



## Highlights of the 14 days travel to the mountains Nemrut (2.938m), Süphan (4.058m) and Ararat (5.165m) on the high plateau of East Anatolia

- Sightseeing of the monastery church on the island of Akdamar at lake Van, which was built in the 10th century. There are many myths and legends not only about Mount Ararat, but also about this Church of the holy cross.
- Ascent of mount **Nemrut (2.935m)**
- Ascent of the mountain **Süphan (4058m)**
- Ascent of **Ararat, (5.165 m)**, the highest mountain in Turkey. The ascent, graded technically as fairly easy for a 5000m high mountain, will take place, along the only permitted route including two camps.
- Sightseeing of the Ishak-Pasha-Palace, which was built high above a plateau at Dogubayazit in the 17th century. It controlled for centuries the caravan traffic of the Silk Route, which it overlooks.
- Sightseeing of the hot water springs of Diyadin, which are compared favourably with the springs of Pamukkale and which are a wonderful photo motif.
- The historic centre of Van has an eventful history and was influenced by many cultures. We will show you the most beautiful sights of Van.
- The hospitality of a Kurdish nomad family during a relaxing evening meal will add many unforgettable moments.

### Day 1

Flight to Istanbul/Ankara/Izmir, hotel transfer, dinner and overnight stay (-/-/A)

### Day 2

Flight to Van (1727m). Hotel transfer from the airport. After check in we will go directly to the citadel near Lake Van. After a short bus ride along the southern coast, we will continue our trip by boat to the island of Akdamar to visit the restored armenic monastery church. After that you can go for a swim in the very alkaline Lake Van and picnic in the evening on the island. The return journey will conclude with an overnight stay at the hotel (F/L/A)

### Day 3

Drive along the mountainous south side of Lake Van with a stopover in Tatvan (opportunity to shop for beverages and water). At the base of Nemrut Dagi, in the middle of a gigantic crater, we will set up our camp next to a lake filled by thermal springs (bathing possible). We will ascend to the highest peak of the crater's edge (about 3 hours to 2935m). The volcano became extinct long ago but during an eruption c.100000 years ago filled up the outflow of lake Van Descend to the camp at the lake and picnic in the evening; overnight stay in tents (F/L/A)

### Day 4

Drive out of the crater via a different route; stop in Ahlat and possibly visit a Seldscudic cemetery from the 12th century. From the north-eastern side of the lake drive to Süphan Dagi up to 2500m and set up camp. Possible ascent up to 3100m (3, 5 hours) to get used to the height; overnight stay in tents (F/L/A)

### Day 5

Still in the dark we will start off for the ascent to the summit of Süphan (4058m), which will be reached in about 6 hours. Depending on the season there might be snow in the summit area, in the upper regions boulders and rocks. Complete descent after resting at the camp. Continuation of journey, with a stop at Bendimahi waterfall and the drive over a pass to Dogubayazit (1950m, driving time in total about 3 hours). The city is situated at the bottom of Noah's ark mountain. Collective dinner and overnight stay in the hotel. (F/L/A)



#### Day 6

In the morning sightseeing of the place where legend says that Noah's ark's beached. In the afternoon drive to the source of the river Euphrates with plenty of time for bathing in the hot sulphur springs. Picnic in the evening; return journey and overnight stay in the hotel. (F/L/A)

#### Day 7

Ride on a bumpy road up to about 2200m to the starting point of our ascent of Ararat. Ascend to camp 1 (3200m, about 4 hours) on a grassy plain, luggage will be transported by horses, so you can climb easily and quickly. Overnight stay in tents. (F/L/A)

#### Day 8

Ascent for acclimatisation (6 hours). If possible you will climb up on a small trail to camp 2 without luggage to test your acclimatisation. During a break you can look past the "small Ararat" and see into Iran. After the descent a meal is waiting for you in the camp. Free time and time to relax. Overnight stay again in camp 1. (F/L/A)

#### Day 9

Packing of the tents and ascend to camp 2 (4200m, 4 hours). Luggage will be transported by horses. The tents are protected from the wind behind stone walls. It will be a short night, but with enough time for dreams. Overnight stay in tents. (F/L/A)

#### Day 10

Up to the summit, 5165m. Start at 3:00 a.m. After about 5-6 hours you should have reached the highest peak if the weather conditions are fine. If icy crampons are necessary. From the summit you can see into Armenia, Iran and beyond Dogubayazit to Süphan Dagi. Noah's ark is supposed to have beached here. Here thoughts are free. If the weather is fine there will be time for an extensive rest at the summit. After a quick descent, with a rest at camp 2 and further on to camp 1 (total about 5-6 hours) you will there have enough time to celebrate your success on the biblical mountain. Overnight stay in tents. (F/L/A)

#### Day 11

Descent to the starting point and return journey to Dogubayazit; in the afternoon drive to one of the most beautiful palaces, the AÖEshak-Pascha-Palace, located above the city. Sightseeing tour. From a cafe you have a good view over the plateau and the surrounding mountains. Dinner with a Kurdish family. Overnight stay in the hotel. (F/-/A)

#### Day 12

Drive to the fish lake, plenty of time for relaxing and looking around; relaxing, bathing, picnic. Overnight stay in tents. (F/L/A)

#### Day 13

Drive to the hotel in Van (about 4 hours), free time in the afternoon. At dinner with our mountain tour guide you will have the opportunity to talk about all your experiences. Overnight stay in the hotel. (F/L/A)

#### Day 14

After your experiences we hope you will return to your home country knowing more about our area



deep in Asia. Transfer to the airport in Van. Flight home via Istanbul, Ankara or Izmir with the option of an extension (F/-/-)

- **Performed Services**

- All transfers in Turkey according to the program
- All meals and overnight stays according to the program
- On request all flights
- Permission from Ankara for the Ascent of Ararat
- Permission on location for the Ascent of Süphan
- 50 Dollar entrance fee per person for the national park, Ararat
- Licensed Kurdish mountain tour guide - German or English speaking
- Kurdish cook
- Food and Beverages - full board - all inclusive on the mountain
- Tents for two people
- thermo mats (single person tents - additional charge)
- Luggage transport by horses on mountains
- Equipment on the mountain: Set tents incl. dining tent and, foam mat
- Accommodation in a double room or 2-person tent according to the program
- All entrance fees/tickets according to the program
- Load transport of the equipment on the Ararat by Mulis (max. 15 kg per pers.)
- Boat trip on The Van See according to the program

On the mountain everyone only carries a day-pack. For the climbing there will be lunch packets. In the evening there will be a warm meal

Special conditions at various equipment and mountain sports shops (please ask us)

- **Services not included in the travel price:**

- missing meals and drinks
- individual visits and excursions
- Excess baggage
- Insurance
- possible airport fees and taxes
- Extension in Istanbul: price per night and per person: 140,-\$ in ez-De or 110,- \$ in double room (incl. half board) / transfer costs from/to the airport: 85,- \$ (per vehicle) German-speaking Cityguide incl. transfers (plus entrance fees) from 2 persons from 80,- \$ p.P.