



TURKEY



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1 CONTACT ADDRESSES

Location: Southeastern Europe/Asia Minor.

Ministry of Tourism

Ismet İnönü Bulvar 5, Bahçelievler, Ankara, Turkey

Tel: (312) 212 8300. Fax: (312) 212 8391.

Web site: <http://www.turizm.gov.tr> or <http://www.turkey.org/turkey>

Embassy of the Republic of Turkey

43 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PA

Tel: (020) 7393 0202 or 7235 6968 (press office). Fax: (020) 7393 0066 or 245 9547 (press office). E-mail: info@turkishembassy-london.com

Web site: <http://www.turkishembassy-london.com>

Turkish Consulate

2 GENERAL

64 Ennismore Gardens, London SW7 1NH

Tel: (020) 7589 0360 or (09001) 347 348 (recorded visa information; calls are charged at the rate of 60p per minute). Fax: (020) 7584 3653. Web site: <http://www.turkconsulate-london.com>

Opening hours: 0930-1200 (visas) and 0930-1400 (general enquiries) Monday to Friday.

Turkish Tourist Office

First Floor, 170-173 Piccadilly, London W1J EJ

Tel: (020) 7629 7771 or (09001) 7887 755 (brochure request line; calls are charged at the rate of 60p per minute). Fax: (020) 7491 0773.

E-mail: tto@turkishtourism.demon.co.uk

British Embassy

Sehit Ersan Caddesi 46a, Cankaya, Ankara, Turkey

Tel: (312) 468 6230. Fax: (312) 468 6643 (consular) or 466 2989 (information). E-mail: britembank@ankara.mail.fco.gov.uk

Consulates in: Antalya, Bodrum, Iskenderun, Istanbul, Izmir, Marmaris and Mersin.

Embassy of the Republic of Turkey

2525 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Tel: (202) 612 6700 or 612 6742 (consular section). Fax: (202) 612 6744. E-mail: turkish@erols.com or tcwash.cons@erols.com (consular section).

Web site: <http://www.turkey.org>

Consulates in: Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles and New York

Turkish Tourist Office

821 UN Plaza, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Tel: (212) 687 2194. Fax: (212) 599 7568.

E-mail: ny@tourismturkey.org

Web site: <http://www.tourismturkey.org>

Also in: Washington, DC.

Embassy of the United States of America

Atatürk Bulvar 110, Kavaklıdere 06100, Ankara, Turkey

Tel: (312) 468 6110. Fax: (312) 467 0019 or 468 6131 (consular section).
Consulates in: Adana and Istanbul.

Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
197 Wurtemberg Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8L9
Tel: (613) 789 4044 or 789 3440. Fax: (613) 789 3442.
E-mail: turkish@embassy.com

Turkish Embassy, Tourism Section
360 Albert Street, Suite 801, Constitution Square, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7X7
Tel: (613) 230 8654. Fax: (613) 230 3683. E-mail: toturcan@magi.com
Web site: <http://www.magi.com/torturcan>

Canadian Embassy
Nenehatun Caddesi 75, Gaziosmanpasa 06700, Ankara, Turkey
Tel: (312) 436 1275. Fax: (312) 446 2811.
Honorary Consulate in: Istanbul.

Country dialling code: 90.

General

Area: 779,452 sq km (300,948 sq miles).

Population: 64,385,000 (1999)

Population Density: 82.6 per sq km.

Capital: Ankara. Population: 2, 937,524 (1997).

Geography: Turkey borders the Black Sea and Georgia and Armenia to the northeast, Iran to the east, Iraq to the southeast, Syria and the Mediterranean to the south, the Aegean Sea to the west and Greece and Bulgaria to the northwest. Asia Minor (or Anatolia) accounts for 97% of the country and forms a long, wide peninsula 1650km (1025 miles) from east to west and 650km (400 miles) from north to south. Two east-west mountain ranges, the Black Sea Mountains in the north and the Taurus in the south, enclose the central Anatolian plateau, but converge in a vast mountainous region in the far east of the country. It is here that the ancient Tigris and Euphrates rivers rise.

Government: Republic since 1923. Head of State: President Ahmet Necdet Sezer since 2000.
Head of Government: Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit since 1999.

Language: Turkish. French, German and English are widely spoken in cities.

Religion: Muslim with a small Christian minority. Turkey is a secular state which guarantees complete freedom of worship to non-Muslims.

Time: GMT + 2 (GMT + 3 from last Sunday in March to Saturday before last Sunday in October).

Electricity: 220 volts AC, 50Hz.

Communications:

Telephone: IDD is available. Country code: 90. Outgoing international code: 00. There is an extensive internal telephone network, but often an interpreter will be needed for more remote areas. To phone from PTT telephone booths, which are found in all areas, telephone cards and tokens are used. Local, inter-city and international calls can be made from all PTT offices.

Mobile telephone: GSM 900 band networks exist. Main network providers include Turkcell (web site: <http://www.turkcell.com>) and TELSİM Mobil Telekomunikasyon (web site: <http://www.telsim.com.tr>). Coverage is available in most urban areas.

Fax: All hotels and PTT offices have facilities.

Internet/E-mail: Main ISPs include: EfesNet (web site: <http://www.efes.net.tr>). Internet cafes exist in main urban areas.

Telegram: These may be sent from all post offices.

Post: Airmail to Europe takes three days. Turkish post offices are recognisable by their yellow PTT signs. Major post offices open 0800-0000 Monday to Saturday and 0900-1900 Sunday. Small post offices have the same opening hours as government offices. It is also possible to use the 'Valuables Despatch Service' for valuable belongings or important documents.

Press: The main newspapers are Hürriyet, Cumhuriyet, Sabah and Milliyet. English-language daily newspapers include The Turkish Daily News.

BBC World Service and Voice of America frequencies: From time to time these change.

BBC: MHz15.5712.109.4106.195

Voice of America: False

3 PASSPORT

	<i>Passport Required?</i>	<i>Visa Required?</i>	<i>Return Ticket Required?</i>
British	Yes	3	Yes
Australian	Yes	4	Yes
Canadian	Yes	4	Yes
USA	Yes	4	Yes
OtherEU	1	3	Yes
Japanese	Yes	2	Yes

PASSPORTS: Passport valid for at least 6 months (if visa is issued on arrival) and at least 1 year (if visa is issued by the Turkish Consulate) required by all, except nationals of 1. Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland who can enter with a national ID card.

VISAS: Required by all except the following:
(a) 2. nationals of Japan for stays of up to 3 months;

(b) 3. nationals of EU countries for stays of up to 3 months (except nationals of Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the UK who do need visas, but can obtain them at point of entry for a fee);

(c) nationals of Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Grenada, Hong Kong (SAR China), Iceland, Iran, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Qatar, St Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Vatican City for stays of up to 3 months;

(d) nationals of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Indonesia and Romania for stays of up to 2 months;

(e) nationals of Bolivia, Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives and South Africa for stays of up to 1 month.

Tourists and business visitors from the following countries do require visas and can obtain them at the point of entry for a fee:

(a) 4. Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, the UK and the USA for visits not exceeding 3 months;

(b) CIS* (except Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan), Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic and Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for visits not exceeding 1 month;

(c) Albania, Georgia, Guatemala and Taiwan for visits not exceeding 15 days;

(d) Bulgaria for visits not exceeding 72 hours.

Note: (a) *Visas are only available for CIS nationals at Istanbul-Atatürk and Ankara-Esenboga airports; Sarp and Kapikule land borders; and Istanbul, Trabzon, Samsun, Giresun, Hopa and Rize ports. (b) Nationals of the UK and Ireland must pay their visa fees in Pounds Sterling and nationals of Austria must pay in Austrian currency. All other nationals eligible for visas on arrival must pay for their visas in US Dollars. All nationals listed above are advised to check with the Turkish Consulate regarding visa fees before travelling. (c) Those staying longer or travelling for the purposes of employment, education, research or residence must obtain their visas in advance from the nearest Turkish consular mission.

Visas issued to nationals of the following countries will be stamped on a removable insert in the **passport:** Cyprus, Korea (DPR) and Taiwan.

Types of visa: Tourist/Business Single-entry visa; Tourist/Business Multiple-entry visa; Employment, Education, Residence or Research visa; and Transit visa. Prices vary according to nationality (for British nationals, the cost is £10, and for US nationals, the cost is US\$45, when obtained at the port of entry). Some visas must be obtained in advance from the Consulate (eg if passport is valid for less than 3 months or if travelling for purposes other than tourism); these visas cost £45.

Transit visas: These are not required by those continuing their journey by the same or first connecting aircraft, if in possession of confirmed onward tickets (and visas where appropriate) and not leaving the airport. Transit visas are required by all others continuing their journey within 72 hours; full visas are required for longer transit periods. Transit visas are only issued to those with valid passports and confirmed onward documentation. The cost varies according to the nationality of the applicant: contact the nearest Turkish Consulate. Transit visas must be obtained prior to departure.

Validity: Dependent on nationality of applicant.

Application to: Consulate (or Consular section at Embassy); see address section.

Application requirements: (a) Valid passport. (b) Application form. (c) Fee (varies for different nationals). (d) Stamped, self-addressed envelope. (e) For business visas, a letter of invitation from a company in Turkey. For other types of visas, enquire at the Embassy.

Working days required: Dependent on nationality of applicant.

4 MONEY

Currency: Turkish Lira (TL). Notes are in denominations of TL10,000,000, 5,000,000, 1,000,000, 500,000, 250,000 and 100,000. Coins are in denominations of TL100,000, 50,000, 25,000, 10,000 and 5000.

Currency exchange: All exchange certificates and purchase receipts must be retained to prove that legally exchanged currency was used. Money and travellers cheques can be exchanged at all PTT branches. Many UK banks offer differing rates of exchange depending on denominations of Turkish currency being bought or sold. Check with banks for details and current rates.

Credit cards: American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are accepted. Check with your credit card company for details of merchant acceptability and other services which may be available.

Travellers cheques: Can be cashed immediately upon proof of identity. However, it may take several days to cash cheques from private accounts. To avoid additional exchange rate charges, travellers are advised to take travellers cheques in Pounds Sterling.

Exchange rate indicators

The following figures are included as a guide to the movements of the Turkish Lira against Sterling and the US Dollar:

Date May '00 Aug '00 Jan '01 Feb

'01 £1.00=925,256.00 953,450.00 995,608.01 997,611.33 \$1.00=623,320.00 635,485.00 665,580.00 683,155.00

Currency restrictions: There are no restrictions on the import of local or foreign currency, though visitors bringing in a large amount of foreign currency should obtain a written declaration from the Turkish authorities. No more than the equivalent of US\$5000 in local currency may be exported. Foreign currency may be exported up to US\$5000, but no more than the amount imported and declared.

Banking hours: 0830-1200 and 1330-1700 Monday to Friday.

5 DUTY FREE

The following goods may be imported into Turkey without incurring customs duty:
200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 200g of tobacco and 200 cigarette papers or 50g of chewing tobacco or 200g of pipe tobacco or 200g of snuff tobacco*; 5 bottles (1 litre) or 7 bottles (700ml) of wine and/or spirits; reasonable amounts of coffee and tea; 5 bottles (up to 120ml) of perfume; gifts up to a value of DM500 (or equivalent).

Note*: (a) A further 400 cigarettes or 100 cigars or 500g of tobacco may be imported if purchased on arrival at a duty-free shop. (b) Very specific amounts and categories of personal belongings may be imported duty free, according to a list available from the Turkish Embassy, Financial and Customs Counsellor's Office.

Prohibited imports: Narcotics, sharp implements and weapons.

Restricted exports: (a) The export of souvenirs such as carpets is subject to customs regulations regarding age and value. (b) The export of antiques is forbidden, according to a list available from the Turkish Embassy, Financial and Customs Counsellor's Office. (c) Minerals may only be exported under licence from the General Directorate of Mining Exploration & Research.

6 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Jan 1 2001 New Year's Day. Mar 4-8 Kurban Bayrami (Feast of the Sacrifice). Apr 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day. May 19 Commemoration of Atatürk and Youth and Sports Day. Aug 30 Victory Day. Oct 29 Republic Day. Dec 20-21 Ramazan Bayrami (End of Ramadan). Jan 1 2002 New Year's Day. Feb 23-27 Kurban Bayrami (Feast of the Sacrifice). Apr 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day. May 19 Commemoration of Atatürk and Youth and Sports Day. Aug 30 Victory Day. Oct 29 Republic Day. Dec 10-11 Ramazan Bayrami (End of Ramadan).

Note: Muslim festivals are timed according to local sightings of various phases of the Moon and the dates given above are approximations. During the lunar month of Ramadan that precedes Ramazan Bayrami, Muslims fast during the day and feast at night and normal business patterns may be interrupted. Some restaurants are closed during the day and there may be restrictions on smoking and drinking. Generally, centres of tourism are unaffected. Some disruption may continue into Ramazan Bayrami itself. Ramazan Bayrami and Kurban Bayrami may last anything from two to ten days, depending on the region. For more information, see the World of Islam appendix.

7 HEALTH

	<i>Special Precautions</i>	<i>Certificate Required</i>
Yellow Fever	No	No
Cholera	1	No
Typhoid and Polio	Yes	-
Malaria	2	-
Food and Drink	3	-

1: The Turkish health authorities have reported no cases of cholera in recent years. It is, however, wise to follow simple precautions when eating and drinking - see 3 below.

2: Potential malaria risk (exclusively in the benign vivax form) exists from May to the end of October in the Çukurova/Amikova areas and in southeast Anatolia, Adana and Antalya (Side). There is no malaria risk in the main tourist areas in the west and southwest of the country.

3: Tap water is usually chlorinated in larger towns and cities, but should not be assumed to have been so treated: if used for drinking or making ice it should have first been boiled or otherwise sterilised. If a water source bears the words *çilmez*, it means that it is not for drinking; sources labelled *çililir*, *çime suyu* or *çilebilir* are safe to drink. Bottled spring water is widely available. Milk is pasteurised. Eat only well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot. Rabies is present. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten, seek medical advice without delay. For more information, see the Health appendix. Hepatitis A and B are present.

Health care: Turkey has a large health sector: one doctor and one hospital bed for, respectively, every 1700 and 470 inhabitants. A great number of Turkish doctors and dentists speak a foreign language, particularly at major hospitals. Private health insurance is recommended; ensure that it covers Asiatic as well as European Turkey.

Travel - International

AIR: Turkey's national airline is Turkish Airlines (TK).

Approximate flight times: From Frankfurt/M to Istanbul is 2 hours 45 minutes, from London is 3 hours 30 minutes and from New York is 11 hours.

International airports: Ankara (ESB) (Esenboga) is 35km (22 miles) northeast of the city. THY buses go from the city 90 minutes before domestic flights and 135 minutes before international flights. There is a taxi service available into the city. Airport facilities include incoming and outgoing duty-free shops; bank/bureau de change; restaurant and bar.

Istanbul (IST) (Atatürk, formerly Yesilkoy) is 24km (15 miles) west of the city (travel time - 30-50 minutes). A coach (THY bus) goes every 15 minutes to the THY terminal. There are taxi services to the city. Airport facilities include incoming and outgoing 24-hour duty-free shop; bank/bureau de change; restaurant; bar and car hire (Avis, Budget, Hertz and Europcar).

Izmir (IZM) (Adnan Menderes). A THY bus leaves from the city 75 minutes before departure. Airport facilities include bank/bureau de change; restaurant and bar.

Sabiha Gökçen (SAW) is 40km (25 miles) from the city, on the Asian side. It is Turkey's newest international airport, and opened on January 8 2001. There are shuttle bus services to the city (journey time - 30-45 minutes) and to Atatürk International Airport (journey time - 60-70 minutes). Taxis are available 24 hours a day. Facilities include duty-free shops, bank, cash dispensers, business centre and restaurants/cafés.

There are other international airports at Adana, Trabzon, Dalaman and Antalya.

SEA: Major ports are Istanbul, Izmir, Marmaris, Mersin, Antalya and Bandirma. Turkish Maritime Lines (TML), the national shipping organisation, and a number of cruise lines run services to Turkey, including: Golden Sun Cruises, Epirotiki, Linblad Expeditions, Costa, CTC, Norwegian, 'K' Lines and Sun Line. Several ferry routes are available: To/from Italy: Ferries operate between Venice-Izmir, Venice-Antalya/Marmaris, Venice-Istanbul via Pireaus and Brindisi-Cesme. To/from Cyprus: Three routes exist on which sea buses, together with car and passenger ferries, operate: Alanya-Girne and Tasucu-Girne and Gazimagosa-Mersin. To/from Greece: There are privately operated ferry lines between Turkey and the Greek islands: Lesbos (Midilli)-Ayvalik, Chios (Sakiz)-Cesme, Samos (Sisam)-Kusadasi, Cos (Istanköy)-Bodrum, Rhodes (Rodos)-Marmaris, Sömbeki (Symi)-Datça.

Note: All ships, including private yachts, arriving in Turkish waters must go to one of the following ports of entry: Canakkale, Bandirma, Istanbul, Akcay, Ayvalik, Dikili, Izmir, Cesme, Kusadasi, Güllük, Bodrum, Datca, Marmaris, Fethiye, Kas, Finike, Kemer, Antalya, Alanya,

Anamur, Söke, Tasucu (Silifke), Mersin, Iskenderun, Samsun, Trabzon, Botas (Adana), Didim, Derince, Tekirdag, Giresun, Rize, Sinop, Ordu, Zonguldak or Hopa (Artvin).

RAIL: There are connections from London (Liverpool Street) via Hook of Holland and Cologne to Istanbul on the Istanbul Express, which also carries cars from several other European cities. There is a weekly sleeper from Moscow. InterRail tickets are available in the European part of Turkey as far as Istanbul. Other international rail routes go to Germany, Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Georgia. For more information contact Turkish Railways (TCDD) in Istanbul (tel: (212) 527 00 50/51; reservations: (212) 520 65 75).

ROAD: There are roads from the CIS, Greece, Bulgaria and Iran. Drivers may either choose the northern route of Belgium, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania, and then Bulgaria, or the southern route through Belgium, Austria and Italy with a car-ferry connection to Turkey. Coach: There are regular services between Turkey and Austria, France, Germany and Switzerland as well as Jordan, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Travel - Internal

Note: Although most visits to Turkey are trouble-free, tourists travelling to the south-east of the country should exercise caution due to some local unrest. Advice should be sought before travel to or through this region.

AIR: Turkish Airlines provides an important network of internal flights from Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Adana, Trabzon, Dalaman, and Antalya to all of the major Turkish cities. The airline (tel, UK office: (020) 7766 9300; fax: (020) 7976 1738) offers reductions of 60% on international flights (with the exception of Middle Eastern destinations) and 10% on domestic flights to holders of International Student Travel Conference (ISTC) cards.

SEA: Turkish Maritime Lines offer several coastal services with their Adriatic Line subsidiary, providing excellent opportunities for sightseeing; they also operate a car ferry between Mersin and Magosa. There are also services between Istanbul and Izmir, with overnight accommodation and ferry routes along Turkey's northern Black Sea coast. A frequent car ferry crosses the Dardenelles at Gallipoli, from Canakkale to Eceabat and Gelibolu to Lapseki. There are also frequent seabus services from Bostanci, Kadiköy, Kartal, Yalova and Büyükada Island to Yenikapi, Auça, Karaköy and Bakirköy.

Turkish Maritime Lines offers discounts of 15% on single and 25% on return passages for international routes and 50% for domestic routes to holders of ISTC cards.

RAIL: Fares are comparatively low. Many trains of the Turkish Railways (TCDD) have sleeping cars, couchettes and restaurant cars, but there is no air-conditioned accommodation. Fares are more expensive for express and mail trains, even though express trains are relatively slow, and some routes are indirect. Steam engines, such as the Anatolia Express, which traverses eastern Turkey, are retained for tourist trains on some routes. Tickets can be purchased at TCDD offices at railway stations and TCDD-appointed agents. TCDD offer discounts of 20% to holders of ISTC cards. Children under 7 travel free; children aged 7-11 pay half fare. Discount fares are available for students (10% off), groups (30% off for groups of 24 or more), roundtrips (20% off) and sports teams (50% off for groups of five or more).

ROAD: There is an extensive road maintenance and building programme; 1400km (900 miles) of motorway are under construction. Traffic drives on the right. In case of an accident, contact the Turkish Touring and Automobile Club (Turkiye Turing ve Otomobil Kurumu), Head Office, Sanayi Sitesi Yani Fort Levent, Istanbul (tel: (212) 282 8140; fax: (212) 282 8042). Coach: Many private companies provide frequent day and night services between all Turkish cities. Services are often

faster than trains and competition between operators has led to lower fares. Tickets are sold at the bus or coach companies' branch offices either at stations or in town centres. One should shop around for the best prices. Coaches depart from the bus stations (otogar) in large towns and from the town centre in small towns. Car hire: Both chauffeur and self-drive cars are available in all large towns. All international companies are represented. Documentation: An International Driving Permit is required for visits of over three months. Green Card International Insurance, endorsed for Turkish territory in both Europe and Asia, and Turkish third-party insurance (obtainable from insurance agencies at frontier posts) are also required. Cars can be brought into Turkey for a maximum of 6 months in one year. On entering, an entry-exit form is filled out. For longer stays, it is necessary to apply to either the Ministry of Finance and Customs or the Turkish Touring and Automobile Club.

URBAN: Bus and trolleybus: Extensive conventional bus (and some trolleybus) services operate in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. There are buses in all other large towns. These are generally reliable, modern and easy to use, although publicity is non-existent. Tickets are bought in advance from kiosks and dropped into a box by the driver. Taxi: There are many types of taxi, share-taxi and minibus in operation. Taxis are numerous in all Turkish cities and towns and are recognisable by their chequered black and yellow bands. Metered taxis are available. For longer journeys, the fare should be agreed beforehand. A dolmus is a collective taxi which follows specific routes and is recognisable by its yellow band. Each passenger pays according to the distance travelled to specific stops. The fares are fixed by the municipality. The dolmus provides services within large cities to suburbs, airports and often to neighbouring towns. This is a very practical means of transport and much cheaper than a taxi. Taxis may turn into a dolmus and vice versa according to demand. Ferry: There are extensive cross-Bosphorus and short-hop ferries between the parts of Istanbul. Metro: There are plans to construct a metro system in Ankara.

JOURNEY TIMES: The following chart gives approximate journey times (in hours and minutes) from Ankara to other major cities/towns in Turkey.

	Air	Road	Rail
Istanbul	0.45	6.00	7.00
Izmir	0.50	7.00	10.00
Antalya	1.00	8.00	-
Adana	0.55	6.00	13.00
Erzurum	1.15	11.00	18.00
Van	1.15	15.00	23.00
Trabzon	1.40	3.00	-
Mugla	1.25	10.00	-

8 ACCOMMODATION

HOTELS: In recent years, Turkey has made a considerable effort to develop its hotel facilities. A certain number of hotels throughout the country are registered with the Ministry of Tourism as offering satisfactory facilities. They abide by certain regulations and standards of facilities, and are given the name 'Touristic'. There are other establishments registered with local authorities, and these, too, correspond to a certain standard as regards facilities and services. There is also a national hotel association: TUROB, Mete Cad/Mete Palas, No 26/2, Taksim, 80090 Istanbul (tel: (212) 249 5153; fax: (212) 252 1664; e-mail: turkishhotels@sim.net.tr).

It is compulsory for establishments to have a book in which guests can register remarks, suggestions and complaints. Complaints can also be made directly to the Ministry of Tourism (see

address section), or to the Ministry of Tourism Directorate of the city concerned.

Grading: Hotels are graded from 1 star (tek yıldızlı) to 5 stars (5 yıldızlı). Classification is based on the standard of service and facilities. Motels and holiday villas are first class (1 sınıf) or second class (2 sınıf).

GUEST-HOUSES: Guest-houses (pensions) can be found in holiday resorts and major towns.

SELF-CATERING: Villas and apartments can be rented.

CAMPING/CARAVANNING: There are numerous sites, but facilities are generally limited.

Youth Hostels: Holders of ISTC cards, International Youth Hostel Federation cards and those registered as 'student' or 'teacher' on their passports can benefit from the youth holiday opportunities available in Turkey. Some Turkish organisations, such as Turkish Airlines, recognise the ISTC card and accordingly grant reductions to holders. Further information can be obtained from Yücelt Interyouth Hostel, Caferiye Sok No 6/1, Sultanahmet 34400, Istanbul (tel: (212) 513 6150 or 513 6151; fax: (212) 512 7628; e-mail: info@yucelthostel.com).

9 RESORTS & EXCURSIONS

For the purpose of this section the country has been divided into several regions; in addition, there is also a section on ski resorts. See the map of Turkey for the location of the main towns, resorts and communication routes.

Istanbul

Spanning the continents of Europe and Asia, Istanbul is a bustling, cosmopolitan city, and its history as the former capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman empires has left a rich legacy of mosques, churches, museums and magnificent palaces, coupled with bustling bazaars and a vibrant street life.

Istanbul is made up of three distinct cities. The old city of Istanbul is decorated with parks and gardens. The main attractions include Topkapi, the residential palace of the Ottoman sultans overlooking the Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus; the Blue Mosque, the only mosque in the world with six minarets; St Sophia, once a Byzantine cathedral, later a mosque and now a museum; and, underground, the Byzantine cistern supported by 336 Corinthian columns.

Across the Golden Horn, in stark contrast, is modern Istanbul, Pera, where the larger hotels are situated.

On the third shore lies Uskudar (Scutari), the Asian part of Istanbul, where Florence Nightingale nursed the sick during the Crimean War. Two massive suspension bridges now span the Bosphorus and afford a panoramic view of Istanbul.

Istanbul is convenient in that many seaside resorts on the Bosphorus are only a short drive away. Other attractions are the ancient fortifications at Rumeli Hisar, the National Park of Mount Uludag, the ruins of Troy and the boat trips on the Bosphorus or to the Princes Islands.

The Aegean Coast

The magnificent coast of ancient Ionia, a crucible of western civilisation, boasts many important historical sites. It is thought that the remains of Troy lie along this coast. Of the nine levels of the excavated settlement mound, the sixth is supposed to be the Troy depicted in Homer's Iliad. The ruins of the great city of Pergamum (modern Bergama) lie to the south of Troy. The city was

famous in antiquity for its splendid library. It is here that you will find the Sanctuary of Asclepieion and two fine temples, the Acropolis and the red-brick Basilica.

Izmir: Izmir, the birthplace of Homer, is Turkey's third city and an important port. It is a modern metropolis set in a curving bay surrounded by terraced hillsides. As a result of earthquakes and a great fire, there are only a few reminders of old Smyrna - Kadifekale, the 4th-century fortress situated on top of Mount Pagos. The fortress affords a superb view of the city and the Gulf of Izmir, the Roman agora with some well-preserved porticos and Statues of Poseidon and Artemis. Çesme is one of the many popular resorts in the Izmir region. It has excellent beaches, thermal springs and a 15th-century fortress. The port of Sigacik, the ruins of the ancient Ionian city of Teos and the sandy beach at Akkum are all between Izmir and Çesme. The remains of the Hellenistic and Roman city of Ephesus (modern Selcuk) founded in the 13th century BC, lie at the foot of Mount Pion. The Grand Theatre has been restored and there is a 2nd-century Temple to Serapis and the elegant façade to the Temple of Hadrian. The site of Meryemana, reputed to be the house of the Virgin Mary, lies very close to Ephesus in the small vale of Mount Bulbul Dagi (Nightingale Mountain). It has become a world-famous shrine, attracting thousands of pilgrims each year. The ruins of Priene, Miletus and Didyma are also of great interest and, like Ephesus, are within easy reach of Kusadasi, an attractive resort surrounded by sandy bays.

The attractions of the southwest Aegean include the popular seaside town of Bodrum (birthplace of Herodotus, known as the father of history), dominated by the magnificent 15th-century Castle of St Peter; Marmaris, set in a deep fjord-like inlet; the fishing village of Datca and the Lycian rock tombs in Fethiye. Not far from Fethiye is Ölü Deniz, a stunning crystal-clear lagoon with a beautiful beach and surrounded by pine-covered mountains. It is protected from rampant commercial development by its status as a national park. Pamukkale, near Denizli, is famous for its spectacular calcified waterfall and thermal waters, used since Roman times for their therapeutic powers. Pamukkale also contains the ruins of the Roman city of Hierapolis.

The Western Mediterranean Coast

With sunshine for most of the year and a magnificent coastline, the Mediterranean (or Turquoise) Coast is a popular holiday area. It is also a region steeped in history and legend, dotted with important sites and great Crusader castles.

Situated on a cliff promontory, Antalya is a popular resort and, with its modern hotels, is the ideal starting point for tours to the outlying Roman cities of Perge, Aspendos and Side. Antalya itself boasts the monumental Hadrian's Gate, Kesik Minare and Yivli Minare mosques and Hidirlik Kulesi, the round Roman tower. One of the largest and best-preserved Roman stadiums lies outside the Hellenistic wall that surrounds the ruins of Perge. In addition to the Victory Portal, thermal bath and agora, the marks of chariot wheels can still be detected. The region of Belek is situated 30km (19 miles) east of Antalya. It is the habitat of hundreds of species of birds, and the clean beaches are breeding grounds for the rare Caretta Caretta turtle.

The remarkable 2nd-century theatre at Aspendos is a fine surviving example of the ancient world and is still used for performances of classical plays. Turkey's finest Roman aqueduct lies to the north of the city. In Side, now a thriving seaside resort, the Greek enclosure walls are still virtually undamaged. The town also boasts an exquisite fountain, a theatre, two agoras and Roman baths. Nestling at the foot of a rocky promontory and crowned by a Seljuk fortress, the town of Alanya is rich in history and has some fine beaches.

The Eastern Mediterranean Coast

A spectacularly scenic road connects Anamur, striking for the Byzantine castle built on a towering cliff, and Silifke. The museum in ancient Silifke contains finds from the many archaeological sites in the vicinity. Mersin, built on a site dating back to Paleolithic times, is a major port. The prosperous city of Adana, in the middle of the flat Cukurova plain, is the centre of Turkey's cotton

industry. The massive Taskopru Bridge, built by Hadrian in the 2nd century, the ancient covered bazaar and nearby Crusader castles and Hittite settlements are all interesting sites. The road from Iskenderun leads through the Belen Pass to Antakya, the Biblical Antioch, where St Peter founded the first Christian community. The grotto where he preached can be seen just outside the town.

The Black Sea Coast

This rugged, mountainous region of Turkey has a wild beauty, but lacks the historical and climatic attractions of the rest of the country. Despite the variable weather, there are several coastal resorts with good, sandy beaches. These include, from west to east, Kilyos, Sile, Akcakoca, Sinop Unye, Ordu and Giresun. A good and scenic coastal road connects Samsun and Trabzon, the two regional centres. Samsun has an important place in modern history as the War of Independence began here in 1919, which is reflected by one of the finest monuments in Turkey, though little remains to testify to its ancient origins. In Trabzon, the ruins of a Byzantine fortress can still be seen, together with many fine buildings including the Church of St Sophia, which was built during the Comnene's 200-year rule. Accommodation facilities in the area have improved in recent years, with a number of good standard hotels now available. The luxury Grand Hotel Zorlu, located 4km (2.5 miles) from Trabzon airport, is well situated for excursions to the Sumala Monastery, Lake Uzungöl or the Karaca Cave, which are amongst the main tourist attractions in the area. 54km (34 miles) from Trabzon is a spectacular 14th-century convent dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Set into the face of a sheer cliff, 300m (1000ft) above the valley floor, it contains some magnificent frescoes.

Central Anatolia

The hub of this vast, central plateau - the cradle of the ancient Hittite and Phrygian civilisations - is the modern metropolis of Ankara. Kemal Atatürk supervised the construction of Ankara, a capital to replace Istanbul, in this hitherto underpopulated region during the 1920s and 1930s. Atatürk's mausoleum dominates the new city. Ankara was, however, built on the site of more ancient settlements and it is fitting that the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations, built under the ramparts of the Citadel, should house a magnificent collection of Neolithic and Hittite artefacts. There are also reminders of the area's more recent past as part of the Roman and Seljuk empires. The Hittite state archives were found in Bogazkale (Hattusas) in 1906, and contained within the Bogazkale-Alacahoyuk-Yazilikaya triangle are the most important sites of the Hittite Empire. Sungurlu is a good base for visitors to this fascinating but underdeveloped region. Amasya, one of the most attractive towns in Anatolia, was the capital of the Pontic Kingdom. The rock tombs of the Pontic kings and the ruins of a citadel, perched on a rock face and containing the remains of an Ottoman palace, can still be seen. The nearby towns of Tokat and Sivas are noted for their Seljuk architecture.

Cappadocia: Cappadocia is a spectacular, almost surreal landscape of rock and cones, capped pinnacles and fretted ravines. Dwellings have been hewn from the soft, volcanic rock since 400BC, and the elaborate cave systems have sheltered generations of persecuted settlers. Some villages, notably Soganli, are still inhabited but most have been evacuated owing to the persistent threat of rock falls. At Goreme there are magnificent rock churches with Byzantine frescoes and at Zelve a somewhat eerie monastic complex. The villages of Ortahisar and Uchisar, clustered around rock pinnacles and crowned by citadels, offer good views. The canyon of Ihlara and the underground cities of Kaymakli and Derinkuyu should not be missed. Small, friendly hostels and campsites are dotted around Cappadocia, but the best hotels are to be found in the main towns of Nevsehir and Urgup. The ancient settlements of Kanesh, Karum and Fraktin (now a ski resort), near the old city of Kayseri, are worth seeing.

Konya: Konya, the old Seljuk capital and Turkey's fourth-largest city, is one of the world's oldest settlements, dating back to the 7th millennium BC. Konya was also the home of the Mevlana, one of Islam's most celebrated mystics and founder of the Order of Whirling Dervishes. The mausoleum of Mevlana became a museum in 1927 under Atatürk's secularisation policy, but remains a place of worship. Other places of interest include Alaeddin's 13th-century mosque, the Ince Minare Medrese and the Iplikci Mosque, Konya's oldest structure. The ancient sites of Beysehir, Catalhoyuk and Binbir Kilise are all close to Konya.

The Eastern Provinces

The vast, empty expanse of eastern Anatolia differs profoundly from the rest of the country. The landscape has a desolate beauty, with ochre red plains and fertile valleys, lakes, waterfalls and snowcapped peaks. There are fine mosques, palaces and monuments.

Erzurum: Erzurum, the largest town in the region, was one of the eastern bastions of Byzantium for many centuries, and has mosques and mausolea from the Seljuk and Mongol eras, Byzantine walls and two Koranic colleges characterised by minarets and finely carved portals. The frontier town of Kars, to the north of Erzurum, is dominated by a formidable 12th-century Georgian fortress. The ruins of the 10th-century Ani lie east of Kars. Overshadowed by Agri Dagri, the biblical Mount Ararat where, according to legend, Noah's Ark came to rest, is the palace and mosque of Ishak Pasha at Dogubeyazit. The site is remote and fascinating. The walled town of Van, on the eastern shore of the immense Lake Van, was an important Urartu fortress from 800-600BC. The citadel dominates the ruins of Seljuk, Ottoman mosques and many rock tombs. On the island of Akdamar, in Lake Van, is the enchanting 10th-century Church of the Holy Cross. Other places of interest include Diyarbakir, built in the 4th century and surrounded by forbidding triple walls of black basalt; the white-coloured medieval architecture and Roman citadel of Mardin; Urfa, site of the ancient pools of Abraham and Nemrut Dagi, the home of the colossal stone statues erected by King Antiochus I in the 1st century BC. Accommodation in this area is very basic and often hard to find.

Ski Resorts

Winter sports resorts in Turkey are generally located in forested mountains of average height. The following ski centres are easily accessible by road or Turkish Airlines domestic flights.

Bursa - Uludag: Bursa - Uludag: 36km (22 miles) south of Bursa, this resort is accessible by a good asphalt road or by cable car. The season runs from January to April. There are beginners' slopes, slalom and giant slalom courses, three ski lifts, three chair lifts and après-ski facilities. A wide range of accommodation is available - hotels and chalets with a capacity for 3100 - and the resort also has a small hospital.

Antalya - Saklikent: Antalya - Saklikent: 48km (30 miles) north of Antalya, in the Bakirli Dagi mountain range, it reaches 2546m (8353ft) high. Accommodation consists of pensions and chalets, with a capacity of 2500. The special attraction of this centre is that in March and April it is possible to ski in the morning, then drive down to the coast and swim in the warm waters of the Mediterranean in the afternoon.

Bolu - Koroglu: Bolu - Koroglu: This resort is situated on the Istanbul-Ankara highway, 50km (30 miles) from Bolu and surrounded by pine forests; the ski area is 1900-2350m (6235-7710ft) high. Hotel accommodation is available, and amenities include a swimming pool, ski lift, equipment for hire, and ski instructors.

Erzurum - Palandoken: Erzurum - Palandoken: This centre, 5km (4 miles) from Erzurum, lies at an altitude of 2200-3100m (7200-10,000ft) with some of the longest and most difficult courses in Turkey. Accommodation is available at a 140-bed, centrally-heated ski lodge, with a chair lift, ski instructors and equipment for hire. The 500-bed hotel Dedeman offers 4-star accommodation and facilities. There are also a number of hotels in Erzurum. December to April is the most popular season.

Kars - Sarikamis: Kars - Sarikamis: Situated near Kars at 2250m (7400ft), this centre has good runs and ideal snow conditions. The best time to visit is January to March. There is accommodation in Kars and at the 60-bed, centrally-heated ski lodge with a chair lift and ski instructors.

Kayseri - Erciyes: Kayseri - Erciyes: 25km (15 miles) from Kayseri, this centre lies at 2150m (7050ft) on the eastern face of Erciyes Dagi. The season runs from November to May and there is a 140-bed ski lodge, equipment-hire facilities and instructors.

10 SPORT & ACTIVITIES

Mountaineering: Mountaineering: Turkey has a number of mountain ranges with peaks ranging from heights of 3250m (10,660ft) to the 5165m (16,945ft) of Mount Agri (Ararat), the highest mountain in Anatolia, which provide excellent climbing possibilities for both the novice and more expert climber. Permission is required from the Turkish Mountaineering Club.

Skiing: Skiing: Winter sports resorts in Turkey are generally located in forested mountains. Ski centres are often easily accessible by road or by Turkish Airlines domestic flights. Most resorts are in the north (near Ankara) and the western interior.

Watersports: Watersports: The Mediterranean coast, particularly Izmir, has very warm waters and watersports are widely available.

11 SOCIAL PROFILE

Food & Drink: Turkish food combines culinary traditions of a pastoral people originating from Central Asia and the influences of the Mediterranean regions. Lamb is a basic meat featured on all menus, often as shish kebab (pieces of meat threaded on a skewer and grilled) or doner kebab (pieces of lamb packed tightly round a revolving spit). Fish and shellfish are very fresh and barbunya (red mullet) and kiliç balığı (swordfish) are delicious. Dolma (vine leaves stuffed with nuts and currants) and karniyarik (aubergine stuffed with minced meat) are other popular dishes. Guests are usually able to go into a kitchen and choose from the pots if they cannot understand the names of the dishes. There are also a wide range of Turkish sweets and pastries including the famous Turkish Delight (originally made from dates, honey, roses and jasmine bound by Arabic gum and designed to sweeten the breath after coffee). Table service is common. Drink: Ayran (a refreshing yoghurt drink), tea, and strong black Turkish coffee are widely available. Turkey is a secular state and alcohol is permitted, although during Ramadan it is considered polite for the visitor to avoid drinking alcohol. Turkish beer, red and white wines are reasonable. The national drink is raki (anisettes) which clouds when water is added, known as 'lion's milk'. Drinking raki is a ritual and is traditionally accompanied by a variety of meze (hors d'oeuvres).

Nightlife: There are nightclubs in most main centres, either Western or Oriental, with music and dancing. There are theatres with concerts in Izmir, Istanbul and Ankara and most towns have cinemas. Turkish baths (hamam) are popular.

Shopping: Istanbul's Kapali Carsi Bazaar has jewellery, carpets and antiques for sale. Turkish handicrafts include a rich variety of textiles and embroideries, articles of copper, onyx and tile, mother-of-pearl, inlaid articles, leather and suede products, jewellery and, above all, carpets and kilims. Shopping hours: 0900-1300 and 1400-2000 Monday to Saturday (closed Sunday). Istanbul covered market: 0800-1900 Monday to Saturday.

Special Events: For a detailed list of special events contact the Turkish Tourist Office (see address section). The following festivals are held annually:
Jan Camel Wrestling Festival, Selçuk. Mar Ankara International Film Festival; 1915 Sea Victory Celebration, Çanakkale. Apr Traditional 'Mesir' Festival, Manisa. Apr 23 International Children's Day, Ankara. Apr-May Ankara International Arts Festival. May Efes International Festival of Culture & Tourism, Selçuk; International Nysa Culture & Art Festival, Sultanhisar; Yunus Emre Culture & Art Week, Eskisehir; Aksu Culture & Art Festival, Giresun; International Music and Folklore Festival, Silifke; International Yachting Festival, Marmaris. May-Jun International Asia-Europe Biennial, Ankara. Jun Bartın Strawberry Festival; International Tea Festival, Rize; International Offshore Races, Istanbul-Izmir; Foça Music, Folklore and Watersports Festival; Marmaris Festival; Bergama Festival; Atatürk Culture Festival, Amasya; Kafkasör Culture & Art Festival, Artvin; International Kus Cenneti Culture & Tourism Festival, Bandirma; Çesme Sea and Music Festival. Jun-Jul Istanbul International Art & Culture Festival; Traditional Kirkpinar Wrestling, Edirne; Ihlara Tourism and Art Week, Aksaray. Jul Erzurum International Congress; Tourism & Culture Festival, Iskenderun; International Folk Dance Festival, Samsun; Ceramic Festival, Kütahya; Nasreddin Hoca Festival, Aksehir; Hittite Festival, Çorum. Aug Troy Festival, Çanakkale; Insuyu Festival, Burdur; Hacibektas Veli Commemoration Ceremony; Mengen Chefs Festival, Bohn. Sep Izmir International Fair; Ertugrul Gazi Commemoration Ceremony, Sögüt; Seyh Edibâli'i Commemoration and Culture Festival, Bilecik; GAP Culture & Art Festival, Gaziantep; Javelin Games, Konya; Kemer Carnival; International Meerschaum (White Gold) Festival, Eskisehir; Sivas Congress Culture & Art Week; International Grape Harvest Festival, Ürgüp; International Fair, Mersin; Yagci Bedir Carpet Festival, Sindirgi Balikesir. Sep-Oct International Plastic Arts Festival, Istanbul; International Akdeniz Song Contest, Antalya; Culture & Art Festival, Diyarbakir; Mersin Art & Culture Festival. Oct Altin Portakal Film Festival; Ahi Brotherhood Cultural Week, Kirsehir; International Bodrum Cup; International Gullet Festival, Bozburun. Nov International Yacht Race, Marmaris. Dec International St Nicolas Symposium, Demre; Mevlana Commemoration Ceremony, Konya.

Social Conventions: Shaking hands is the normal form of greeting. Hospitality is very important and visitors should respect Islamic customs. Informal wear is acceptable, but beachwear should be confined to the beach or poolside. Smoking is widely acceptable but prohibited in cinemas, theatres, city buses and dolmuses (collective taxis). Tipping: A service charge is included in hotel and restaurant bills.

12 BUSINESS PROFILE

Economy: Turkey is self-sufficient in basic foodstuffs, including maize, sugar, wheat and barley. Cotton, tobacco, fruit, vegetables and nuts, are grown for both domestic consumption and export. A variety of livestock is reared. In mining, Turkey is an important producer of copper, chromium, borax and to a lesser extent, bauxite and coal. Manufacturing has grown significantly during the last twenty years, with textiles, food-processing, oil refining, chemicals and the

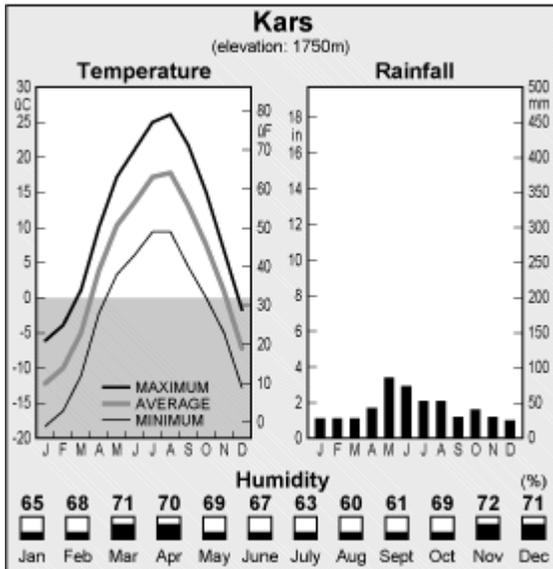
production of iron and steel emerging as the most important industries. Tourism dominates the service sector after a phase of rapid expansion and serves as a key source of foreign exchange. Recent economic performance has been poor, the legacy of a difficult period throughout the late 1990s: the economy contracted by 2% in the twelve months to mid-1999 while inflation is still very high at over 60% . In recent years, Turkish trade patterns have shifted from the Middle East in favour of Europe and the EU in particular. Germany (which employs several million Turkish immigrant workers), Italy, France, and the UK are now Turkey's principal trading partners; outside Europe, the USA and Saudi Arabia are also important. Turkey's original 1987 application to join the EU has effectively stalled in the face of repeated objections from existing members on grounds of human rights. The unresolved situation in Cyprus and the government's perennial disputes with Greece are a further hindrance. Although recent political developments in Turkey have produced a more favourable political environment, the Government still faces a considerable task in persuading the EU that it can reach the requisite standards in human rights. To the east, Turkey has built up significant economic links with the former Soviet republics of Central Asia.

Business: A formal suit or jacket and tie should always be worn for business. English is widely spoken in business circles, although an effort by the visitor to speak a little Turkish is appreciated. The majority of people in business value punctuality and visiting cards are widely used. Office hours: 0830-1200 and 1330-1700 Monday to Friday. Summer: In the Aegean and Mediterranean regions of Turkey, government offices and many other establishments are closed during the afternoon in the summer months. The summer hours are fixed each year by the provincial governors.

Commercial Information: The following organisation can offer advice: Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Maritime Commerce and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (UCCET), Atatürk Bulvarı 149, Bakanlıklar, 06640, Ankara (tel: (312) 417 7700; fax: (312) 418 3268; e-mail: info@info.tobb.org.tr; web site: <http://www.tobb.org.tr>).

Conferences/Conventions: Contact UKTAS, International Congress Centre Inc, Harbiye 80230, Istanbul (tel: (212) 296 3055; fax: (212) 296 3099; web site: <http://www.icec.org>). The Crowne Plaza Istanbul has a conference centre with facilities for up to 1000 people (tel: (212) 560 8110; fax: (212) 560 8155).

13 CLIMATE



Temperatures in Ankara vary between -4°C (25°F) and 30°C (86°F). Marmara and the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts have a typical Mediterranean climate with hot summers and mild winters.

Required clothing: Light- to medium-weights and rainwear.

14 HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

History: Originally inhabited by a variety of different peoples - Hittites, Urartians, Phrygians and Lydians - Turkey, or Asia Minor as it was called during much of the pre-modern period, was for over 1000 years the heartland of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire, with Constantinople as its capital. Founded by Constantine the Great in AD330, it survived the collapse of the Western Empire in the 5th century. It was the capital from which the brilliant and enigmatic Emperor Justinian (527-565) launched his ambitious projects to reunite the old Roman Empire, the western provinces of which had been occupied by Germanic people from northern Europe. The Byzantine Empire, from the death of Justinian until its eventual fall in 1453, was engaged in a long retreat in the face of numerous enemies, mainly the forces of Islam. However, the Byzantines took advantage of the success of the First Crusade (1096-1100) whose armies re-took many Byzantine possessions in Asia Minor, Syria and Palestine although, as later events were to prove, the interests of the Byzantines and of the Christian Crusader states in Palestine were not always identical. The Byzantine state never fully recovered, and on many occasions during the next three centuries a final defeat was only prevented by the disunity of its enemies and, particularly, by the massive fortifications of the city of Constantinople. The conquest of Constantinople in 1204 - the only time the fortifications were breached - was followed by one of the most savage and rapacious sacks of any city in the history of the world: the treasures of Byzantium were beyond count or value, and many priceless works of art were removed to Europe (mainly to Venice) during this time. The Byzantines set up a rival capital at Nicea until Constantinople was retaken in 1261, but by this time the empire had effectively lost control of most of its territories, and by the 14th century, Byzantine control of Asia Minor was little more than an empty theory.

From the 11th century onwards, the Asiatic area of Turkey known as Anatolia had also been affected by upheavals and conquests from the east. Successive invasions from Central Asia led to the Islamic Turkification of the region, the real power fast becoming the Ottomans', a name derived from their 14th-century leader Osman Gazi, who scored a decisive victory against the Byzantines at the Battle of Baphaeon in 1301. They steadily expanded their territorial control from Turkey itself, constructing the Ottoman Empire, which at its zenith in the mid-16th century (a period associated with the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent) covered south-east Europe, including the Balkans and Hungary; North Africa as far as Morocco; the Crimea and Georgia; the Levant; Syria; Iraq; and most of the Arabian peninsula. The most famous conquest, from a symbolic and strategic point of view, was that of Constantinople itself in 1453; with its fall, the Roman Empire, in a strictly legalistic sense, finally came to an end. The territorial ambitions of the Ottomans regarding control of the Mediterranean and Central Europe brought the empire into conflict with the major European powers of the day, particularly the Habsburgs. The Venetians, and later the Russians, were almost constant enemies of the Ottomans during the late-17th and 18th centuries, during which time the empire sank into decline. Attempts were made by some rulers in the late 18th century to reform the empire, but to little effect.

The diplomatic history of Central Europe in the early modern period is highly complex, and the Ottoman Empire became increasingly a pawn and victim of the various power struggles. Its disintegration, and the forces of nationalism unleashed as a consequence, caused schisms and conflicts that linger to this day throughout southern Europe and the Middle East. The term 'the sick man of Europe' was applied to Turkey during this period. Turkish history can thereafter be characterised by a constant struggle between the forces of absolutism and reform. In 1914, the country became embroiled in World War I on the side of Germany. The following year saw one of the most ignominious episodes in Turkish history when over one million Armenians were driven into the desert and murdered by Turkish troops. Although it is fiercely denied by the Turkish authorities there is compelling evidence that this was an officially-sponsored and systematic

policy of genocide. After the war, most of the Ottoman possessions came under British or French control with the support of the newly-formed League of Nations.

In Turkey itself, the Ottoman Dynasty was overthrown in 1923 by a revolutionary movement led by Mustafa Kemal - better known as Atatürk ('the father of the Turks') - who established a single-party republic with himself at the head. The period after the War of Independence saw sweeping social reforms and economic modernisation, including the abolition of the Islamic social infrastructure and the development of manufacturing industry. Atatürk's successor, İsmet İnönü, kept Turkey out of World War II (bar the last four months) and introduced multi-party politics.

The first elections were held in 1950. There have since been two prolonged periods of military rule, the second ending with elections in 1983, won by Turgut Özal and the Motherland Party. Martial law, however, remained in force in many provinces until 1987. Turkey had joined NATO in 1952 and, since the lifting of suspensions with the end of military rule, is once more a full and active member of the OECD and the Council of Europe, as well as being an associate member of the EU. Turkey has been pursuing full EU membership since the early 1980s with varying degrees of enthusiasm. Although it has its supporters, (Britain and Germany), it faces strong opposition from Greece, with whom relations have been historically poor. The majority of the EU continues to harbour significant doubts about Turkey's suitability because of its poor human rights record, especially regarding its treatment of the Kurdish minority. (Kurdish policy is firmly in the hands of the military who take an unyieldingly hard line against any criticism. Kurdish MPs have been repeatedly jailed, as has one of the country's most famous writers, Yashar Kemal). For these reasons, implementation of the customs union agreed between Turkey and the EU in 1973 was blocked, although negotiations have since resumed and Turkey appears to have passed over at least the initial hurdles en route to membership. A substantial improvement in human rights and a settlement of the Cyprus problem are essential precursors (see Cyprus section for further details)

Important as relations with Europe are, Turkish foreign policy has major interests elsewhere. Firstly, the collapse of the Soviet Union has given the country a key political and economic role in central Asia, where Turkey has historic cultural and linguistic links with several countries. Secondly, Turkey also has a key strategic position on the northern edge of the ever-turbulent Middle East; in particular, it has a shared border with Iraq, and has provided essential bases for the UN's enforcement of economic sanctions and the 'no fly' zone (see Iraq). Membership of NATO ensures that Turkey can be relied upon to adopt a pro-Western position on strategic issues. At the beginning of 1990, political tension in the region was heightened by the onset of the Armenian/Azeri conflict. Turkey was the first country to recognise the independence of Azerbaijan and has provided consistent diplomatic support for the Azeris against Armenia. Turkey has also sought closer political and economic links with the Turkic republics of the former Soviet **Union**: several of these Central Asian states view Turkey, with its largely secular polity and mixed economy, as a suitable model to pursue in the course of their own development. In the latter part of 1990, Turkey became deeply involved in the Gulf crisis triggered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Government accrued benefits in the form of financial assistance and a free hand in dealing with the PKK insurgency, however, its relative weakness at the time meant that it was politically impossible for it to send troops to join the multi-national force in Saudi Arabia. Six months after the end of the war, in October 1991, national elections were held in Turkey. Süleyman Demirel, leading the conservative True Path Party (DYP), formed a Government with several small parties, but the election was notable for the emergence of the Islamic party, Refah (Welfare), as a major electoral force. In June 1993, Demirel then took over the presidency after the death of Turgut Özal. He was replaced by the former economy minister, Tansu Çiller, who became Turkey's first woman premier. Çiller led a minority government for the next two years. During this period the Islamic Welfare Party, known as Refah, made rapid and

unprecedented political progress, winning several district and city mayoral elections and proving more administratively competent than its longer-established rivals.

The election of December 1995 which followed the collapse of the Ciller Government, assumed major international importance when Western Governments began to worry about an Islamic-inspired government taking power. Although Refah still secured the largest number of votes at 21%, it was far short of an overall majority. The shared conservative ideology of Ciller's True Path and Mesut Yilmaz's Motherland parties should have allowed the formation of a coalition, was undermined by the intense personal animosity between Ciller and Yilmaz who repeatedly opined that Ciller should 'go back to the kitchen'. Refah was politically ostracised and deeply distrusted by the generals and intelligence officers of the shadowy National Security Council who wield great influence behind the scenes and are committed to a secular policy. Over the next four years, Turkey had six different Governments, with all the major parties, including Refah, at the helm at one time or another. 1999 opened with the collapse of the last of the half-dozen governments and a debate among the generals as to whether to allow the scheduled April general election to go ahead. Under some international pressure, they did so, and saw the Democratic Left Party led by the veteran Bulent Ecevit returned to power. With the support of several small parties, he has been able to form a stable Government. The mood in most of Turkey at the time of the poll had been boosted by the capture, trial and sentencing of the leader of the PKK, Abdullah Ocalan, following his expulsion from long-term exile in Syria. Ocalan's removal from Syria was the culmination of protracted negotiations between Ankara and Damascus which also covered the use of Syrian bases by the PKK and a number of economic issues, particularly water resources. The Syrians had been put under pressure by a military and security agreement (still largely secret) between Turkey and Israel. After the success against the PKK, who declared a ceasefire shortly afterwards, the Government soon had more important things on its mind, after a series of earthquakes in the populous north-west of the country killed tens of thousands and wrought massive destruction. The Kurdish issue has re-emerged prominently in 2000 with international concern over the proposed construction of the Ilusu Dam on the Euphrates river in the Kurdish heartland of south-eastern Turkey. If built as planned, the dam will destroy countless antiquities and flood the historically valuable settlement of Hasankeyf. The political scene has been dominated by the presidential succession, as Suleyman Demirel's term of office came to an end. The victor was a former constitutional court judge, Ahmet Necdet Sezer, who took office in May 2000.

Government: Under the constitution of 1987, legislative power is vested in a single chamber, the 550-member National Assembly, which is directly elected by proportional representation for a five-year term. The National Assembly elects both a prime minister (normally head of the largest party in the assembly) and a president, who is head of state and serves a seven-year term, between whom executive powers are shared.

15 OVERVIEW

Country Overview: Turkey borders the Black Sea, Georgia, Armenia, Iran, Iraq, Syria, the Mediterranean, the Aegean Sea, Greece and Bulgaria. Two east-west mountain ranges, the Black Sea Mountains in the north and the Taurus in the south, enclose the central Anatolian plateau. It is here that the Tigris and Euphrates rivers rise.

Spanning the continents of Europe and Asia, Istanbul is a bustling, cosmopolitan capital, and its history as the former capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman empires has left a rich legacy of mosques, churches, museums and magnificent palaces, coupled with bustling bazaars and a vibrant street life.

The attractions of the southwest Aegean include the popular seaside town of Bodrum, dominated by the magnificent 15th-century Castle of St Peter

The Mediterranean (or Turquoise) Coast is a popular holiday area. It is also a region steeped in history and legend, dotted with important sites and great Crusader castles.

Lamb is a basic meat featured on all menus, often as shish kebab (pieces of meat threaded on a skewer and grilled).

There are nightclubs in most main centres, either Western or Oriental, with music and dancing. Turkish baths are popular.

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