



# Eastern Anatolia

## Includes ➔

Erzurum.....	520
Kaçkar Mountains...	523
Georgian Valleys....	535
Kars .....	538
Ani.....	543
Doğubayazıt .....	546
Mt Ararat .....	549
Nemrut Dağı National Park .....	550

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Sini Ev (p540)
- ➔ Emirşeyh Nedim (p522)
- ➔ Ocakbaşı Restoran (p539)
- ➔ Hanimeli Kars Mutfağı (p541)

## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Hotel Katerina Sarayı (p539)
- ➔ Taşmektep Otel (p527)
- ➔ Otel Doğa (p527)
- ➔ Laşet Bungalov Tatil Evleri (p537)
- ➔ Karahan Pension (p534)

## Why Go?

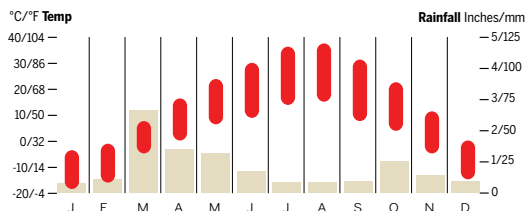
If you've a soft spot for far-flung outposts, make a beeline for Turkey's northeast. Despite its awe-inspiring landscapes and ruins such as Ani, you may have precipitous gorges, expansive steppe, soaring mountains and highland pastures to yourself. No wonder the region, especially the Kaçkar Mountains, is prime territory for trekking, skiing and white-water rafting.

Southeastern Anatolia is a unique part of Turkey, with a predominantly -Kurdish population that is extremely welcoming to visitors. Sadly, fighting between the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) and Turkish government forces, along with possible effects of the Syrian conflict in territory near the border, have rendered large areas risky for travellers. Check your government's travel advice before considering travelling here.

Nemrut Dağı National Park, a highlight of Turkish travel with its haunting 2000-year-old statues, is not, at the time of writing, considered risky.

## When to Go

### Erzurum



**May** Vivid hues and scents as the steppe blossoms and spring warmth awakens mountain pastures.

**Jun-Sep** Hike and raft around the Kaçkar Mountains, and visit Nemrut Dağı National Park.

**Dec-Apr** Cross-country ski in the Kaçkars and see Ani looking atmospheric in the snow.

# Eastern Anatolia Highlights

## 1 Ani (p543)

Losing yourself in the ruins of this medieval Armenian capital strewn across the windswept steppe.

## 2 Kaçkar

### Mountains (p523)

Trekking across 3000m-plus passes or high-level *yaylalar* (mountain pastures), or enjoying day walks from quaint villages such as Barhal or Olgunlar.

## 3 Georgian

### churches (p537)

Exploring the haunting remains of 1000-year-old churches such as Öşkvank.

## 4 Kars (p538)

Hanging out in this distinctive Russian-influenced city with enjoyable restaurants and cafes, and a historic castle.

## 5 Nemrut Dağı

(p552) Soak up the eerie vibes while watching the sun set (or rise) from the 'thrones of gods'.

## 6 Erzurum

(p520) Discovering a fascinating medley of Seljuk, Mongol and Ottoman mosques and *medreses* (seminaries) in this bustling steppe city.

## 7 White-water

### rafting (p526)

Testing your mettle on the rivers around Yusufeli.

## 8 Mt Ararat

(p549) Making the (nontechnical) ascent of Turkey's majestic highest peak (5137m) when it is open to climbers.

