



With all your senses over stick and stone

Highlights of the 10 days travel to the mountains Süphan (4058m) and Ararat (5165m) 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 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.

10 days ascent Nemrutcrater (2935 m), Mount Süphan (4058 m) and Mount Ararat (5167 m)



Day 1 Flight to Istanbul via Van (1727m). Transfer to the hotel at Lake Van. If desired you can enjoy a bath in the very alkaline lake. In the afternoon sightseeing of the old castle complex Van Kalesi, in which can be seen several cuneiform inscriptions from the time of the Urartians. Half-board overnight stay at the Hotel. (F/L/A)

Day 2 Drive to **Süphan Dagi** up to 2500m and set up the camp; possible ascent up to 3100m (3,5 hours) to get used to the height; overnight stay in tents. (F/L/A)

Day 3 Still in the dark (about 4 a.m.) we will start the ascent to the Süphan summit (4058m), which is 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 with rest at the camp. Continuation of journey and stop at a waterfall, ride over a pass to



Dogubayazit (1950m, driving time total about 3 hours). The city is situated at the base of Noah's Ark Mountain. Collective dinner. Overnight stay in the hotel. (F/L/A)

Day 4 In the morning sightseeing of the place where legend says that Noah's Ark landed. In the afternoon drive up to one of the most beautiful palaces, the **ishak-Pasha-Palace**, located above the city. Sightseeing tour. From a cafe located on the top you have a good view over the plateau and the surrounding mountains. 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 5 Ride on a bumpy road up to about 2200m to the starting point of our ascent. Ascend to camp 1 (3200m, about 4 hours); luggage will be transported by horses, so you can climb easily and quickly. Overnight stay in tents. (F/L/A)

Day 6 Ascent for acclimatisation (6 hours). If possible you will climb up on a small trail to camp 2 without luggage to test acclimatisation. During a break when you can looking past the "small Ararat" and even 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 7 Packing of the tents and ascent to camp 2 (4200m, 4 hours); luggage will be transported by horses; the tents are protected from the wind behind a wall of stones. It will be a short night, but enough time for dreams; overnight stay in tents. (F/L/A)

Day 8 Up to the peak at 5165m, start at 3 a.m. After about 4-5 hours you should have reached the highest peak if the weather conditions are fine. When icy underfoot 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 descent to camp 1 (total about 5-6 hours) you will have enough time there to celebrate your success on this biblical mountain. Overnight stay in tents. (F/L/A)

Day 9 Descend to the starting point, drive to the hotel, dinner with a Kurdish family, overnight stay in the hotel. (F/-/A)

Day 10 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 (approx. 5 cm thick)
- 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