

About the country

General

Name of the country: Turkey

Area: 814,578 sq km

Population: 73.3 million

Capital: Ankara (over four million inhabitants)

Government: Republic since 1923.

Geography: Turkey covers a surface of 814,578 sq. Kms of which 24,378 (3% of its territory) are located in Europe, and 790,200 are located in Asia. Its 7,000 km miles long coasts are washed by four seas: the Black Sea in the North, the Aegean Sea in the West, the Mediterranean Sea in the South, and the Marmara which is an inner sea between the Strait of the Dardanelles and the Strait of Bosphorus that separates the European side (Thrace) from the Asian side (Anatolia).

The terrestrial frontiers of Turkey stretch over 2,753 km, with Bulgaria and Greece in the North-West, Georgia in the North-east, Armenia and Iran in the East, Irak and Syria in the South-East.

Language: Turkish.

Time: Local time is GMT +2 (GMT +3 from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October).

Religion: 99% of the populations are Moslems. The 1% remaining is mainly Christians belonging to the Greek Orthodox, Armenian and Syriac Jacobite Churches, and Jews. The majority of Moslems are Sunnis. Anatolian Shiites (disciples of Ali) are known under the name "Alevi".

Electricity: 220 volts AC, 50Hz. The European two-pin plug is standard.

Money

Currency: The official currency is the New Turkish Lira (TRY).

Denominations:

Note: YTL200, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1.

Coin: YTL1 and 50, 25, 10, 5 and 1 New Kurus.

The old Turkish Lira (TL) was withdrawn from circulation in 2006.

Exchange Rates:

Currency Exchange Rates*			
TRY1.00 =	US\$ 0.678835	£ 0.403143	CHF 0.720420

* Date of rate shown: August 09

Credit cards: Major credit cards are widely accepted; the most popular are Visa or MasterCard, but American Express is accepted in many of the more expensive places.

Banking hours: 9.00 to 12.30, 13.30 to 17.00 (Closed Saturday and Sunday).

ATMs are widely available in major cities and tourist areas, but Turkish ATM keypads usually do not have letters of the alphabet on their keys. Most bank branches have ATMs which accept Cirrus and Plus.

Tipping: Tipping is a way of life in Turkey and it is customary to give some small change for most services, or a small percent of the bill. In bigger hotels and restaurants if a service charge is not added to

the bill, it is customary to tip between 10 and 15%. For taxi fares it is enough to round up the bill. Attendants at Turkish baths expect to share about 15% of the total bill if service has been good.

International travel

Main Airports

- [Istanbul Ataturk International Airport](#) (IST)

Location: The airport is situated 23km west of Istanbul.

Transfer to the city: The Istanbul Metro system provides quick and easy access to the city, including the intercity bus terminal. Tickets cost around TRY 1.30. Use metro station Zeytinburnu and transfer to a tram to reach the Eminonu ferry or Sea Bus docks. The airport Havas Bus leaves from terminal gate of departures and connects to Taksim Square or Kozyatagi. Taxis are also available.

Airport Taxis: Ride takes around thirty minutes to reach Taksim Square. Fees depend largely on the destination in Istanbul but should be around US\$20. Rates are as much as fifty percent higher at night. Passengers should only take metered taxis and insist drivers turn the meter on.

- [Antalya International Airport](#) (AYT)

Location: The airport is situated 10km from Antalya.

Transfer to the city: Taxis are available from outside Arrivals for around YTL 12 and there is a bus service to Antalya from the Domestic and International terminals for YTL 3.

- [Izmir Adnan Menderes International Airport](#) (ADB)

Location: The airport is located 18km from Izmir.

Transfer to the city: The Havas airport shuttle bus to the centre of Izmir can be caught from the domestic terminal. Travel time is 50 minutes. Trains also service the airport and leave from the International terminal to the Basmane train station in the city, but these are usually only in the afternoons. Taxis are also available for around YTL 20-30.

Passport/Visas

Passport valid for at least six months from date of arrival in Turkey required by all nationals referred to in the chart above, except: nationals of Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands and Spain, who can enter with a national ID card (which must have a validity of one year).

Visas: Sticker-type entry visas. Tourists and business visitors from the following countries do require visas and can obtain a sticker-type entry visa at the point of entry for a fee (prices are dependent on nationality): Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Malta, The Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, the UK and USA for stays not exceeding 90 days; Greek Cypriot Administrative Region, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovak Republic for stays not exceeding 30 days. Except Nationals of Bulgaria who do not require a visa for stays up to 90 days, but do require a visa for transit and for entry at certain points in Turkey; check with consulate.

Venue

Please check the [IB website](#).

Hotel Booking Form

Please check our Events Calendar at [IB website](#).

Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the event.

Health & Safety

Medical facilities and standard of health care are not high in state hospitals and private health insurance is recommended.

Most tap water in the larger towns and cities has been chlorinated, but bottled water is still recommended for drinking

Customs

Religious customs should be respected; particularly during the month of Ramadan when eating, drinking and smoking during daylight hours should be discreet as it is forbidden by the Muslim culture. Dress modestly when visiting mosques or religious shrines. Do not take photographs of or near military and official institutions and always ask permission when taking photographs of people.

Climate

The climate, which is conditioned by the geographical formations, presents important contrasts throughout the country. There are three distinct climates: temperate in the northern regions, continental in the inland regions, Mediterranean in the western and southern coastal regions.

In Thrace, summers are hot and dry, and winters are cold and rainy because of the influence of northern winds from the Balkans.

The Aegean and Mediterranean coastal regions enjoy hot and dry summers, and mild and rainy winters. Sunbathing and swimming is possible from March to November in the Antalya area and from April to October in the Izmir area.

The Aegean and Mediterranean inland regions are colder and snowy on the higher areas in winter.

The Black Sea region enjoys mild summers and winters with a fair amount of rainfall throughout the year.

Communications

Telephone

The international country dialing code for Turkey is +90. The outgoing code is 00, followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 0044 for the United Kingdom). City/area codes are in use, e.g. Istanbul Asya (Asia side) is (0)216 and Istanbul Avrupa (Europe side) is (0)212.

Emergency Calls

Police: 100

Ambulance: 101/112

Fire: 102

Useful links

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>
- The official website of Turkish Culture and Tourism Office
<http://www.tourismturkey.org>
- World Travel Guide
<http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/Turkey>