



Turkey

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Best Places to Eat

- Antiochia (p1150)
- Hanimeli Kars Mutfağı (p1170)
- Konak Konya Mutfağı (p1167)
- Vanilla (p1164)
- Seten Restaurant (p1169)

Best Places to Stay

- Hotel Empress Zoe (p1149)
- Hideaway Hotel (p1161)
- White Garden Pansiyon (p1164)
- Koza Cave Hotel (p1168)
- Angora House Hotel (p1165)

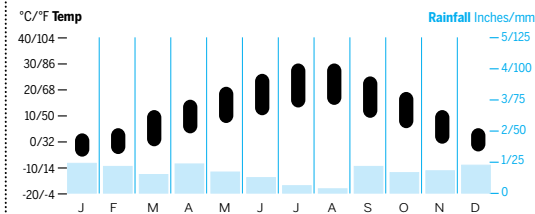
Why Go?

Turkey walks the tightrope between Europe and Asia with ease. Its cities pack in towering minarets and spice-trading bazaars but also offer buzzing modern streetlife. Out in the countryside, this country's reputation as a bridge between continents is laid bare. Its expansive steppes and craggy mountain slopes are scattered with the remnants of once mighty empires. Lycian ruins peek from the undergrowth across the Mediterranean coast, the Roman era's pomp stretches out before you in Ephesus, while the swirling rock valleys of Cappadocia hide Byzantine monastery complexes whittled out by early Christian ascetics.

Of course, if you just want to sloth on a prime piece of beach, Turkey has you covered. But when you've brushed off the sand, this land where east meets west, and the ancient merges seamlessly with the contemporary is a fascinating mosaic of culture, history and visceral natural splendour.

When to Go

Ankara



Apr & May Istanbul is a colourful kaleidoscope of tulips and it's prime hiking time on the coast.

Jun–Aug Summer temperatures sizzle and the Mediterranean resorts are in full swing.

Sep & Oct Plenty of crisp clear-sky days but the crowds have dispersed.



Turkey Highlights

1 Ferry-hop from Europe to Asia with your camera at the ready to capture **Istanbul's** (p1144) famous minaret-studded skyline.

2 Bed down in a cave-hotel to savour modern troglodyte style amid the bizarre lunar landscape of **Cappadocia** (p1167).

3 Fulfil your toga-loaded

daydreams in **Ephesus** (p1156), one of the world's greatest surviving Graeco-Roman cities.

4 Explore the ruins of empires while relishing