGHT

Istanbul

Departure from Warsaw to Istanbul. Upon arrival, hotel check-in and the beginning of sightseeing in the city that has connected Europe and Asia for centuries. Former Constantinople, once the capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, today impresses visitors with its unique atmosphere, oriental bazaars, and monumental landmarks. Sightseeing includes Sultanahmet Square with its monumental architecture and imperial history, the Blue Mosque — the symbol of Istanbul with its six minarets — and a walk through the historic city center.

DAY 2 Istanbul – Diyarbakır

OVERNIGHT

Diyarbakır

Morning transfer to the airport and flight to Diyarbakır — one of the oldest cities in Anatolia, surrounded by monumental basalt walls listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Sightseeing includes Sur İç Kale (Inner Citadel), the Ulu Cami Grand Mosque — one of the oldest mosques in Anatolia — the Hasan Pasha Caravanserai, and the Ten-Arched Bridge over the Tigris River.

DAY 3 Diyarbakır – Hasankeyf – Midyat

OVERNIGHT

Midyat

Drive along the Tigris River to Hasankeyf — an ancient rock-cut city with a history stretching back thousands of years — to see its ancient caves, ruins and Hasankeyf Castle. Afterwards, continue to Midyat, a town famous for its stone houses and Syriac cultural heritage, with a walk through the old bazaar and a visit to traditional silver workshops. If time allows, an optional visit to the Mor Gabriel Monastery, one of the oldest Syriac Orthodox monasteries in the world.

DAY 4 **Midyat – Mardin**

OVERNIGHT

Mardin

Transfer to Mardin — a remarkable hilltop city overlooking the plains of Mesopotamia. Stone houses, narrow alleys, and historic buildings create a unique atmosphere in a place where different cultures and religions have coexisted for centuries. Sightseeing includes a walk through the Old Town, the Zinciriye Madrasa, the Ulu Cami Grand Mosque, and the Deyrulzafaran Monastery — an important center of the Syriac Orthodox Church.

DAY 5 **Mardin – Göbekli Tepe – Şanlıurfa**

OVERNIGHT

Şanlıurfa

Transfer to Göbekli Tepe — one of the world's most important archaeological sites, considered the oldest known temple complex of humanity, with monumental stone pillars dating back more than 11,700 years. Afterwards, continue to Şanlıurfa, the “City of Prophets,” an important place for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: the sacred pools of Balıklıgöl connected with the legend of Prophet Abraham, the Halil-ur Rahman Mosque, and a walk through the oriental bazaar filled with spices, local products, and traditional crafts.

DAY 6 **Şanlıurfa – Mount Nemrut – Gaziantep**

OVERNIGHT

Gaziantep

Transfer towards Mount Nemrut — one of the most remarkable archaeological sites in Turkey, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At the summit stand the monumental stone statues of King Antiochus I and ancient deities, forming one of the most spectacular landscapes in Anatolia. Sightseeing along the way includes the ancient city of Arsameia, the Roman-era Cendere Bridge, and the Karakuş Tumulus — a royal tomb of the Commagene dynasty. Continue to Gaziantep for the night.

DAY 7 **Gaziantep**

OVERNIGHT

Gaziantep

Discovering Gaziantep — a city renowned for its exceptional cuisine and rich cultural heritage. Sightseeing includes the Zeugma Mosaic Museum, with one of the world's largest collections of Roman mosaics, Gaziantep Castle, and the Bakırcılar Çarşısı — the traditional coppersmiths' bazaar. At the end of the day, a tasting of local specialties from the Antep region, famous for its kebabs, baklava, and pistachio desserts. Gaziantep cuisine is included in UNESCO's Creative Cities of Gastronomy network.

DAY 8 **Departure**

OVERNIGHT

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Flight from Gaziantep to Warsaw via Istanbul, and arrival in Poland, concluding an extraordinary professional journey across the cradle of civilization.

B2B INSPECTION FOCUS

Istanbul Hub

Audit the international-to-domestic transit logistics at IST/SAW airports. Inspect premium boutique stopover properties to guarantee seamless 1-day luxury packages before clients head east.

Diyarbakır

Evaluate regional security protocols, upscale modern business hotels, and tourist infrastructure. Assess the quality and language standards of regional guiding teams at massive historical monuments.

Mardin & Midyat

Conduct rigorous technical inspections of historical stone-mansion boutique properties (konaks). Map out ground logistics: vehicle size limits in the old town, luggage handling in narrow steep stairs, and premium sunset wine-tasting venues.

Tur Abdin Region

Learn how to structure highly customized, off-the-beaten-path itineraries for niche cultural, history-focused, or religious pilgrimage groups. Audit authentic silver filigree workshops for reliable VIP shopping spots.

Göbekli Tepe & Şanlıurfa

Master optimal timing strategies to bypass crowd congestion at the world's oldest archaeological site. Audit local heritage accommodations and understand conservative etiquette to properly brief travelers.

Gaziantep

Explore corporate incentive and high-end MICE setups. Audit commercial culinary packaging in the UNESCO Gastronomy Capital, including private kitchen masterclasses, premium baklava tastings, and elite dinner venues in restored caravanserais.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Region

East of Turkey is a captivating region where towering mountains meet ancient Mesopotamian plains, home to a rich mix of cultures — Turks, Kurds, Armenians, Assyrians, and Arabs — reflected in its languages, architecture, and cuisine. The area is generally safe for travelers, with warm hospitality and deep respect for guests.

Ground Transportation & Pacing

A deluxe, fully air-conditioned bus is used throughout; large coaches cannot enter many of the boutique historical areas inspected. Total regional mileage is approximately 800–850 km, with average daily driving of 2 to 3.5 hours, always broken up by hotel inspections, cultural highlights, and gastronomic experiences.

Accommodation

Premium 3* and 4* boutique hotels, often in meticulously restored historical stone mansions (konaks), offering an unparalleled atmosphere and prime old-town locations. Due to the historical nature of these buildings, room sizes, layouts, and window views can vary significantly even within the same category.

Dress Code

There is no requirement for women to cover their heads except inside mosques or monasteries. Modest clothing is advised in rural areas; in cities, casual attire is acceptable.

Currency

Turkish Lira (TRY). Cash is useful, especially in smaller towns and markets. Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in major cities and tourist areas.

SIM Cards

Available at airports and in most cities (Turkcell, Vodafone, Türk Telekom). eSIM options are widely available.

Time Zone

GMT+3.

Visa

Many nationalities — including citizens of the EU, US, Canada, and the UK — can enter Turkey visa-free for short stays, though regulations vary by citizenship. Verify requirements via the official Republic of Türkiye e-Visa website before traveling.

Climate

Late November and early December offer a crisp, crowd-free, atmospheric experience. Due to changing altitudes — from sea-level Istanbul to the 2,134 m peak of Mount Nemrut — the weather is highly contrastive: average daytime +8°C to +13°C, nighttime +4°C to +7°C.

Gastronomy

The Southeast (particularly Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa) is the undisputed gastronomic heart of Turkey, recognized by UNESCO. The local diet is heavily meat-based: legendary kebabs, bulgur, rich spices, and world-class pistachio desserts like baklava. Strict vegetarian, vegan, or gluten-free options are very limited outside major hubs.

THE PACKAGE

November 25 – December 01, 2026 · Language: English / Polish

Participation price: €885 per person

Single room supplement: €195 per person

REFUND OPTION

Participants are entitled to a refund of the study tour fee if, after completing this trip, they make a booking for their clients on one of the tours organized by ORIENTO Travel in Türkiye (including Istanbul, Mesopotamia, Cappadocia, and other regions of the country). The refund applies only to the fee paid for one study tour participant and will be processed once the booked group is confirmed and completed.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation in 3 & 4-star hotels for the whole tour
- Daily breakfast and dinner
- Airport transfers (arrival & departure)
- Private transportation during the tour
- English/Polish-speaking tour leader & local licensed guide throughout
- Entrance fees to all scheduled sites and museums
- Group activities, workshops, or cultural experiences as listed
- Bottled water during excursions
- Travel permits (if required within the region)

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International & domestic airfare to/within/from Turkey
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenses (laundry, phone calls, minibar, souvenirs, etc.)
- Meals and drinks not included in the itinerary
- Tips and gratuities for guide, driver, or hotel staff
- Optional tours or activities not listed in the program
- Costs arising from unforeseen circumstances (flight delays, etc.)

Important Notice: Submitting the application form does not mean your participation is automatically confirmed. To maintain a high-quality B2B environment and a diverse group, all applications undergo a mandatory vetting process by our team.

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION