

First-Time Türkiye Travel Guide

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Türkiye can give you ancient cities, neighborhood breakfasts, turquoise coastlines, mountain roads, crowded bazaars, and quiet cups of tea—sometimes in the same trip. This guide covers the practical details so you can focus more on the experience.

Before Booking

Check passport validity and entry requirements for your nationality using an official Turkish government or consular source.

If a visa is required, use Türkiye's official e-Visa site: <https://www.eviza.gov.tr/>

Choose fewer destinations than you think you can fit in. Türkiye is large, and travel times can be deceptive.

Check seasonal weather for each destination rather than assuming the whole country has the same climate.

Confirm whether your travel insurance covers medical treatment, evacuation, cancellations, and the activities you plan to do.

Keep digital and offline copies of important documents.

A Simple Itinerary Test

For every transfer, include:

- Time to check out and reach the station or airport

- Security and check-in time

- The actual flight, bus, train, ferry, or drive

- Time to collect luggage

- Travel from the arrival point to your accommodation

A one-hour flight can consume half a day. Leave unscheduled space for delays, rest, and discoveries.

Accommodation Questions

Is the property close to the places I plan to visit or to useful transport?

Is reception staffed when I arrive?

Are there stairs, hills, or accessibility limitations?

Does the room have air conditioning or heating appropriate for the season?

Is breakfast included?

Can the property store luggage?

What is the cancellation policy?

Has the booking platform or property explained any required registration or identification process?

Money and Connectivity

Tell your bank about international travel if required.

Check foreign-transaction and ATM fees.

Bring more than one working payment method and store them separately.

Carry a modest amount of Turkish lira for small purchases or unexpected card problems.

Arrange roaming, an eSIM, or a local mobile option compatible with your device and trip length.

Download offline maps and save accommodation addresses in Turkish.

Decline help from strangers at an ATM, shield your PIN, and read the exchange-rate screen carefully before approving a withdrawal.

What to Pack

Comfortable shoes with good grip

Layers suitable for changing weather

A modest layer or scarf for religious sites

Prescription medication in original packaging

Copies of prescriptions or a physician's letter when appropriate

Sunscreen and a refillable water bottle

Portable battery and charging cables

Plug adapter if your devices do not use Türkiye's Type C/F sockets

Small day bag that closes securely

Reusable shopping bag

At active mosques, follow posted guidance, dress respectfully, speak quietly, and avoid visiting during prayer when access is restricted.

Transportation

Transport systems and payment cards vary by city. Research the official local transit system before arrival. For taxis:

- Use an official taxi stand or a reputable booking method.

- Make sure the meter is used when applicable.

- Keep the destination written in Turkish.

- Follow the route on your phone when practical.

- Ask for a receipt if you need one.

When comparing intercity flights, buses, and trains, count the whole door-to-door trip—not only the scheduled travel time. Include travel to the airport or station, check-in and security, waiting or transfer time, luggage collection, and the final trip to your accommodation.

Useful Travel Apps

Download and set up the apps you expect to use before arrival, then save key addresses while you have reliable Wi-Fi.

Google Maps — Save your accommodation and important places, check walking, driving, and public-transport routes, and download map areas for offline use. Offline mode does not provide public-transport or walking directions, live traffic, or alternate driving routes, so save or screenshot important steps in advance.

Uber — In Ankara, Uber can be used to request a local licensed taxi. Confirm the driver's name and vehicle plate before getting in, review the displayed fare information and payment method, and remember that available ride options vary by city.

EGO CEP'TE — Ankara's official public-transport app shows bus stops, routes, schedules, live bus-arrival information, Metro and Ankaray details, and trip-planning options. It can also display Başkentkart balance and usage information and supports balance loading. Search for the official EGO Genel Müdürlüğü app in your app store.

App data and arrival estimates can be delayed or incomplete. Check posted signs and official service notices, especially for airport transfers, late-night travel, and holiday schedules.

Food and Everyday Courtesy

- Tap water practices vary; ask your accommodation what is recommended locally.

- Tell restaurant staff clearly about serious allergies, but understand that cross-contact may still occur.

- Keep small change for minor purchases and tips.

A few Turkish words go a long way: **merhaba** (hello), **lütfen** (please), and **teşekkür ederim** (thank you).

Ask permission before photographing people.

Tipping in Türkiye

Tipping is not mandatory in Türkiye, but it is appreciated for good service. Around 10% is typical in restaurants and cafés. Check the bill first to see whether a service charge has already been included; if it has, an additional tip is optional.

Safety and Emergencies

Save **112**, Türkiye's unified number for ambulance, police, fire, and other emergencies.

Save your accommodation's telephone number and address.

Keep your insurer's emergency-assistance number available offline.

Know the location of the nearest appropriate medical facility.

Check official travel and weather alerts during your trip.

Stay aware of belongings in crowded transport, markets, and tourist areas.

If you need medical language support, ask for the hospital's **International Patient Unit** or call the International Patient Support Line at **444 47 28**. Availability and charges for medical care or transport depend on the circumstances and your coverage.

Useful Travel Turkish

Turkish	English
İngilizce konuşuyor musunuz?	Do you speak English?
... nasıl gidebilirim?	How can I get to ...?
Ne kadar?	How much?
Kart geçiyor mu?	Do you accept cards?
Rezervasyonum var.	I have a reservation.
Yardım eder misiniz?	Could you help me?
Kayboldum.	I am lost.
Doktora ihtiyacım var.	I need a doctor.
Hesap, lütfen.	The bill, please.

Final 24-Hour Check

Passport and required entry documents
Tickets and reservations available offline
Insurance details
Bank cards and Turkish lira
Medication
Phone, charger, and battery
Airport or station transfer plan
Accommodation address in Turkish
Emergency contacts

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