



IAESTE App: Country Information

General information:

Country: Turkey

Capital: Ankara

Population: 80 Million

National language(s): Turkish

Currency: Turkish Lira

Time zone: GMT+03:00

Voltage: 220 V

Phone country code: +90

Cities with IAESTE LCs: İstanbul, Ankara, Kocaeli and İzmir

Climate: *(What's the average weather like during each season?)*

For Istanbul;

Winter: Around 7 °C

Spring: Around 13 °C

Summer: 22 °C

Fall: 15 °C

Travel tips:

Fun facts about the country: *(around 5, a few sentences each):*

- İstanbul is said to be the center of the world considering its feature including both European and Asian sides.
- Santa Claus is from Turkey. Saint Nicholas was born far from the North Pole, in Patara. And he's not the only saint with connections to Turkey — the Virgin Mary's resting place could be near Ephesus, while Saint Paul was from Tarsus in the south. Other Biblical figures include the Prophet Abraham, born in Şanlıurfa. And after the deluge, Noah may have run his ark aground at Mount Ararat.
- You might find chicken in your dessert. The signature Ottoman treat is tavuk göğsü, or chicken breast pudding. It's a strange blend of boiled chicken, milk, and sugar, dusted with cinnamon. And it's delicious. Look for it on menus across the country.
- It has one of the world's oldest and biggest malls. Istanbul's Grand Bazaar, or Kapalı Çarşı, dates to 1455 and was established shortly after the Ottoman conquest of

Constantinople. Over the centuries it has grown into a warren of 61 streets lined by more than 3,000 shops and currently occupies a nearly incomprehensible 333,000 square feet. You'll never possibly be able to explore it all, but that doesn't keep people from trying — according to Travel + Leisure, the Grand Bazaar was the world's #1 attraction in 2014, drawing over 91 million people.

- One of the Mediterranean's primary sea turtle nesting beaches is here. İztuzu Beach, just west of Fethiye, is a major breeding ground for the endangered loggerhead sea turtle. The turtles arrive between May and October, climbing ashore at the exact site of their birth to lay a new generation of eggs. The beach sees around 300 nests dug each year, and government regulations have succeeded in balancing tourism with the need to protect and conserve this precious natural resource. Just down the coast, Patara is the longest beach on the Mediterranean (12 miles of pristine white sand dunes).
- Turkey gifted tulips to the world (you're welcome, Netherlands). It's uncertain where the first tulips were grown, but what is known is that the Ottomans popularized the flower and facilitated their introduction to Europe. A simultaneous export? Tulipmania. The seeds of the world's first speculative bubble were sown when a Flemish ambassador to the 16th-century court of Süleyman the Magnificent brought back the bulbous flowers to Holland. Other commodities for which Europe owes a debt of gratitude to Turkey are coffee and cherries.

Cities/towns that you recommend visiting: *(short description for each, pointing out the most important landmarks people should visit):*

- Ayasofya: Renowned as one of the most beautiful buildings in the world, the spellbinding Byzantine glory of the Aya Sofya Museum (Hagia Sophia) is not only one of the top things to do in Istanbul, but also in Turkey. The staggering bulk of its exterior is rimmed by the delicate minarets added after the Ottoman conquest, while the sumptuous and cavernous frescoed interior is a grand reminder of old Constantinople's might and power.
- Kapadokya: The surreal swooping rock valleys of Cappadocia are every photographer's dream. Cliff ridges and hill crests are home to rippling panoramas of wave-like rock or wacky-shaped pinnacles that have been formed by millennia of wind and water action. And if you don't feel like hiking for the views, this is one of the world's top destinations to take a hot air balloon ride.
- Pamukkale: One of Turkey's most famous natural wonders, the pure white travertine terraces of Pamukkale ("Cotton Castle" in English) cascade down the slope looking like an out-of-place snowfield amid the green landscape. Although the travertines are themselves a highlight of a Turkey trip, the vast and rambling ruins of Roman Hierapolis, an ancient spa town, lie on the top of this calcite hill, providing another reason to visit.
- Mount Nemrut: The top sightseeing drawcard for Eastern Turkey, Mount Nemrut's summit funerary mound is scattered with the broken remnants of once mammoth statues, which guarded it. This weird and lonely place has to be one of Turkey's most peculiar archaeological sites.
- Aspendos-Antalya: Just south of Antalya, the jaw-dropping mammoth bulk of the Roman Theater of Aspendos celebrates the pomp and ceremony of Marcus Aurelius' rule. Considered the finest surviving example of a classical age theater still standing in the world, it is one of antiquity's star attractions. Although the theater is the main reason for a visit here - and for most visitors on a half-day trip from nearby Antalya or Side the theater is all they see - there are more ruins to explore over a vast hilly area if you have time.

- Ölüdeniz: Impossibly turquoise-blue water. Check. Lush green forest tumbling down a cliff to a white sand beach. Check. The sheltered inlet of Ölüdeniz, just a short journey from Fethiye, is Turkey's most famous beach, and with scenery that might as well have fallen off a perfect postcard, it's easy to see why its popularity hasn't waned. If the beach gets too crowded, it's time to take to the skies and experience the stunning aerial views on a tandem paragliding dive off the summit of mighty Babadağ Mountain, which rises up behind the shore. Oh, did we mention that Ölüdeniz is one of the world's top paragliding destinations? Check.
- Ephesus: Not to be missed, the mighty ruin of Ephesus is a city of colossal monuments and marble-columned roads. One of the most complete, still-standing Roman cities in the Mediterranean region, this is the place to experience what life must have been like during the golden age of the Roman Empire. A sightseeing trip here will take at least half a day to cover the major highlights and longer, if you really want to explore, so make sure that you plan your visit so you don't feel rushed.
- Topkapı Palace: Sumptuous beyond belief, the Topkapı Palace takes you into the fantastical, opulent world of the sultans. It was from here that the sultans of the Ottoman Era carved out an empire that would extend up into Europe and down through the Middle East and into Africa. The interiors, with their decadently exuberant tiling and lavish jeweled decor, are an unforgettable peek into the Ottoman's power base. The surrounding public gardens were once the sole domain of the Royal Court but are now open to the public and provide a tranquil, green respite from the city streets.

Other places you recommend visiting: *(short description for each. This can include national parks, historical landmarks, beaches, mountains, museums or anything else):*

All of them are pointed out above.

Airports with budget airlines *(Wizz Air, Ryanair, EasyJet, Transavia, Norwegian):*
Atlas Global

Website(s) with travel connections inside the country *(train, bus, public transportation, ridesharing):* "Trafi" app is generally rated enough for the transportation

Traditional food and drinks you recommend trying: *(short description for each)*

Every part of the country have their own traditional dishes but if we try to sum up; Kebap, lahmacun, pide, yaprak sarma, mantı, köfte, karnıyarık, pilav, mücver, cacık and so on.

About the drinks, Rakı is the most common one with alcohol, and also Ayran can be said as a traditional one.

Tipping in the restaurants: *(is it common or unusual, how much should you leave?)*

It is common we can say but it is not mandatory, we generally leave around 3-5 TL.

Discounts for transportation *(do you know about any way of getting discounts for transportation? - e.g. in Belgium is cheap train Go Pass ticket if you are under 26, but you have to ask for it):*

When you obtain a student "Istanbul Card", you can travel with a great amount of discount.

What is the common greeting in your country *(do you only shake hands, or you kiss on both cheeks...?)*:

We like to hug and kiss on both cheeks ☺ (of course if we know each other well and like each other enough ☺)

Emergencies - numbers:

Police: 155

Ambulance: 112

Any other interesting or useful information:

Please also attach ~10 pictures with the most beautiful places from your country and any nice group pictures from your summer reception. Make sure the authors of the pictures agree with you sharing them. If you search for images on Google, first go to 'Advanced search' and set the usage rights to 'free to use or share'. You can also try www.pixabay.com for images that are free to be used.











