

TÜRKIYE

Know Before You Go

We're thrilled about your upcoming trip to Türkiye, a country steeped in history and rich in culture. To ensure you have a memorable journey, here's a list of tips and information to help you prepare:



Language: Turkish is the official language. While English is spoken in tourist areas, learning a few Turkish phrases like "Merhaba" (hello), "Teşekkür ederim" (thank you), and "Hoşça kal" (goodbye) will be appreciated.

Be aware of cultural customs: Türkiye is a secular country with a Muslim majority. Respect religious customs, especially during Ramadan. Seek permission before photographing people. Dress modestly in religious sites.

Prepare for transportation: Taxis and ride-sharing apps are common. Agree on fares in advance. Public transportation is reliable in major cities. For intercity travel, consider buses or domestic flights.

Dress appropriately: Türkiye is moderately conservative. Women should consider wearing modest clothing, covering shoulders and knees, especially in rural areas and when visiting mosques. Men should avoid shorts in religious sites. In mosques, shoes must be removed, and women may need to cover their heads.

Stay hydrated: Türkiye can be warm, especially in summer. Stay hydrated by drinking bottled water. Avoid tap water and be cautious with raw fruits and vegetables. Street food is a delightful part of Turkish culture, but eat from busy, reputable vendors to avoid stomach upsets.

Take precautions against the sun: The sun can be strong, particularly in coastal areas and during summer. Use sunscreen, wear a hat, and have sunglasses. Try to stay out of the sun during peak hours.



Money matters: The Turkish Lira is the currency. ATMs are widespread, but it's wise to carry some cash for small expenses and tips. Credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants, and shops.



Know Before You Go cont.

Safety considerations: Türkiye is generally safe, but exercise common caution. Be mindful of your belongings in crowded places and avoid isolated areas at night. Check travel advisories for current information.

What to Pack? For more tips on what to pack for Türkiye, you might find this blog post helpful: [Türkiye Travel Packing Guide](#).

General Questions: Check out both sections from the website, there is a lot of useful information for you.

[FAQ](#)
[Egypt Travel Guide](#)

Restaurant Reservations: Reach out to our Team TravelLab and we will be more than happy to help you.

Money Exchanger: Before travelling, please consult with your financial institution with regards to any foreign transaction fees should you withdraw money from an ATM or pay with your debit card. ATM machines are everywhere, we suggest withdrawing cash when you arrive, outside of customs, there are many ATMs. Your escort will direct you to the right location.

WhatsApp Group: We ask that you please download this app, so we can create a group chat with your guide and your TravelLab agent. This will be a priceless tool for everyone involved.

Tipping: Tipping is customary in Türkiye. Keep small denominations of Turkish Lira for tips. Suggested amounts are 10-15% in restaurants and a few Liras for hotel staff and taxi drivers.



Regarding tips for driver during your stay, we recommend \$3-5 USD per day (per person) for the drivers. They are with you the entire day and are a valuable asset during your stay. You will most likely have the same driver during your entire stay in each city. As far as your guide, a good rule of thumb is \$10-15 USD per day (per person). The guide is a crucial part of the experience, and will work arduously to make your journey unforgettable and seamless.

Alcohol: Alcoholic beverages are available in many restaurants, bars, and hotels. The legal drinking age is 18. Be respectful of local customs regarding alcohol consumption.

If you have a favorite wine or spirit, I suggest buying it at duty free either at your departure airport (please make sure, if you are connecting, to purchase it at your connecting airport as you might have to clear security and will be subject to the 3-1-1 rule or 100ml rule.

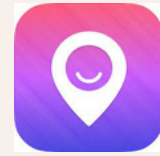
Please do not walk around with an open container or display any intoxicated behavior in public areas that do not serve alcohol.

Traffic: Traffic can be hectic. Be cautious when crossing streets, as pedestrian rules might differ from what you're used to.

Know Before You Go cont.

Temperatures: Türkiye experiences a variety of climates due to its diverse geography, so it's important to consider the region and time of year you are visiting.

- **Coastal Regions:** These areas have a Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. In summer (June–August), temperatures often exceed 30°C (86°F), especially in the south. Evenings are usually warm, but a light jacket or shawl may be handy for breezy nights. In winter (December–February), temperatures are milder, averaging around 10°C (50°F), but can be colder at night. Rain is more frequent in these months.
- **Istanbul and the Marmara Region:** This region, including Istanbul, experiences a temperate climate. Summers are warm with temperatures around 23°C to 30°C (73°F to 86°F), while winters are cool and often rainy, sometimes snowy, with temperatures ranging from 3°C to 8°C (37°F to 46°F). Layered clothing is advisable, as weather can change quickly.
- **Central Anatolia (including Cappadocia):** This region has a continental climate with hot, dry summers and cold, snowy winters. Summer temperatures can reach up to 30°C (86°F) but drop significantly at night, so it's wise to have a jacket or sweater. Winters can be very cold, with temperatures often below freezing and snowfall common, so warm clothing and good footwear are essential.
- **Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia:** These regions have more extreme climates. Summers are hot and dry, with temperatures sometimes exceeding 40°C (104°F), especially in the southeast. Winters are harsh, cold, and snowy, particularly in the eastern part. Heavy winter clothing is necessary if you're traveling here during the colder months.
- **Black Sea Region:** This area has a mild maritime climate. Summers are warm and humid, with temperatures around 20°C to 27°C (68°F to 80°F), while winters are cool and wet. Rainfall is common throughout the year, so packing an umbrella or raincoat is advisable.



Trip Plans App

TRIP PLANS App: The icon resembles a purple guitar pick with a smile. Download and create an account, you will be able to access your full itinerary including all uploaded docs. You can have access offline as well - and it has a convenient chat option as well. Let us know if you have any issues.

Credit Cards: Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted. Check with your bank about foreign transaction fees. For cash, currency exchange offices are available; carry your passport for transactions.

Weekends: The Turkish workweek typically runs from Monday to Friday. Most shops and services are open seven days a week, often until late.

Pharmacies: Pharmacies are widely available and often open 24/7. Prescription medications should be kept in their original containers. Check regulations for bringing certain medications into Türkiye.

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