

Turkey

Turkey, country that occupies a unique geographic position, lying partly in Asia and partly in Europe. Throughout its history it has acted as both a barrier and a bridge between the two continents.

It is among the larger countries of the region in terms of territory and population, and its land area is greater than that of any European state.

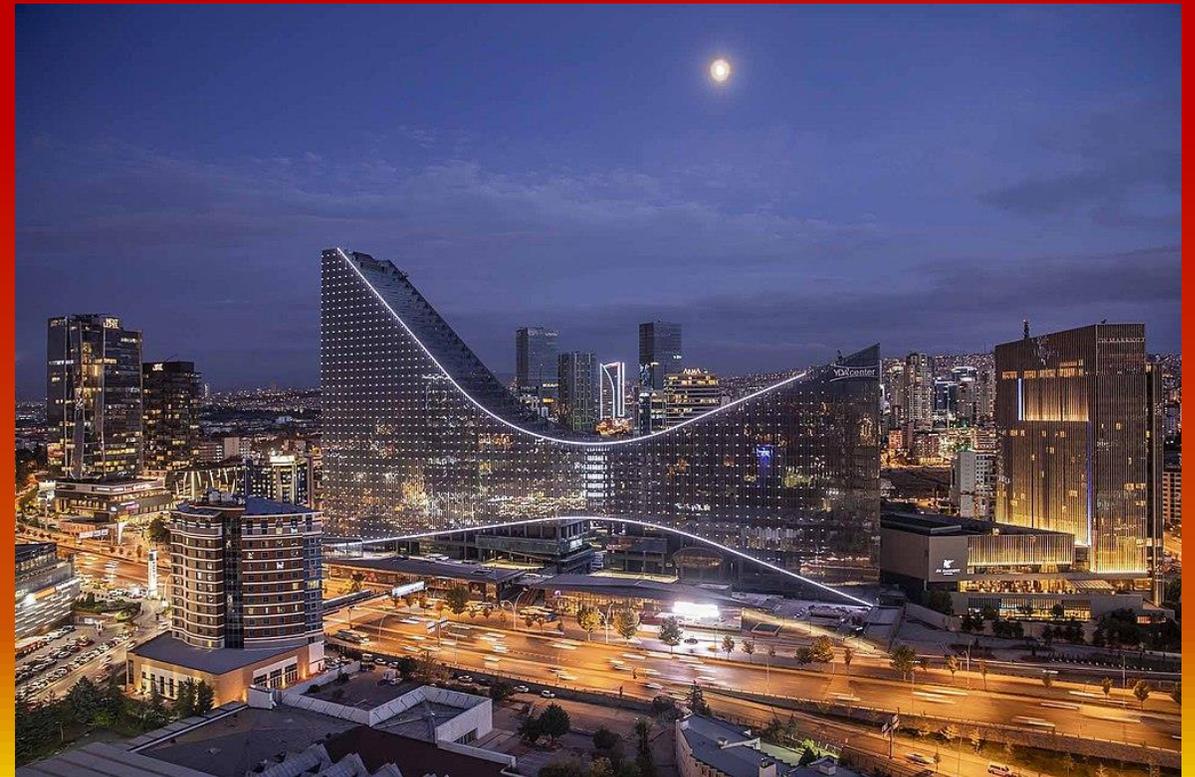


Largest cities:

Istanbul



Ankara (a capital city)



National symbols:

**National
flag**



Female hero

National flower



National symbols:



Döner style, National Dish



Rakı, national beverage

National holidays

January 1: New Year
(Yılbaşı):



April 23: National Sovereignty and
Children's Day

(Ulusal Egemenlik ve Çocuk Bayramı):



National holidays

May 19: Atatürk's
Tribute and Sports
and Youth Day
(Atatürk'ü Anma,
Gençlik ve Spor
Bayramı):



August 30:
Victory Day
(Zafer
Bayramı):



October 29: Republic
Day (Cumhuriyet
Bayramı):



Religious holidays:

- ▶ Mobile date (after the holy month of Ramadan for Muslims) end of Ramadan (Ramazan Bayram).
- ▶ Mobile date (70 days after the month of Ramadan) Day of Sacrifice (Kurban Bayramı).



Traditions and customs: Nazar (The Evil Eye)

One of Turkey's most popular souvenirs, these blue eyes made of glass are actually meant to ward off the negative energy from someone's eyes who feels envious of you. The evil eye is blue because according to superstition, blue eyes give off the most negative energy, and the glass eye is supposed to cancel it out. Traditionally, Evil eyes are pinned onto newborn babies' clothes as well as hung above doors in houses and businesses for protection against bad luck.



Traditions and customs: **Görücülük (Courtship)**

According to Turkish tradition, when a family wants their son to get married, they first visit the potential wife and her family at home in order to inspect and (if all goes well) ask for her hand. In these courtship scenes it's traditional for the bride-to-be to make Turkish coffee and serve it to her future in-laws, while they get to have a close look at her.



Traditions and customs:

Turkish Tea

Turkish tea is not just a strong dark red brew served in a tulip shaped glass, it's a tradition that revolves around hospitality. Wherever you go in Turkey, it's traditional to be offered a cup of Turkish tea as a sign of welcome, whether you're at someone's home, a shop, or even the hairdresser.



Traditions and customs: **Oil Wrestling**

During the famous Kırkpınar oil-wrestling tournament in Edirne, which has been held annually since 1362, the wrestlers douse themselves in oil and then wrestle until a loser is declared (when the navel faces the sky). Oil wrestling matches can go on for up to 40 minutes and for all the peculiar oiliness, can actually be quite captivating.



Traditions and customs: Loud Car Honking

Turkish people are notorious for their impatience when it comes to traffic, however car honking is also a tradition associated with special events. If you hear car honking you can be sure that either a wedding is taking place or that someone is being sent off to their military service.



Places to visit: **Pamukale**

It is one of the most unique images in the world and the most popular place to visit in Turkey.



Places to visit: Marmaris

MARMARIS IS LOCATED ON TWO SEAS. THE GENTLE BLUE SEA, THE UNIQUE NATURAL LANDSCAPES AND THE UNUSUAL CONTRASTS OF THE ANCIENT BUT AT THE SAME TIME MODERN CITY ARE A GREAT PLACE TO RELAX.



Places to visit: **ISTANBUL**

ISTANBUL IS FULL OF HISTORICAL SIGHTS AND RICH IN CULTURAL DIVERSITY. THERE ARE PLENTY OF MUSLIM MOSQUES, CHURCHES, MUSEUMS, BUSTLING MARKETPLACES AND THE LUXURY OF THE SULTAN'S PALACE.



Souvenirs



Silver jewelry

Everything is made of clay



Pomegranate vinegar

Souvenirs:

Turkish candy



Tea



Spices



Halva