

**40 YEARS**

OF AMAZING EXPERIENCES

lonely planet

PULL-OUT  
MAP



Discover  
**Turkey**

Experience the best of Turkey

# Discover Turkey

Contents 

Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



## The Best...

Lists for everything from bars to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out



## Don't Miss

A must-see – don't go home until you've been there

### Local Knowledge

Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



## Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track



## If you like...

Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous attractions

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the map:



Sights



Eating



Drinking



Sleeping

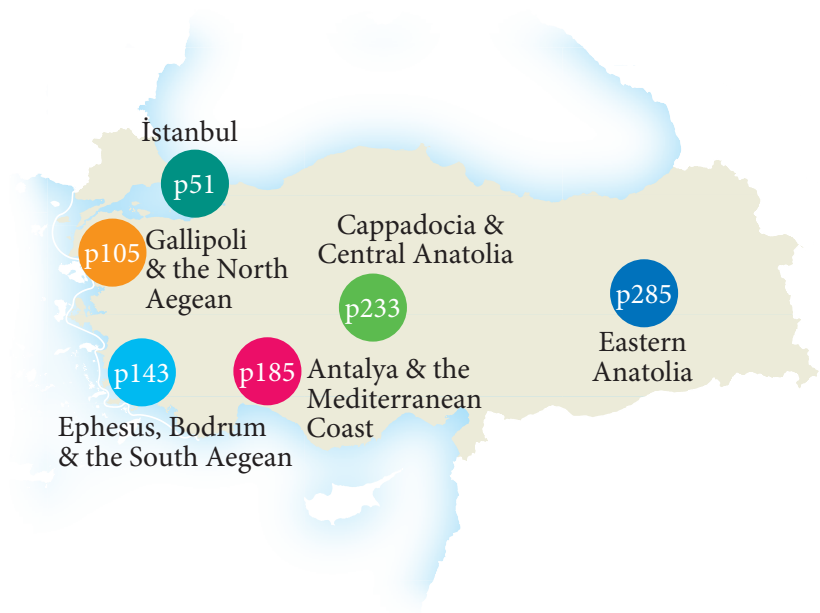


Information

This edition written and researched by

James Bainbridge

Brett Atkinson, Chris Deliso, Steve Fallon, Will Gourlay,  
Jessica Lee, Virginia Maxwell, Tom Spurling



## ● Istanbul

Highlights.....54

- Aya Sofya
- Topkapı Palace
- Grand Bazaar
- Ferry Cruises
- Beyoğlu Nightlife
- Basilica Cistern
- Blue Mosque

## ● Gallipoli & the North Aegean

Highlights.....108

- Gallipoli Peninsula
- Bergama (Pergamum)
- Ayvalık Old Town
- Historic Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Festival
- İzmir
- Bozcaada
- Behramkale & Assos

## ● Ephesus, Bodrum & the South Aegean

Highlights.....146

- Ephesus
- Bodrum
- Datça & Bozburun Peninsulas
- Miletus
- Priene
- Bodrum Peninsula
- Didyma

## ● Cappadocia & Central Anatolia

Highlights.....236

- Cappadocia
- Safranbolu
- Pamukkale
- Sagalassos
- Eğirdir
- Amasya
- Afrosdisias

## ● Eastern Anatolia

Highlights.....288

- Ani
- Kaçkar Mountains
- Nemrut Dağı (Mt Nemrut)
- Mardin
- Sumela Monastery
- Lake Van
- Şanlıurfa (Urfa)

# Contents

## Plan Your Trip



This Is Turkey .....	6
Turkey Map .....	8
Turkey's Top 25 Experiences .....	10
Turkey's Top Itineraries .....	32
Turkey Month by Month .....	42
What's New .....	46
Get Inspired .....	47
Need to Know .....	48

## ● Antalya & the Mediterranean Coast

Highlights.....188

- Kaleiçi
  - Patara
  - Kekova
  - Antakya (Hatay) Cuisine
  - Kızkalesi
  - Blue Voyages
  - Ölüdeniz
- .....

## On the Road

	<b>Istanbul</b> .....	<b>51</b>
	Highlights .....	54
	Best.....	60
	Walking Tour .....	62
	<b>Gallipoli &amp; the North Aegean</b> .....	<b>105</b>
	Highlights .....	108
	Best.....	114
	<b>Itineraries</b> .....	<b>116</b>
	Gallipoli (Gelibolu) Peninsula .....	118
	Çanakkale .....	122
	Edirne.....	123
	Troy (Truva) .....	126
	Bozcaada.....	127
	Behramkale & Assos .....	127
	Ayvalık .....	128
	Bergama (Pergamum).....	131
	İzmir .....	135
	Acropolis .....	138

# Contents

## On the Road



### Ephesus, Bodrum & the South Aegean 143

**Highlights** ..... 146

**Best...** ..... 152

**Itineraries** ..... 154

Ephesus (Efes) ..... 156

Selçuk ..... 161

Kuşadası ..... 166

Bodrum ..... 171

*Priene, Miletus &  
Didyma* ..... 174

*Dilek Peninsula* ..... 176

Bodrum Peninsula ..... 177

*Şirince* ..... 179

*Datça & Bozburun  
Peninsulas* ..... 180



### Antalya & the Mediterranean Coast 185

**Highlights** ..... 188

**Best...** ..... 194

**Itineraries** ..... 196

Fethiye ..... 198

Ölüdeniz ..... 203

Patara ..... 204

*Kayaköy* ..... 205

Kaş ..... 205

*Xanthos* ..... 208

*Kekova* ..... 210

Olympos & Çıralı ..... 211

Antalya ..... 212

Alanya ..... 217

*Anemurium* ..... 221

Anamur ..... 222

*Narlıkuyu and Caves  
of Heaven & Hell* ..... 223

Kızkalesi ..... 224

Antakya (Hatay) ..... 227



### Cappadocia & Central Anatolia 233

**Highlights** ..... 236

**Best...** ..... 242

**Itineraries** ..... 244

**Cappadocia** ..... 246

Göreme ..... 248

*Ihlara Valley  
(Ihlara Vadisi)* ..... 255

*Kaymaklı* ..... 256

*Derinkuyu* ..... 256

Soğanlı ..... 257

**Central &  
Western Anatolia** ..... 258

Bursa ..... 258

Pamukkale ..... 263

Afrodiasias ..... 266

Eğirdir ..... 267

Sagalassos ..... 269

Ankara ..... 270

*Boğazkale, Hattuşa  
& Yazılıkaya* ..... 276

Safranbolu ..... 277

Amasya ..... 280



### Eastern Anatolia 285

**Highlights** ..... 288

**Best...** ..... 294

**Itineraries** ..... 296

**Black Sea Coast** ..... 298

Trabzon ..... 298

Sumela Monastery ..... 301

**Northeastern  
Anatolia** ..... 302

Kaçkar Mountains ..... 302

Kars ..... 306

*Fırtına Valley* ..... 307

Ani ..... 308

**Southeastern  
Anatolia** ..... 309

Şanlıurfa (Urfa) ..... 309

*Göbekli Tepe* ..... 313

*Doğubayazıt* ..... 314

Nemrut Dağı  
National Park ..... 315

Mardin ..... 316

Lake Van ..... 319

Van ..... 320

<b>Turkey Today</b> .....	<b>326</b>	<b>Directory</b> .....	<b>360</b>
<b>History</b> .....	<b>328</b>	Accommodation .....	360
<b>Family Travel</b> .....	<b>338</b>	Activities .....	361
<b>Architecture</b> .....	<b>340</b>	Business Hours .....	362
<b>Turkish Table</b> .....	<b>342</b>	Customs	
<b>Arts</b> .....	<b>348</b>	Regulations .....	362
<b>People</b> .....	<b>352</b>	Discount Cards .....	363
<b>Environment</b> .....	<b>355</b>	Electricity .....	363
		Gay & Lesbian	
		Travellers .....	363
		Health .....	363
		Insurance .....	366
		Internet Access .....	366
		Legal Matters .....	366
		Money .....	366
		Public Holidays .....	368
		Safe Travel .....	368
		Telephone .....	369
		Time .....	370
		Toilets .....	370
		Tourist Information .....	370
		Travellers with	
		Disabilities .....	370
		Visas .....	371
		Women Travellers .....	371
		<b>Transport</b> .....	<b>372</b>
		Getting There &	
		Away .....	372
		Getting Around .....	373
		<b>Language</b> .....	<b>380</b>
		<b>Behind the Scenes</b> .....	<b>381</b>
		<b>Index</b> .....	<b>382</b>
		<b>How to Use this</b>	
		<b>book</b> .....	<b>390</b>
		<b>Our Writers</b> .....	<b>392</b>



# This is Turkey

Turkey's dramatic landscape is a fitting canvas for the country's long history. It sweeps from Europe to Asia, from sun-baked Aegean beaches to expansive steppe, and from Mediterranean bays to snowy mountains.

A succession of empires, armies, pilgrims and traders have passed through Anatolia (Asian Turkey). Ottoman sultans, Byzantine emperors, whirling dervishes and Christian saints have all left clues, monuments, ciphers and ruins that add lyricism and romance to Turkey's scenery. Lycian tombs poke above the waterline in Mediterranean coves, fresco-filled cave churches survey Cappadocia's surreal fairy chimneys, and the marble streets of Ephesus (Efes) glint in the Aegean sun.

Contemporary Turkey's rich culture combines these diverse historical influences. Here you can start the day in the bazaar, lunch on a kebab or *köfte* (meatballs) and spend the afternoon touring ruins, before hearing the sunset call to prayer and hitting a seafood restaurant or *meyhane* (Turkish tavern). Reflecting Turkish society's mix of Islamic, secular, traditional and modern elements, the country's cities range from breathtaking, continent-straddling Istanbul to south-eastern outposts where minarets shimmer in the heat haze.

There are countless ways to enjoy Turkey's charms. It's an extraordinary cauldron of Eastern mystique, Mediterranean *joie de vivre*, urban sophistication and slow-paced rural life. Soak in the hamam, have a meze-and-raki (aniseed brandy) session, seek out wind-whipped ruins or tour Istanbul's palaces: Turkey offers more than the keenest Grand Bazaar shopkeeper.

For physical activities, southwest Turkey reigns supreme. It is lined with beaches and dive spots, white-water rapids roar out of mountain ranges and walking trails lead to villages and ruins. You can kayak over the submerged remains of a city or paraglide from a 2000m-high peak; either way, don't miss the Turkish ritual of sipping a tulip-shaped glass of sweet black çay.

“  
Turkey  
offers more  
than the  
keenest  
Grand  
Bazaar  
shopkeeper  
”

Hot-air ballooning in Göreme (p251), Cappadocia

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHRIS CHEADLE/GETTY IMAGES ©

