



The Great
Canadian
Travel Group
Inc.

1349 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Canada R3G 0V7

Turkey Practical Information

Turkey, officially the Republic of Turkey, is a transcontinental country in Eurasia. The country is surrounded by seas on three sides. Ankara is the capital while Istanbul is the country's largest city and main cultural and commercial centre.



Documentation

Canadian passports are required for visitors to travel to Turkey and must be valid for 60 days beyond the duration of your stay indicated on your visa. A visa is required for all travel to Turkey.



Airports

Istanbul Atatürk Airport

Istanbul Atatürk Airport is the main international airport serving Istanbul and surrounding areas. It is located 24km west of Istanbul's center and serves as the main hub for Turkish Airlines.

There are many other airports located through Turkey.



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Location and Geography

Turkey is a country located in both Europe and Asia. The Black Sea is to the north and the Mediterranean Sea is to the west and southwest. Georgia and Armenia are northeast, Azerbaijan and Iran are east, Iraq and Syria are southeast, and Greece and Bulgaria are northwest. Turkey is among the larger countries of the region with a land area greater than any European country. It is a mountainous country with flat land covering only one-sixth of the surface. Mountain crests exceed 2300 metres in many places and Turkey's highest mountain, Mount Ararat reaches 5165 metres high. Other notable mountains include Uludoruk Peak-4744 metres high, Demirkazik Peak-3755 metres high and Mount Aydos-3479 metres high. Steep slopes are common through out the country. Turkey has 3 main rivers, the Aras River 400km long, the Euphrates River 1250km long and the Tigris River 530km long. There are many freshwater and saltwater lakes as well.





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Population

Turkey's population, as of 2018, is just under 82 million people. The population continues to increase at a steady rate with almost 3600 births every day, while the death rate is significantly low at 1224 per day. The growth rate remains around 1.29% per year.



People and Culture

According to the Turkish constitution, the word "Turk" includes all citizens of the Republic of Turkey without distinction or reference to race or religion. Ethnic minorities have no official status.

Language

The official language of Turkey is Turkish. A majority of the population claim Turkish as their first language with Kurdish being the second most popular and a small minority using Arabic.

Economy

Turkey operates a mixed economy of public and private enterprises. Some major sectors of the economy include agriculture and manufacturing. Some important agricultural components include vineyards, orchards and olive groves. Some important crops are cereals, cotton, nuts, sugar beets, tobacco and potatoes. Live stock farming is also common with cattle, sheep, goats and water buffalo. Turkey has a wide range of manufacturing activities with leading products being chemicals, steel, food, beverages, tobacco, textiles, clothing and footwear.

Climate and Weather

Turkey has a varied climate that is heavily influenced by the surrounding seas. Heavy rainfall or snow during the winter season is common and summer droughts can be widespread. The inland and to the east are typically below freezing in the winter time with snow cover lasting up to 4 weeks in mountainous areas. The coastline regions are typically slightly above freezing throughout the winter. Summers through Turkey are generally hot with temperatures ranging from 20-35C.

Electricity

Voltage is 220V. Frequency is 50Hz. Plug types are C and F.





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Currency

The currency of Turkey is the Turkish Lira. There are 100 Kuruş to each Turkish Lira. Banknotes come in 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 Turkish Lira denominations. Coins come in 1, 5, 10, 25, 50 Kuruş and 1 Turkish Lira denominations. Currency can be exchanged in most banks, major hotels and exchange offices. ATMs are widely available in major cities and tourist areas.

Credit Cards

Credit cards are widely accepted in Turkey but not everywhere. Visa and Mastercard are accepted in most places with American Express available in most high-end hotels and restaurants.

Business and Banking Hours

Most banks and public offices are open 8:30am – 12:00pm and 1:30pm – 5:30pm on Monday to Friday. Most shops are open 9:00am – 7:30pm Monday to Saturday with malls being open 10:00am – 10:00pm seven days a week.

Telephone and Emergency

The international dialing code of Turkey is +90. To dial to Canada or the United States dial 01- (area code)- (phone number).

Emergency including ambulance 112

Fire 110

Police 155

Health Information

The quality of health care varies from region to region with there being a mix of public and private health care facilities across Turkey. Generally, the health care system is below the standard of care in Canada. Travel insurance is recommended for all travel to Turkey. It is also recommended to bring all prescription medications and any over the counter medications you may need during your travels. 3



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National Holidays

January 1st – New Year’s Day

New Year’s Day in Turkey starts with fireworks after the traditional countdown at the end of the New Year’s Eve. Celebrations usually last until dawn and many people use the day off on January 1 to relax and visit friends and relatives. It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed.

April 23rd – National Sovereignty and Children’s Day

Solemn ceremonies and children’s festivals take place throughout Turkey on National Sovereignty and Children’s Day. Children take seats in the Turkish Parliament and symbolically govern the country for one day. It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed.

May 1st – Labor and Solidarity Day

Labor and Solidarity Day in Turkey is an occasion for some people to demand better conditions for skilled laborers and union workers. It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed.

May 19th - Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day

The Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day features state ceremonies and sports events throughout the country. Young Turkish athletes carry the Turkish flag from a Black Sea port to the country’s capital to commemorate Turkey’s War of Independence (1919–1923). It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed.

June 3rd – 6th Ramadan Feast Days

Ramadan is the Holy Month of Fasting in Muslim culture. The Ramadan Feast in Turkey is a time for visiting relatives and paying one’s respect to older people. Many Turks give away sweets and desserts during the festival, and children may watch free Turkish shadow plays.

July 15th - Democracy and National Unity Day

The day commemorates the national unity against the coup attempt for democracy. It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed.

August 10th – 14th Sacrifice Feast Days

The Sacrifice Feast in Turkey is a four-day religious festival. The Sacrifice Feast traditions include sacrificing an animal in a special ritual, visiting relatives and helping the poor. Schools and most businesses are closed, and it is time off for the general population.



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August 30th – Victory Day

Military parades and ceremonies at monuments to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who founded the Turkish Republic, are some common ways to celebrate Victory Day in Turkey. Turkish flags often adorn shops, public offices and people's houses on this day. It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed.

October 28th & 29th Republic Eve and Republic Day

Many people in Turkey celebrate Republic Day on October 29 by attending performances and participating in traditional processions with flags and musical bands. The Turkish Republic's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk proclaimed Republic Day as Turkey's most important holiday. Republic Day is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed.

November 10th – Ataturk Memorial Day

Commemorating Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the Founder of Republic of Turkey, who passed away. Turkey observes a moment of silence at 9:05 on that day to honor the man regarded as the greatest Turk. Most businesses operate on regular business hours.

December 31st – New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve is one of the most popular holidays in Turkey. The New Year's Eve traditions in this country include a family dinner, a national lottery drawing and a countdown. Most businesses operate on regular business hours.