

Turkey

An exotic country spread along the two continents, with stunning landscapes, amazing beaches, delicious cuisine and friendly locals, Turkey is guaranteed to give a taste of holiday which will last for a lifetime. With an architectural and cultural heritage, dating back to centuries before, Turkish lifestyle delights you with its sheer diversity and beautiful scenery, from mountains to beaches, from exotic bazaars to magnificent ruins.

Foodie's Heaven

A true delight to the taste buds, Turkey is foodie's paradise offering delicious cuisines, native to the Aegean region. As you move through the country, Turkish dishes give you insights about the culture of the country and deepens the understanding about the rituals. The cuisines of the country reflect the influence of Asian, Middle Eastern, Balkan and Mediterranean cuisines, resulting from the exposure to different cultures and traditions. Some of the famous dishes are Yaprak Sarma, Dolma, Taze Fasulaye, Lahmacun, Kebabs, Doner, Kofte and Bulgur Pilavi among numerous others.

Experiencing Cultural & Historical Diversity

Being the meeting point of Asian and European continents, Turkey's culture is mix of both Eastern and Western worlds. Turkey has a rich historical heritage, influenced by Romans and Middle Eastern empires. It was part of Ottoman Empire before twentieth century, which was spread from Budapest to Baghdad. The historical Silk Route was facilitated through Turkey, contributing in giving profound cultural depth to the country.

The architecture of the country is heavily influenced by Byzantine era, with churches and mosques, constructed in same style. From churches carved out in Cappadocia or famous Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, Turkey promises to delight you with its culture and ancient traditions.

Top must see sights in Turkey

Ankara – Ankara is the capital city of Turkey, famous for its arts and cultural heritage. It has many museums on offer and is famous for the **Museum of Anatolian Civilizations**. Being the capital city, it has transformed into thriving commercial and transport hub in recent years.

Istanbul – Located across a narrow strait, connecting Asia and Europe, Istanbul is the largest city in Turkey and is the only city, spreading across two continents. Istanbul is known for its beautiful architectural heritage, exciting nightlife, exotic shopping options across the world.

Cappadocia – Located in Central region of Turkey, the city is a paradise for nature lovers and is famous for its rocky formations, formed from the volcanic eruptions, over the period of time. It's a popular destination of the country and has numerous attractions such as museums, castles, underground tunnels and exotic villages.

Ephesus - The city is home to **Temple of Artemis**, one of the seven wonders of the Ancient World. It was one of the largest cities in Ancient Roman Empire and has become popular tourist attraction offering insights into ancient Rome with attractions such as theatre, Temple of Hadrian and Celsus Library.

Bodrum – Located in Mugla province of Turkey, Bodrum is best described as city of ancient ruins, with beautiful beaches and stunning cliffs. Built in 1402, **the castle of St. Peter** is the major attraction of the city along with other sites such as Mausoleum, amphitheatre and Myndos Gate.

Side – It is a port town in Turkey, famous for its ancient architectural ruins and picturesque sandy beaches. The city is paradise for history lovers with major attractions such as Hellenistic and Roman heritage. Side is popular among tourists for amazing sightseeing, exotic dining restaurants, exciting nightlife and outdoor adventures.

Marmaris – With its picturesque mountains, sandy beaches, turquoise waters and architectural heritage, Marmaris is a must-visit town in Turkey for those to whom holidays means adventure sports and relaxation at beach. The town also attracts architectural students, across the world for a visit to **16th century castle of Suleyman**, the magnificent.

Antalya – Located along the Mediterranean coastline, Antalya is one of the most popular city among tourists. The city is characterized by its towering mountains and white sandy beaches, lined by numerous resorts, restaurants and hotels. Being the coastal city, Antalya is famous for offering numerous adventure sports, including sailing, trekking, camping and mountain climbing.

Aya Sofya – Located in Istanbul and renowned as one of the most beautiful buildings in the world, the **Aya Sofya museum** is the most visited tourist sites in Turkey. Influenced by Byzantine era architecture, it was constructed during Ottoman conquest in the region.

Best time to visit Turkey

The best time to enjoy Turkey is spring, between April-Mid June, as the weather is moderately cool and the days are long. Autumns are also recommended when crowd is less and the hotels are under booked.

How to reach Turkey

Turkey is well connected to major capitals in all the continents. The international airport is at Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and the national carrier Turkish Airlines operates direct flights connecting Istanbul to Europe, America, Africa and Asia. The country is also connected to European cities

such as Munich, Slovenia, Croatia, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria through well-developed train network. Cities such as Frankfurt and Vienna have bus routes to Istanbul.

Traveller's Tips – Do's and Don'ts

Turkey is a cultural delight and a foodie's paradise; it never fails to surprise you with its magnificent mountains, amazing beaches, and ancient bazaars.

Following are some tips to keep in mind, before you visit Turkey:

- Don't dress provocatively when going out in the city
- Do try to learn Turkish language
- Do visit the countryside for understanding Turkish culture
- If you're visiting mosque, do keep your head covered
- Do try to connect with local people