Discovering *Türkiye*

Turkey, officially known as Türkiye, is a transcontinental nation spanning both Europe and Asia. With a history shaped by civilizations such as the Romans, Byzantines, and Ottomans, it remains one of the world's most culturally significant regions. Istanbul, once called Byzantium and later Constantinople, continues to serve as a symbolic bridge between East and West.

Türkiye's landscapes are as varied as its past, from Mediterranean coastlines to the unique rock formations of Cappadocia. Its cuisine is internationally celebrated, with specialties like kebabs, baklava, and Turkish delight reflecting its rich heritage.

While Türkiye's political history is complex, the nation plays a vital role in regional and global affairs. Today, it is a leading travel destination, admired for its hospitality, vibrant culture, ancient ruins, and seamless blend of modern life with traditions spanning millennia.

Activity Level
Low level

Visa Process

UK and New Zealand nationals do not require a visa to travel to Turkey for tourism or business stays of up to 90 days. Australian nationals are also permitted visa-free entry for up to 90 days within a 180-day period.

Credit Cards

Credit cards are widely accepted throughout Türkiye, particularly in major cities and tourist destinations. Visa and MasterCard are the most commonly used, while American Express is accepted less frequently.

Travelers are advised to carry some cash for smaller businesses, rural areas, or locations where cards may not be accepted.

Currency

The official currency of Türkiye is the Turkish lira (TRY).

Dining

Dining in Türkiye reflects a blend of Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, and Central Asian influences. Meals often begin with meze (small appetizers) and conclude with tea or Turkish coffee. Popular dishes include kebabs, pide, menemen, manti, and baklava.

Street foods such as döner, simit, and stuffed mussels (midye dolma) are widely enjoyed. Options range from casual lokantas to fine dining, with Turkish hospitality enriching every meal.

Cultural Norms

Türkiye has a rich cultural heritage shaped by Middle Eastern, European, and Central Asian traditions. Awareness of local customs can help visitors navigate social interactions respectfully. Key norms include:

Hospitality & Social Etiquette

Warm Hospitality: Turkish people are known for their generosity. Guests are often offered tea or coffee as a gesture of welcome.

Greetings: A handshake is common in formal settings, while friends and family may greet with a kiss on both cheeks.

Respect for Elders: Visitors are expected to greet elders first and use polite language as a sign of respect.

Dining Etiquette

Sharing Meals: Dining is often communal, and it is polite to accept food or drinks when offered.

Removing Shoes: In private homes, it is customary to remove shoes before entering.

Tea & Coffee: Turkish tea (çay) plays an important role in daily life and is offered frequently as a gesture of friendship.

Religious & Cultural Sensitivities

Dress Modestly in Religious Sites: When visiting mosques, modest clothing is expected. Women should cover their hair, and all visitors should remove shoes before entering prayer areas.

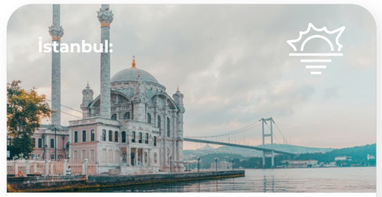
Ramadan Etiquette: During the holy month of Ramadan, many people fast from sunrise to sunset. Visitors are encouraged to be respectful and mindful of local practices.

Communication & Body Language

Direct Yet Polite Communication: Conversations are often expressive, but courtesy and politeness are highly valued.

Gestures: Nodding indicates "yes," while a slight upward tilt of the head paired with a "tsk" sound means "no."

In spring (March–May), Türkiye experiences mild weather with temperatures ranging from 59°F to 77°F (15°C to 25°C), making it ideal for sightseeing. In summer (June–August), inland temperatures can rise to 86°F–104°F (30°C to 40°C), while coastal areas remain slightly cooler at 77°F–95°F (25°C to 35°C), well-suited for beach vacations.



Summer Average **23-24°C** | Winter Average **3-9°C**



Summer Average **25-30°C** | Winter Average **-2-4°C**



Summer Average **30-33°C** | Winter Average **4-10°C**

Pharmacies

Pharmacies in Türkiye are generally open from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday through Saturday. Many are closed on Sundays or operate with limited hours.

However, designated on-duty pharmacies (nöbetçi eczane) remain open 24/7 or during off-hours for emergencies. Information on on-duty pharmacies can be obtained through local listings or by inquiring at nearby pharmacies.

Check-in Process

The standard hotel check-in time in Türkiye is typically 2:00 PM. Policies may vary by property, so travelers are advised to confirm in advance, particularly if planning an early arrival.

Plug Sockets

Türkiye uses Type C and Type F sockets, both with two round pins (Type F includes a grounding pin). Power supply is 230 volts at 50 Hz. U.S. travelers will need a plug adapter and may require a voltage converter for certain devices.





Gratuities

Tipping in Türkiye is appreciated but not obligatory. In restaurants, a gratuity of 5–10% is customary if service is not already included. In cafés, it is common to round up the bill or leave small change.

For hotel staff, tip porters 5–10 TRY per bag and housekeepers 10–20 TRY per day. Taxi fares are often rounded up to the nearest 5 or 10 TRY. 340 TRY per person per day is recommend as a tip for guide and driver combined.

Emergency

In Türkiye, dial 112 for general emergencies, 155 for police, and 110 for fire services. These numbers operate 24/7. Travelers are strongly encouraged to carry travel insurance that includes coverage for medical emergencies.



Dining

Dining in Türkiye showcases a blend of Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, and Central Asian influences. Meals often start with meze (small appetizers) and end with tea or Turkish coffee. Well-known dishes include kebabs, pide, menemen, manti, and baklava.
Street foods such as döner, simit, and stuffed mussels (midye dolma) are popular and widely available. Dining options range from casual lokantas to upscale restaurants, with Turkish hospitality enhancing every meal.

Air conditioning and heating

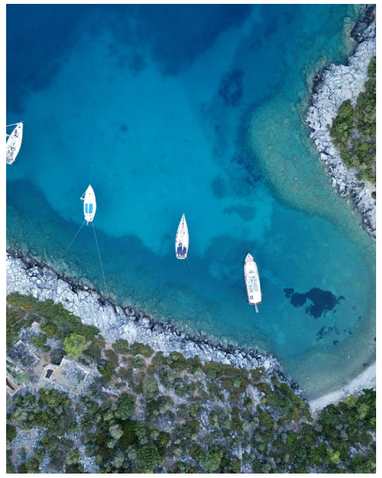
Most hotels in Türkiye, particularly mid-range and higher-end accommodations, are equipped with air conditioning. Travelers visiting during the hot summer months are advised to confirm availability in advance to ensure comfort.

Credit Cards

Credit Cards Credit cards are widely accepted throughout Türkiye, particularly in major cities and tourist destinations. However, all vendors apply a surcharge of around 10%.

Visa and MasterCard are the most commonly used, while American Express is accepted less frequently. Travelers are advised to carry some cash for smaller businesses, rural areas, or locations where cards may not be accepted. US Dollars are generally accepted and can help avoid the additional charges.





What to pack

Essentials:

Passport & Visa: Carry your passport, visa, and all required travel documents.

Travel Insurance: Strongly recommended to cover unexpected situations.

Money: Bring both cash (preferably in small denominations) and credit/debit cards.

Health Kit: Include prescription medications and essential over-the-counter medicines, kept in your hand luggage.

Clothing:

For travel to Türkiye in summer, bring light, breathable clothing, comfortable walking shoes, swimwear, a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. A light jacket or sweater is useful for cooler evenings. Given the high temperatures, plan for comfort and sun protection.

From September to October, temperatures can drop quite suddenly, especially in Cappadocia. It might be worthwhile for travelers to pack some warmer layers, just in case.

Travelers should also pack insect repellent, necessary medications, and a camera.

Personal Items:

Toiletries: Bring essentials such as toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and any specific personal items you regularly use.

Sunscreen & Sunglasses: Important for sun protection, especially in summer.

Insect Repellent: Recommended for added protection, particularly in rural or coastal areas.

Electronics:

Phone & Charger: Consider purchasing a local SIM card for better connectivity and to avoid high roaming charges.

Camera: Bring a camera with extra memory cards and batteries to capture your travels.

Other Useful Items:

Small Backpack/Daypack: Useful for day trips and carrying essentials.

Hand Sanitizer: Recommended for cleanliness when on the go.