



Republic Of Turkey



- Turkey is at the northeast end of the Mediterranean Sea in southeast Europe and southwest Asia. To the north is the Black Sea and to the west is the Aegean Sea. Its neighbors are Greece and Bulgaria to the west, Russia, Ukraine, and Romania to the north and northwest (through the Black Sea), Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Iran to the east, and Syria and Iraq to the south. Turkey is transcontinental, meaning it spans two continents. Turkey in Europe comprises an area about equal to the state of Massachusetts. Turkey in Asia is about the size of Texas. Its center is a treeless plateau rimmed by mountains.
- The government is a Republican Parliamentary Democracy.
- Ankara is the capital. The largest city is Istanbul. Istanbul, initially Constantinople, was the capital of the Byzantine Empire and the Ottoman Empire.
- The official language is Turkish.
- Industries include textiles, food processing, autos, electronics, mining (coal, chromite, copper, boron), steel, petroleum, construction, lumber and paper.
- Natural resources are antimony, coal, chromium, mercury, copper, borate, sulfur, iron ore, arable land, hydropower.
- Exports are apparel, foodstuffs, textiles, metal manufactures and transport equipment.
- Mustafa Kemal, celebrated by the Turkish State as a Turkish World War I hero and later known as "Ataturk" or "father of the Turks," led the founding of the Republic of Turkey on October 29, 1923 after the collapse of the 600-year-old Ottoman Empire and a three-year war of independence.
- Turkey's climate is temperate with hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. The weather is harsher in the interior of the country.

Interesting Facts About Turkey

- The famous Trojan Wars took place in Western Turkey, around the site where the Trojan horse rests today.
- St. Peter's Church in Antioch is often called the first christian church built by man.
- The oldest known human settlement is in Catalhoyuk, Turkey (7th Millenium B.C.)
- Turkey is home to two of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The first is the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus. The second is the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, in southwestern Turkey.

- Turks introduced coffee to Europe.
- Turks gave the Dutch their famous tulips.
- Istanbul is the only city in the world built on two continents.
- Anatolia is the birthplace of historic legends, such as Homer (the poet), King Midas, Herodotus (the father of history), and St. Paul the Apostle.
- The number of species of flowers in Turkey is approximately 9,000, of which 3,000 are endemic (native to Turkey only).
- The oldest known shipwreck on Earth was found and excavated in Uluburun near Kas, in the Mediterranean region of Turkey.
- The highest peak in Turkey is Mount Agri. It is also said to be the place where Noah's Ark came to rest.
- Writing was first used by people in ancient Anatolia. The first clay tablets in the ruins of Assyrian Karum (Merchant Colony) date back to 1950 B.C.



Turkey is famous for its rugs and carpets. Pictured is a rug designed with the double knotting technique called the Gordian Knot.



This is an ancient Amphitheatre in Anatolia.