



*IN BRIEF*

**Produced by**

**Washington D.C. Turkish Government Culture and Tourism Office**



## GEOGRAPHY

### Location of Turkey

- § Eastern Mediterranean
- § Located on two continents, Europe and Asia
- § Total area 314,500 square miles
- § The second largest country in Europe – after Russia





## Neighbors

### § Northwest

- Bulgaria
- Greece



### § Northeast

- Georgia

### § East

- Armenia
- Nakhichevan
- Iran

### § South

- Syria
- Iraq



## Coastline

- § Three sides of Turkey are surrounded by
  - Black Sea to the north
  - Aegean in the west
  - Mediterranean in the south
- § Coastline: over 5,000 miles
- § The Sea of Marmara, an internal sea between the straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, is in the northwest.





## CLIMATE



### § Mediterranean and Aegean Coastal Regions

Typical Mediterranean Climate  
– Hot Summers and Mild Winters



## § Black Sea Coast

Warm summers, Mild Winters, and Rain

## § Central Anatolia

Hot, Dry Summers and Cold Winters



## § Eastern Anatolia

Mild Summers and Long, Cold, Snowy Winters

## § Southeastern Anatolia

Hot Summers and Mild, Rainy Winters



## FOUNDER

### Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881 – 1938)

- § The founder of Turkish Republic and its first President
- § Turkish nation completed the War of Independence, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and The Republic was proclaimed on 29 October 1923.



- § Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, introduced a broad range of reforms- in the political, social, legal, economic and cultural spheres- such as:
- The adoption of Latin Alphabet (1928)
  - Recognition of the equal rights of women – including full political rights (1930)
  - Abolition of religious laws (1926)
  - Unification and secularization of the education system (1924)





## TURKISH HISTORY

§ **The history of Turks cover a time frame of more than 4000 years.**

Turks first lived in Central Asia around 2000 BC. Later, some of them left Central Asia and spread around, establishing many states and empires within a vast area of Asia and Europe; including:



**The Great Hun Empire**



**Gokturk Empire**



**Uygur Empire**



**Great Seljuk Empire**



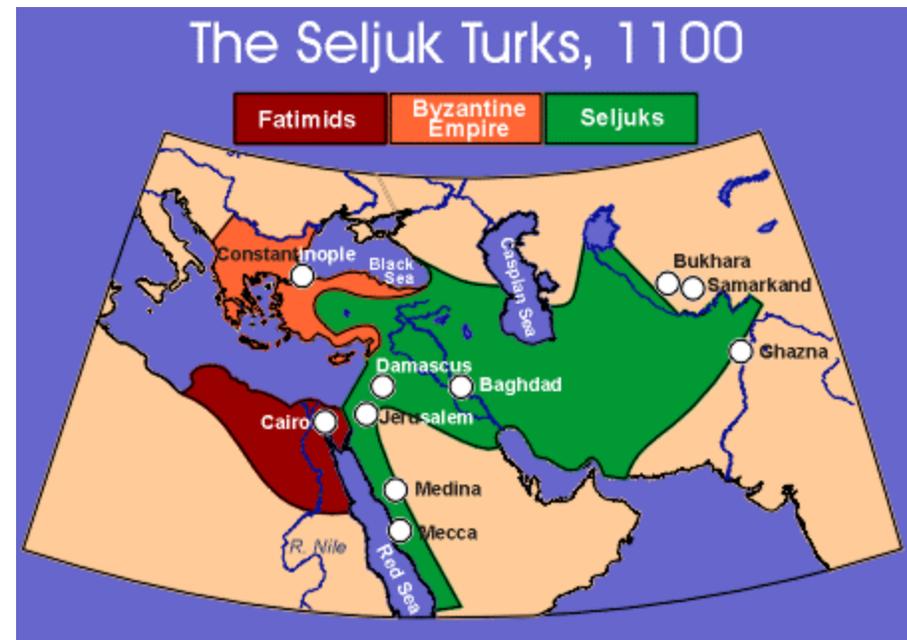
**Ottoman Empire**



# Turks in Anatolia

## § Seljuk Empire

- Battle of Malazgirt 1071: Mass settlement of Turkish migrants in Anatolia after Battle of Malazgirt won against the Byzantine Army.
- Anatolian Seljuk State 1080-1308: The largest and longest surviving of the Turkish states established after the Battle of Malazgirt. Also called “the Konya Sultanate”, after its capital city





## § Ottoman Empire (1299 – 1923)

### – From tiny principality to empire:

The small frontier principality founded by Osman Bey in 1299 or 1300 in the environs of Söğüt in Eskişehir would be a century and a half later the magnificent Ottoman Empire, which lasted for 623 years.

### – Conquest of Istanbul: 1453

### – Ottoman capitals:

Bursa in 1326

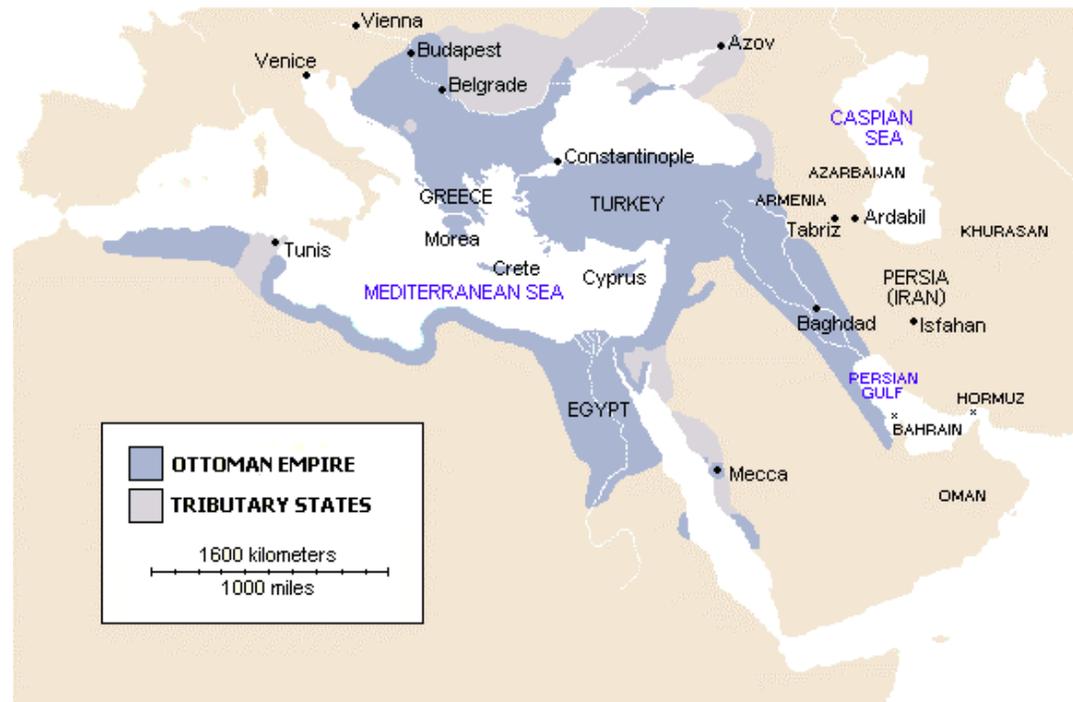
Edirne in 1365

İstanbul in 1453



– CLASSICAL OTTOMAN PERIOD:

The 16th century is the golden age of Ottoman history and culture. The borders of the Empire extended from the Crimea in the North to Yemen and Sudan in the South, and from Iran and The Caspian Sea in the East to Vienna in the Northwest and Spain in the Southwest.





– WORLD WAR I (1914 – 1918)

Mondros Armistice : 30 October 1918. The territories of the Ottoman Empire were occupied by Britain, France, Russia and Greece.

– WAR OF INDEPENDENCE (1919-1922)

First anti-imperialist war

– Lausanne Treaty July 24, 1923

National borders were set; the social, economic independence and sovereignty of Turkey were accepted

– **FOUNDATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY:  
29 OCTOBER 1923**



## GOVERNMENT

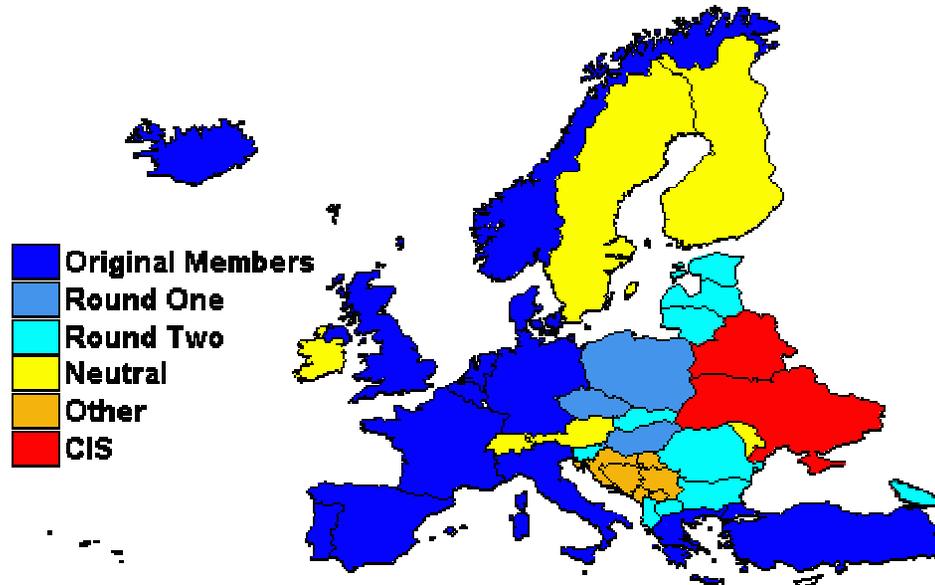
Turkey is democratic, secular and social state governed by the rule of law; committed to the nationalism of Atatürk and based on the principle of the separation of powers;



- Legislative power: The Turkish Grand National Assembly
- Executive power: President and the Council of Ministers
- Judicial power: Independent courts and supreme judiciary organs



## NATO Expansion



Turkey has been a NATO member since 1952 and is currently a candidate for full membership in the European Union.



## FLAG



- § The fundamentals of the Turkish Flag were laid down by Turkish Flag Law No. 2994 of May 29, 1936.
- § According to one legend a reflection of the moon occulting a star, appearing in pools of blood after the battle of Kossovo in 1448, led to the adoption of the Turkish flag by Sultan Murad II.



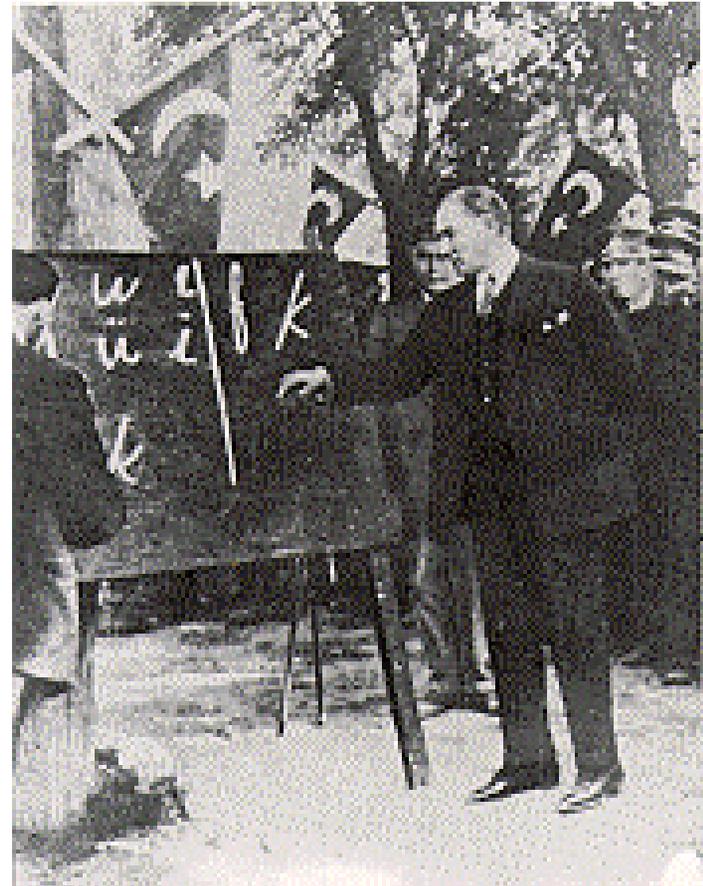
## LANGUAGE

§ Turkish is the official language and it uses Latin letters

§ Turkish alphabet is composed of 29 letters and is very similar to the English alphabet

– Excludes q, w and x

– Includes ç, ğ, ı, ö, s, ü

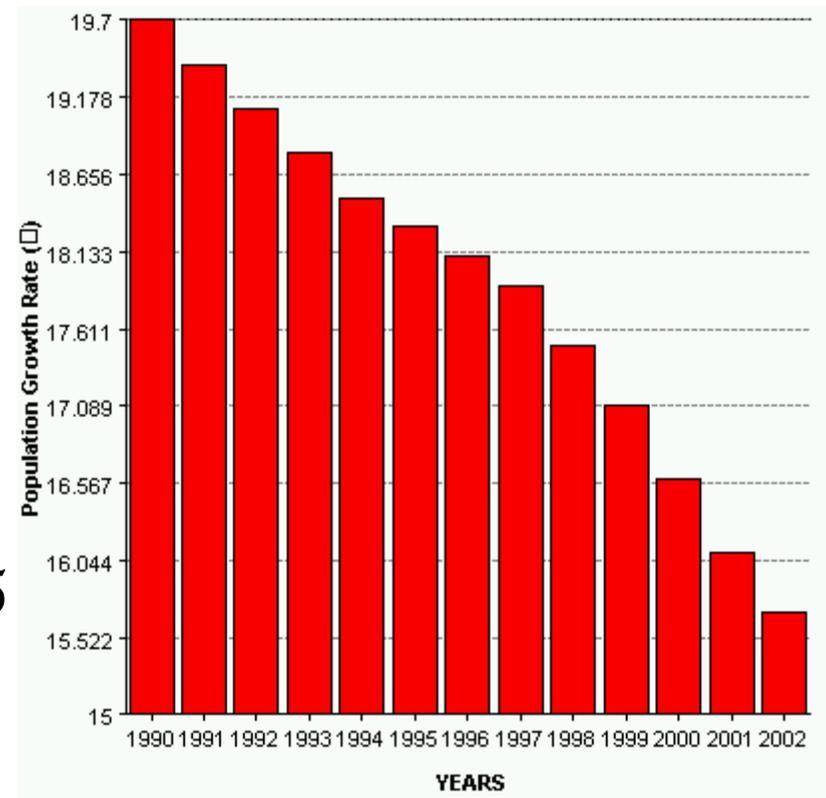




## POPULATION

Population of Turkey is 67.8 million (as of 2002)

- 30% under the age of 14
- 64% between 15 and 64
- Annual birth rate: %2.46
- Life expectancy at birth: 68.5 years



Turkey



**CAPITAL**

**ANKARA**

**POPULATION 4 MILLION**



## MAJOR CITIES



**ISTANBUL**

**Population 10 million**



**KONYA**

**Population 2.2 million**



**IZMIR**

**Population 3.4 million**



**ADANA**

**Population 1.8 million**



**BURSA**

**Population 2.1 million**



## EDUCATION SYSTEM

### § Primary Education:

Eight years (6-14 age-group)  
Compulsory for all male and female citizens



### § Secondary Education:

Three years (general and vocational-technical high schools)



§ Primary and secondary education is free of charge in public schools.





## § Higher Education:

At least two years over and above secondary education

Associate's, bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree levels

Higher education institutions charge a certain minimal tuition fee.





## FAMOUS LANDMARKS

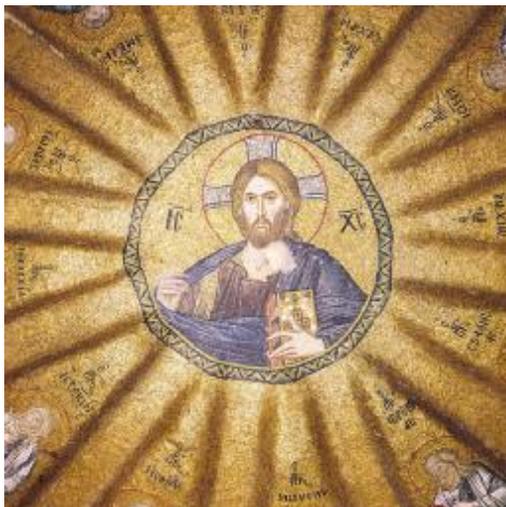
**MANY PLACES IN TURKEY ARE REGISTERED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST - INCLUDING ISTANBUL, SAFRANBOLU, MT.NEMRUT, TROY, PAMUKKALE AND CAPPADOCIA - TO HELP PRESERVE THEM FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**



## FAMOUS LANDMARKS

### Hagia Sophia (Ayasofya)

- § Constructed by Roman Emperor Justinian in 537 AD
- § The largest church in the Christian world for a thousand years



- § The mosaics covering the walls are among the most important works of art that have survived to this day of the Byzantine era



## The Blue Mosque (Sultanahmet Camii)



§ Also known as the Blue Mosque because of its magnificent interior paneling of more than 20,000 blue and white İznik tiles

§ The most famous monument in both the Turkish and the Islamic worlds

§ Built in the classic Turkish architectural style between 1609-1616 by the architect Mehmet



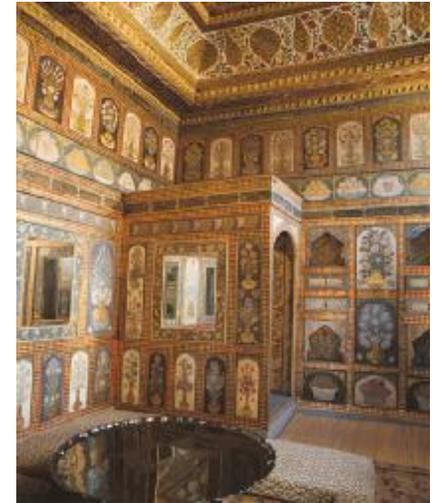


## Topkapı Palace



§ Served as the administrative center of the Ottoman Empire for nearly 400 years between the 15th and 19th centuries

§ The total area of the Palace is twice the area of Vatican and half of Monaco in size



§ Some of the exhibitions are:

- the imperial collections of crystal, silver and Chinese porcelain; and imperial handmade costumes
- the famous jewels of the treasury; the richest collection of clocks in the world
- the sacred relics of Islam including the swords of Muhammad, his bow and his mantle



*Spoonseller's Diamond*



## Dolmabahçe Palace



- § The palace has survived intact with its original decorations, furniture, silk carpets, curtains and everything else
- § It's said that 14 tons of gold and 40 tons of silver were used for the decorations
- § Atatürk used to stay in this palace when he visited İstanbul. He died here in 1938

§ Built in the mid-19th century by Sultan Abdülmecit 1

§ Stretches for 600 meters along the European shore of the Bosphorus





## Kariye Museum (The Chora Church)



§ Built towards the end of the 11th century and dedicated to Christ the Savior

§ Turned into a mosque in 1511 by addition of a minaret

§ Became a museum in 1948 and its frescoes were cleaned and restored by the American Institute of Byzantine Research



§ The frescoes, illustrating scenes from the life of Christ and the Virgin Mary, are the finest masterpieces of Christian religious art to be found anywhere in the world





## Troy



- § Ancient city of Troy is located 30 km south west of Çanakkale province in the Marmara Region of Turkey.
- § Nine separate periods of settlement: The earliest dates from five thousand years ago (3000 B.C.) and the last coincided with the late Roman period (400 A.D.).
- § Famous Trojan wars – depicted in Homer’s epic Iliad – took place here at about 1200 BC. A symbolic wooden horse at this site commemorates this legendary war.



## Ephesus (Efes)



§ The ruins of Ephesus is one of the world's greatest archaeological sites.

§ In Hellenistic times, Ephesus became the most densely populated city in Anatolia with a population of more than 200 000.

§ The city reached the peak of its glory under the Roman rule and became a very important centre of trade and commerce.

§ A majority of the monuments that exist now date to that period.



- § The Celsus Library is the most impressive building in Ephesus.
- § The library was completed in AD 135.
- § The reading room destroyed in a fire in the second half of the 3rd century, but the façade did not suffer damage.
- § Its façade was two-tiered; the interior consisted of a single large hall. The burial chamber under the floor contains the marble sarcophagus of Celsus in an excellent state of preservation.



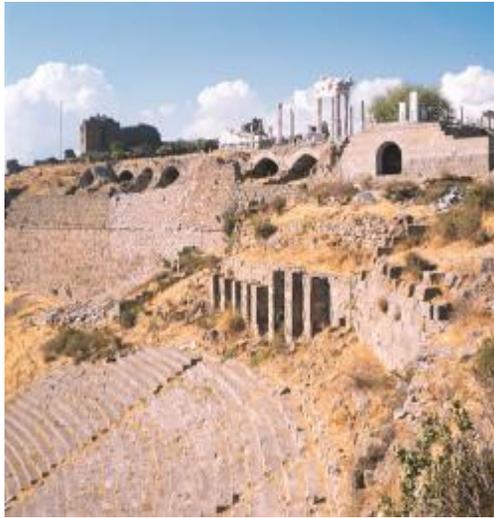
## Aphrodisias



- § Named after Aphrodite, a goddess of nature, love and fertility and was the site of one of her most famous sanctuaries.
- § Became the center of a school of sculpture that flourished for a period of 600 years. Many of its marvelous works of art are now housed in the local museum.
- § One of the most attractive landmarks of Aphrodisias is a decorative gateway datable to the middle of the second century.
- § The stadium is probably the best preserved structure of this type in the Mediterranean. It could accommodate as many as 30,000 people.
- § The theater, odeon (concert-hall), Bishop's Palace, Baths of Hadrian are among other ruins.



## Pergamon (or Pergamum)



§ Pergamon (or Pergamum), once a great center of culture, survives as one of Turkey's finest archeological sites.

§ In the Acropolis, are the remains of the library, a steep and impressive theatre, the temples of Trajan and Dionysos, the monumental Altar of Zeus, the sanctuary of Demeter, a gymnasium and the Agora.

§ The Asclepion, located to the southwest of the lower city, was a medical center dedicated to the god of health, Asclepios. Patients were treated with water and mud baths, with massages and with medicinal herbs.

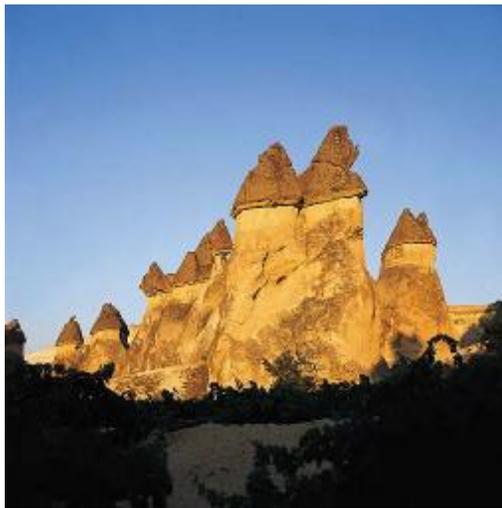




## Cappadocia

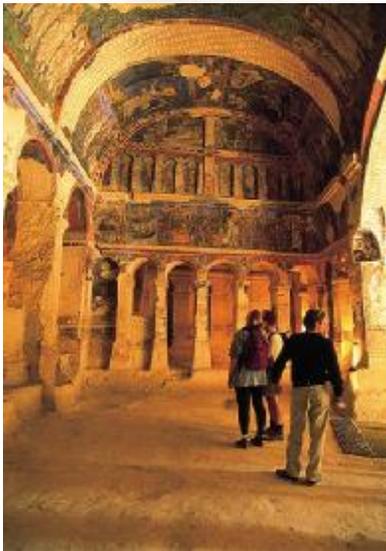


Three million years ago, violent eruptions of the nearby volcanoes covered the surrounding plateau with a deep layer of solidified mud, ash and lava.



Wind and rain have eroded soft volcanic rock forming hundreds of strangely shaped pillars, cones and fairy chimneys, creating a vast outdoor museum of stone sculptures.



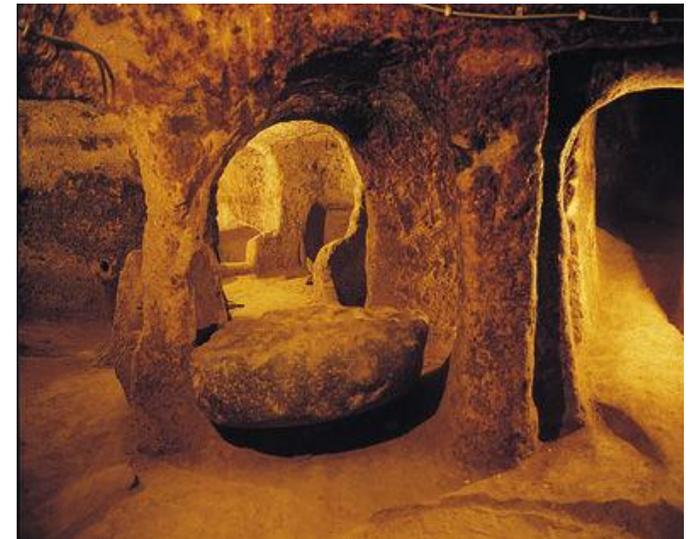


§ The early Christians made countless cave churches, chapels and monasteries carving the soft rock.

§ There are more than 200 churches in Capadocia, with their impressive frescoes and art works

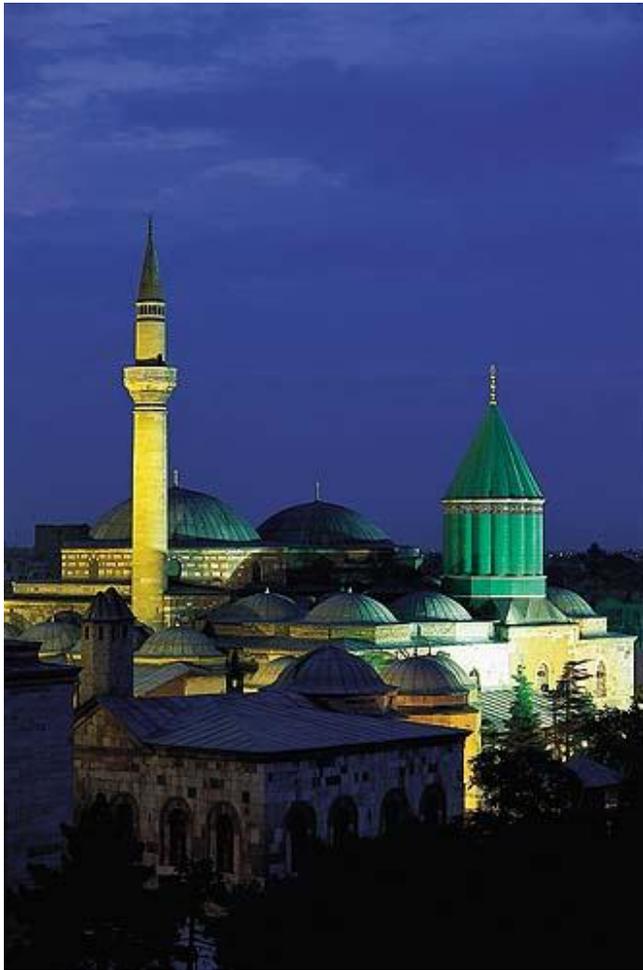


§ The most amazing speciality of Cappadocia is the underground cities. These cities with 8-9 floors underground had been completely carved in volcanic tuff and were used by Christians as places to retreat to and live in.





## Mevlevi Convent and Museum



§ Mevlana, founder of the Mevlevi Order (known as the Whirling Dervishes), lived in Konya from 1228 until 1273.

§ In 1926, the Mevlana Convent opened as a museum.

§ Every year on December 17, Whirling Dervishes perform “semah” ceremonies to commemorate the death of Mevlana.





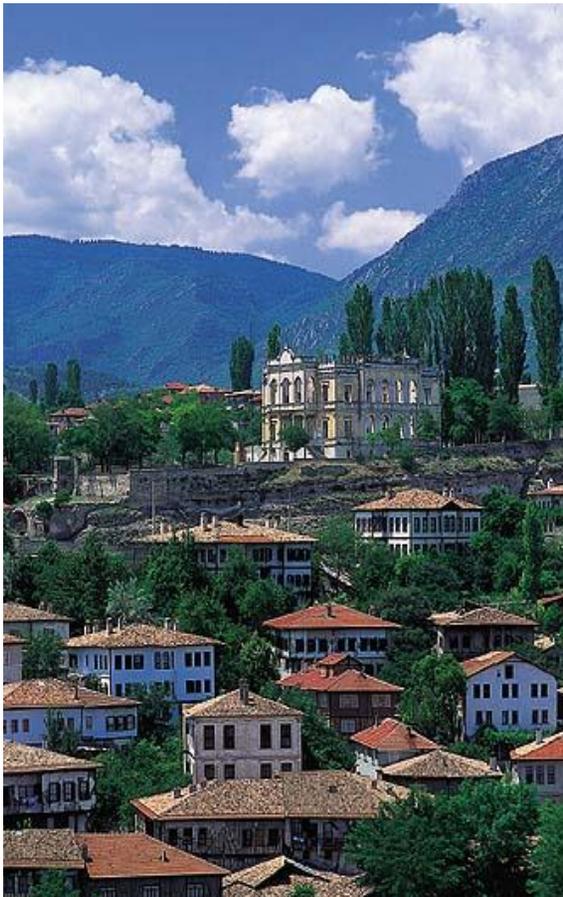
## Pamukkale

- § The area is one of the leading hot springs in Turkey.
- § As the spring water flowed down the mountainside, coated the slopes in a smooth layer of white calcareous rock.
- § Pamukkale means “Cotton Castle” in English
- § Several Roman emperors came to bathe in these thermal pools.





## Safranbolu



§ Safranbolu is a small town in the Western Black Sea Region.

§ Some of the most beautiful traditional old homes, unique in Turkey for their outstanding design and construction are found here.

§ Some of them have been restored and are now used as hotels.





## Mount Nemrut

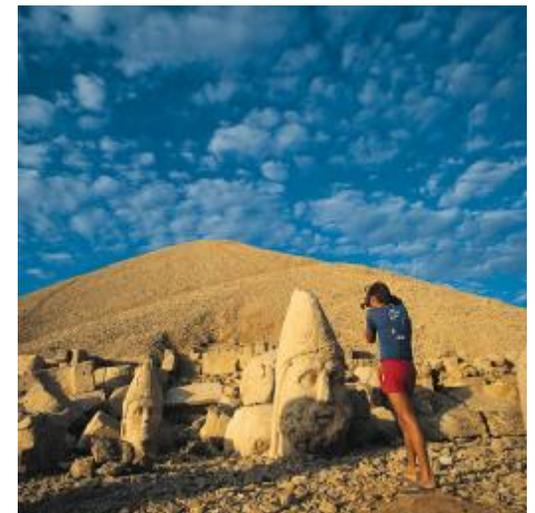


§ Antiochos I, ruler of the Commagene Kingdom in the first century BC, built himself this funeral monument on top of Mount Nemrut in eastern Turkey.

§ It consists of a tumulus and a dozen gigantic statues representing Antiochus I, eagles, lions and ancient gods.

§ The average height of the statues is 26-33 feet.

§ These statues remain where they were originally erected.





## Halil Rahman Mosque - Şanlı Urfa



§ Şanlı Urfa (a southeast province of Turkey) is known as the “city of Prophets”, because the Prophets Job, Abraham and Şuayb, resided here.

- § According to Muslim tradition, Prophet Abraham was born in a cave on the northern side of Şanlı Urfa castle.
- § There is a fish lake in the center of Şanlı Urfa filled with sacred fish and surrounded by Halil Rahman Mosque.



## INTERESTING FACTS



§ Istanbul is the only city in the world located on two continents, Europe and Asia.



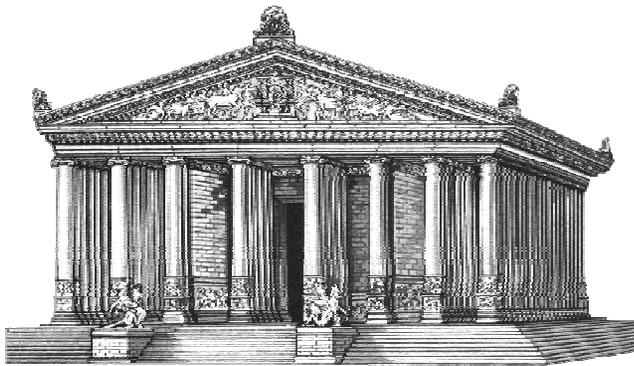
§ The oldest Human Settlement, dating back to 6500 B.C., is in Çatalhöyük, near Konya in the Central Anatolian Region of Turkey.

§ The earliest landscape painting in history exists on a wall of a Çatalhöyük house. It shows the eruption of a volcano, probably that of nearby Hasandağ.

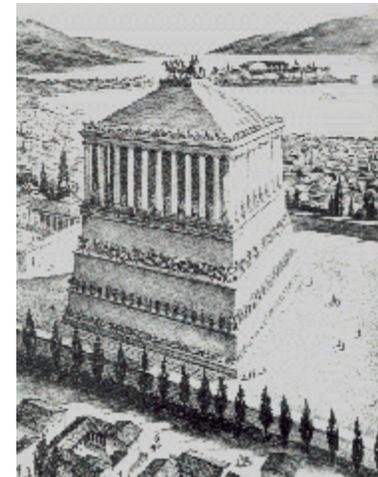




§ Two of the seven wonders of the world stood in  
Anatolia:



The Temple of Artemis  
at Ephesus



The Mausoleum at  
Halicarnassus-Bodrum



§ The first coins were minted at Sardis – the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Lydia in Western Anatolia at the end of 7<sup>th</sup> century BC.

§ Lydia is the first known civilization in the world to use money as a means of exchange.





§ St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) was born in Patara and served as Bishop of Myra (Demre) on Turkey's Mediterranean coast.

§ The village is home to the famous church of St. Nicholas, which houses a sarcophagus believed to be the original tomb of St. Nicholas.



Turkey

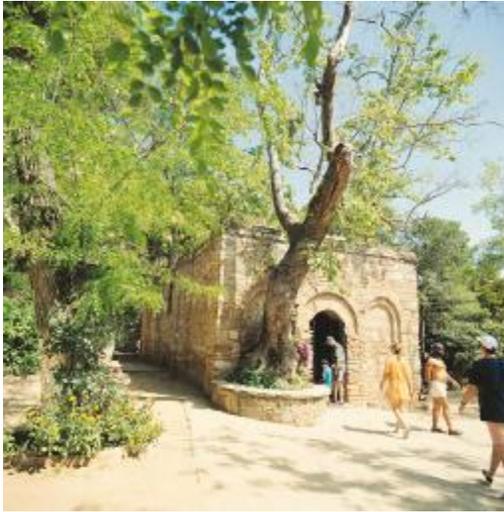


The seven churches of Asia Minor mentioned in the book of revelation, the last book of bible, are all located in Anatolia:

- Ephesus
- Smyrna
- Pergamum
- Thyateria
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Laodicea



## The House of The Virgin Mary

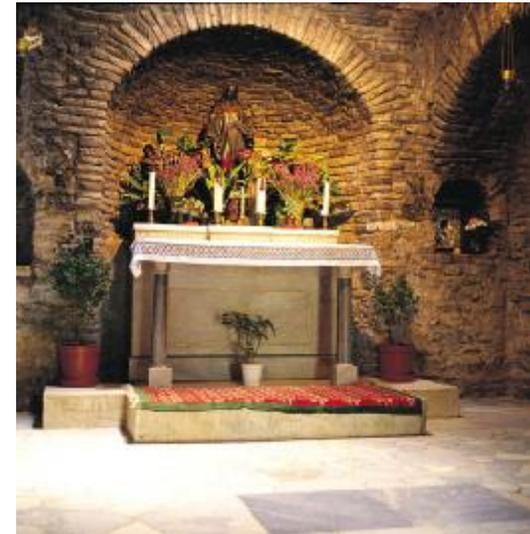


§ This holy site – a modest stone house where the Virgin Mary lived her last days – is in the Bülbül Mountain above Ephesus.

§ It is believed that St. John brought Mary to this site after Christ's Crucifixion; she lived and died here at the age of 101.



§ Vatican declared The House of The Virgin Mary a holy site in 1967.





## Antakya (Antioch)



§ The followers of Jesus were first called Christians at Antioch.

§ The Church of St. Peter is designated as a place of pilgrimage and also recognized as the World's First Cathedral by the Papacy in 1963.

§ Antakya (Antioch), once called the “Queen of The East” and known as the third largest city of the Roman Empire, now houses the world's second largest mosaic museum.





## Cherry

It was from Giresun, a city on the Black Sea coast of Turkey, The Roman General Lucullus exported the first cherry trees to Europe. Giresun is the variation of the ancient name Kerasus, meaning city of cherries, from the Greek word for cherry, Kerasi.



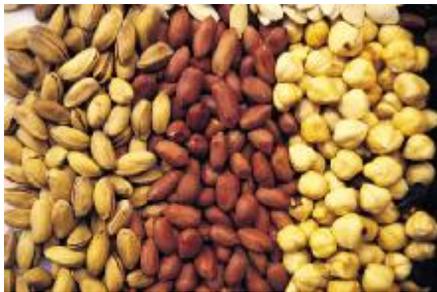


## FAMOUS PRODUCTS



Turkey has the

§ First place in the world in terms of hard-shell nuts, fig and apricot production,



§ Fourth in fresh vegetables, grape and tobacco production and



§ Seventh in wheat and cotton production.



§ Turkish delight and helva are famous throughout the world.





Turkey is among the leading countries in the world in textiles and ready to wear clothing production.



The leather processing industry is also very developed in Turkey and comes after textiles in terms of export figure.



The most famous and finest pure silk carpets of the world are produced in the small town of Hereke, 60 km east of İstanbul.



Turkey is Europe's third largest ceramic producer.



## FOOD AND DRINK

### Bread



- § There is one food without which no meal is complete, in Turkey at any rate – bread.
- § Every neighborhood has a bread bakery in Turkey.
- § Turkish breads fall into three categories: very thin rolled sheets known as *yufka*, flat leavened breads such as *pide*, and loaves known as *somun*.



## Börek



Börek occupies an important place in the Turkish culinary tradition.

Böreks are made of phyllo pastry or dough rolled out in thin layers and filled with cheese, meat or spinach.





## Pilaf (Pilav)



Turkish cuisine gives the same importance to pilafs as Western cuisine give to potatoes.

The basic ingredient in pilafs is either rice, bulgur (boiled and cracked wheat) or vermicelli.



There are varieties of pilafs cooked by adding onion, tomato, vegetables, nuts, herbs, poultry, or meat or combinations of these, but generally cooked plain and eaten as a side dish served with meat or vegetable dishes.



## Dolma and Sarma



- § Dolma and Sarma are stuffed vegetables. Dolma is derived from the verb “doldurmak” which means to stuff and Sarma is derived from the verb “sarmak” which means to wrap.
- § The stuff mix can be prepared in two ways with meat or with rice. The latter is cooked in olive oil and eaten at room temperature. The meat dish is a main course dish eaten with a yogurt sauce.
- § Many vegetables can be stuffed with or wrapped around these mixes, such as pepper, eggplant, zucchini, tomatoes, cabbage and grape leaves.



## Desserts



The most well-known dessert associated with Turkish Cuisine is “Baklava”.

The most wonderful contribution of Turkish cuisine to the family of desserts are the milk desserts – the “muhallebi” family.



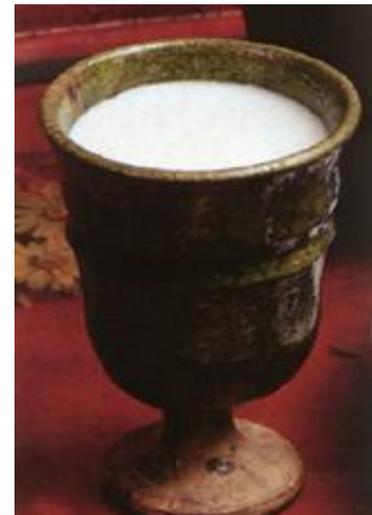


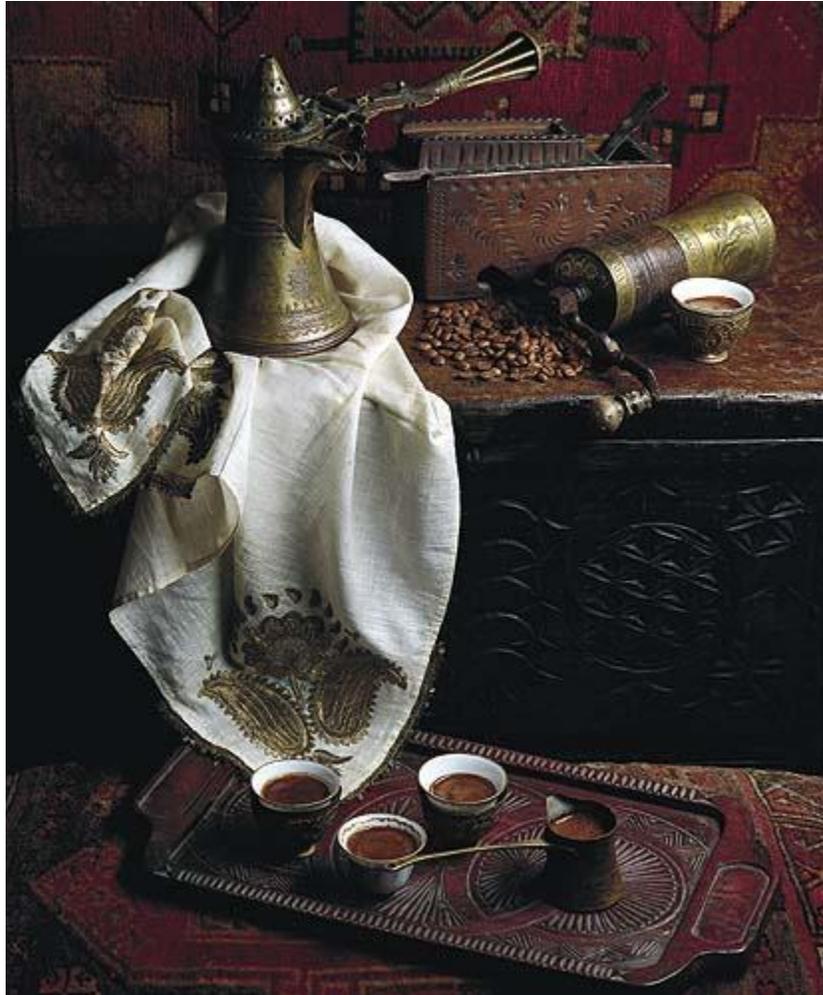
## Yogurt



Yogurt is one of the most typical features of Turkish cooking, it is eaten in almost every meal. It garnishes a great many vegetable dishes, as well as being incorporated in kebabs and puddings.

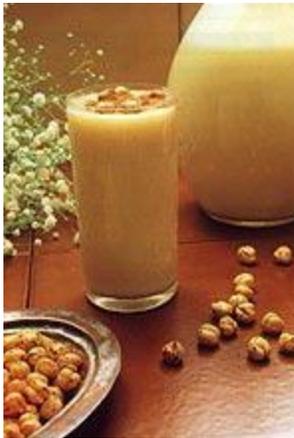
Ayran, a refreshing drink, is prepared by adding water and salt to yogurt.





## Turkish Coffee

- § Coffee was first brought to Istanbul from Yemen in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- § It was in Turkey that a new method of preparing ground coffee – now called “Turkish Coffee” – was invented.
- § Turks introduced this new drink prepared in their own way to Europe by the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



## Boza

Boza is a thick, fermented drink made of wheat berries, to be enjoyed with a dash of cinnamon and a handful of roasted chick peas.

## Sahlep

Sahlep is a hot drink made with milk and and sahlelep powder sprinkled with cinnamon.





## PROMINENT ANIMAL SPECIES

### Turkish Van Cat

- § Originated in the eastern province of Turkey – Van; also known as the swimming cat
- § Personality: Extremely intelligent, highly independent yet still affectionate to their human charges, enjoys swimming, retrieving games, and even play with toys.

#### Appearance:

- Fur: semi-long haired
- Color: auburn and white, the red color is restricted to areas around the ears and on the tail – this rare pattern is known as the Van pattern
- Body: long and broad – often 3 feet
- Eyes: blue, amber and sometimes odd (one amber, one blue eye)





## Turkish Angora Cat



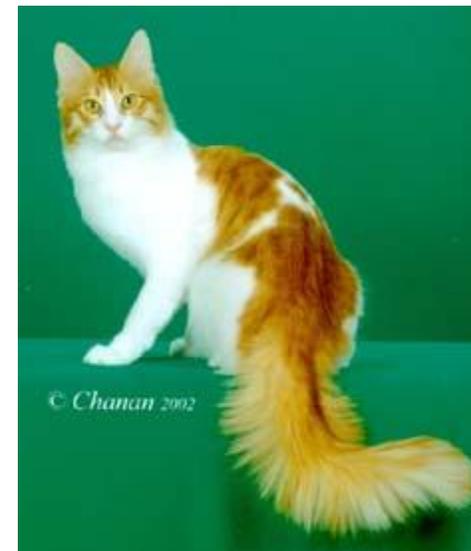
§ The oldest naturally occurring long-haired breed in the world

§ Intelligent, sociable, active, athletic

§ Long silky coats come in a wide range of colors

§ Excellent family pets

§ Efforts are being made to preserve its bloodlines. Since 1940's the Angora has been protected species and Ankara Zoo has a breeding colony of white Angora cats.





## Kangal Dog



- § Turkey's beloved national breed, native to the region in the east-central Turkey known as Sivas-Kangal
- § Kangal dog gives up its life to guard master and livestock from harm
- § Standing a minimum of 30 inches at the withers and weighing an average 120 pounds
- § Strong in shape and character
- § Intelligent (capable of learning up to 46 words)
- § Loyal to the end, friendly, amenable but formidable to enemies
- § Wonderful with children



## Bald Ibis



§ Bald Ibis is an endangered species, which breeds and lives in the form of a colony only in Birecik, district of Urfa in Turkey.

§ Turkey continues her efforts for the protection and reproduction of Bald Ibis.

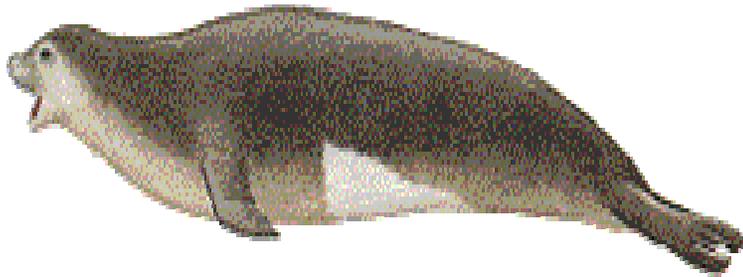
§ According to a legend when Noah landed his ark on Mount Agri he set free three different birds, a dove, as a symbol of peace, a swallow to symbolize the new era and a bald ibis, representing fertility.

§ Birecik Public thought the bald ibises as holy animals that show the coming spring and arranged festivals for their coming.





## Mediterranean Monk Seal



§ The species is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, the species' numbers have now been reduced to perhaps less than 400.

§ Causes of Endangerment: Hunting, Pollution, Disturbance by Humans

§ The fact that the species has survived along Turkey's shores is due to the preservation of the natural environment in many areas.





## VEGETATION



§ Being a natural bridge between three continents caused Anatolia Peninsula to have a rarely encountered vegetation in the world.



§ While vegetation number, present in all along Europe is a total of 12,000, this figure is 9,000 in Turkey.





§ The endemic plant number of Europe is 2,750 whereas this number equals to 3,000 in Turkey.



Antalya

*Crocus Antalyensis*



Ağrı

*Rosa Dumalis*



Ankara

*Crocus Ancyrensis*



Adana

*Ophrys Cilicica*



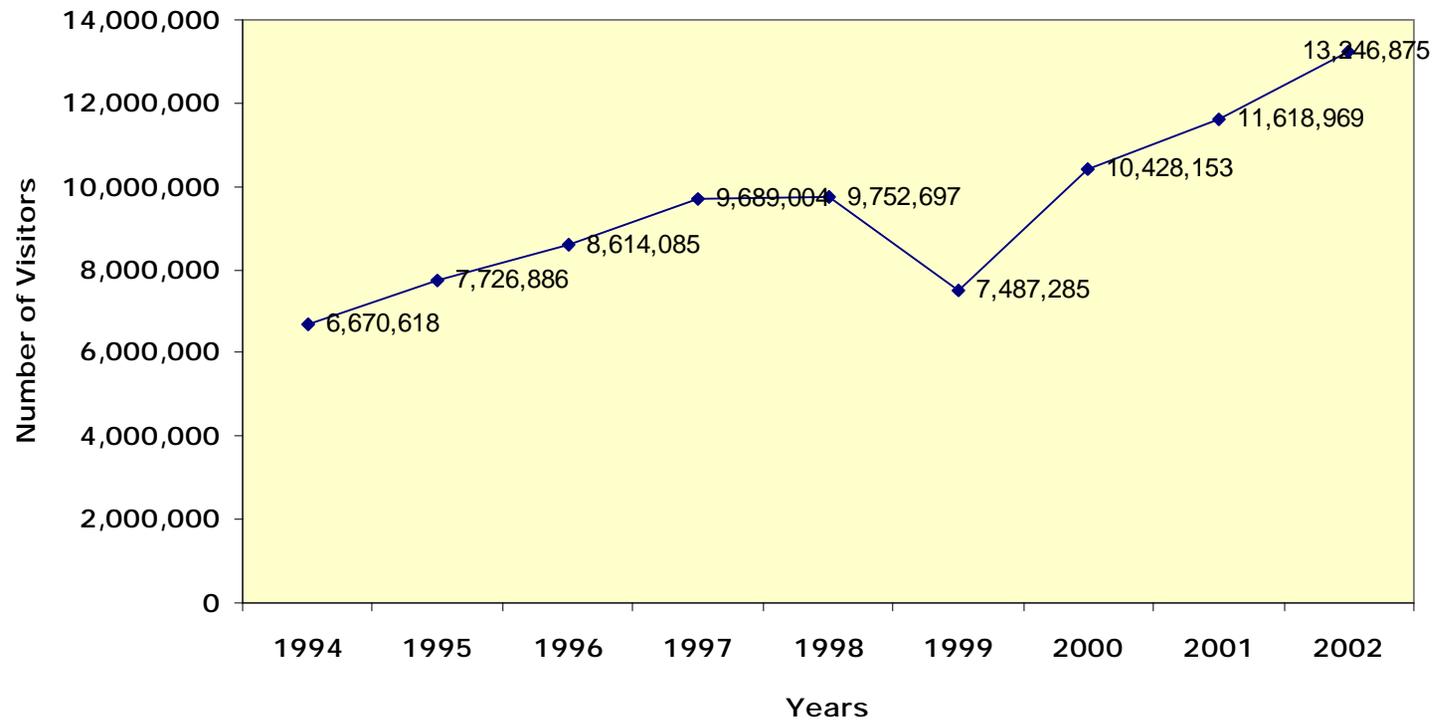
## TOURISM STATISTICS

### Turkey's Market Share (in thousands)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<i>Foreign Visitors Arrivals to Turkey</i>	7,726.9	8,614.1	9,689.0	9,752.7	7,487.3	10,428.2	11,619.0
<i>World Tourism Arrivals</i>	552,300.0	595,000.0	613,000.0	626,700.0	652,200.0	696,700.0	692,700.0
<i>Turkey's Market share (%)</i>	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%	1.1%	1.5%	1.7%

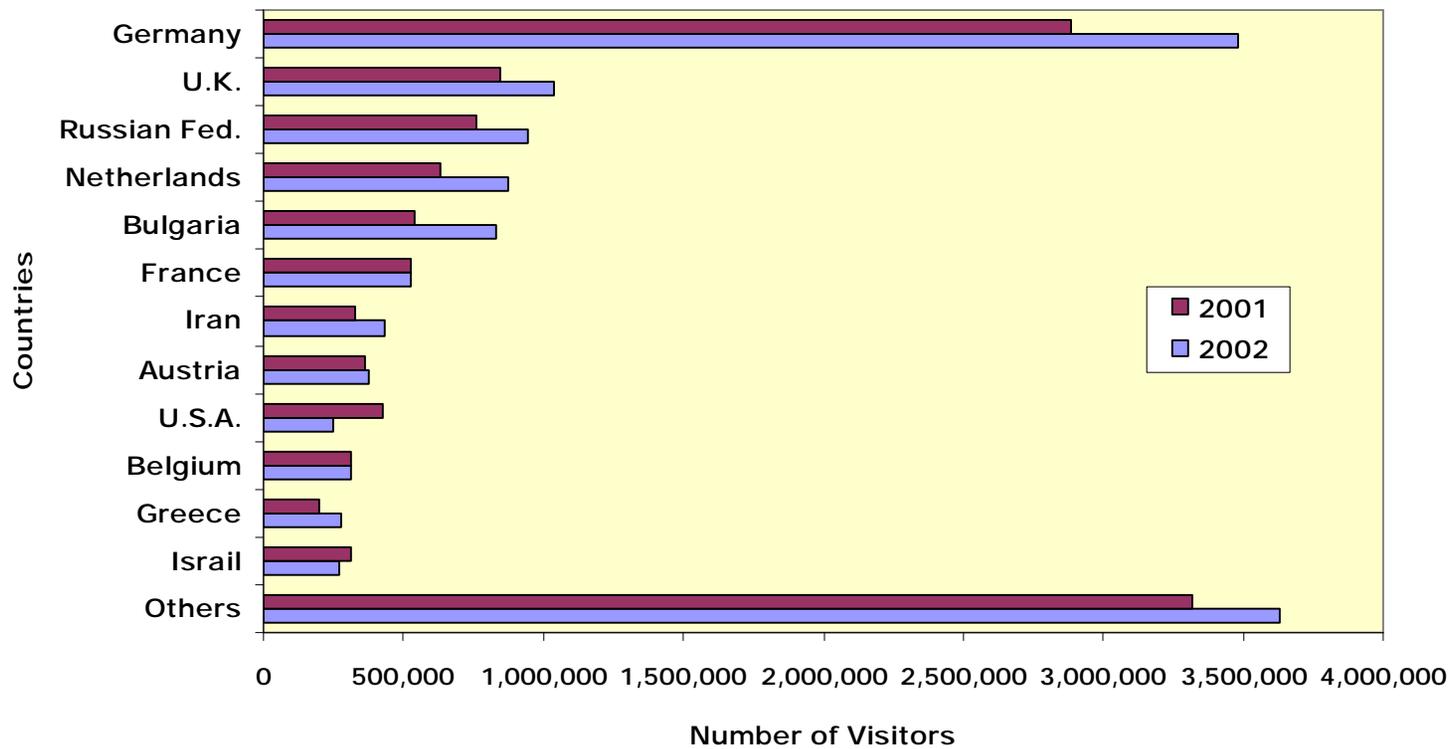


## Foreign Visitor Arriving in Turkey





## Foreign Visitor Arrivals by Nationalities





## American Visitors Arriving in Turkey

<i>Years</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>
<i>Number of American Visitors</i>	290,225	326,274	364,764	439,885	395,006	515,090	429,563	247,837
<i>Percent Change</i>	-	12.4	11.8	19.0	-10.0	30.4	-16.6	-42.3
<i>Percent Share in Total Number of Visitors</i>	3.7	3.7	3.7	4.5	5.2	4.9	3.7	1.9

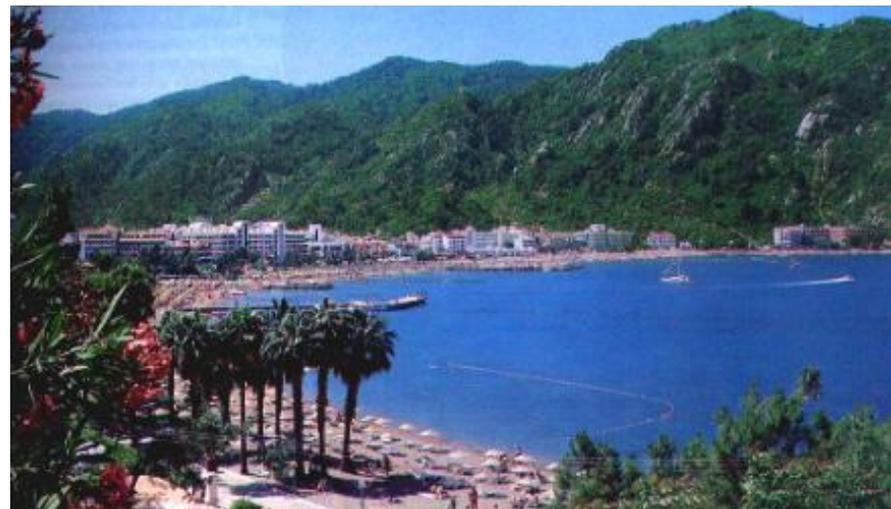


## BLUE FLAG



Blue Flag is an exclusive eco-label awarded to beaches and marinas with high environmental standards as well as good beach/marina management, safety, services and facilities.

Turkey homes to 127 blue flag beaches and 12 blue flag marinas.





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