

# Turkey

**Continent:** Europe

**Languages Spoken:** Turkish

**Population:** 85,000,000

**Currency:** Turkish Lira (TRY)

**Area:** 783,356

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Hagia Sophia', 'writeup': 'A historic architectural marvel in Istanbul, originally a cathedral, later a mosque, and now a museum.'}
- {'name': 'Cappadocia', 'writeup': 'Famous for its unique rock formations, cave dwellings, and hot air balloon rides.'}
- {'name': 'Topkapi Palace', 'writeup': 'The former palace of Ottoman sultans, located in Istanbul, showcasing imperial collections.'}
- {'name': 'Pamukkale', 'writeup': 'Known for its white travertine terraces and thermal waters.'}
- {'name': 'Ephesus', 'writeup': 'Ancient Greco-Roman city with well-preserved ruins including the Library of Celsus.'}

## Head of State / Government:

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Whirling Dervishes Festival', 'writeup': 'A spiritual Sufi ceremony featuring the famous spinning dance, held annually in Konya.'}
- {'name': 'Istanbul Film Festival', 'writeup': 'An international film festival showcasing global and Turkish cinema.'}
- {'name': 'Oil Wrestling Festival', 'writeup': 'Traditional Turkish wrestling event held in Edirne, known as one of the oldest sports festivals.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Turkish cuisine is rich and diverse, featuring dishes like kebabs, mezes, baklava, and Turkish tea, blending Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, and Central Asian flavors.

## Brief History:

Turkey, historically known as Anatolia, has been home to ancient civilizations including the Hittites, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, and Ottomans. The Republic of Turkey was founded in 1923 by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk following the fall of the Ottoman Empire.

## Important People:

- Mustafa Kemal Atatürk - Founder of modern Turkey
- Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Current President
- Orhan Pamuk - Nobel Prize-winning author

- Sabiha Gökçen - First female combat pilot
- Mevlânâ Rumi - Renowned 13th-century poet and mystic

**Current Conflicts:**

Turkey is involved in regional conflicts including tensions in Syria, disputes over Cyprus, and issues related to Kurdish groups.

**Youtube Links:**

- Discover Turkey: A Journey Through History and Culture
- Top 10 Places to Visit in Turkey
- Turkish Cuisine Explained: Traditional Foods and Recipes
- The History of Turkey in 10 Minutes
- Understanding Turkey's Geopolitical Role