

# Know before you go **Turkey**



**Population:** 83.6 Million | **Currency:** Lira ₺ (TRY) | **Capital City:** Ankara

  
**Official language**  
Turkish

  
**Greeting**  
Merhaba

  
**Most popular city for expats and tourists**  
Istanbul

  
**National symbol**  
Crescent and star

  
**National animal**  
Gray wolf

  
**Famous national food**  
Şiş kebab, Döner, Köfte, Baklava

  
**Fun fact**  
Santa Claus was born in Turkey

  
**Tipping**  
5 – 15% in restaurants and hotels if a service charge has not already been added to the bill

## Cost of living & travel in **Istanbul**



- **Standard bus ticket:** 4 - 7 TRY
- **Monthly transport pass:** 317 TRY
- **Taxi fare:** 5.55 TRY (initial charge); 3.45 TRY (per km) – cash only



- **Standard pint of beer:** 15 - 25 TRY
- **3-course meal for 2 people:** 150 - 250 TRY



- **Typical hotel for 2 adults:** 570 - 995 TRY (per night)
- **Average rent for 1-bedroom apartment:** 2,779– 3,816 TRY (per month)



- **Doctor's visit:** 245 TRY

Costs are based on average in Istanbul, Turkey in July 2021; costs will vary from region to region.

## Celebrating **Turkish culture**



**National holidays**  
Republic Day of Turkey on 29th October



**Notable landmarks**  
Hagia Sophia, Grand Bazaar, Lake Van



**National sport**  
Oil Wrestling