

Your First Month of Everyday Life in Türkiye

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The first month in a new country is made up of dozens of small discoveries: where to buy groceries, how deliveries find your building, when the neighborhood market appears, and why everyone keeps asking whether you want a bag. This checklist helps you create a comfortable daily routine one step at a time.

Week One: Learn Your Immediate Neighborhood

- Save your full Turkish address exactly as it is officially written.
- Pin your building entrance on your map app; the street address may not lead a driver to the correct door.
- Locate the nearest grocery store, bakery, pharmacy, ATM, and public-transport stop.
- Find the nearest hospital or urgent-care option.
- Learn where household rubbish and recycling are collected.
- Introduce yourself to the building manager, **kapıcı**, or a trusted neighbor.
- Ask whether the building has an information or WhatsApp group.

Groceries and Household Shopping

Türkiye has large supermarkets, discount chains, neighborhood markets, small produce shops, bakeries, and weekly open-air markets called **pazar**. Prices and product selection can vary, so it is worth exploring more than one shop.

Useful shop names:

Turkish	What you will find
Market	General groceries
Bakkal	Small neighborhood grocery
Manav	Fruit and vegetables
Fırın	Bakery

Kasap	Butcher
Kuruyemişçi	Nuts, seeds, and dried fruit
Eczane	Pharmacy
Kırtasiye	Stationery and basic office supplies
Nalbur	Hardware and home-repair supplies

Bring reusable bags and keep a one-lira coin or suitable token handy for some shopping carts. At produce sections, watch what local shoppers do: in some stores you weigh and label produce yourself, while in others an employee does it.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies are marked **eczane**. Regular pharmacies are not generally open around the clock. Outside standard hours, look for the area's designated **nöbetçi eczane**—the pharmacy on duty. Closed pharmacies often display nearby duty-pharmacy information, and municipal or provincial health sites may publish current lists.

Useful phrase:

Nöbetçi eczane nerede?
Where is the pharmacy on duty?

Deliveries and Addresses

Delivery drivers may telephone for directions even when the address is correct. Keep a short Turkish description ready with your neighborhood, street, building number, floor, apartment number, and a recognizable landmark.

Example:

Kuğulu Park'a yakın. Bina numarası 10. Üçüncü kat, daire 6.
It is near Kuğulu Park. Building number 10. Third floor, apartment 6.

Never share one-time bank codes, passwords, or unrelated identity information with a caller claiming to be a courier.

Money and Payments

Cards are widely used in cities, but carry some cash for markets, small businesses, tips, building fees, or temporary card-system problems.

Ask whether your foreign bank charges conversion or withdrawal fees.

When offered a choice of currencies at a card terminal or ATM, understand the exchange-rate implications before accepting.

Keep receipts for rent, deposits, utilities, warranties, and major purchases.

Avoid carrying your passport daily unless you actually need it; use the appropriate identification for your circumstances.

Home and Building Routines

Learn how your **kombi** or heating system works.

Save the building manager's and landlord's numbers.

Clarify how and when aidat (the monthly building fee) is paid, as well as what is included in the aidat.

Ask before drilling, renovating, or making changes to a rental.

Check building notices near the entrance or elevator.

Learn the quiet-time expectations of your building.

Start Building Community

Daily life becomes easier when you have a few people you can ask for help. Start small:

Greet shopkeepers and neighbors.

Return to the same café, bakery, or produce shop.

Join a class, walking group, volunteer activity, or language exchange.

Learn the names of people who regularly help you.

Keep a short list of trusted local contacts rather than relying entirely on social media recommendations.

Everyday Turkish to Learn First

Turkish	English
Merhaba.	Hello.
Kolay gelsin.	May your work go easily.

Teşekkür ederim.	Thank you.
Kart geçiyor mu?	Do you accept cards?
Poşet istemiyorum.	I don't need a bag.
Fiş alabilir miyim?	May I have the receipt?
Yardım eder misiniz?	Could you help me?
Anlamadım.	I didn't understand.
Biraz daha yavaş, lütfen.	A little slower, please.
Adresi mesajla göndereceğim.	I will send the address by message.

End-of-Month Check-In

- I know how to reach emergency help by calling 112.
- I have an emergency contact saved under **Acil Durum**.
- I understand my regular household bills and due dates.
- I know where to find an open pharmacy after hours.
- I have at least one local person I can contact for practical help.
- I have found one place that already feels like part of my routine.

Tiffles in Türkiye: Practical guides and reflections from building a life in Türkiye.

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