

# Turkey

FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE



## Welcome



Turkey is a dynamic, culturally diverse, and exciting country. Turkey's culture is famously welcoming and many visitors fall in love with the country because of the warmth and hospitality they experience.

We hope you a pleasant stay in the country and hope that these notes will help you to prepare for your visit and during your stay in Turkey.

You may access more information about us at the following web link:  
<http://www.ddb.pol.tr>

## General Information

Turkey is a transcontinental Eurasian country. Asian Turkey, which includes 97% of the country, is separated from European Turkey by the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles.

The territory of Turkey is more than 1,600 kilometers long and 800 km wide, with a roughly rectangular shape. Turkey's area, inclusive of lakes, occupies 783,562 square kilometers. Turkey's area makes it the world's 37th-largest country, and is about the size of Metropolitan France and the United Kingdom combined.

Turkey is encircled by seas on three sides: the Aegean Sea to the west, the Black Sea to the north and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Turkey also contains the Sea of Marmara in the northwest.

Turkey is divided into seven regions: Black sea, Marmara, Aegean, Mediterranean, Central Anatolian, East Anatolian and Southeast Anatolian regions.

Turkey is a democratic, secular, unitary, constitutional republic whose political system was established in 1923 under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, following the fall of the Ottoman Empire.

More information is accessible through the following link:  
<http://www.kultur.gov.tr/>

## Climate

Although climatic conditions are quite temperate in Turkey, the diverse nature of the landscape, and the existence in particular of mountains running parallel to the coasts result in significant differences in climatic conditions from one region to another.

While the coastal areas enjoy milder climates, the inland Anatolian plateau experiences extremes of hot summers and cold winters with limited rainfall and snow. (See more information under Weather & Clothing on page 4)

## Contact Information:

### Turkish National Police

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### Foreign Relations Department

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## Basics on Turkey

Capital	Ankara
Largest City	İstanbul
Of. Language	Turkish
Population	71.500.000
Area (km2)	783,562
Currency	Turkish Liras (TL)
Int. Calling Code	+90



## Travel Information



There are several international airports around Turkey, but the Ataturk Airport in Istanbul and the Esenboga Airport in Ankara are two main entry gates to the country.

### Air

There are several direct flights from / to Turkey and Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and Antalya are the main gates for international flights.

Turkish Airlines (THY) is the national air carrier.

Turkish Airlines website and Online Ticket Service: <http://www.thy.com/en>

24 Hour Reservation Hot Line: - +90 212 444 0 849

PEGASUS AIRLINES is a private airline company.

Pegasus Website: <http://www.flypgs.com/en/>

### Rail

International express trains connect the main central European capitals with Istanbul and domestic rail services provide connections to Ankara.

More information on Turkish State Railways (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Devlet Demir Yolları) can be found on the following website:

<http://www.tcdd.gov.tr/tcdding/index.htm>

The extensive Turkish State Railways network connects most major cities. On some trains, sleeping compartments are available. Detailed train schedules and prices as well as reservation telephone numbers and authorized ticket agents are listed on their web site at [www.tcdd.gov.tr](http://www.tcdd.gov.tr). Transportation From and To the Airport

### Time

Turkey is in the Eastern European Time Zone. Eastern European Standard Time (EET) is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+2).

Like most states in Europe, Summer (Daylight-Saving) Time is observed in Turkey, where the time is shifted forward by 1 hour; 3 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+3).

## Communications

### Telephone Calls

To call Turkey from the UK, dial the country code (+90) followed by the city code and the actual number. In Turkey, most hotels and tourist areas have international telephone lines installed. International calling cards may easily be purchased at Post offices (PTT), Turk Telekom Agencies or in street kiosks adjacent to public phones.

### Mobile phones

Turkcell, Vodafone and Avea are the Turkish GSM networks and these operators have international "roaming" agreements with nearly all international service providers. Coverage and reception are usually excellent, certainly in all cities. It is advised to check with your home network about access to Turkish networks before departure.

### Fax, Internet & E-mail

Private fax facilities are usually available in the Post offices or Turk Telekom Agencies. Internet and e-mail use is widely common in Turkey. There are many private internet cafes offering e-mail and internet access in most cities.

### Road

If you intend to travel overland by car to Turkey, it is essential to bring your driving licence, registration documents and international insurance. Note that some foreign driving licences are accepted and there is no need to obtain an international licence.

Busses are an efficient and affordable way to travel in Turkey. Private bus companies provide frequent day and night services between all Turkish cities.

Local Tourism Information Offices usually have bus schedules for their regions; their addresses can be found at [www.turizm.gov.tr](http://www.turizm.gov.tr) by clicking on "Tourism Information."

The major bus lines have spacious, comfortable coaches, and offer coffee, tea and snacks. The two largest bus companies' web sites, [www.varan.com.tr](http://www.varan.com.tr) and [www.ulusoy.com.tr](http://www.ulusoy.com.tr), provide routes, schedules, ticket prices, and office addresses.

### Passport/ Visa Note:

All passports must be valid for at least the period of stay. All travelers to Turkey are required to hold return or onward tickets, documents for the next destination and sufficient funds for the period of their stay. Entry may be refused to those of unkempt appearance. Visas on entry incur a fee of around US\$20.

Please find the visa requirements for your country's nationals from the website, [www.mfa.gov.tr](http://www.mfa.gov.tr)

After the Summer months the time in Turkey is shifted back by 1 hour to Eastern European Time (EET) or (GMT+2)



## Arriving in Turkey

If you are arriving in Istanbul and are a transit passenger, you will exit the international terminal and make your way to domestic flights terminal.

Please follow the signposts to the Domestic Terminal to receive your boarding card.

### Transfer to the city centre

#### In Istanbul

Most visitors will arrive by air at Atatürk International Airport 23 km west of the city center at Yeşilköy on the European side. From the airport there are several choices for getting into town. Transfer between terminals: Walking through the metro access tunnel only takes 10 minutes. Shuttle buses and taxis are also available.

#### In Ankara

From / to the Esenboğa Airport there are shuttle bus, public bus and taxi services. The distance to the centre is 35 km.

In İstanbul and in Ankara the shuttle services are operated by Havaş, which is one of the major ground handling companies within Turkey. The busses run half-hourly to the downtown. You can find detailed information about the schedules at [www.havas.com.tr](http://www.havas.com.tr).

Unless other arrangements have been made for you, official yellow coloured taxi services with license plate numbers printed on doors are also available from airports at all times. Taxis travelling after midnight apply a 50% surcharge which is shown on the meter. It's important to check the meter is on "Gündüz" mode during the day time.

The address of the Turkish National Police is indicated on the first page of this document. Please show the address you'd like to be taken to.

### Currency & Exchange

Turkish Lira can easily be exchanged with major currencies (US dollars, Euros and GBP) on arrival or in exchange offices throughout major cities. In Ankara Esenboğa airport, Izmir Adnan Menderes airport, İstanbul Atatürk airport and İstanbul Sabiha Gokcen airport, the exchange facilities for currency and travellers cheques are only available at the International Departures Terminal.

## Accommodation

Turkish National Police usually use Police Guest Houses for accommodation of his guests both in İstanbul, Ankara and some other main cities.

Police Guest Houses are usually located close to the city centres and has 4 star comfort of accommodation. Also of being a non-profit public institution the prices are adequate compared with the hotels around.



Exchange rates will be different, however similar to the Central Bank's exchange rates:  
<http://www.tcmb.gov.tr/yeni/eng/>

All major banks are open between 09:00-17:00 at the weekdays, and some branches are also open at the weekend. The details of working hours can be found on web sites of the related banks. (Please also see Useful Resources section). Major credit cards are accepted in hotels, shops, restaurants and car rental and travel agencies. (For major banks please find more under the Useful Resources section)

Please note that payments by credit card can be made by entering your pin code.

### Luggage & Customs

Clearance of ordinary accompanied baggage normally takes 10-20 minutes. Normally one item of electronic devices such as laptops, radios etc for personal use is allowed. If you bring bulk equipment which may cause problems at Customs please enquire concerning procedures before your departure.



Please contact Foreign Relations Department due time in order to arrange your stay at the Police Guest House.

Also we would be happy to help you finding further accommodation alternatives.



## Weather & Clothing



Four seasons  
in Turkey  
at the same time.

**Spring (March to mid-May):** Temperatures and humidity rise gradually in spring. The average temperature ranges from 16°C-25°C, humidity about 82%.

**Summer (late May to mid-September):** Hot and humid with temperatures ranging from 26°C-38°C and humidity near 86%. Short sleeves and cotton clothes work best. As air conditioning is not very common apart from in hotels, shopping malls etc, it is better to have very light clothes. A hat is advisable for protection from the sun.

**Autumn (late September to early December):** Clear and sunny days are the norm in autumn. Short sleeves and light jackets are most suitable at this time of year. The average temperature ranges from 12°C-22°C, humidity about 72%.

**Winter (mid-December to February):** Winters are mild with low humidity at 72%. Though the temperature ranges from 8°C-18°C below zero, temperatures have been known to drop to 25°C below zero. Be sure to bring a warm coat and waterproof boots during the winter months. Note that the roads may become very slippery.

Turkish Meteorological office website:  
[http://www.meteor.gov.tr/indexmaster\\_eng.htm](http://www.meteor.gov.tr/indexmaster_eng.htm)

## Local Customs



Living in a Mediterranean country, Turkish people are mostly warm and hospitable. Men walking arm in arm is a common sight. It is normal to shake hands on meeting somebody for the

first time or in a more formal situation. Close friends may kiss both cheeks on meeting.

In most houses and all mosques the tradition is to take your shoes off before entering.

In order to avoid any disagreement, it is recommended to insist on a priced menu in restaurants, although most of the restaurants provide them without needing to ask. It is usual to leave a tip of about 10% in restaurants and cafes.

Yes and No can be confusing. It is custom in Turkey to nod ones head to indicate yes however shaking it will give people the impression you don't understand as this is what it means in Turkey. The way to indicate no in Turkish customs is to nod ones head back once while raising the eyebrows.



## Communities & Cultural Diversities



The culture of Turkey combines a largely diverse and heterogeneous set of elements that are derived from the Ottoman, European and Middle Eastern traditions.

The present-day Republic of Turkey, which succeeded the Ottoman State in 1923, is still a trans-continental country that spans Europe and Asia.

Turkey, because of its location, has been a cross-road of many different civilizations of different relig-

ions. Turkey's land has housed the biggest Christian and Moslem civilizations in the history.

The reflections that came through this hundreds of years still do remain.

In Turkey, especially in İstanbul, Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities are sharing the same atmosphere.



## Useful Information

### Safety & Security

Turkish citizens and foreign visitors are required to carry some form of identification (passport or driving licence) at all times in Turkey. Identification may also be requested on entering bars and clubs.

In the main cities sensible precautions should be taken against street crime. Levels of crime are low, but in the tourist season there is an increase in incidents of theft of wallets, handbags etc. particularly in areas and events where crowds gather.

You should leave valuables in safe custody at your hotel. Pickpockets may operate around train stations, open markets, bank ATMs and in touristic areas. In the event of a theft, report it to the police from 155 hotline and notify the Foreign Relations Department.

### Turkish Cuisine & Food

Turkish cuisine can be found throughout the country, there are also region-specific dishes as well.

The Black Sea region's cuisine (northern Turkey) is based on corn.

The southeast -Urfa, Gaziantep and Adana- is famous for its

### Working Hours &

#### Holidays

Working hours are normally between 0900 - 1200 in the morning and 1300 - 1730 in the afternoon from Monday to Friday.

There are two university semesters, which run approximately from October to mid-January and from mid-February to the end of June. Many academics go on holiday for the whole month of August.

Main holidays for 2010 is listed on the right side of the page. Official buildings and most of the banks are closed for these days

### Electrical Current &

#### Appliances

The electricity supply in Turkey is 220 volts AC 50 cycles. Electrical appliances must have European plugs, (i.e. round-tipped, two-pinned) and an international adapter is very useful.

### Shopping

In tourist areas general stores and shops selling items specially aimed at tourists will often stay open until midnight. Turkey has growing number of town centre and out of town shopping malls Supermarkets and shopping malls are open from 10am until 10 pm.

TURKEY HOLIDAYS 2010	
New Year's Day	1 January
Children's Holiday	23 April
Workers Holiday	01 May
Youth Holiday	19 May
Victory Day	30 August
Ramadan Holiday	09-11 Sept.
Republic Day	29 October
Kurban Holiday	16-19 Nov.
New Year	31 December



Throughout Turkey, as well as most of the Middle East, Greece, and the Balkan countries, Turkish coffee is not only common, but part of the culture.

kebabs, döner mezés and dough-based desserts such as baklava, kadayıf and künefe.

Especially in the western parts of Turkey, where olive trees are grown abundantly, olive oil is the major type of oil used for cooking.

The cuisines of the Aegean, Marmara and Mediterranean regions display basic characteristics of Mediterranean cuisine as they are rich in vegetables and fish.

Central Anatolia is famous for its pastry specialties such as mantı (especially of Kayseri) and gözleme.

**Turkish cuisine** is largely the heritage of Ottoman cuisine, which can be described as a fusion and refinement of Central Asian, Middle Eastern and Balkan cuisines.

Turkish cuisine has in turn influenced those and other neighboring cuisines, including that of Western Europe.

### Mini Dictionary

English	Turkish
Yes	Evet
No	Hayır
How are you?	Nasılsınız?
Nice to meet you	Memnun oldum
Thank you	Teşekkür ederim
Excuse me	Afedersiniz
Sorry	Üzgünüm / pardon
You are welcome	Rica ederim
Please I'd like to call a taxi	Bir taksi lütfen
Good morning / Good afternoon / Good evening	Günaydın / Tünaydın / İyi akşamlar
Goodbye	Hoşçakal
Bye	Güle güle
Can I have the bill please?	Hesap lütfen
How much is that?	Bu kaç lira?
Can you change these notes into Turkish Liras?	Bu paraları Türk Lirasına çevirebilir misiniz?
I would like to go to.....hotel	..... Oteline gitmek istiyorum

## Information Pack on your visit to TURKEY

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## *Internal Security in Turkey*

The principal agencies devoted to internal security and law enforcement are the National Police and the gendarmerie, both headquartered in Ankara and both administered by the Ministry of Interior.

Broadly, the National Police handles police functions (including traffic control) in the cities and towns, and the gendarmerie serves principally as a rural constabulary.

In times of crisis, the prime minister can direct the chief of the General Staff to assist the police and gendarmerie in maintaining internal security. The gendarmerie is regarded as a military security force; during wartime or in areas placed under martial law, it functions under the army.



Logo of the Turkish National Police

## *Turkish National Police*

### *Structure*

The territorial organization of the National Police corresponds roughly to Turkey's administrative subdivisions. Below the general directorate are police directorates in all of the country's seventy-six provinces and police posts (district commands) in most of the administrative districts. Approximately 200 thousand people are working for the TNP all around the country in 81 cities.

In the provinces, it operates under the command of governors and district governors. Civil administrators are responsible for the security and wellbeing of towns and districts. The Turkish national Police (TNP) operates within the network of the civil administration system and carries out its duties under the command and control of the civil authority.

The TNP is organized as follows:

### *Central organization*

### *Provincial organization*

- 81 Directorates of Provincial Police
- 751 Police Directorates of Towns affiliated to Provinces
- 22 Border Gates Police Directorates
- 18 Free-Zone police stations
- 834 police stations in 81 Provinces

### *Function and Mission*

In general, the police's realm of responsibility is geographically located inside the municipal boundaries in Turkey. In accordance with the "Law on Duties and Powers of the Police", the duties of the Police are to:

- provide public peace and order
- provide security of persons and properties
- detect, arrest and transfer both offenders and case evidence to the appropriate judicial bodies
- perform duties apart from the administrative such as judicial assigned by laws, regulations and government acts
- prevent crime in order to protect public safety and order

The TNP also has political duties such as the protection of the integrity of the state and the preservation of constitutional order.

Furthermore, the TNP has administrative functions, including preventive, protective and assistance duties.

A Traffic Services Department, a Highways Traffic Security Council and a Supreme Board for Highway Security have been established in order to deal with traffic problems more effectively.

