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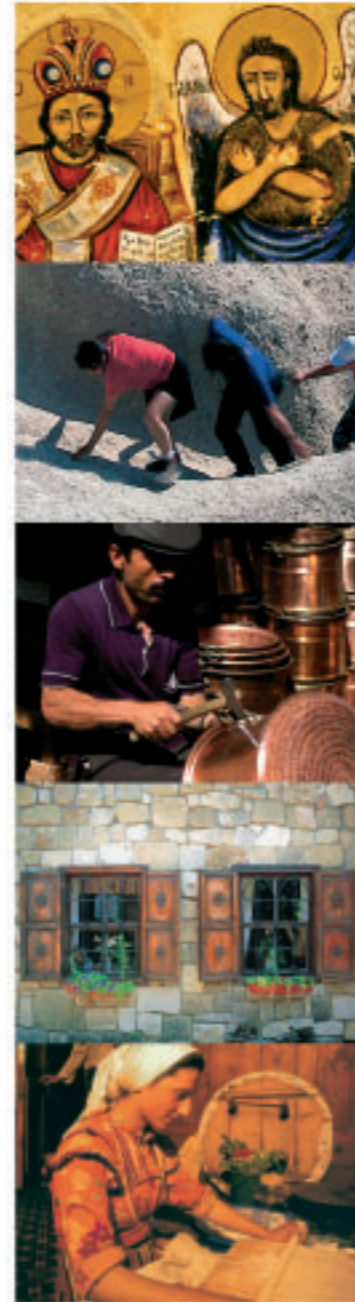
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TURKEY Travel
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Ministry of Culture and Tourism Photography archive

Useful Links

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM, TURKEY
www.kulturturizm.gov.tr

TURKISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON DC
www.turkey.org

ASSOCIATION OF TURKISH TRAVEL AGENCIES
www.tursab.org.tr

TURKISH TOUR GUIDES
www.tourguides.org

CENTRAL BANK OF TURKEY
www.tcmb.gov.tr

HOTEL GUIDE
www.hotelguide.com.tr

ISTANBUL CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
www.icvb.org

ISTANBUL CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTER
www.icec.org

ISTANBUL FESTIVALS
www.istfest.org
www.iksv.org

IETT - ISTANBUL MASS TRANSPORTATION
www.iett.gov.tr/en/

IDO- ISTANBUL FAST FERRIES
www.ido.com.tr

HAVAS- AIRPORT BUS SHUTTLES
www.havas.com.tr

TURKISH AIRLINES
www.turkishairlines.com
www.flyturkish.com (USA only)



Turkey is a paradise of sun, sea, mountains, and lakes that offers a dramatic change from the ordinary. From April to October, Turkey boasts an ideal climate, perfect for relaxing near sandy beaches or mountains and lakes. Turkey also has a magnificent past, a land rich in remarkable treasures, the remnants of 13 successive civilizations spanning 10,000 years. One visit will not be enough. You will want to come back again and again as you discover one extraordinary place after another. As the locations and sights change, one thing remains the same, the friendly people of this unique country, where the art of warm hospitality has been a cultural tradition for centuries.

VISITOR Notes

OFFICIAL NAME: REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

CAPITAL: ANKARA

GOVERNMENT: Republican parliamentary democracy. The Republic of Turkey is based on a secular, democratic, pluralistic parliamentary system, in which rights and obligations are protected by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS: 81 Provinces

HISTORY: Turkey is known as the "Cradle of Civilizations". It was the home to 13 Ancient cultures including: the Hittites, Assyrians, Phrygians, Urartians, Lycians, Lydians, Ionians, Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks and Ottomans. Following the decline of the Ottoman Empire, modern Republic of Turkey was founded in 1923 by Mustafa Kemal, known as Ataturk, the commander of the Turkish War of Independence. Ataturk is accepted as one of the world's greatest statesmen.

LOCATION: Southeastern Europe and Southwestern Asia, bordering the Black Sea, between Bulgaria and Georgia, and bordering Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea between Greece and Syria.

AREA: 780,580 SQ KM (301,383.62 SQ Miles)
770,760 SQ KM Land (297,592.1 SQ Miles)
9,820SQ KM Water (3,791.5 SQ Miles)

COASTLINE: 7200KM (4,473.87 SQ Miles)

POPULATION: 67.8 Million (as of 2000, last census)

LANGUAGE: Turkish (belongs to Ural Altaic group and has affinity with the Fin and Hungarian languages. Turkish is written in the Latin alphabet and is spoken by at least 150 million people around the world)

RELIGION: The population is 99% Muslim, 1% others (Mostly Christian and Jewish) Turkey is a secular country that respects freedom of worship.

CURRENCY: YTL (New Turkish Lira)

The New Turkish Lira banknotes 1, 5, 10, 20, 50 AND 100, Yeni Kuruş (YKr) coinage is available in 1, 5, 10, 20, AND 50.

The exchange rates for foreign currencies are published daily, US dollars, traveler's checks and major credit cards are widely accepted and there are ATMs throughout the country.



VISA: Canadian and American citizens must present single or multiple entry visa when entering Turkey. Visas can be obtained from the Turkish Embassy in Ottawa, Canada and Washington DC as well as through the Consulate General Offices in the US. For more information please visit www.turkey.org

TAX REFUNDS: You can receive a tax refund for the goods you have purchased in Turkey. For further information please visit www.globalrefund.com

CUSTOM REGULATIONS UPON EXIT: For gifts, souvenirs and carpets a proof of purchase is all that is needed; for antiques, a certificate from the Directorate of the Regional Museum is necessary. Exporting antiques from Turkey is forbidden. Valuable personal items can only be taken out of the country providing that they have been registered in the owner's passport upon entry or declaring that they have been purchased with legally exchanged currency.

Minerals may only be exported from the country with a special document obtained from the MTA (General Directorate of Mining, Exploration and Researches) Etudler Dairesi, ANKARA, TURKEY.

TEL: + 90 312 287 3430 EXT: 1622

FAX: + 90 312 285 4271

VISITOR Notes



ELECTRICITY: 220 Volts A.c. throughout Turkey, accessible via round European style plugs.

WATER: Tap water is potable but bottled water is advisable as tap water is highly chlorinated, taste is a little unnatural.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES: Metric System is used in Turkey. Clothing and shoe sizes are European.

WORKING HOURS:

Government offices: MONDAY-FRIDAY (8:30am - 12:30pm), (1:30pm - 5:30pm) SATURDAY-SUNDAY (CLOSED)

Banks: MONDAY-FRIDAY (8:30am - 12:00 noon), (1:00pm - 5:00pm) SATURDAY-SUNDAY (CLOSED)

Post offices: (PTT) MONDAY- FRIDAY (8:30am- 5:30pm)

Shops: MONDAY- SATURDAY (9:30am- 7:00pm) SUNDAY (CLOSED)

In tourist areas, shops are open until midnight including Sunday.

OFFICAL HOLIDAYS:

January 1: New Year's Day

April 23: National Independence and Children's Day

May 19: Atatürk Commemoration, Youth and Sports Day

August 30: Victory Day

October 29: Republic Day

2006-2007 RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Ramadan: October 23, 24, 25 2006

Hac: January 10,11,12,13 2007

Month of Ramadan starts on September 24th 2006



TRAFFIC, ROAD SIGNS, GAS STATIONS:

Foreigners driving in Turkey must possess a driver's license, passport, and Green Card International Insurance or Turkish third party insurance. Traffic moves on the right side of the road. Turkish Highway Code is similar to those of European countries. Turkish road signs conform to the international protocol on road signs. Gas stations are well placed, many of them also have restaurants that are open 24 hours.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONES:

Traffic police: 154

Police: 155

Gendarmerie: 156

Fire Department: 110

Directory Assistance: 118

PTT (Post Office)Information: 161

Transportation

AIR: Most of the major airlines have frequent flights to Turkey. Turkish Airlines offers daily non-stop flights from New York to Istanbul and non-stop flights from Chicago to Istanbul 3 times in a week. Turkish Airlines also provides connecting flights from all states in conjunction with an American Airlines Code Share Agreement. The flight time from New York to Istanbul is 9 hours 25 minutes and return trip is 11 hours. The flight time from Chicago to Istanbul is 10 hours and 45 minutes with the return logging 11 hours 40 minutes. Delta Airlines also provides non-stop flights from New York to Istanbul.

SEA: Istanbul and Kusadasi are the most popular ports for the major cruise lines itineraries in the Mediterranean. The other major ports are Izmir, Cesme, Bodrum, Marmaris, Kas, Antalya, Alanya and Trabzon



RAIL: Istanbul serves as a direct rail link to select European cities. The Istanbul Express departs daily from Munich, Vienna and Athens with connecting services in Belgrade and Sofia.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

COACH LINES: Several coach lines originate in Turkey and regularly serve European destinations such as Austria, France, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, England and Greece. Also there are frequent bus services between every city in Turkey. Bus transportation in Turkey is affordable with clean and comfortable coaches.

CAR RENTAL: Most of the major international car companies have representatives in Turkey along with the local companies.

FERRY SERVICES:

Between Turkey and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Tasucu and Alanya in Turkey to Girne / Cyprus
From Mersin in Turkey to Gazimagosa / Cyprus

From Turkey to Greek Islands

Ayvalik	Lesbos
Cesme	Chios
Kusadasi	Samos
Bodrum	Kos
Marmaris	Rhodes
Datca	Symi





Accommodation



Exceptionally rich heritage, beginning with the first known human settlement, coupled with an extraordinarily diverse topography and a tradition of genuinely warm hospitality that distinguish Turkey from the world's other great destinations. It is a country of fascinating contrasts, where antiquity is juxtaposed with the contemporary, where a hotel can reflect those contrasts by blending a historic building with modernist, and minimalist motifs with contemporary style and natural elements.



Turkey offers various different types of accommodation options for world's most sophisticated travelers from cave dwellings of Cappadocia or charming historic small hotels to high-end luxury palace hotels. Recognized as one of the most desirable locations for international vacationers, Turkey has long been an alluring playground for those seeking anything from daring adventure to serene retreat with its spectacular deluxe properties, which ranked supreme in both the international and European polls of the reader's choices of well known travel magazines.

A number of hotels throughout the country are licensed by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and are categorized from one to five stars, with increasing standard requirements at each level. There is one other category defined as "special", typically traditional houses, mansions, summer palaces or historic landmarks transformed into small charming local hotels or bed & breakfasts. Turkish Culture and Tourism Offices can provide the Hotel Guide, listing numerous hotels licensed by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Did you know?

- Istanbul is the only city in the world located on two continents, Europe and Asia.
- The oldest known human settlement in the world is located in Catalhoyuk, Konya, Turkey, dating back to 6500BC.
- Two of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World stood in Turkey. The Temple of Artemis in Ephesus, and the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus in Bodrum.
- Turkey introduced coffee to Europe.
- The first coins were minted in Sardis, the capital of the Ancient Kingdom of Lydia, at the end of seventh century BC.
- Saints John, Paul and Peter all lived and preached in Turkey.
- The most valuable silk carpet in the world is in the Mevlana Museum in Konya, Turkey.
- Legend has it that St. John brought Virgin Mary to Ephesus after the Crucifixion, where she spent her last days in a small stone house on Mt. Koressos (Bulbul Dagi) near Ephesus, Turkey.
- A cave known today as the Grotto of St. Peter or Church of St. Peter is believed to be where the Apostle Peter preached when he visited Antioch (Antakya).



THE SEVEN CHURCHES MENTIONED IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION ARE ALL IN TURKEY, EPHESSUS, SMYRNA, PERGAMUM, THYATIRA, SARDIS, PHILADELPHIA, AND LEODICEA



Stamp seal
Baked clay, 2,1 inches
Catalhöyük
Konya, Turkey

THE TULIP WHICH IS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH DUTCH AND ENGLISH TRADITIONS, WAS ORIGINALLY SENT AS A GIFT FROM TURKEY TO EUROPE.

- St Nicholas, also known as Santa Claus, was born and lived in Demre, Turkey.
- Turkey is the birthplace of the many historical figures and legends, such as the poet Homer, King Midas, Herodotus and St. Paul.
- The first man to fly was Turkish. Using two wings, Hezarfen Ahmed Celebi flew from Europe to Asia or from the Galata Tower over the Bosphorus to land in Uskudar in the 17th century.
- One Turkish word that may sound familiar is yoghurt, originally produced in Turkey.



MANY ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND BIBLICAL SCHOLARS BELIEVE IN THAT NOAH'S ARK LANDED ON MOUNT ARARAT IN EASTERN TURKEY.



THE LIST OF THE MAJOR MUSEUMS OF TURKEY

- ANKARA, MUSEUM OF ANATOLIAN CIVILIZATIONS
- ANKARA STATE MUSEUM OF PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE
- BODRUM UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM
- ISTANBUL FETHIYE MOSQUE MUSEUM (PAMAKKARISTOS)
- ISTANBUL TURKISH ISLAMIC ARTS MUSEUM
- ISTANBUL, ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM
- ISTANBUL, TOPKAPI MUSEUM
- ISTANBUL MODERN MUSEUM
- ISTANBUL PERA MUSEUM,
- ISTANBUL SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM,
- ISTANBUL SABANCI MUSEUM
- ISTANBUL DOLMABAHCE MUSEUM
- ISTANBUL ST. SOPHIA MUSEUM
- ISTANBUL CHORA CHURCH MUSEUM
- IZMIR ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM
- PERGAMUM MUSEUM
- EPHESUS MUSEUM
- ANTALYA ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM
- ANTAKYA MOSAIC MUSEUM
- GOREME OPEN AIR MUSEUM



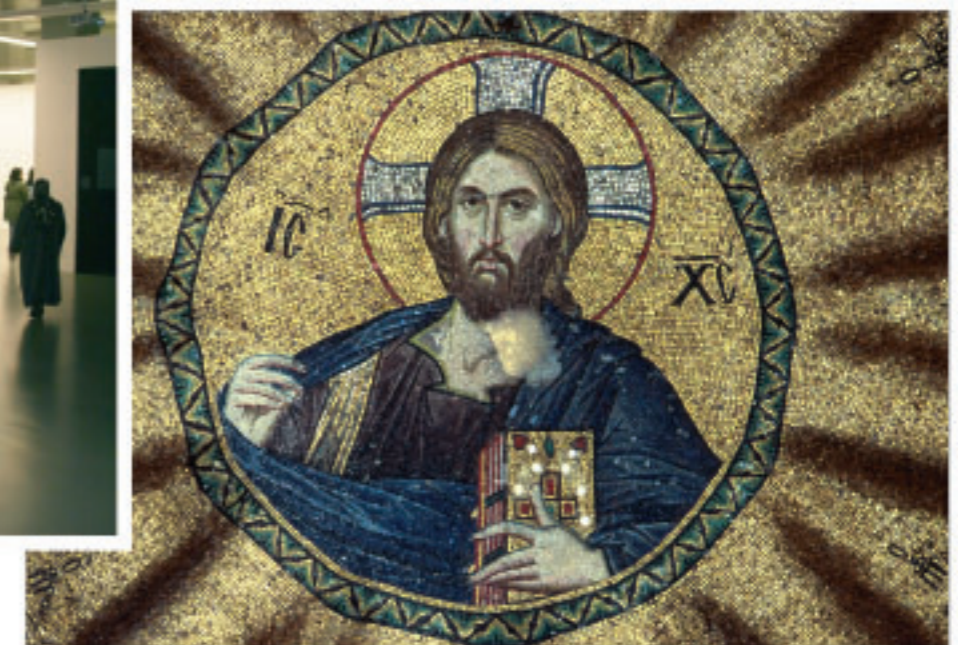
For further information of the Museums of Turkey please visit www.tourismturkey.org

Museums

Having been embraced by three mighty empires and the host to 13 civilizations, Turkey boasts a treasure trove of historic art and architecture from the Hittite, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. Remnants of this rich history are preserved and displayed throughout the country in museum exhibitions that transcend language barriers.



Archaeologists and Art Historians from all over the world come to Turkey for research, excavations and surveys of the many remnants of past civilizations. Currently there are 150 excavations in progress.





Turkish Cuisine

The Turkish cuisine, based on the country's natural abundance and diversity of resources, is worthy of exploration if you travel to engage in culinary pursuits. Whether served in a modest home or a famous restaurant, similar patterns of this rich and varied cuisine are always present.

Turks are culinary purists, preferring that a dish focus of the main ingredient, rather than making it with sauces or spices. Indeed contrary to the prevalent Western impression of Turkish food, spices and herbs are used very simply, sparingly and specifically.

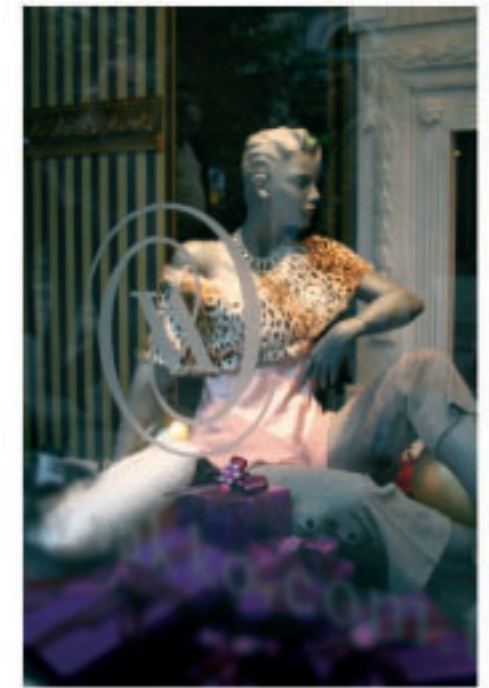


For example either mint or dill weed is used with zucchini, while parsley is assigned to eggplant. Garlic is allotted to certain cold vegetable dishes. Cumin is sprinkled over red lentil soup or mixed in ground meat for meatballs. Lemon and yoghurt enhance the flavor characteristics of meat and vegetable dishes, as well as balance the taste of olive oil. Most dessert and fruit dishes do not call for any spices, thus their flavors are refined and subtle.

In Turkey alcohol consumption is not prohibited. The traditional alcoholic drink is Raki, which is clear brandy made from grapes and raisins, flavored with pungent anise, and diluted with water. An intriguing selection of small dishes called meze start a meal. The mezes are presented with wine or more often with raki. Quality wine has been produced in Turkey for millennia. There are around 50 wineries in Turkey in different regions which produce local wines and the most famous are Okuzgozu, Bogazkere, Narince and Kalecik Karasi.



A Turkish meal is not complete without Turkish coffee, served in its distinct way, and accompanied by a Turkish delight or a small slice of baklava.



Arts and Crafts A La Turca

The wealth of Turkey's rich cultural diversity has found expression in a multitude of exquisite handicrafts. Today, Turkish people continue to articulate their artistry in a wide array of carpets: Ranging from silk Hereke to cheerful Yagcibedir.



Turkey's early nomads devised a protector from the elements, felt. Today the production of felt remains a time-honored tradition. Shepherds still rely on it for capes that protect them from harsh winters. In addition to felt, two of the world's most luxurious and coveted fibers are produced in Turkey. Indeed Angora, or mohair, spun from the wool of the shaggy Angora goat, originated in Turkey. And the finest silk has been woven in many brilliant colors in the town of Bursa for millennia.

However, Turkish craftsman excel at more than the production of fabric products. Another sort of weaving is utilized in the making of dramatic bracelets from thousands of fine 22-carat gold threads, a specialty of the Black Sea city of Trabzon. The cities of Iznik, Kutahya and surrounding areas have been centers of famous ceramic tile production for over two thousand years. The numerous workshops of Ottoman Iznik created ceramic tiles for buildings such as mosques, tombs, palaces as well as vessels, bowls and plates. Today Iznik boasts more than 35 ateliers that produce artworks based on various periods of the town's history.



JANUARY-FEBRUARY

- Camel Wrestling Festival, Selcuk, Izmir (January 15)

MARCH

- 1915 Sea Victory Celebration, Gallipoli, Canakkale
- International Ankara Film Festival

APRIL

- Traditional Mesir (Thuffy) Festival, Manisa
- International Istanbul Film Festival, Istanbul www.iksv.org
- International Ankara Music Festival www.ankarafestival.com



FESTIVALS and Events



MAY-JUNE

- Yunus Emre Culture and Art Week, Eskisehir
- Flying Broom International Women's Film Festival, Ankara www.ucansupurge.com
- Marmaris Yacht Festival, Marmaris
- International Istanbul Theater Festival, Istanbul, www.iksv.org
- International Selcuk Efes Culture, Art and Tourism Festival, Selcuk
- International Kahta, Kommagene Festival, Kahta, Adiyaman
- Traditional Kirkpinar Oil Wrestling Festival, Edirne

JUNE-JULY

- International Aspendos Opera and Ballet Festival, Antalya
- International Istanbul Music Festival, Istanbul www.iksv.org
- International Izmir Festival

AUGUST

- Troy Festival, Canakkale
- Mengen Chef's Festival, Mengen, Bolu

SEPTEMBER

- International Wine Competition, Urgup, Nevsehir

OCTOBER

- Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival
- International Bodrum Cup, Bodrum, Mugla
- Filmekimi, Film Festival, Istanbul

NOVEMBER

- Marmaris Yacht Races, Marmaris, Mugla

DECEMBER

- Mevlana (Whirling Dervishes) Commemoration, Konya





ANKARA

Called Angora by the Romans, Turkey's capital is still has its longhaired cats and goats, but is now the heart of the Turkish Republic.

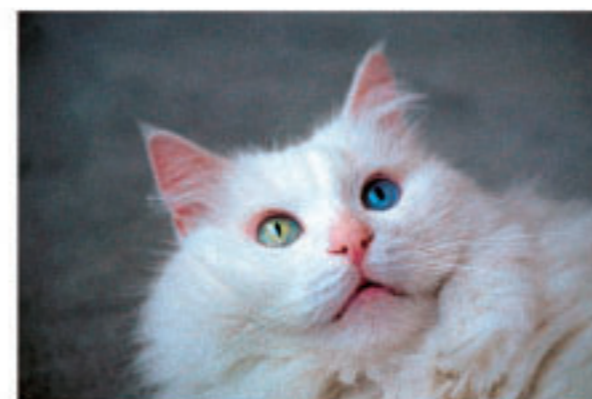


The region's history goes back to the Bronze Age, Hittite civilization, which was succeeded in the 2nd millennium BC by the Hittites in the 10th century BC by the Phrygians, then by the Lydians and Persians. After these came to Galatians, Celts who were the first to make Ankara their capital in the 3rd century BC. The city subsequently fell to Romans, and to the Byzantines, was an important cultural center on the caravan route trading with the East during the Ottoman era. Ankara became an important center when Kemal Ataturk chose the city as the base from which to command the War of Independence. By consequence of its role in the war and its strategic location, it was declared the capital of the new Republic of Turkey on October 13th, 1923.



Government is the city's lifeblood, but visitors come to see Ankara's Citadel, Anatolian Civilizations Museum, Augustus Temple and Roman Bath, and Anitkabir (Ataturk's Mausoleum). In the walls of Ankara Citadel, there are several restored traditional houses converted to restaurants, with panoramic view of the city. A

few minutes from the Citadel is the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. Once an Ottoman caravanserai, the museum boasts treasures from Urartian, Hittite, Phrygian, Assyrian, Neolithic, Chalcolitic and early Bronze Age.



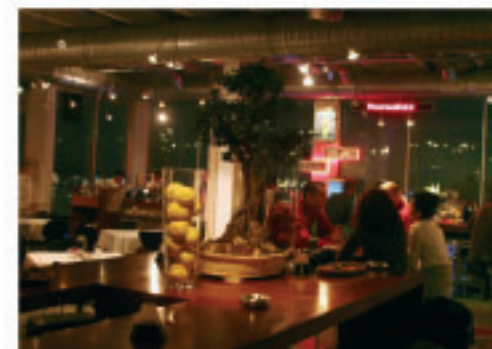
ISTANBUL

Whoever said EAST IS EAST AND WEST IS WEST never came to Istanbul. Istanbul has long been an alluring destination, recently chosen as one of the top ten greatest cities in the world to visit by the readers of Travel and Leisure magazine in 2005.



Istanbul has always been a city of contrasts, bringing together a mixture of East and West, antiquity and contemporary. Typical walking tour in Istanbul is the old city 'Sultanahmet District'. A main attraction is Byzantine Hagia Sophia, Church of Divine Wisdom and walk through the Sogukcesme Street right behind the church to the entrance of Topkapi Palace Gardens. Along the Sogukcesme Street are the traditional Ottoman Houses restored as hotels. At the end of the street is Topkapi Palace and nearby the Blue Mosque. The Istanbul Arts Center, which has workshops of calligraphy, marbled painting, Ottoman miniatures, glassware and bookbinding, is only 5 minutes from the Blue Mosque and Hippodrome. Across from Blue Mosque is the Turkish Islamic Arts Museum. Grand Bazaar, a covered maze of some 4,000 shops selling everything from modest souvenirs to priceless treasures is one of the other highlight of Sultan Ahmet District.

For an experience unlike any other, the Sultan Kayiklari (Sultan's Boats) provide the most authentic way to tour the breathtaking water that separate Istanbul's Asian and European Shores. On elaborate vessels replicating the imperial luxury of Ottoman royalty, the Sultan's boat tours are themed around three great water-side palaces of the city, the only tour boat permitted by the National Palace Board to shuttle between these monuments. Along the route, architectural wonders, both ancient and contemporary capture the imagination, as do the sites of great wealth and industry from Topkapi Palace to the original Ottoman factory used to make fez hats.



Beyoglu, the historic diplomatic district, now the center of a lively cafe culture reflects the city's renewed energy. Its cobbled streets, both sides are historic buildings now filled with local shops, sidewalk cafes and trendy music clubs. In Beyoglu you may have your dinner at very traditional small meyhane at the Fish Market or right at a restaurant which has a 360 degree view of Istanbul in a modern setting.

Dining in Istanbul is not easy to decide. You may have your dinner either in old city at a traditional restaurant in a landmark building or at one of the top deluxe restaurant in an Old Palace on the European shores of Bosphorus. You may taste some of the best traditional dishes from country's different regions even in Spice Market or Grand Bazaar Both. Asian and European shores of the city offer good samples of small seafood restaurants in villages of Kuzguncuk, Kanlica, Anadolu Kavagi, Sariyer, Tarabya, Yenikoy. If you would like to sample some of the street food, do not miss Ortakoy district with its craft market at weekends. The culinary choices alone reflect the variety of experiences available in Istanbul.



The Ancient AEGEAN

Rich in scenic beauty, agricultural wealth and recreational possibilities, the Aegean coast is also the heartland of Classical civilizations. Many of the most famous legends from Ancient Hellenic and Roman times can be traced to these shores.



Izmir, one of the Turkey's largest cities and a major port, was once known Smyrna. Less than an hour to the south of Izmir are the extraordinary ruins of the ancient city of Ephesus, the best preserved ancient metropolis on the Aegean. As the capital of Roman Asia Minor, Ephesus was richly endowed with marble temples, mosaics and 25,000 seat theater. St. Paul preached here and later wrote his famous Epistle to the Ephesians. It is believed the Virgin Mary spent her last days here.



From the Dardanelles and fabled Troy, to the fairytale crusader castle of Bodrum, the Aegean coast offers rich possibilities for sun, fun and relaxation. Canakkale is the city which was once the legendary Troy, immortalized by Homer in his stories of King Priam, Hector, Paris and beautiful Helen. The city was also the setting of the Gallipoli Campaign of World War I.

A short drive to the south brings you to Bergama, the ancient city of Pergamon. The Asclepion of Pergamon was a sanctuary dedicated to the god of health Asclepius, and was a famous medical center where Galen (131-210AD) laid down the fundamentals of medical practice that would last for more than a millennium.



Take a detour inland along the Menderes (Meander) River valley to Geyre and you will find the ancient city of Aphrodisias, dedicated to the goddess of Aphrodite. A bit farther along, the gleaming white travertine cliffs of Pamukkale (Cotton Castle) rise above the fertile plain.

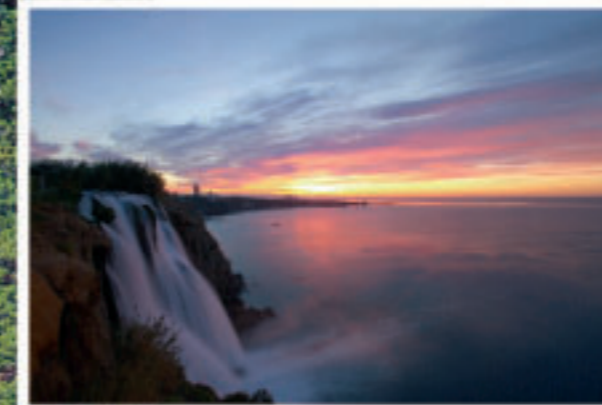
Perhaps the most charming town on the coast is Bodrum, known in Ancient times as Halicarnassus, was the birthplace of Herodotus and site of the Tomb of King Mausolus, which was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.



The TURQUOISE Coast



Today the Turkish Riviera, from Marmaris to Antakya, draws vacationers from all over the world, just as it drew the Phoenicians, the Romans and the Seljuks.



Who could resist the urge to swim from a beach given by Mark Antony as a present to Cleopatra? Or to stand in the cave church where St. Peter first called his flock "Christians". From rustic fishing villages to sleek resorts, from pine-clad coasts to modern high-end deluxe properties, Turkey's Mediterranean coast has it all.

Marmaris is one of the most attractive marina where most of the "Blue Voyage" sailings embark. A favorite day excursion by boat is to the placid bay at Knidos, where the renowned sculptor Praxiteles once erected his perfect statue of Aphrodite.



For quaint fishing villages, Kalkan and Kas with its narrow, winding streets descent to small harbors lined with small local restaurants are perfect for dining under the stars.

Antalya, capital of the Turquoise Coast, is bustling resort and the center of the country's citrus agriculture. Quaint bed& breakfasts, posh inns, boutiques and restaurants ring the historic old harbor.

Termessos, the dramatic mountain city which resisted even the armies of Alexander the Great. Perge, with a beautiful theater, stadium, and Grand Byzantine Tower-gate, and Aspendos, with its perfect Roman Theater which is still used for performances of the International Opera and Ballet Festival.

Mersin is a modern town and active port. Nearby Tarsus was the birthplace of St. Paul and traces of the ancient Roman town can still be seen. Adana is the capital of the fertile Cukurova agricultural region. Antakya known as Antioch in ancient times, boasts the Church of St. Peter, a cave owned by St Luke where the apostles Peter and Paul are believed to have preached. Antakya Museum is filled with some of the finest Roman mosaics in the world.



CAPPADOCIA

Often described as a "moonscape," the starkly dramatic terrain of Cappadocia impresses every visitor. Even more memorable are the frescoed churches and the labyrinthine underground cities carved from the soft volcanic stone.



The biblical realm of Cappadocia, South-West of Ankara in central Anatolia, is a wonderland of unique geographic formations sprinkled with green vineyards and fruit orchards. Agriculture thrives in the mineral-rich volcanic soil, making this one of Turkey's premier wine-making regions. The most famous sight in the region is the Goreme Open Air Museum, a volcanic valley filled with wall-painted monastic churches hollowed from the soft volcanic stone. The nearby valley of Zelve is impressive and natural citadel at

Uchisar gives visitors a panorama of the entire region. The only way to get a better view is to take a hot air balloon ride. The other worldly beauty of the Cappadocian landscape makes it an excellent place for hiking and horseback riding. In the Southern part of the region, vast underground cities beckon. Kayseri at the Eastern edge of the region is a carpet-weaving center. The famous Silk Road

passed directly through Cappadocia in ancient times. There are several of the monumental Caravanserais built by the Seljuk Turkish Sultans to accommodate these wealthy traders. The great Caravanserais of Sultan Han, Agzikarahan, and Karatay Han included all the services needed by the caravans, from Turkish Baths to dormitories with strong walls for their safety.



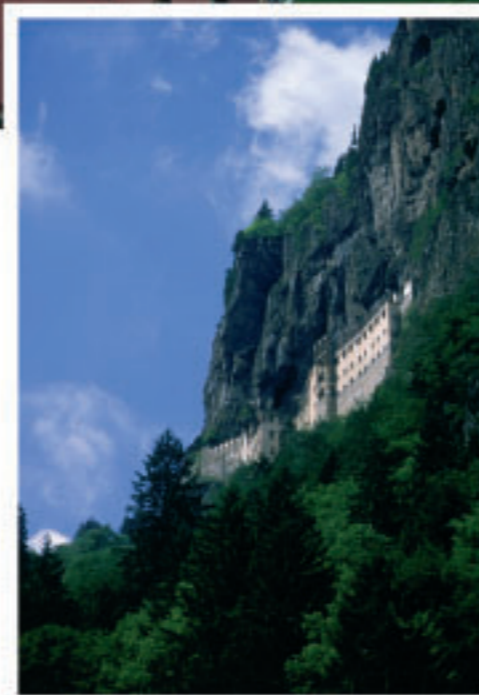


The chill waters of the mysterious, unfathomable deep Black Sea have attracted mariners for millennia. The ancient Greeks and Romans, the Genoese and Ottomans have sailed these shores of legend. They're followed today by the more intrepid travelers who want to get off the beaten track, who enjoys the drama of the coastal scenery, the deep history of its towns, and the variety of ethnic and cultural traditions alive in the region.

The BLACK SEA



Jason and Argonauts sailed its storied shores in search of the Golden Fleece. Today the breathtaking scenery and fabled past of this fertile region draw visitors from around the world.



Nearly half of the world's hazelnuts are harvested in Turkey's Black Sea region. Cherries were first cultivated here in Giresun and taken by the Romans to Europe and then to the rest of the world.

The best way to approach the Black Sea coast is via the town of Safranbolu. Safranbolu is essentially a large, living museum, the stately charm of its picturesque Ottoman-era houses are protected by law.



Trabzon with its historic churches (St. Sophia) and mosques, is the focal point for most visitors and the best base for a visit to mountain-side Sumela Monastery. Sinop is the city where Diogenes was born and Rize, the capital of Turkey's tea-growing region.

Camlihemsin and Ayder welcome those who want to escape from the crowd of the big cities for hikes in timeless mountains.

Eastern TURKEY

Gaze at the sunset from a mountaintop marvelously designed as a dwelling-place for the gods. Visit the cave in which, according to legend, the patriarch Abraham was born. Snap photos of beehive-like mud houses that look as though they might have been inhabited since Stone Age. It's all part of an ordinary day in Turkey's vast, beautiful, dramatic Eastern region.



Perhaps the single most bewitching sight in the east is Mount Nemrud, the 1st century BC mountaintop tomb/shrine of King Antiochus I of Commagene. To the East and West of the peak are temples with gigantic stone statues of the king and the gods. In the East, people and places assume legendary proportions. We know from the book of Genesis that Abraham and his family traveled here of Harran south of Sanliurfa once called Edessa.



Near Historic Mardin are Syriac monasteries, where the monks still speak and hold services in Aramaic, the language of Jesus. One of the monastery Bibles, written in Aramaic, is 1700 years old. Erzurum the East's largest city, holds many fine Seljuk Turkish Buildings and an interesting museum housed in a 13th century Mongol theological college. On the city's outskirts at Palandoken is Turkey's fastest growing ski resort. A few hours ride East to Dogubeyazit, the impressive castle of Ishak Pasa, an Ottoman governor, guards a rugged mountain pass in the shadow of biblical Mount Ararat.

The vast inland sea of Lake Van is surrounded by things to see and do. The 10th century Church of Holy Cross, decorated with biblical reliefs located on Akdamar Island, reached by a short boat ride from the town of Gevas.

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OFFICIAL NAME: REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
CAPITAL: ANKARA
AREA : 301,383.62 sq miles
 297,592.1 sq miles land
 3,791.5 sq miles water
COASTLINE : 4,473.87 miles



Average Monthly Temperature (Degrees in Fahrenheit)

City	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Antalya	50	52	55	61	68	77	82	82	77	68	59	54
Izmir	48	50	52	61	68	77	82	81	73	64	59	50
Istanbul	41	43	45	54	61	70	73	73	68	61	54	46
Trabzon	43	43	45	52	59	68	72	72	66	59	54	48
Ankara	32	34	41	52	61	68	73	73	64	64	46	36
Erzurum	16	19	27	41	70	59	68	68	59	59	36	23
Diyarbakir	36	36	36	57	66	79	88	88	77	77	50	39
Mugla	49	51	54	61	66	68	81	81	75	75	59	53
Konya	38	40	44	55	65	72	75	75	69	69	50	40