

Türkiye Calling

By

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Abstract

One of the most visited countries of the world, Türkiye has enchanted the people from all over world. Türkiye has a unique geographic position, lying partly in Asia and partly in Europe. Its rich history, flora and fauna, and vibrant culture make it a perfect destination for tourists.

Introduction

Turkey, officially the Republic of Türkiye, is a country mainly in Anatolia in West Asia with a smaller part in South East Europe. Asian Turkey comprises of 97% of the territory, while European Turkey is only 3% of the remaining area. Both regions are separated by the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara and the Dardanelles.

It is surrounded by the Black Sea in the north, the Mediterranean Sea in the south, and the Aegean Sea in the west. The sea of Marmara is in the North West side.

Demography

Turkey is home to over 85 million people; most are ethnic Turks while ethnic Kurds are the largest ethnic minority. Officially a Secular State but has a Muslim majority population.

Ankara is Turkey's capital and second-largest city. Istanbul is its largest city, and its economic and financial center, as well as the largest city in Europe. Other major cities include Izmir, Bursa and Antalya.

Historic Significance

Human habitation began in the Late Paleolithic age. There are important Neolithic sites like Göbekli Tepe and some of the earliest farming areas.

Turkey was inhabited by various ancient peoples. Hattians were assimilated by the Anatolian peoples, which transitioned into cultural Hellenization following the conquests of Alexander the Great. It continued during the Roman and Byzantine eras.

The Turks began migrating into Anatolia in the 11th century, starting the Turkification process. The Seljuk Sultanate of Rum ruled Anatolia until the Mongol invasion in 1243, when it disintegrated into Turkish principalities. Beginning in 1299, the Ottomans united the principalities and expanded, Mehmed II conquered Istanbul in 1453.

During the reigns of Selim I and Suleiman the Ottoman Empire became a global power. From 1789 onwards, the empire saw major transformation, reforms, and centralization while its territory declined.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, persecution of Muslims during the Ottoman contraction and in the Russian Empire resulted in large-scale loss of life and mass migration into modern-day Turkey from the Balkans, Caucasus, and Crimea.

Under the control of the Three Pashas, the Ottoman Empire entered World War I in 1914, during which the Ottoman government committed genocides against its Armenian, Greek and Assyrian peoples.

Following Ottoman defeat, the Turkish War of Independence resulted in the abolition of the sultanate and the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne, resulting in the formation of The Republic in 1923, by the country's first president, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Turkey remained neutral during most of World War II, but was involved in the Korean War. Coups in 1960 and 1980 interrupted the transition to a multi-party system.

Turkey is an upper-middle-income and emerging country, its economy is the world's 18th-largest and is a unitary presidential republic. Turkey is a founding member of the OECD, G20, and Organization of Turkic States. Turkey is a regional power and an early member of NATO.

Climate

Turkey has coastal plains, a high central plateau, and various mountain ranges; its climate is temperate with harsher conditions in the interior. It has three biodiversity hotspots, Turkey is prone to frequent earthquakes and is highly vulnerable to climate change.

Turkey's varied climate—generally a dry semicontinental Mediterranean variant—is heavily influenced by the presence of the sea to the north, south, and west and by the mountains that cover much of the country.

The sea and the mountains produce contrasts between the interior and the coastal fringes. Several areas have the winter rainfall maximum typical of the Mediterranean regime, and summer drought is widespread.

However, the elevation of the country ensures that winters are often much colder than is common in Mediterranean climates, and there are significant contrasts between winter and summer temperatures.

Climatic Regions

Contrasts between the interior and the coasts produce six main climatic regions.

The Black Sea coastlands are the wettest region, with rain throughout the year and a winter maximum.

Thrace and Marmara are influenced by winter depressions passing through the straits, but summers are drier than along the Black Sea.

Annual precipitation ranges from 24 to 36 inches (610 to 914 mm), with a pronounced winter maximum.

January mean temperatures are close to freezing;

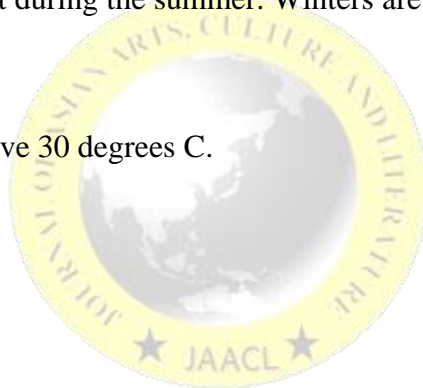
summers are hot, with July means above 25 °C.

The Aegean coastlands have a Mediterranean regime.

Mediterranean coastlands display characteristics similar to the Aegean but in a more intense form.

The southeast is dry and hot during the summer. Winters are cold, with January near freezing conditions.

July month is generally above 30 degrees C.



Topography

Turkey is divided into seven geographical regions: Marmara, Aegean, Black Sea, Central Anatolia, Eastern Anatolia, Southeastern Anatolia and the Mediterranean.

The inland Anatolian Plateau becomes increasingly rugged as it progresses eastward. Pamukkale terraces are made of travertine, a sedimentary rock deposited by mineral water from hot springs. The area is famous for a carbonate mineral left by the flowing of thermal spring water.

East Thrace, the European portion of Turkey, is located at the easternmost edge of the Balkans. It forms the border between Turkey and its neighbours Greece and Bulgaria.

The Asian part of the country mostly consists of the peninsula of Anatolia, which consists of a high central plateau with narrow coastal plains, between the Köroğlu and Pontic mountain ranges to the north and the Taurus Mountains to the south. The Lakes Region contains some of the largest lakes in Turkey such as Lake Beyşehir and Lake Eğirdir.

The Eastern Anatolia Region mostly corresponds to the western part of the Armenian highlands and contains Mount Ararat, Turkey's highest point at 5,137 metres (16,854 feet) and Lake Van, the largest lake in the country.

Eastern Turkey has a mountainous landscape and is home to the sources of rivers such as the Euphrates, Tigris and Aras. The Southeastern Anatolia Region includes the northern plains of Upper Mesopotamia.

Earthquakes happen frequently in Turkey. Almost the entire population lives in areas with varying seismic risk levels, with around 70% in highest or second-highest seismic areas.

After 1999 İzmit and 1999 Düzce Earthquakes North Anatolian Fault zone activity "is considered to be one of the most dangerous natural hazards in Turkey". Turkey–Syria earthquakes were the deadliest in contemporary Turkish history.

Turkey is sometimes unfavorably compared to Chile, a country with a similar developmental level that is more successful with earthquake preparedness.

Culture

Culturally, Turkey sits between East and West, drawing elements from both to produce its own unique blend.

The territory that now constitutes the republic has been subject to a striking range of cultural influences; these have left a rich archaeological legacy, still visible in the landscape, from the civilizations of Classical Europe and the Islamic Middle East.

Several locations of cultural significance have been designated UNESCO World Heritage sites, including historic areas around Istanbul, The Great Mosque, and the archaeological site of Troy are significant amongst others.

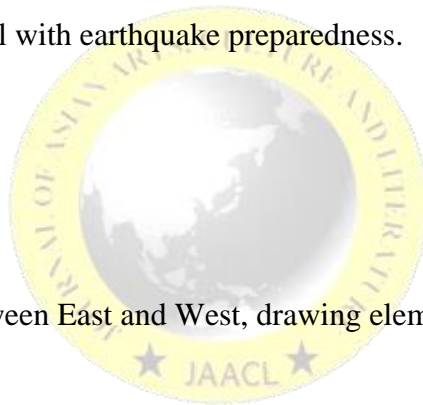




Image 1: Istanbul



Image 2: The Grand Bazaar

In addition to these, UNESCO recognized sites of both cultural and natural significance in Turkey:

Göreme National Park

Rock Sites of Cappadocia, which is known for the traces of Byzantine art extant amid its dramatic rocky landscape Hierapolis -Pamukkale, which is known for its terraced basins of unique mineral formations and petrified waterfalls, where ruins of the thermal baths and temples constructed there in the 2nd century BCE are still present.



Image 3: Pamukkale in Denizli Province



**Image 4: The nature sculpted formations
of Cappadocia**



Image 5: Hot Air Balloons, Cappadocia

Conclusion

A leading TV content exporter having 21 UNESCO World Heritage sites, 30 UNESCO intangible cultural heritage inscriptions, rich and diverse cuisine, it is the fourth most visited country in the world.

With a great history, rich culture, exotic markets with varied products like carpets, lamps, itar perfumes, wonderful heritage sites, hot air balloon ride and many more attractions it is must visit for tourists.

References

Wikipedia and other sources on internet

Images are taken from various sources of internet and from the personal visit to Turkey,

About the Author

Manisha Amol is a science graduate from Hindu College, DU. She pursued an MBA(Marketing) from IMT, Ghaziabad she has worked with many corporations at various levels and won many accolades for her achievements. Currently, she is working as a Director with a Startup. She is a bilingual author who has won numerous awards.

