

Title:

A complete Guide to visiting Turkey

Word Count:

3482

Summary:

A detailed guide to Turkey, its history and its culture with essential information for those v

Keywords:

villas turkey property real estate

Article Body:

Turkey is a country of diversity, stunning scenery, warm hospitality, and a whole range of res

Weather in Turkey - Southern Mediterranean and Aegean Coasts

Turkey's Mediterranean and Aegean coasts boast a perfect Mediterranean climate with low humid

During spring, the scent of citrus blossoms fills the air, the hills and valleys are green wit

Turkish Culture

The mix of cultural influences and traditions in Turkey is one of the things that draw tourist

The Family

Turkish family units are extremely important. Children often stay with their families until th

Turkish Women

Equal rights for women were officially added to the civil code in 2002, so women now have equa

The Evil Eye

The 'evil eye' is an ancient belief and is one of the most widespread superstitions in Turkey.

Hamam

The Hamam, or Turkish Bath, was a Roman and Byzantine tradition which was adopted by the Selcu

Family Holidays in Turkey

Turks love children and always extend a warm welcome to our young holidaymakers. There are man

Did you know?

Turkey is home to two of the Seven Wonders of the World, the temple of Artemis at Ephesus, and

St Nicholas, popularly known as Santa Claus, was born and lived in Turkey

Noah's Ark is said to have landed at Mount Ararat in Eastern Turkey

Turkey provides 70% of the world's hazelnuts

Gave the English language many words including chock-a block, turquoise, yoghurt, kismet, kili

Turkey first introduced tulips to Holland and today still supplies tulips worldwide. The tulip

Turkey was the first ever land to mind and use coins 2700 years ago by the Lydians

Turkey has the world's first female Supreme Court Judge, and gave the women the right to vote

Religion

Whilst the population of Turkey is about 99% Muslim, the country is a secular state which allows

During Ramadan, or Ramazan, as it is known in Turkey, some locals may fast from sunrise to sunset

Public Holidays in Turkey

Government offices and banks will be closed on public holidays, but life in the resort areas continues

History of Turkey

Historically known as Asia Minor or Anatolia, this vast region reflects a remarkable and fascinating

Some of the finest sites emerged from the Hellenistic period such as the remains of ancient Troy

In 560 BC the King of Persia, Cyrus, conquered everybody and everything and soon subjected the

Following its conquest by Rome in the 2nd century BC, Asia Minor enjoyed centuries of peace. During

The Great Seljuk Empire, based in Persia, was the first real Turkish state in Anatolia. This empire

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk was the main drive behind the development of modern Turkey. The former

Ataturk was and still is a national hero- a massive presence in the long history of Turkey. In

Turkish Food & Drink

Turkish food is amongst the best in the world. With enough climatic zones to grow most ingredients

Besides its famous kebab dishes, there are many other traditional Turkish foods to choose from

Turkey's most popular beers are the home produced Efes Pilsen and Tuborg, and whilst the wine

Shopping in Turkey offers the most unusual and diverse range of gifts tempting even the non-shoppers

Traditional handicrafts such as carpets, kilims, copper goods, painted ceramics and jewellery

In tourist and coastal areas, opening hours are quite flexible and during the summer many shops

In souvenir shops and stalls, it's always worth trying a spot of haggling. For food shopping,

Transport

Hiring a car is one of the best ways to get out and about, giving you the freedom to explore a

Local transport within the towns and resorts consists of dolmus or minibuses (taxis) that run

Things to do in Turkey

Turkey offers a wide variety of activities for couples and families alike.

Watersports including windsurfing, parasailing, jet skiing and canoeing are popular on designated

Currency in Turkey

New Turkish Lira (YTL) is the official currency in Turkey. "Y" stands for "Yeni" ("New") in Turkish.

Currency can be also obtained from ATM/cash machines throughout Turkey, providing the symbols on the screen.

The New Turkish Lira comes in notes of 5,10, 20, 50 and 100. The coins, called New Kurus (Ykr) are 1,2,5,10 and 20.

Please note that Scottish currency is not accepted in Turkey. It is also worth noting that the British pound is not accepted.

Passports & Visas

British citizens require a standard ten year passport which must be valid for at least six months after the date of arrival.

British citizens (including infants) have to pay a tourist visa of £10 upon arrival. This must be paid in cash.

Full details and application forms for a full British passport can be obtained from main post office or from a passport agent.

Non UK passport holders are recommended to contact the appropriate Embassy in London as to the requirements for entry to Turkey.

Turkey Time Difference

Turkey is two hours ahead of the UK. It is a good idea to adjust your watch as soon as you arrive.

Vaccinations for Turkey

No vaccination certificates are compulsory for entry to Turkey. You should always check with your GP or travel agent.

When To Go

The main season for visitors to Turkey's western Aegean and Mediterranean coastal resorts is between May and September. Temperatures range from the mid 20°Cs early and late season, to the mid 30°Cs during the peak of the summer.

In the coastal resorts we have a selection of properties suitable for occupation in late autumn and early spring.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I be able to use my mobile phone?

Generally speaking, mobile phone coverage in Turkey is very good - the exception being some of the more remote areas.

What currency will I require?

New Turkish Lira (YTL) is the official currency in Turkey. Currency can be purchased in the UK or in Turkey.

Travellers Cheques or Credit Cards?

Credit cards are now very widely accepted in shops and some restaurants in the main towns and cities.

Currency can be obtained from ATM/cash machines throughout Turkey, providing the symbols on the screen.

What is the voltage and do we need to use adaptors?

The current is 220 V. Wall sockets take two rounded pin plugs, like many European countries. You will need a travel adaptor.

Is there a time difference?

Yes, Turkey is on GMT + 2 (daylight saving GMT +3 operates between late March to late September).

What should I take?

You can now find most western goods, including holiday essentials such as suntan and aftersun in the main towns and cities.

Are shops open on the day of our arrival?

During the summer season, and especially in the resort areas, supermarkets, minimarkets and many shops are open.

As a general guideline opening days and times are as follows:

Banks: 09.00 - 12.00 and 13.30 - 17.00 Monday to Friday.

Post Offices: (identified by yellow PTT signs) 08.00 - 20.00 Monday to Saturday, and 09.00 - 1

Museums - 09.00 - 17.00 Tuesday to Sunday.

Chemists (eczane) - 09.00-19.00 Monday to Saturday. A duty chemist is appointed on a rota basis

Shops: in the resorts, and particularly during the summer months, bazaars and many tourist shops

Supermarkets: Most supermarkets are open daily, and the larger ones are often open till 22.00

Cafés and restaurants tend to operate open-ended hours and may not close till early in the morning

Are there insects?

There can be mosquito's in certain areas so a plug in deterrent is an idea. Ants are frequent

What is driving like in Turkey?

As in the rest of the Mediterranean, other road users may seem to the UK driver to drive unprecisely

Traffic drives on the right in Turkey, which means you must give way to the right at junctions

The wearing of seat belts is compulsory.

There are strict drink driving laws - the rule is absolutely no alcohol if you intend to drive

If another vehicle flashes it's lights, this means that it is coming through, not that they are

You should drive defensively at all times, and great care should be taken when driving after drinking

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