

Turkey

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Türkiye spans two continents, with Istanbul straddling Europe and Asia across the Bosphorus. The country's landscape shifts just as dramatically: Aegean and Mediterranean coastlines, the volcanic valleys of Cappadocia, and the mountains of the east all sit within a few hours of each other.

Layers of history run deep — Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman rule each left behind cities, ruins, and mosques that are still in daily use. Türkiye suits travelers drawn to history and food in equal measure, and works well as either a city-break destination or a longer trip mixing a coastal stay with inland sightseeing.

Money & payments

Currency

CURRENCY	1 TRY	1 TRY
₺	0.018 EUR	0.0198 USD
TRY	1 EUR = 55.501 TRY	1 USD = 50.419 TRY

Cards widely accepted

The Turkish lira has lost value quickly in recent years, so double-check prices rather than relying on memory from a past trip. Cards are widely accepted in cities and tourist areas, but small shops, markets, and some transport still expect cash. ATMs are common; withdrawing larger amounts less often usually reduces fixed withdrawal fees.

Typical costs

Rough prices in touristic areas, per person

Hotel (double room, per night) mid-range hotel, room for two per night (TRY)	1,500 – 3,500 ₺ €27 – €63
Dinner (mid-range restaurant) mid-range restaurant, one person, no drinks (TRY)	300 – 700 ₺ €5 – €13
Inexpensive meal street food or a simple lokanta meal (TRY)	100 – 200 ₺ €2 – €4
Local beer 0.5L at a bar (TRY)	100 – 180 ₺ €2 – €3
Coffee Turkish coffee or espresso in a café (TRY)	60 – 120 ₺ €1 – €2
Water 0.5L, shop (TRY)	10 – 20 ₺ €0 – €0
Transit ticket single city fare with a transit card (TRY)	25 – 35 ₺ €0 – €1
Taxi (per km) per km (TRY)	25 – 35 ₺ €0 – €1

Tipping

Restaurant 5-10%, check if service charge already added	Expected
Bar round up	Optional
Taxi round up	Optional
Hotel small note per bag/day	Optional
Tour guide 5-10%	Expected

A service charge is sometimes already included at tourist restaurants — check the bill before adding more. Rounding up is standard for taxis, and tour guides are usually tipped directly at the end of a tour.

Electricity

Türkiye uses Type C and F plugs at 230 V / 50 Hz — standard European sockets; most phone and laptop chargers work without an adapter.

ELECTRICITY



Type C

ELECTRICITY



Type F

230 V · 50 Hz

Language

Turkish is the official language, written in the Latin alphabet since a 1928 reform, so navigation signage is easy to read even without speaking Turkish. English is common in Istanbul, coastal resorts, and major tourist sites, but far less so in smaller inland towns.

Useful phrases

Hello	Merhaba
Thank you	Teşekkür ederim
Please	Lütfen
Excuse me	Affedersiniz
Yes	Evet
No	Hayır
How much?	Bu ne kadar?
Cheers	Şerefe!
Help	İmdat!
Goodbye	Hoşça kalın
Do you speak English?	İngilizce biliyor musunuz?
Sorry	Üzgüünüm
Where is...?	...nerede?
I don't understand	Anlamıyorum
The menu, please	Menü, lütfen
The bill, please	Hesap, lütfen

Staying connected

Buying a Turkish SIM or eSIM requires showing a passport, and coverage is strong nationwide, including most rural areas. Travelers bringing a foreign phone should know Türkiye registers device IMEI numbers: a phone used with a Turkish SIM for more than about 120 days can be blocked unless registered with authorities, though this rarely affects a standard vacation-length trip.

Safety & emergencies

Türkiye is generally safe for tourists, with the main risks being petty theft in crowded areas like the Grand Bazaar and Istiklal Street, and occasional taxi overcharging — agree on a fare or insist on the meter. The country sits on active fault lines and has experienced major earthquakes, most recently in 2023; check local guidance if traveling to the affected southeastern provinces. Border areas near Syria and Iraq carry additional travel advisories and are outside the typical tourist route.

Emergency numbers

GENERAL EMERGENCY	POLICE	AMBULANCE	FIRE BRIGADE
112	155	112	110

Health

Tap water is chlorinated and generally not harmful, but most residents and visitors drink bottled or filtered water, which is inexpensive and widely available. Pharmacies (eczane), marked with a red or green cross sign, are common and can advise on minor ailments; larger towns have a rotating 24-hour pharmacy. No special vaccinations are required for entry, though routine vaccines should be up to date.

Visas & entry

Entry requirements vary significantly by nationality. Citizens of the US, UK, and most EU countries can enter visa-free for short tourist stays, typically up to 90 days; citizens of countries such as India, Mexico, and South Africa instead need an e-Visa purchased online in advance through Türkiye's official e-Visa portal before departure, and a smaller number of nationalities need a full visa. Do not use third-party sites that charge extra for this service.

> Visa and entry requirements change frequently. Verify current requirements with the official immigration authority or your country's embassy before travel.

Etiquette

Remove shoes when entering a home, and dress modestly at mosques — shoulders and knees covered for everyone, with a headscarf for women; scarves are usually available to borrow at entrances. Avoid visiting mosques during Friday midday prayers unless there specifically for prayer.

Being offered tea is a common gesture of hospitality, and accepting it is polite even for a short visit. Elders are treated with particular respect, including in small courtesies like being served first.

Holidays & opening hours

Religious holidays — Ramadan Bayramı (Eid al-Fitr) and Kurban Bayramı (Eid al-Sacrifice) — shift each year on the lunar calendar and are the busiest domestic travel periods; book transport and hotels well ahead if traveling during them.

Public holidays

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Apr 23	National Sovereignty and Children's Day
May 1	Labour Day
May 19	Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day
Aug 30	Victory Day
Oct 29	Republic Day
movable — 3 days, follows the Islamic lunar calendar (shifts ~11 days earlier each year)	Eid al-Fitr (Ramazan Bayramı)
movable — 4 days, follows the Islamic lunar calendar (shifts ~11 days earlier each year)	Eid al-Adha (Kurban Bayramı)

Most shops, including many in tourist areas, stay open daily with long hours; malls typically stay open every day of the week.

Getting around

- By bus: intercity coaches are extensive, comfortable, and often the most practical way between cities not connected by high-speed rail. Major operators sell tickets online.
- By air: domestic flights are common and often the fastest way to cover Türkiye's size, especially reaching the east or the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts.
- By train: high-speed rail (YHT) connects Ankara with Istanbul and a few other cities, but the network is limited outside these routes.
- By ferry: in Istanbul, ferries are a practical and scenic way to cross the Bosphorus and reach the Princes' Islands, often faster than the bridges at busy times.

Driving

- Key rules: mountainous roads and mixed local driving styles call for extra caution, especially at night and on rural roads.
- Tolls and vignettes: no paper vignette; toll motorways and Bosphorus bridges use the electronic HGS tag system rather than cash booths — check that a rental car is equipped, since unpaid tolls can lead to a fine.
- Congestion: Istanbul traffic is heavy for most of the day; many visitors avoid driving there and rely on public transport or ferries instead.
- Parking: metered street parking is common in city centers, often paid via an app or a nearby kiosk.
- Fuel: stations are typically full-service, with an attendant pumping the fuel. Petrol is labeled Kurşunsuz Benzin; diesel is labeled Motorin.

URBAN	RURAL	MOTORWAY
50 km/h	90 km/h	120 km/h

PETROL	DIESEL
Kurşunsuz Benzin	Motorin

Drive on the right

No motorway vignette needed

No paper vignette. Toll motorways (otoyol) and the Bosphorus bridges use the electronic HGS/OGS tag system — rental cars are usually already equipped, but confirm with the rental company since unpaid tolls can trigger a fine.

Food & drink

Breakfast (kahvaltı) is a substantial, shared spread of cheeses, olives, tomatoes, cucumbers, honey, jam, and bread, often lasting a leisurely hour on weekends. Lunch and dinner both commonly start with meze, small shared plates, before a grilled meat or stew main course.

Regional cooking varies widely: the Aegean coast leans on olive oil and vegetables, the southeast is known for spicier kebabs and rich stews, and the Black Sea region has its own cornbread and cabbage-based dishes. Turkish tea is drunk constantly throughout the day in small tulip-shaped glasses, while Turkish coffee, thick and unfiltered, is more of an occasional treat, often followed by having your fortune read from the grounds.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Simit
A circular, sesame-crusted bread sold by street vendors, a common quick breakfast or snack.

LUNCH

Meze
A spread of small cold and hot starters shared at the table, common before the main course.

Pide
A boat-shaped flatbread topped with cheese, meat, or egg, often called Turkish pizza.

DINNER

Kebab · Kebap
Grilled or roasted meat served many ways nationwide, from skewered şiş kebap to sliced döner.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Lahmacun
A thin, crispy flatbread topped with minced meat, herbs, and vegetables, rolled up to eat.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Baklava
Layers of thin pastry filled with chopped nuts and soaked in sweet syrup.

Turkish Delight · Lokum
A soft, gel-like sweet flavored with rosewater, citrus, or nuts, often dusted with powdered sugar.

DRINKS

Turkish Tea · Çay
Strong black tea served in small tulip-shaped glasses, drunk throughout the day.

Turkish Coffee · Türk Kahvesi
Finely ground coffee simmered unfiltered, served in small cups with the grounds settled at the bottom.

Ayran
A savory, salted yogurt drink served cold, a common accompaniment to grilled meat.

Turkey – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

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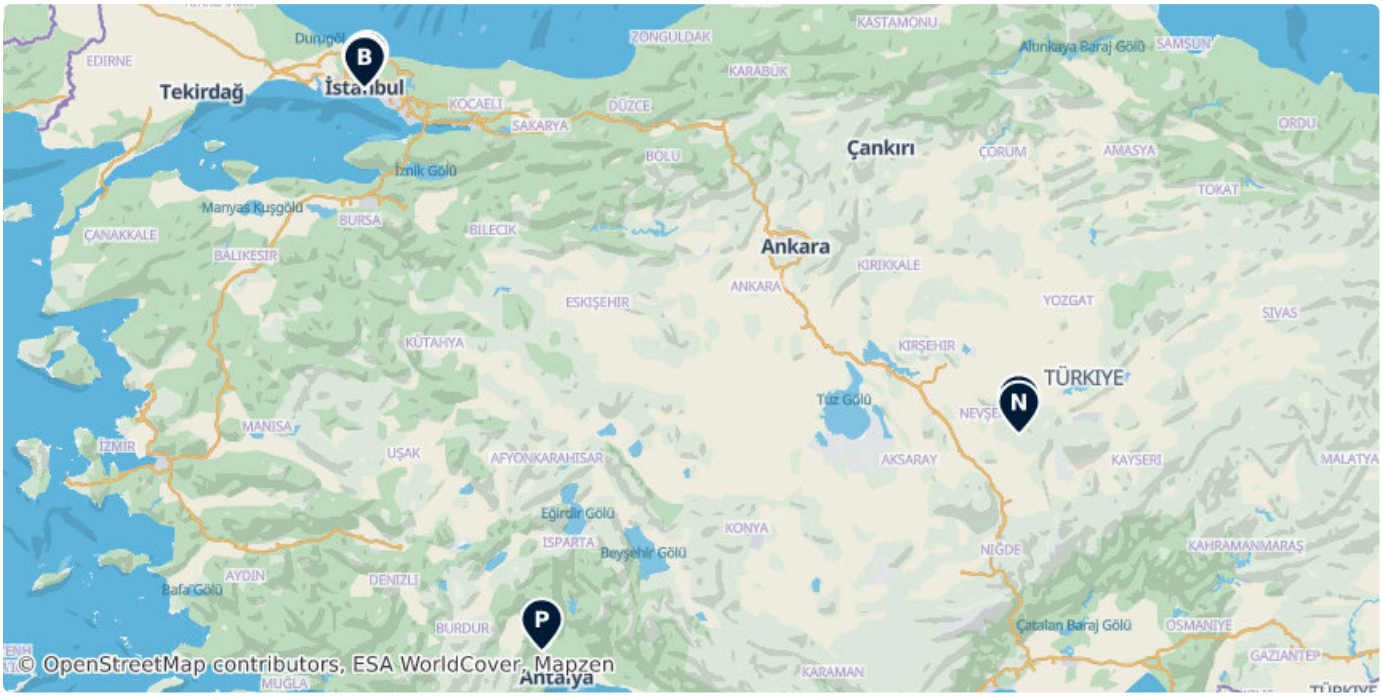
Where to explore

Istanbul is the typical starting point for most visits, with Byzantine and Ottoman landmarks packed into its historic peninsula and a food and nightlife scene that spans two continents. Ankara, the capital, is quieter and more government-focused, worth a stop mainly for its museums and Atatürk's mausoleum.

On the coast, Antalya pairs Mediterranean beach resorts with a well-preserved old town and easy access to ancient ruins like Aspendos. Inland, the Göreme Historical National Park protects Cappadocia's cave churches and fairy-chimney rock formations, best known for its sunrise hot-air balloon flights. Ephesus, near the town of Selçuk, and the white travertine terraces of Pamukkale are two more major highlights further west, both easy day trips or short stops from the Aegean coast.

Turkey's Absolute Essentials

This collection explores Turkey's architectural legacy, from the imperial heart of Istanbul to the prehistoric sites of Anatolia. It features the Hagia Sophia, Topkapı Palace, and the Blue Mosque, showcasing the height of Byzantine and Ottoman design. The list includes the subterranean Cistern of Philoxenos, the rock-cut dwellings of Cappadocia's Zelve Open-Air Museum, and historic structures like the Column of Constantine. From the 19th-century Camondo Stairs to the Paleolithic Karain Cave near Antalya, these sites offer a timeline of human civilization spanning over 25,000 years.





A Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque

Historic architectural masterpiece that has served as a church, mosque, and museum, renowned for its Byzantine architecture and cultural significance.

Ayasofya Meydanı 1, 34122 İstanbul (41.00860, 28.97983)

Mo–Su 09:00–19:30

muze.gen.tr/muze-detay/ayasofya, +90 212 522 1750



B Blue Mosque

Historic Ottoman mosque known for its six minarets and intricate blue tile interior decoration. It is an active place of worship and a significant example of Ottoman architecture.

Atmeydanı Caddesi 7, 34122 İstanbul (41.00536, 28.97673)

Mo–Su 08:30–12:15, 14:00–16:45, 17:45–18:30

geziyerler.com/sultan-ahmet-camii, +90 212 518 1319



C Topkapı Palace

Historic Ottoman palace and former royal residence featuring centuries-old architecture and extensive imperial collections, now functioning as a museum and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Cankurtaran Mh., 34122 Istanbul, Turkey (41.01238, 28.98362)

Mo–Su 09:30–15:30

muze.gen.tr



D Sultan Ahmet Square

Historic square featuring notable monuments and remnants of an ancient sports and social center. It reflects both Byzantine and Ottoman architectural influences.

6 At Meydanı Caddesi, Fatih 34122, Turkey (41.00621, 28.97566)

ktb.gov.tr/EN-113785/sultanahmet-blue-mosque.html



E Cistern of Philoxenos

Byzantine underground cistern featuring 224 columns and notable Byzantine architecture. It serves as an archaeological site and museum showcasing ancient water storage engineering.

İmran Öktem Cad.Binbirdirek Mah., Sultanahmet/Fatih, Istanbul, Turkey (41.00761, 28.97442)

binbirdirek.com, +905332041001



F New Mosque

Completed in the 17th century, this large mosque features 66 domes, a nice courtyard and two minarets.

Bankacilar 1 (41.01689, 28.97278)



G Column of Constantine

There used to be a statue of Constantine the Great atop of this Roman column.

2/1 Vezirhanı Caddesi, Fatih 34120, Turkey (41.00854, 28.97130)



H Camondo Stairs

This famous stairway was built around 1880 by a wealthy man named Abraham Salomon Camondo. It mixes Neo-Baroque and early Art Nouveau styles.

13 Bereketzade Medresesi Sokak, Beyoğlu 34421, Turkey (41.02397, 28.97378)



I Hagia Irene

This former Eastern Orthodox church is part of the Topkapi Palace complex. The name Hagia Irene means "Divine Peace".

İstanbul (41.00984, 28.98118)

muze.gen.tr



J Cağaloğlu Hamam

The Cağaloğlu Hamam is a historic hamam in Sultanahmet, in the heart of the historic centre of Istanbul, Turkey.

Prof. Kazım İsmail Gürkan Cad. No: 24 Cağaloğlu, İstanbul, Turkey (41.01070, 28.97571)

cagalogluhamami.com.tr, +90 212 522 2423



K Haseki Hürrem Hammam

The Hagia Sophia Hurrem Sultan Bathhouse is a sixteenth-century Turkish bath in Istanbul, Turkey.

2 Kabasakal Caddesi, Fatih 34122, Turkey (41.00695, 28.97886)

ayasofyahamami.com



L Sultan Ahmed III Fountain

The Fountain of Sultan Ahmed III is a fountain in the great square in front of the Imperial Gate of Topkapı Palace in Istanbul, Turkey.

2 Soğuk Çeşme Sokak, Fatih 34122, Turkey (41.00825, 28.98126)



M Dolmabahçe Palace Park

Dolmabahçe Palace located in the Beşiktaş district of Istanbul, Turkey, on the European coast of the Bosporus strait, served as the main...

34357 (41.03880, 28.99947)

Tu–Su 09:00–16:00

millisaraylar.gov.tr/Lokasyon/3/Dolmabahce-Palace



N Ortahisar Castle

This rock-cut castle was recently renovated and offers its visitors marvelous views of the town and fairy chimneys in the valley.

Ortahisar 50400, Turkey (38.61981, 34.86443)

youtu.be/vNoxByZlH2w



O Zelve Open-Air Museum

This cave town is where Christians and Muslims once lived together. It was abandoned in the 1950s, when life in the caves became too...

50500, Turkey (38.66813, 34.86479)



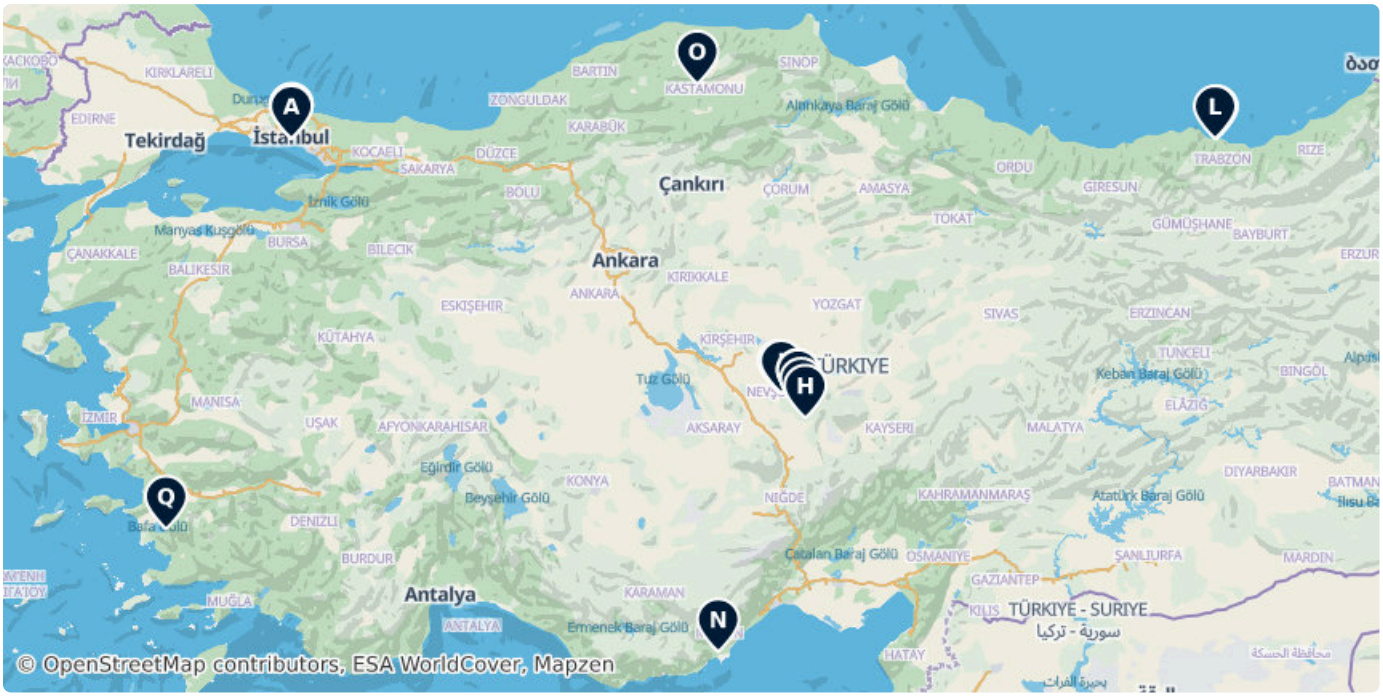
P Karain cave

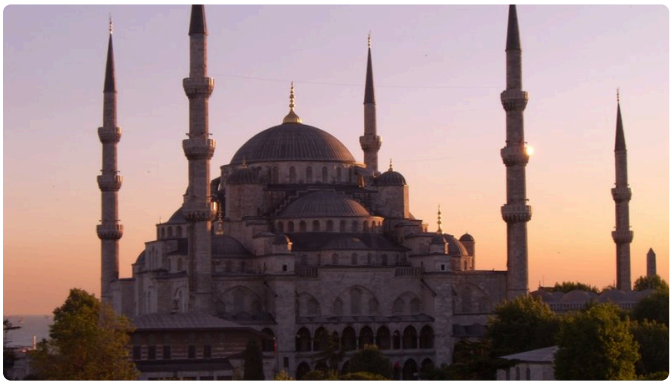
Karain Cave is a Paleolithic archaeological site located at Yağca Village 27 km northwest of Antalya city in the Mediterranean region of...

07190, Turkey (37.07783, 30.57062)

Istanbul's Spiritual Heritage

This collection spans Turkey's diverse religious history, from Istanbul's imperial Ottoman mosques like the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia to the rock-carved Byzantine churches of Cappadocia. It highlights unique architectural transitions, including the 14th-century wooden Mahmut Bey Mosque and the ancient Temple of Athena in Priene. The selection encompasses UNESCO-listed sites, secluded monasteries, and historic ruins that illustrate the complex layers of the Anatolian spiritual landscape.





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geziyerler.com/sultan-ahmet-camii, +90 212 518 1319



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C New Mosque

Completed in the 17th century, this large mosque features 66 domes, a nice courtyard and two minarets.

Bankacilar 1 (41.01689, 28.97278)



D Nuruosmaniye Mosque

The Nuruosmaniye Mosque is an 18th-century Ottoman mosque located in the Çemberlitaş neighbourhood of Fatih district in Istanbul, Turkey,...

20 Çarşıkapı Nur-u Osmaniye Caddesi, Fatih 34120, Turkey (41.01038, 28.97035)



E Kılıç Ali Pasha Mosque

Designed by the renowned architect Mimar Sinan in the 16th century, this mosque complex was built for the grand admiral Kılıç Ali Pasha. Its architectural layout is often compared to a smaller-scale version of Hagia Sophia.

Kemeraltı Caddesi 50, İstanbul (41.02642, 28.98095)



F Hagia Irene

This former Eastern Orthodox church is part of the Topkapi Palace complex. The name Hagia Irene means "Divine Peace".

İstanbul (41.00984, 28.98118)

muze.gen.tr



G Monastary of St Nicholas

A multi-level rock-carved monastery complex in Cappadocia's Mustafapaşa, featuring a church dedicated to Saint Nicholas and traditional monastic living quarters carved directly into the soft volcanic stone.

(Unnamed Road), 50400, Turkey (38.57712, 34.89566)



H Keşlik Manastır

A secluded Byzantine rock-cut monastery complex near Ürgüp, featuring the Church of the Archangel and the Church of Saint Stephen, complete with a refectory and frescoes dating to the 13th century.

(Unnamed Road), 50400, Turkey (38.51440, 34.94236)



I Açıksaray

Visit this former village carved into rock. The dwellings are in the shape of mushrooms, human faces or trees.

(Unnamed Road), 50900, Turkey (38.73798, 34.66241)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

J Hacli Church

Also known as the Church of the Cross, this 10th-century rock-carved structure in the Red Valley is distinguished by a large relief cross carved into the ceiling and well-preserved Byzantine frescoes.

50500, Turkey (38.65719, 34.85472)



K Grape Church

A rock-hewn Byzantine church in Cappadocia, named for the distinctive grape cluster motifs decorating its ceiling. It features a single nave and frescoes dating back to the iconoclastic period.

50500, Turkey (38.65261, 34.86027)



L Aya Sofya Museum

Hagia Sophia is a formerly Greek Orthodox church that was converted into a mosque following the conquest of Trabzon by Mehmed II in 1461.

Fatih Mh., Ayasofya Müzesi, 61040 Trabzon/Trabzon Province, Turkey (41.00309, 39.69611)

Apr-Oct Mo–Su	09:00–18:00
Nov-Mar Mo–Su	08:00–17:00

trabzonmuzesi.gov.tr



M St. Jean Church

The Saint John's Church is a historical rock-carved church in Cappadocia, Turkey.

Necip Fazıl Caddesi, Gülşehir 50900, Turkey (38.74071, 34.63474)



N Saint Thekla

Aya Tekla Church, also known as Aya Thecla or Aya Thekla, is a ruined historic church of the Byzantine period in Turkey.

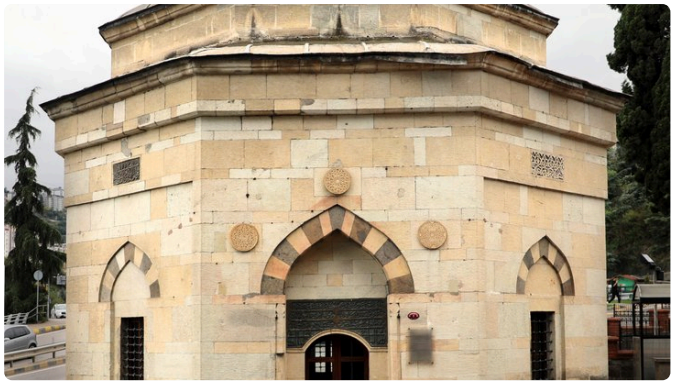
(Unnamed Road), 33900, Turkey (36.36289, 33.93095)



O Mahmut Bey Mosque

Mahmutbey Mosque is a historical mosque in Kasaba village in Kastamonu Province, Turkey.

(41.48045, 33.68823)



P Gulbahar Hatun Mosque

Commissioned in 1514 by Sultan Selim I in honor of his mother, this mosque is a key example of early Ottoman architecture in Trabzon, originally part of a larger social complex including a madrasa and bathhouse.

44 Şenol Güneş Caddesi, Trabzon 61040, Turkey
(41.00340, 39.71607)

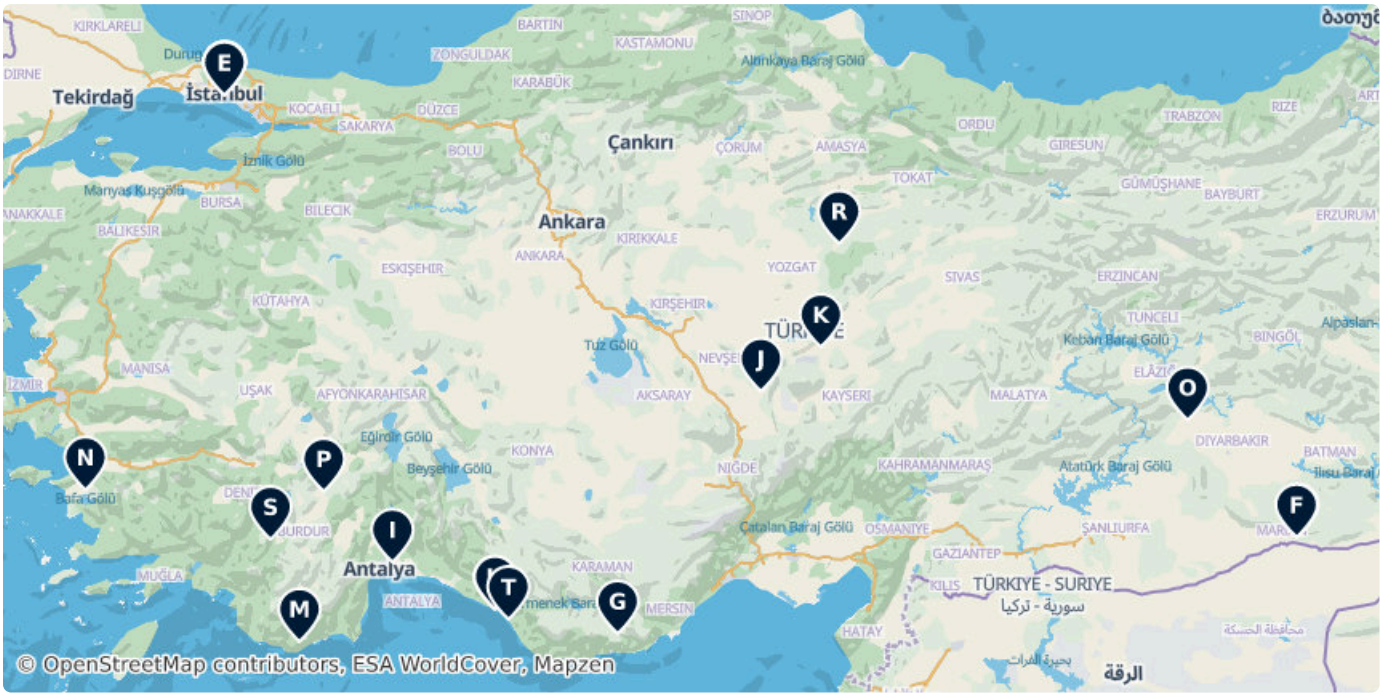
Q Athena Temple

A 4th-century BC Ionic temple located in the ancient city of Priene. Designed by the architect Pytheos, it is considered a classic example of Hellenistic temple architecture.

(37.50196, 27.52487)

Ancient Ruins and Archaeology

This collection spans millennia of Anatolian history, from the Neolithic settlements of Çayönü and Hacılar Mound to the architectural heights of the Byzantine and Ottoman empires. It features the massive Greco-Roman theater at Perge, the underground cisterns of Istanbul, and the Roman frontier fortress of Dara. Explore ancient trade hubs like Kültepe, the mosaic-rich Roman city of Sobesos, and medieval defensive structures including Alanya's Red Tower and the Byzantine fortress of Charsianon.





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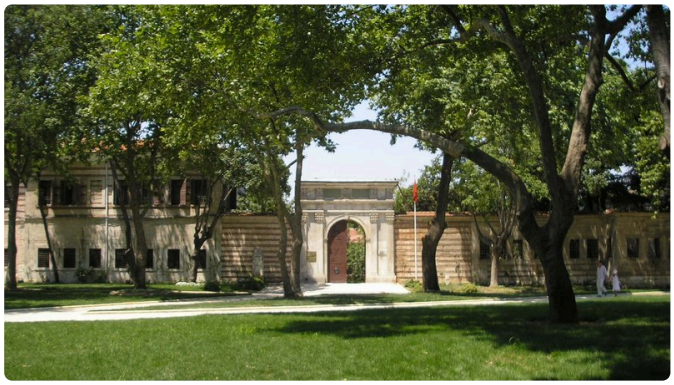

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muze.gen.tr



C Sultan Ahmet Square

Historic square featuring notable monuments and remnants of an ancient sports and social center. It reflects both Byzantine and Ottoman architectural influences.

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ktb.gov.tr/EN-113785/sultanahmet-blue-mosque.html



D Cistern of Philoxenos

Byzantine underground cistern featuring 224 columns and notable Byzantine architecture. It serves as an archaeological site and museum showcasing ancient water storage engineering.

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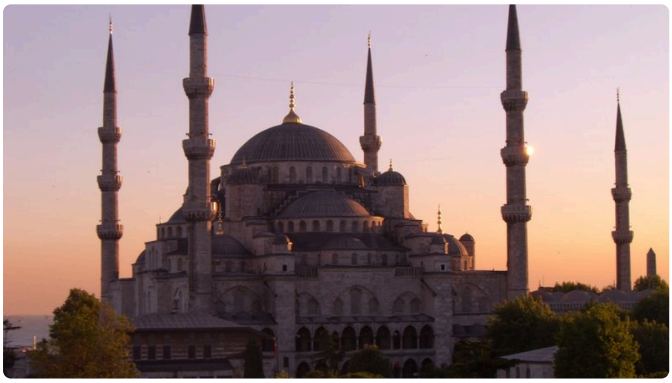
binbirdirek.com, +905332041001



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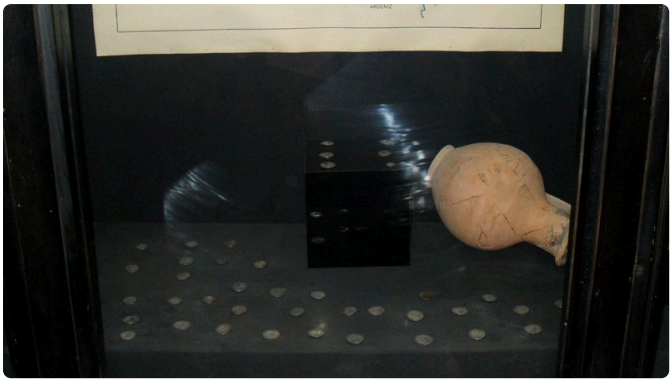
geziyerler.com/sultan-ahmet-camii, +90 212 518 1319



F Dara

Dara or Daras was an important East Roman fortress city in northern Mesopotamia on the border with the Sassanid Empire.

Mardin Nusaybin Karayolu üzeri, Mardin (37.17837, 40.94333)



G Meydancık Castle

Meydancık Castle is a castle ruin in Mersin Province, Turkey. The original name was Kirshu and the name of the ruin during Ottoman times...

33700, Turkey (36.31679, 33.36644)

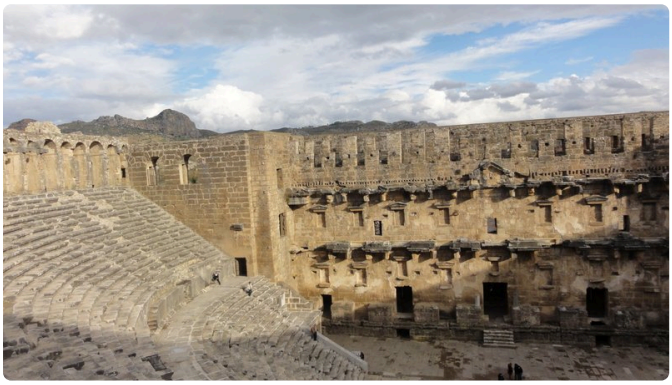


H Red Tower

The Red Tower is a historical tower in the Turkish city of Alanya. The building is considered to be the symbol of the city, and is used on...

Çarşı Mh., Bostancıpınarı Cd, 07400 Alanya/Antalya Province, Turkey (36.53639, 31.99825)

Mo–Su 09:00–19:00



I Theatre

Second-century Roman theater with a seating capacity of approximately 15,000. The structure is noted for its well-preserved stage building formerly decorated with elaborate marble reliefs depicting mythological scenes and Dionysian themes.

Perge Caddesi, Aksu 07110, Turkey (36.95764, 30.85069)

J Sobesos

Late Roman archaeological site in Cappadocia featuring a bath complex, a meeting hall with intricate floor mosaics, and a subterranean tomb system dating to the 4th and 5th centuries.

(38.46409, 34.96601)



K Kültepe

Kültepe, also known under its ancient name Kaneš or Neša, is an archaeological site in Kayseri Province, Turkey.

38100, Turkey (38.85020, 35.63440)



L Dara-Anastasiopolis

Dara or Daras was an important East Roman fortress city in northern Mesopotamia on the border with the Sassanid Empire.

(Unnamed Road), Dara 47100, Turkey (37.18141, 40.95359)



M Kyaneai

Cyaneae, also spelled Kyaneai or Cyanae, was a town of ancient Lycia, or perhaps three towns known collectively by the name.

07580, Turkey (36.24539, 29.81507)



N Myus

Myus, sometimes Myous or Myos, or Myes, was an ancient Greek city in Caria.

09200, Turkey (37.59872, 27.42586)



O Çayönü Mağaraları

Çayönü Tepesi is a Neolithic settlement in southeastern Turkey which prospered from circa 8,630 to 6,800 BC.

(Unnamed Road), 21950, Turkey (38.21416, 39.72835)



P Hacılar Mound

Hacilar is an early human settlement in southwestern Turkey, 23 km south of present-day Burdur.

15030, Turkey (37.58429, 30.08469)



Q Ehmedek

Seljuk-era fortification within the Alanya Castle complex, built on Hellenistic foundations. It served as a secondary citadel and administrative residence, featuring three distinct towers and defensive walls overlooking the harbor.

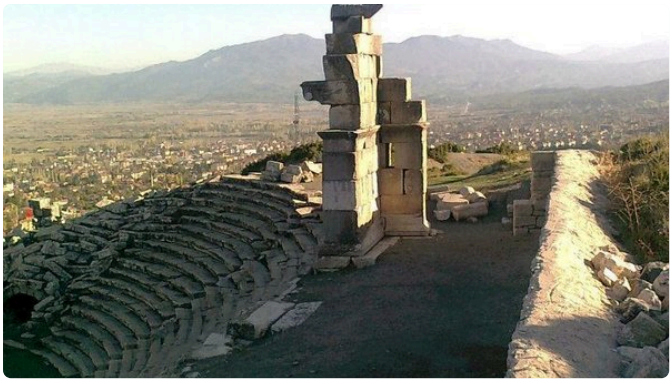
28 Ehmedek Sokak, Alanya 07400, Turkey (36.53672, 31.99266)

Mo–Su 09:30–23:00

R Charsianon

Charsianon was the name of a Byzantine fortress and the corresponding theme in the region of Cappadocia in central Anatolia.

(Unnamed Road), 66300, Turkey (39.74243, 35.83781)



S Cibyra

Cibyra or Kibyra, also referred to as Cibyra Magna, was an Ancient Greek city near the modern town of Gölhisar, in Burdur Province.

15400, Turkey (37.15960, 29.49158)



T Syedra

Syedra was an ancient port city in region of ancient Cilicia, Pamphylia, or Isauria, on the southern coast of modern-day Turkey between the...

07400, Turkey (36.44560, 32.14731)

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