



# Turkey

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Cooking Alaturka, İstanbul (p1271)
- » Sakız, İzmir (p1275)
- » Fish Market (p1277)
- » Kahvaltı Sokak, Van (p1287)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Marmara Guesthouse İstanbul (p1267)
- » Odyssey Guesthouse, Bergama (p1274)
- » Jimmy's Place, Selçuk (p1276)
- » Şaban Tree Houses, Olympos (p1281)

## Why Go?

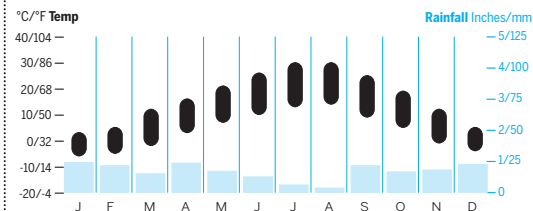
While many Turks see their country as European, Turkey packs in as many towering minarets and spice-trading bazaars as its Middle Eastern neighbours. The country has absorbed Europe's modernism, as well as Asia's culture and tradition. Travellers can enjoy superb historical hot spots, mountain outposts and caravanserai-loads of the exotic, while not foregoing comfy beds and transport.

Cappadocia (Kapadokya), a dreamscape dotted with fairy chimneys, is unlike anywhere else on the planet. Likewise, spots such as Mt Nemrut, littered with giant stone heads, and Olympos, where Lycian ruins peek from the undergrowth, are quintessentially Turkish mixtures of natural splendour and ancient remains.

The beaches and mountains offer enough activities to impress the fussiest Ottoman sultan. Worldly pleasures include historic hotels, meze to savour on panoramic terraces and, of course, Turkey's famous kebaps.

## When To Go

### Ankara



**Apr–May** Spring sunshine without summer crowds; tulips bloom in İstanbul.

**Sep–Oct** The crowds thin; autumn is perfect for walking and diving in the southwest.

**Dec–Jan** Brave the cold to ski, celebrate New Year and see Cappadocia in the snow.

## AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Turkish lira
- » **Language** Turkish, Kurdish
- » **Money** ATMS wide-spread; credit cards accepted in cities and tourist areas
- » **Visas** Issued on arrival; see p1291

## Fast Facts

- » **Area** 779,452 sq km
- » **Capital** Ankara
- » **Country code** 90
- » **Emergency** Ambulance 112, police 155

## Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	TL1.72
Canada	C\$1	TL1.64
euro zone	€1	TL2.30
Japan	¥100	TL1.98
New Zealand	NZ\$1	TL1.32
UK	UK£1	TL2.64
USA	US\$1	TL1.60

## Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** Up to €37.50
- » **Two-course evening meal** €7.50 to €10
- » **Beer (50cl bottle)** €2.50
- » **City transport ticket** €0.50 to €1.75

## Resources

- » **www.turkeytravelplaner.com** Useful travel info
- » **www.hurriyetdailynews.com** Turkish news in English
- » **www.mymerhaba.com** Information for expats and travellers

## Connections

İstanbul is well connected to Europe. Buses leave the *otogar* (bus station) for countries including Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Macedonia, Romania and Slovenia, but trains and ferries are more romantic.

The most useful daily trains are the *Bosfor/Balkan Express* to Bucharest (Romania; with connections including Budapest, Hungary) via Dimitrovgrad (Bulgaria; with connections including Sofia, Bulgaria, and Belgrade, Serbia); and the *Dostluk/Filia Express* to Thessaloniki (Greece; with connections to Athens). A suggested train route from London to İstanbul is the three-night journey via Paris, Munich, Budapest and Bucharest; see [www.seat61.com/turkey](http://www.seat61.com/turkey) for more information and other routes.

Ferries connect Turkey's Aegean and Mediterranean coasts with the Greek Islands, Northern Cyprus and Italy; İstanbul with Ukraine; and Trabzon on the Black Sea coast with Russia. See p1291 for more information.

## INTINERARIES

### One Week

Devote two or three days to magical İstanbul, then head down the Aegean coast, via the Gallipoli battlefields or Pergamum (Bergama), to marvel at the ruins of Ephesus.

### Two Weeks

From Ephesus, head inland to Pamukkale's shiny travertine formations, then return to the coast at laid-back Kaş and travel along the Mediterranean to Roman-Ottoman Antalya, checking out Olympos' tree houses en route. With more time, or by skipping some of the above spots, work in a detour on the way back to İstanbul, to Cappadocia's surreal valleys and fairy chimneys.

## Essential Food & Drink

Turkish food is taken seriously and is a celebration of community and life in its home country. Regional differences make for constant surprises.

- » **Kebaps** Available everywhere and swooningly succulent
- » **Yaprak dolması** Stuffed vine leaves filled with subtly spiced rice
- » **Köfte** Spicy meatballs
- » **Meze** Small plates of food, including dips, vegetables and a wide range of traditional fish and meat dishes
- » **Lahmacun** Arabic pizza
- » **Gözleme** Thin savoury crepes
- » **Manti** Turkish ravioli
- » **Börek** Filled pastries
- » **Rakı** Fiery, highly alcoholic aniseed drink best accompanied by meze