

Turkey

Planning a trip to Turkey? Then you should talk to us... We know this country exceptionally well. We offer impartial expert advice and the ability to deliver top quality itineraries with the best tour operators that are exceptional value for money. Arranging your travel through The Specialist Travel Consultancy also reduces the time you have to spend researching and planning your trip. And our service is completely free!

Contact us to discuss your travel requirements on **0845 838 7667** or for more information on the service we offer please visit our website: www.thestc.co.uk

We arrange tailor made trips:

- Cultural tours
- Adventure travel
- Partnership school visits
- History and Archaeology Tours
- Geography Tours
- School & College Expeditions

Facts & Highlights

Full Country Name: Republic of Turkey.

Area: 780,000 sq km (483,000 sq ml).

Population: Approx 68 million.

Capital: Ankara.

People: Majority Turks. Recognised minorities: Jews, Armenians and Greeks. Other minorities include Kurds, Circassians and Bosnians.

Language(s): Turkish (official), Kurdish.

Religion(s): Muslim.

Currency: New Turkish Lira (YTL).

Government: Parliamentary Republic.

Electricity: 220 volts AC, 50Hz.

Time: GMT + 2 hours.

~

Istanbul: Take a tour of this vibrant "east meets west" city.

Gallipoli: Tour the battlefields of this strategically important peninsula.

History: Marvel at stonework and history stretching back thousands of years at sites such as Ephesus, Pergamon, and Mt. Nemrut.

The Turquoise Coast: Explore the ruins, quiet bays and traditional villages away from the crowds on one of the most spectacular coastlines in Europe.

Indulge in a Hamam: After the rigours of site-seeing or a trek, wash away the dirt with a traditional Turkish bath.

Sumela: Visit the ancient monastery clinging to a sheer cliff 300m above the valley floor, then complete a remote trek in the Kaçkar mountains.

Take the plunge: Quite literally into the Saklikent Gorge on a days Canyoning.

Cappadocia: Explore the out-of-this-world landscapes and history of this central region of Anatolia.

With one foot firmly in Asia, Turkey is knocking hard on the door of Europe. The resulting blend of cultures makes for an absorbing country and the perfect destination for an educational trip abroad.

Turkey offers an incredible diversity with history, archaeology, oriental splendour, adventure and breath-taking scenery all offered up with seemingly incredible ease.

The opportunities for education are many and varied. The west of the country provides some of the best examples of Graeco-Roman architecture to be found anywhere in the ancient empire. The extraordinary ruined city of Ephesus on the Aegean coast is certainly among the best places in the world to get a feel for life as it was in Roman times. Its huge theatre with a capacity of 25,000 is renowned for its acoustics and the attention to detail elsewhere on the site is something to behold. However, it is not just the Romans that are of interest. Ottoman, Greek and Seljuk civilizations have all left their mark on this beautiful and intriguing country.

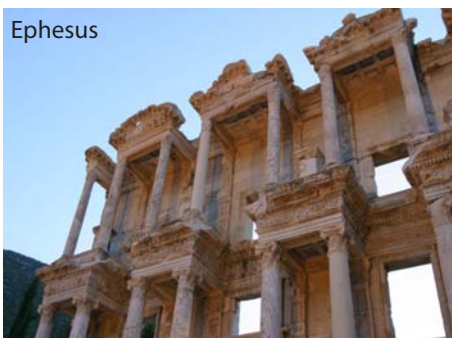
Turkey's capital city may be Ankara, but the historic capital Istanbul remains the financial, economic and cultural centre of the country. Lying on the Bosphorus River that divides Europe and Asia, Istanbul is one of the great strategic cities of the world and home to many treasures such as the famous Hagia Sophia as well as countless churches and palaces. To the west lies the Gallipoli Peninsula and the sight of so many battles to gain control of the gateway between east and west. Now a national park, Gallipoli's cemeteries are a

stark reminder of the tragedy of war.

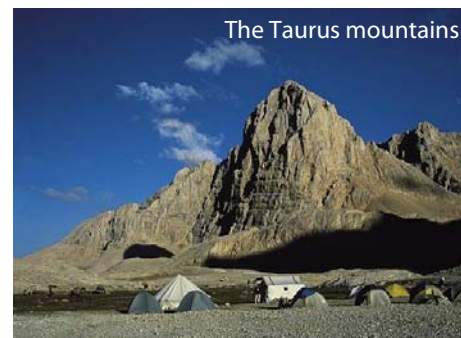
While western Turkey may look towards Europe and hold many of the country's historical and archaeological treasures, central and eastern Anatolia provides an altogether different experience. This is a chance to experience a traditional Islamic culture amongst some spectacular and bizarre landscapes, none more so than the central region of Cappadocia, famed for its moonscape valleys, "fairy chimneys", rock-hewn churches and underground Troglodyte cities. It is a magical place to discover, however you explore it, but gentle day walks are an ideal way to get the best out of this area.

For those seeking adventure and more demanding trekking, Turkey has much to offer. There are two excellent long distance foot paths, "The Lycian Way" along the spectacular southern coast and "The St. Paul Trail" through the Taurus Mountains. Both the Taurus and the rarely visited Kaçkar Mountains in the north east of the country offer serious trekking for those groups wanting a real challenge. In the south, the coastal areas around Fethiye and Kaş offer excellent multi-activity options with rafting, canyoning, sea-kayaking and mountain biking all on offer.

With excellent transport links around the country there is the option of linking the ancient sites of the west with the wilder sides of the country. Whatever your travel requirements, be it history, culture or adventure, contact us and we will work with you to establish a suitable programme.



Ephesus



The Taurus mountains

Suggested Itineraries

8 Day Historical Tour

- Day 1** Fly to Dalaman; transfer to Antalya.
- Explore stunning Graeco-Roman sites of Ephesos and Perge.
- To Olympos. Lunch with local family followed by visit to Phaselis.
- Visit to Antalya Museum.
- To 'Cotton Castles' of Pamukkale via ancient city of Termessos.
- A full day at the magnificent site of Ephesus. Back to Pamukkale for overnight.
- Visit ancient city of Hierapolis before heading off to the isolated site of Aphrodisias. To coastal resort of Fethiye.
- Morning at leisure. Fly to London.

2 weeks Highlights Tour

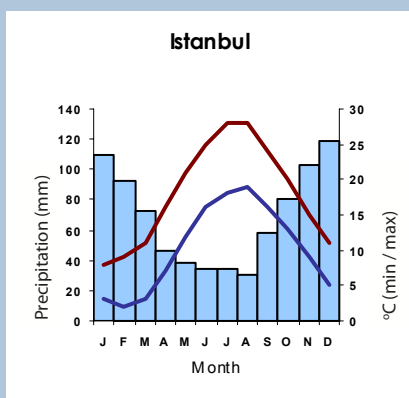
- DAY 1** Fly London/Istanbul.
- In Istanbul, walking tour.
- Drive to Ankara.
- Visit Museum of Anatolian Civilisations

Geography & Climate

Turkey stretches from Europe to Central Asia and encompasses a wealth of diverse regions and geographical features. The north of the country is dominated by a large fault line resulting in occasionally severe earthquakes. The general terrain of the rest of the country is mostly mountainous but with some narrow coastal plains as well as a central high plateau (Anatolia) that rises steadily eastwards towards the Caucasus Mountains of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Turkey's diverse regions have a wide variety of climates. The Aegean and Mediterranean coasts have cool, rainy winters and hot, moderately dry summers. The central Anatolian plateau is much more subject to extremes with winter temperatures of -30 °C to -40 °C and prolonged snow cover and hot (30 °C to 40 °C) summers. Generally May is the wettest month and July and August the driest.

Turkey can be visited all year round, but the best time is generally considered to be early summer or autumn, when the weather is generally good, but it isn't main tourist season.



and drive to Urgup.

5 In Urgup; visit Uchisar, Goreme Valley and Kaymakli underground city.

6 Drive to Egirdir via Konya.

7 Visit Olympos en-route to Kas.

8 In Kas.

9 Drive to Dalyan, sail by riverboat through the reed beds to Caunus.

10 To Pamukkale via Aphrodisias.

11 Drive to Selcuk.

12 In Selcuk, visit Ephesus.

13 Visit Pergamum & Troy en-route to Canakkale.

14 Ferry across Dardanelles to Gallipoli, drive to Istanbul.

15 Fly London.

National Holidays

Jan 1: New Year's Day.

Mar 21: Nevruz - ancient middle eastern spring festival celebrated by Kurds and Alevis, now a national holiday.

April 23: National Independence & Children's Day.

May 19: Youth & Sports Day.

Aug 30: Victory Day.

Oct 29: Republic Day.

Oct-Nov: Ramazan (dates vary).

Nov – Jan: Kurban Bayrami (date varies).

Festivals & Events

April 25: Anzac Day - experience the moving dawn service at the Gallipoli battlefields and cemeteries.

June: sees the **Oil Wrestling Festival** at Edirne, where hundreds of amateur wrestlers gather from all over Turkey.

Customs

Although the west and the south of the country are very used to tourists it should always be remembered that Turkey is a Muslim country. In the central regions and certainly in the east of the country, clothing should be conservative: avoid skimpy shorts or tops. Long sleeves and loose trousers or a long skirt will be more comfortable in the heat. Left hands are considered 'unclean' in Islamic cultures. Offering money with the left hand is especially insulting. The Muslim month of Ramadan (dates vary) involves fasting from dawn until dusk. Foreigners and non-Muslims are exempt, but consideration should be shown by not eating in public between these times.

Price Guide

With so many options, prices vary enormously depending on the length and style of trip required, as well as the group size. An 8-day historical tour of the west of the country as described above is likely to cost in the region of £700 per person including flights. Longer itineraries perhaps involving remote trekking in the Kaçkar Mountains or an ascent of Mount Ararat (5,166m and the highest mountain in Turkey) cost in the region of £1,300 - £1,700 per person depending on the exact itinerary.

Regulations & Red Tape

A full passport, valid for 6 months after your return date, is required for travel to Turkey. British passport holders require a visa, obtainable on arrival. A single entry visa currently costs £10.

Useful Addresses

Embassy of the Republic of Turkey

43 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PA

Tel: 0207 393 0202

Web: www.turkishembassylondon.org

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1730

Turkish Tourism Office

4th Floor, 29-30 St James's Street, London

SW1A 1HB

Tel: 0207 839 7778

Web: www.gototurkey.co.uk

More Information

To discuss the travel possibilities that Turkey offers in greater detail and receive free independent advice on potential tour operators, please contact:

The Specialist Travel Consultancy

PO Box 514, Exeter

EX1 9DW

T: 0845 838 7667

E: info@thestc.co.uk

W: www.thestc.co.uk

