



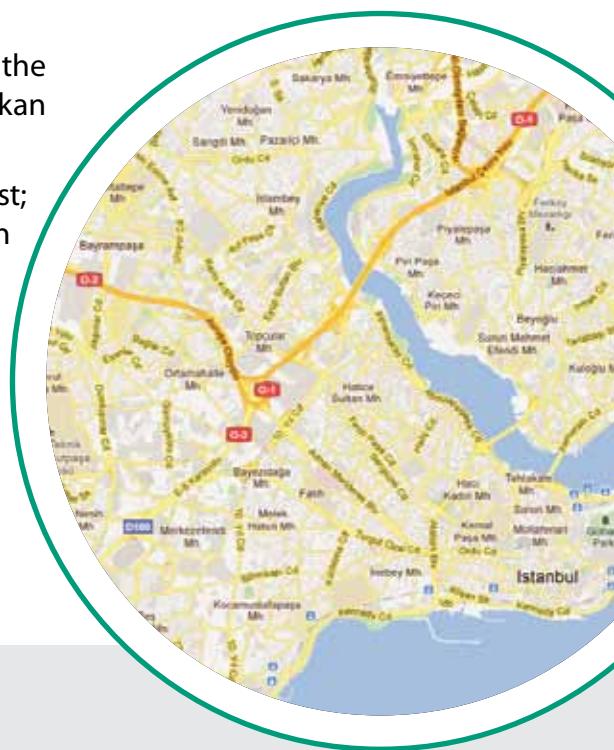
ABOUT TURKEY AND ISTANBUL

Turkey is a Eurasian country that stretches across the Anatolian Peninsula in Southwestern Asia and the Balkan region of Southeastern Europe.

Turkey borders eight countries: Bulgaria to the northwest; Greece to the west; Georgia to the northeast; Armenia, Iran and the Nakhichevan exclave of Azerbaijan to the east; and Iraq and Syria to the southeast.

It borders the Black Sea to the north; the Aegean Sea and the Sea of Marmara to the west; and the Mediterranean Sea to the south.

The capital of Turkey is Ankara.



ISTANBUL IS THE LARGEST CITY IN TURKEY

- Known as Byzantium and Constantinople with over 2,000 years of history
- Fifth largest city in the world
- Located in northwestern Turkey within the Marmara Region
- Estimated population of 13.26 million, which is 18% of Turkey's population, making Istanbul the third largest metropolitan area in Europe after London and Moscow
- Megacity - the cultural, economic and financial centre of Turkey
- Located on the Bosphorus Strait and encompasses the natural harbour known as the Golden Horn in the northwest of the country
- Only city in the world situated on two continents, it extends on the European and Asian sides of the Bosphorus
- One of the most important tourism spots of Turkey
- Joint European Capital of Culture for 2010
- European Capital of Sports for 2012
- Bidding to host the 2020 Summer Olympics
- Attractive, affluent and young demographic
- 41% of Turkish people have attended at least one tennis event
- Mix of cultures that reflects the diversity of WTA
- 84% of tennis fans in Turkey find women's tennis to be "exciting" and "cool"

CLIMATE

Istanbul has a Mediterranean climate, experiencing all 4 seasons during the year. The best times to visit Istanbul are Spring (April to June) and Autumn (September to October) when the skies are mostly clear and the temperatures are moderate. End of October corresponds to the middle of Autumn in Istanbul, and the weather will be similar to Autumn in New York or Central Europe (except maybe a few degrees warmer). You can expect temperatures from 15-25°C / 60-75°F during the day, and 10-15°C / 50-60°F at night. As the city is surrounded by seas, morning / evening breezes are common and the weather can get quite humid. It is safe to assume a 30% chance of rain during that time of year.

CLOTHING

Istanbul is a cosmopolitan city and is similar to other European cities in terms of dress code. As per the climate section, it would be wise to keep an extra layer or two handy when remaining outdoors for extended periods of time.

When visiting some of the historic mosques, please keep in mind that these sites are still used for day-to-day prayers, and therefore all visitors will be asked to take off their shoes and females will be asked to cover their hair, shoulders/arms at the entrance.

CRIME AND SAFETY

Turkey is ranked as one of the safest holiday destinations in Europe. As with all such crowded metropolitan areas, please use common sense and be wary of your belongings when using public transportation or visiting tourist areas such as Sultanahmet, Beyazit and Taksim. Taksim Square can sometimes house political demonstrations or marches. We do not expect any such events throughout your stay in Istanbul, but as these events can get pretty crowded, we recommend staying away from any large gatherings or protests.

If you have any questions regarding a specific part of the city, please do not hesitate to contact the Players Desk or the Help Desk at your hotel.

CURRENCY

The currency is the Lira but many prices are quoted in USD, especially in tourist areas. Visa and Master Card are accepted generally everywhere, but American Express or Diners Cards can pose difficulties. Travelers' Cheques are not easily cashed as most of the banks and exchange offices (doviz burusu) charge a sizable commission. It is advisable to use them as direct payment where possible instead of cashing them.

BASIC COSTS

Public Transport is efficient and very cheap. Many sights, especially the wonderful array of historical mosques, are free. Others are relatively inexpensive with an average museum entry of TL15.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity is supplied at 220 volts with plugs of two round prongs (European plug). It is advised to bring your own for as is not easy to find adapters in the city.

ETIQUETTE

Turkish locals are enthusiastic handshakers, so be prepared for enthusiastic greetings (usually done using the right hand). It is also customary to greet friends with a kiss on both cheeks (male or female) after a brief handshake. While there is no need to initiate this yourself, do not be surprised if the other side leans forward for a cheek-to-cheek (sometimes simply out of habit).



Shaking hands is also an old custom when bargaining in the old city (both parties continue to shake hands until they agree on a price).

MEDICAL SERVICES

While travel insurance is highly advisable, most private insurance plans in Europe and the US cover hospitalization and emergency room expenses incurred in any hospital while staying in Turkey. If you have any questions, please contact your insurance company and/or healthcare providers.

PASSPORT

Passports should be valid for at least 90 days after your return date.

PHOTOGRAPHY

In some places, photographing state buildings or military and police installations is forbidden. There is customarily an additional admission fee when photography is permitted in museums. It is generally advised to get a subject's permission before photographing them. As a rule, women in chadors (head-to-toe black robe) do not wish to be photographed under any circumstances.

RELIGION

The majority of Turkey's population is Muslim. However, minorities have lived in Anatolia for generations, and you will encounter people from all ethnic and religious backgrounds during your time in Istanbul.

In fact, there are approximately 123 active churches and 20 active synagogues in Istanbul. Some neighbourhoods have been known with their sizeable populations of these ethnic groups, and in some quarters, such as Ortaköy or Kuzguncuk, an Armenian church sits next to a synagogue, and on the other side of the road a Greek Orthodox church is found beside a mosque..

SMOKING

A local saying, "Eat like a Turk, smoke like a Turk," roughly translates to "don't expect anyone to comply with nonsmoking laws." In theory, smoking is prohibited on public transportation, in movie theatres, and in airports. Discussions are under way for a national law banning smoking in all public places.

TIME DIFFERENCE

Istanbul is 2 hours ahead of GMT.

TIPPING

In more expensive restaurants, tipping is customary. Even if a 10-15% service charge is added to your bill, you're expected to tip around 5% and sometimes the same amount to the maitre d'. Porters expect a dollar or so and in taxis, most round up the bill.

TRAFFIC

Traffic fatalities are high in Turkey. Pedestrians do not have the right-of-way in Istanbul, and many people drive quite fast and recklessly, even in heavy traffic.

BARGAINING

Bargaining is done mostly in the Sultanahmet and is not common in other areas of the city. Don't give up, keep bargaining. Suggest 50% and agree on at 70%.





PLACES TO VISIT

BEYOGLU - GALATA DISTRICT

This district is located on the European side of İstanbul, separated from the old city by the Golden Horn. The district encompasses other neighborhoods located north of the Golden Horn, including Galata and is connected to the old city center across the Golden Horn through the Galata Bridge and Unkapanı Bridge. Beyoğlu is the most active art, entertainment and night life centre of İstanbul.

GALATA TOWER

Offers a 360-degree panoramic view of the old town.

GRAND BAZAAR (OR COVERED BAZAAR)

One of the largest covered markets in the world with more than 58 streets and 4,000 shops. It has between 250,000 and 400,000 visitors daily.

HAGIA SOPHIA

A former Basilica, now a museum.

ISTIKLAL STREET

One of the city's leading shopping and entertainment districts.

NIŞANTAŞI

Part of the Şişli district, this area is a quarter of İstanbul with popular cafés, pubs, restaurants, night clubs and stores of world-famous brands. It includes Abdi İpekçi Avenue, Turkey's most expensive shopping street in terms of lease prices.

OLD PENINSULA (OLD İSTANBUL)

The most important monumental buildings of the city are found in this section of the European side of İstanbul, including the famous Hippodrome of Constantinople.

TAKSİM SQUARE

İstanbul's version of "Times Square."

ORTAKÖY

This neighbourhood, formerly a small village, within the Beşiktaş district of İstanbul, Turkey, is located in the middle of the European bank of the Bosphorus. Ortaköy was a cosmopolitan area during the Ottoman era and the first decades of the Turkish Republic, with communities of Turks, Greeks, Armenians and Jews. Today, the neighbourhood still hosts many different religions. It is a very popular spot for locals and tourists with art galleries, night clubs, cafés, bars, and restaurants. The Neo-Baroque style Ortaköy Mosque is a beautifully ornate structure right on the jetty of Ortaköy, bordering the waters of the Bosphorus and thus highly visible from passing boats.





BASIC LANGUAGE NECESSITIES

English is Turkey's second widest spoken language. However, it is polite to have a few Turkish words and phrases committed to memory

English	Turkish	Pronunciation
Hello	Merhaba!	MARE-HA-BA
Good evening	İyi akşamlar!	EE AK-SHAM-LAR
Good-bye	Hoşçakal!	HOSH-CHA-KAL
How are you?	Nasılsın?	NA-SEL-SIN
I am fine, and you?	İyiyim, sen nasılsın?	EE-IM, SEN NA-SEL-SIN
Thank you	Teşekkür ederim.	TE-SH-QU-ERR ED-ERR-IM
You're welcome	Birşey değil	BEER-SHEY DEY-EEL
Please	Lütfen.	LOOT-FEN
Do you speak English?	İngilizce konuşur musunuz?	INN-GLIZ-JE CON-NUSH-OR MUS-UN-UZ
I don't speak Turkish	Türkçe bilmiyorum!	TURK-JEH BILL-MI-YOR-UM
Could you please repeat	Şunu tekrar edebilir misiniz?	SHU-NU TEK-RA ED-EBB-ILL-EAR MISS-IN-IZ
Pleased to meet you	Tanıştığımızıza sevindim	TAN-ISH-TI-IM-IZA SEV-IN-DEEM
Where is the washroom?	Afedersiniz, tuvalet nerede?	AFF-ED-DER-SIN-IZ TOO-VA-LET NER-REY-DE
How much does it cost?	Ne kadar?	NAY KAD-AR
I am sorry	Özür dilerim.	OUZ-UR DILL-EAR-IM
Excuse me	Afedersiniz.	AFF-ED-DAR-SAN-IZ
Yes	Evet.	EV-ET
No	Hayır.	HI-EAR
I don't know	Bilmiyorum.	BILL-ME-YOR-UM

EMERGENCY

Dial 155 for police

110 for fire

112 for an ambulance