



Turkey at a glance

Istanbul



Mt. Nemrud



Capadoccia



Zeugma



Fethiye Ölüdeniz



The Country

Spanning over an area of 814,578 square kilometers, Turkey lies at the cross roads of two continents with 790,200 square kilometres of its land in Asia (Anatolia) and 24,378 square kilometres in Europe (Thrace). The country is generally divided into the following seven regions depending on climate, landscape and other topographical criteria: Black Sea, Marmara, the Aegean, the Mediterranean, Central Anatolia, the East and Southeast Anatolia Regions.

The Aegean Region is perhaps best known for its turquoise sea and the enviable "blue cruise" route. The Aegean is littered with ancient sites, including two of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. With Istanbul, Turkey's largest city in the centre, Marmara region uniquely straddles both Europe and Asia and the two continents are separated by the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara and the Dardanelles. Stretching from the south Turkey's Mediterranean coast is awash with sandy beaches, beautiful scenery, secluded coves and fascinating ancient sites. High mountain ranges, plunging valleys, expansive plains and vast lakes, East and South East Turkey is a region of contrast and colours, adorned with unique architectural samples of Turkish culture. Among the most fertile regions of the country, the Black Sea area is famed for verdant plateaus and traditional villages with a way of life unchanged for generations. Home to Ankara, Turkey's capital and political centre, Central Anatolia also boasts the expansive natural wonder that is the region of Capadoccia.

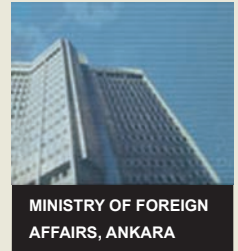
Constitutional System

The Republic of Turkey was declared on 29th October 1923 though the earliest efforts to write a constitution date back to the Ottoman period. According to the Turkish Constitution the principle of "separation of powers", is a fundamental constitutional requirement.

The Constitution characterizes the Republic as "a democratic, secular and social state governed by the rule of law; respecting human rights and loyal to Atatürk's nationalism". Under the Constitution, "Sovereignty is vested unconditionally in the nation". Legislative power is vested in the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA), executive power and duties are carried out by the President and the Council of Ministers, and judiciary power is exercised by independent courts.

Foreign Policy

The fundamental tenet and basis of Turkey's foreign policy is the dictum, "Peace at home, peace abroad," an objective expressed by Atatürk, the founding father of the Republic. As a leading regional power, and a source of stability in her volatile region, Turkey pursues a multi dimensional foreign policy. Turkey enjoys membership in a wide range of leading international and regional organizations, such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the World Trade Organization (WTO), along with her candidature for membership to the EU.



Economy

During the last several years, the Republic of Turkey has been going through a very comprehensive process of economic reform and restructuring, gaining enormous momentum and endurance. Today, Turkey is the 17th largest economy in the world with a GNP of about USD 500 billion. Driven mainly by the private sector, Turkey has recorded a sustainable growth during the past 6 years. The growth rate was 6.1% in 2006.

Tourism

Home to more than 20 different fascinating civilisations, Turkey has a 10,000 year-old heritage, much of which is still being uncovered. Its rich history is very much part of the present, with temples, ancient theatres, churches, mosques, tombs, statues of gods, palaces and fortresses, and of course the many detailed and fascinating museums which bring the past to life.

Turkey is a vast country with unique natural landscapes and a rich history and culture, the remains of the many civilisations which have inhabited this ancient land. To date, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has registered 9 locations in Turkey on the World Heritage List.

Basic facts about the Republic of Turkey

Official Name: The Republic of Turkey
Founder: Mustafa Kemal Atatürk
Capital: Ankara

Population: 70,586,256
Religion: 99% Muslim, 1% Armenian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Catholic, others.

GNP: \$500 billion
GNP growth rate: 6.1%
Major Industries: Automotive, textiles,

iron & steel, clothing, electrical machinery
Foreign Trade volume: \$277 billion
Imports: \$170 billion

Exports: \$107 billion
Number of tourists received: 20 million
National Day: 29 October

TURKISH EMBASSY
www.turkishembassylondon.org

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
www.mfa.gov.tr

TOURISM AND CULTURE OFFICE
www.gototurkey.co.uk