



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cultural Heritage: Nevşehir

Explore Cappadocia's UNESCO heritage sites while building cultural-heritage teaching skills, in this hands-on 5-day course in Nevşehir.

DURATION 5 days · 25 hours	LANGUAGE English (B1+)	GROUP SIZE Max 20 participants
DAILY SCHEDULE 09:30–15:00 Monday to Friday, with a break for lunch	AUDIENCE All school levels No prior knowledge required.	CERTIFICATE Attendance + Europass Mobility
COURSE CENTRES Nevşehir Dates and cities of the scheduled sessions are listed on the course page.		

01 Overview

In Cappadocia, geology, history and architecture are literally the same subject: rock-cut Byzantine churches above ground, entire cities carved below it. This week works that landscape into a digital classroom resource, built from what you record on site.

- **Monday** — you work through the EU's role in cultural heritage, opened by Cappadocia's own question: what does "protecting" a landscape carved from rock mean?
- **Tuesday** — you build a virtual tour of a rock-cut interior, because a photograph cannot convey what these spaces feel like from inside.
- **Wednesday** — you visit Göreme National Park, the Göreme Open-Air Museum and Pigeon Valley.
- **Thursday** — you visit the Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu underground cities and Nevşehir Castle, building a comparison as you go.
- **Friday** — you design a short digital heritage resource from your own field material, then another participant tests it.

You go home with a digital resource built from your own Cappadocia material and a tested comparison technique. Sturdy footwear is worth bringing; if you are prone to claustrophobia, tell the trainer in advance so a shallower route or an above-ground alternative can be arranged.

02 Course description

In Nevşehir, at the heart of Cappadocia, the heritage is carved out of the ground itself.

Participants explore real UNESCO World Heritage sites — from Göreme's rock-cut Byzantine churches to the underground cities of Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu. They experience first-hand the history, art and architecture they'll bring back to their students.

Unlike a single-site city tour, Cappadocia's heritage is not one walkable old town. It is spread across a wider volcanic valley region. Göreme, Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu sit roughly 20–40 minutes apart by road. The same soft tuff landscape shaped each of them, but each tells a different part of the story: monastic cave churches above ground, entire cities carved below it.

That combination gives teachers a rare classroom case study. Here geology, history and architecture are the same subject, not three separate ones. This is useful for cross-curricular work between geography, science, history and art. It also shows students that "heritage" is not only stone buildings but also the ground it was carved from. That landscape is still actively changing today.

03 Learning outcomes

- 01 Explain how Cappadocia's volcanic geology shaped centuries of human settlement, from the Byzantine cave churches at Göreme to the underground cities of Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu.
- 02 Integrate cultural heritage topics into lesson plans, using digital tools and interactive resources built from a landscape-scale heritage case study.
- 03 Design classroom activities that help students see heritage in landscape and geology, not only in monuments and buildings.
- 04 Connect teaching to the EU's cultural-heritage priorities using a concrete European example rather than an abstract one.

04 Methodology

Geology as Heritage

Days 3–4 explore how Cappadocia's volcanic rock has shaped human settlement for centuries — from Byzantine monks carving churches into the tuff at Göreme to entire underground cities at Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu — a heritage story that starts with the landscape itself, not just its monuments.

Hands-On Digital Tools Workshop

a dedicated session on virtual tours and interactive materials, using Cappadocia's rock-cut churches and underground cities — sites that are hard to fully convey without digital media — as the working examples participants take home.

Direct Classroom Transfer

strategies for teaching heritage that lives in a landscape, not a single building, ready to adapt to participants' own students and curriculum.

Geology, Conservation and a Fragile Landscape

Cappadocia's soft volcanic tuff, the same rock that made Göreme's churches and Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu's underground cities possible, is also actively eroding — UNESCO's own monitoring flags water infiltration, salt weathering and tourism pressure as ongoing threats to the region's fairy chimneys and rock-cut sites. A short session connects what participants see on Days 3–4 to this real, current conservation challenge, giving heritage-and-sustainability teaching a concrete European example rather than an abstract one.

Day 1

Cultural Heritage and European Identity

- **Icebreaker:** each participant names a natural place near their own school — a hill, a river, a cave, a stretch of coast — that local people treat as heritage, and says who, if anyone, looks after it; introducing participants' schools
 - The EU's role in and commitment to cultural heritage, opened with a question Cappadocia poses directly: when heritage is a landscape carved from rock rather than a built monument, what does "protecting" it even mean?
 - Europe's cultural diversity and shared identity
 - **Educational strategies:** integrating cultural heritage into lesson plans
 - Interactive learning strategies using digital tools
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Day 2

Cultural Heritage and European Art

- **Warm-up:** "The photo didn't show it" — in pairs, each participant describes a place that felt completely different from its photographs, and what the pictures left out
 - The role of art in cultural heritage and European identity
 - How art and cultural heritage support communication between cultures
 - **Workshop:** building a virtual tour of a rock-cut interior, using ready-made open-licensed 360° images — practising the digital tools now, because a photograph genuinely cannot convey what Göreme's churches or Kaymaklı's underground levels feel like from inside
 - Building sensitivity and responsibility around cultural heritage
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Day 3

UNESCO Heritage of Nevşehir: Field-Based Learning I

- **Göreme National Park and Cappadocia's rock sites:** geology and cultural significance
 - **Göreme Open-Air Museum:** Byzantine cave churches, frescoes and architecture
 - **Pigeon Valley (Güvercinlik Vadisi):** historic rock-carved dovecotes between Göreme and Uçhisar
 - **Field reflection:** connecting today's geology and architecture to classroom practice
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Day 4

UNESCO Heritage of Nevşehir: Field-Based Learning II

- **Kaymaklı Underground City:** hidden chambers and cultural insights
- **Derinkuyu Underground City:** subterranean architecture and history — and the comparison table participants keep updating all day: same / different / can't tell against Kaymaklı, the transferable technique behind the visit
- **Nevşehir Castle:** a Seljuk/Ottoman-era fortification on the hill above Nevşehir town, built later and above ground — not itself part of the UNESCO inscription, which covers only Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia
- **Field reflection:** which of Tuesday's strategies stopped working underground, using the Kaymaklı-Derinkuyu comparison table as the evidence

Day 5

From Cultural Heritage to Classroom Practice

- Designing a short digital heritage resource — a virtual-tour outline, an annotated geological map, or a simple classroom worksheet — using material gathered during the Days 3–4 site visits
- **Peer testing:** each resource is tried by a participant who did not design it, who notes what worked, what was unclear and what they would change
- **Course evaluation:** discussion and reflection on acquired skills, feedback and course content
- Sharing course documents and records
- Awarding the Certificate of Attendance

PLEASE NOTE

Sessions run from 09:30 to 15:00, Monday to Friday, with a break for lunch. Timings can shift a little to suit the venue and the group.

Course activities and content may vary depending on participants' needs and the trainer leading the session; any changes are at the trainer's discretion. If there is a specific topic you would like included, please let us know — content-related requests must reach us at least 3 weeks before the course start date so we can confirm them in time.

06 Materials

- Virtual-tour and interactive-map tools for exploring Göreme's rock-cut churches and the underground cities of Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu beyond a single visit
- Geological reference material connecting Cappadocia's volcanic tuff landscape to the heritage sites carved into it
- Openly accessible digital image and archive sources, worked with during the course for building heritage-based lesson materials
- A printed and digital course pack covering Cappadocia's Byzantine cave-church and underground-city heritage
- A simple template for turning a landscape-based heritage visit into a classroom-ready lesson plan, completed using material gathered during the Days 3–4 site visits and finalised on Day 5

07 How to prepare

- Comfortable, sturdy footwear is recommended — the Day 4 underground-city visits (Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu) include some low, narrow and uneven passages.
- If you are prone to claustrophobia, let the trainer know in advance — you can stop at a shallower level, take a reduced route, or join an alternative above-ground activity instead, and still take part fully in the course.
- Photography inside Göreme's churches is restricted (no flash anywhere; some churches, including the Dark Church, do not allow any photography). For church interiors you work from ready-made, open-licensed images provided on the course; the exteriors, the underground cities and the landscape are yours to record freely.

08 After the course

- Participants will receive their Certificate of Attendance and the co-signed Europass Mobility document.
- Participants will complete a general course evaluation and event survey.
- Participants will receive course materials, videos, photos, and PDF documents in both digital and print formats.

- Follow-up support: self-evaluation materials are provided. Depending on the group, an email group may be set up so that participants can keep exchanging ideas.
- Use the digital resource developed on Day 5 as the basis for a short staff-room briefing, sharing how Cappadocia's geological and cultural heritage can support cross-curricular teaching in geography, science, history and art — and provide a concrete input for the school's Erasmus+ objectives.

09 Why this is Erasmus+ eligible

This mobility supports the Erasmus+ Key Action 1 School Education objective of "promoting knowledge about shared European heritage and diversity", and the horizontal priority on participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement, which highlights participants' understanding of "their social, cultural and historical heritage". Through structured sessions and trainer-led field days at Cappadocia's UNESCO-listed heritage — including the Göreme Open-Air Museum's Byzantine cave churches and the underground cities of Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu — participants gain first-hand material to bring intercultural dialogue and Europe's layered cultural identity into their own classroom.

10 What the course fee covers

INCLUDED IN THE COURSE FEE

- 25 hours of training and course materials
- Certificate of Attendance + Europass support
- On-site local support throughout the week

ARRANGED SEPARATELY BY THE PARTICIPANT

- Travel to the host city — invitation letter on request
- Accommodation — we share recommended options
- Travel & health insurance

ISSUED BY

Erasmus Mobility Academy

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COURSE PAGE

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ABOUT ERASMUS MOBILITY ACADEMY

Erasmus Mobility Academy (OID: E10304561) is an Erasmus+ training provider offering professional development courses for educators, school staff and youth workers across Europe. Our courses are designed for international mobility — open to participants travelling from a country other than the host country — and support schools in building lasting institutional capacity. We provide structured learning, logistical guidance and certification with Europass.