

DREAM TRIP T Ü R K İ Y E

CREATE THE PERFECT TRIP FOR **YOU**



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The Art of Living in Türkiye

W E L C O M E

I am so glad you're here. It means you're ready to plan a trip to Türkiye but don't know where to start. Maybe you know when you want to go but don't know what to do or when or maybe how much money you should plan for. Either way, I'm here to help.

Who am I? Well, my name is Kimberly, and I've been living in Istanbul since 2019, navigating this country, both the ups and downs, including through the pandemic.

Through my experiences, I've gained valuable insights and knowledge that I'm eager to share to make your trip planning experience smoother and more enjoyable.

In this workbook you will walk through the four main elements of a trip: budget, where, went, and what. By the end of this workbook you will feel confident about these areas and your plan for an epic trip to Türkiye.

I know it can be overwhelming when there are so many different places to see and it isn't always easy to get from one to the other. So let's tackle this together!



- Kimberly

A GLANCE AT THE SEVEN REGIONS OF TÜRKİYE

Türkiye is split up into seven different regions. Each region promises something different to see and experience.

As you go through each region, circle things that sound intriguing and make a note of them in the section they pertain to.

For example, if you want to attend the coffee festival in the fall, make sure you make a note of that in the “when should I go?” section and on the summary page if you decide to go during that season.

Let’s take a look at what Türkiye has to offer.

Legend

\$ = Up to \$85/night

\$\$ = From \$85 – \$150/night

\$\$\$ = From \$150 – \$300/night.

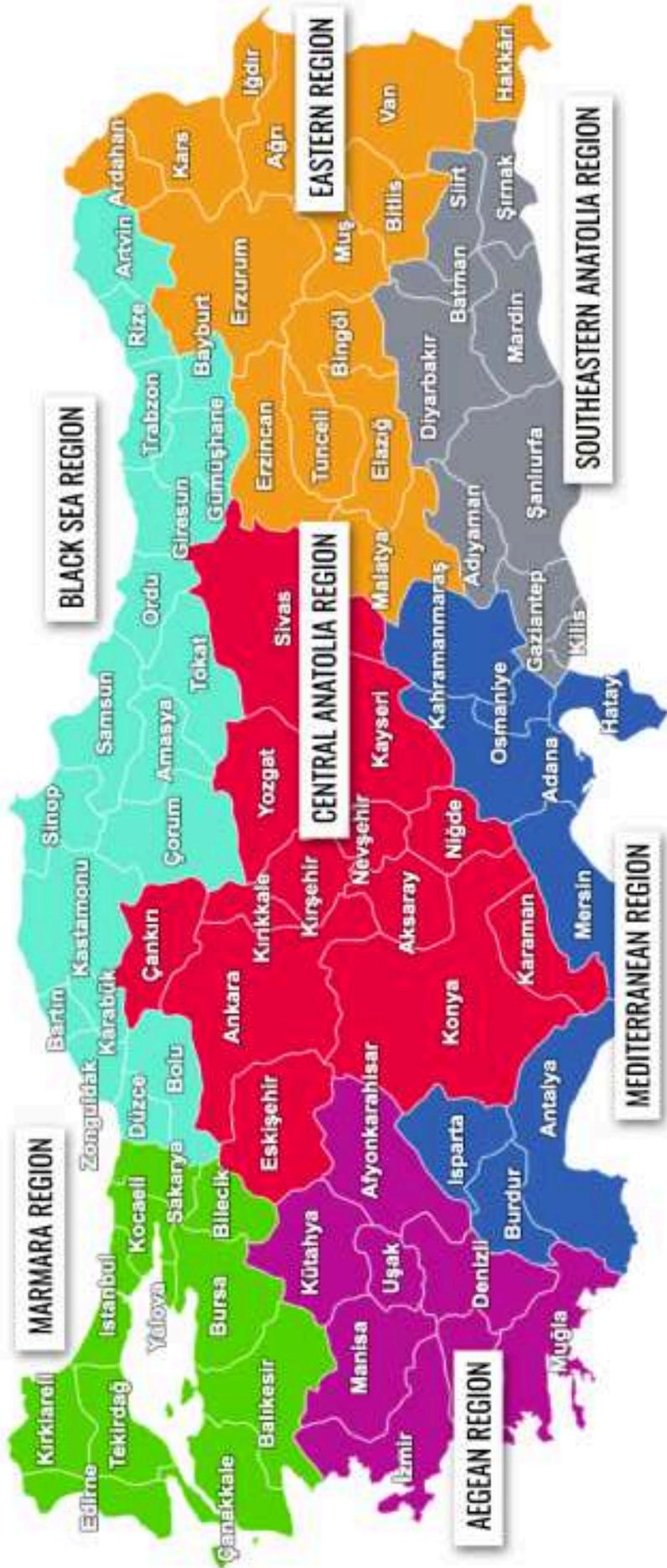
\$\$\$\$ = From \$300 – \$500/night

\$\$\$\$\$ = \$500+/night

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SEVEN
REGIONS

7 REGIONS



Marmara Region

Generally, the weather in this region is quite mild compared to other parts of the country because of its proximity to the water.

- **Summers** are **hot and a bit humid** with little rain but not as humid as down south. This is peak tourist season and will be quite crowded.
- **Fall** starts much later these days as you feel the heat of summer linger but still **cooler mornings and evenings**. You will have a **few rainy days** but they are much fewer than in the winter. It is good to have a light raincoat to use with layers. Not as crowded as summer and not as empty as winter.
- **Winter** is the **wettest season** of the year. Make sure you have a good raincoat and waterproof shoes to keep your feet dry. It does get cold but it doesn't snow very often. The most empty of the seasons, even the locals stay indoors.

REGIONAL CULTURAL EVENTS

- Tekirdag Cherry Festival - *June*
- Tekirdag Kite Festival - *July*
- Eskisehir Coffee Festival - *May*
- Ayvalik Film Festival - *September*
- İnegöl Blueberry Festival - *July*

FOOD/DRINK TO TRY

- Döner Kebabı
- Hünkar beğendi - amaziinnng
- Rakı
- Iskender in Bursa

ISTANBUL

This city I live in is full of chaos and beauty. There is so much to see here and this small little box can't do it justice. Make sure to check out the blog for more ideas!

Tourist Attractions

- Kuzguncuk - cute neighborhood
- Kadikoy - hip Asian side
- Fener & Balat - Historic Jewish District
- Hagia Sophia, Topkapi, Blue Mosque, Grand Bazaar
- Galata Tower
- [Bosphorus Cruise](#)
- Yedikule fortress & Ist. Walls
- Pierre Loti Hill - cable car to a beautiful view in Golden Horn
- Iznik - Ancient Nicea (Yalova) - day-trip

Places to Stay

For other neighborhoods [read this blog](#).

- [Stanpoli Hostel](#) - Sultanahmet - \$
- [Hammamhane](#) - Beyoğlu - \$\$
- [Wyndham](#) - Kadıköy - \$\$\$
- [Mandarin Oriental Bosphorus](#) - Besiktas - \$\$\$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Music Festival - *Summer*
- Tulip Festival - *March/April*
- Int. Film Festival - *April*
- Contemporary Arts Biennial - *Fall*
- Jazz Festival - *Fall*
- Children's Festival - *June*
- Cocktail Festival - *July*
- Electronic Music Festival - *July*
- Istanbul Marathon - *November*
- Gastronomy Festival - *February*
- Coffee Festival - *September*
- Tea Festival - *May*
- Tango Marathon & Festival - *Multiple*

BURSA

Known for its Ottoman architecture, ancient sites and thermal baths.

Tourist Attractions

- Green Tomb
- Kozahan
- Great Mosque
- Uludag Ski Center
- Bursa Teleferik
- Cumalikizik - UNESCO site
- Thermal Baths

Places to Stay

[Eleia Hotel İznik](#) - \$

[Crowne Plaza Bursa](#) - \$\$

[Swissotel Uludag Bursa](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Int. Silk & Textile Festival - *May*
- Turkish Classic Music Festival - *June*
- Winterfest in Uludağ - *January*

KOCAELI

Mostly known for its city center, Izmit and dates back to 8th century BC.

Tourist Attractions

- Izmit Clock Tower
- Sapanca Lake
- Kartepe Ski Resort
- Many parts, outlets and amusement parks

Places to Stay

[Bureau Residence Studio](#) - \$

[Ramada Plaza](#) - \$\$

[Babil Bungalow Boutique](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Izmit Int. Short Film Festival - *October*

EDIRNE

a treasure trove of cultural and historical sites, including the Selimiye Mosque. But the best part of Edirne is the FOOD!

Tourist Attractions

- Selimiye Mosque - UNESCO site
- Edirne Old Mosque (Eski Cami)
- Bedesten and Arasta bazaars
- Edirne Palace

Places to Stay

[Milaroom](#) - \$

[Aliba Hotel](#) - \$\$

[Plaza Hotel](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Kirkpinar Oil Wrestling - *June/July*
- Music Festivals - *year round*

CANAKKALE

It is an important city in world history and home to the ancient city of Troy located on either sides of the Dardanelles.

Tourist Attractions

- Troy Archaeological Site
- Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park
- Assos Ancient City
- Stunning beaches

Places to Stay

[The Abies](#) - \$

[Kolin Hotel Spa](#) - \$\$

[İntepe Poseidon](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Contemporary Art Biennial: *every 2 yrs*
- Grape Harvest Festival - *July*
- Children's Festival - *May*

Black Sea Region

Generally, the weather in this region is mild but also quite humid. Because of its lush green landscape it has more rainfall throughout the year than other places in Türkiye. It is known for its steep, rocky coastline and the Pontus Mountains.

- **Spring** is known for its **foggy weather and increasing rainfall**. Much more mild temperature compared to inland.
- **Summers** are generally **warm and humid**. In June there is typically much more rain than in July and August, when there is the lowest rain of the year.
- **Fall** has **significant rain** and cooler temperatures than the summer. You will be able to see beautiful fall leaves especially up on the mountains.
- **Winter** while you can see snow at the higher altitudes, it isn't common along the coastline as the water makes for moderate temperature. There is often a lot of fog in the morning and evenings. It is also the least rainy season.

FOOD/DRINKS TO TRY:

- Muhlama - cheesy, corny dip
- "Black Hive" honey
- Laz Böreği - similar to baklava
- Tea
- Güveçte kuru fasulye - dried bean casserole
- Akçaabat köftesi - meatballs
- Orman Kebabı - just trust me

TRABZON

My time in Trabzon wasn't long enough. Enjoy the green spaces and rich culture.

Pro tip: Make sure the Sumela is open before going as it is routinely under renovation.

Tourist Attractions

- Sumela Monastery
- Uzungöl
- Hagia Sophia Museum/Mosque
- Ataturk Mansion - really cool!
- Çal Cave
- Ataturk Mansion
- Boztepe
- Rice pudding (sütlaç) in Hamsiköy

Places to Stay

[Dimora Gold Hotel](#) - \$

[Sea and Natural Adalet Suits](#) - \$\$

[Trabzon Sea Pear](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Int. Theater Festival - *May*
- Opera & Ballet Days - *June*
- Winter Snow Festival - *Winter*
- Kadirga Cultural Festival - *July*

Enjoy the different culture and language dialect here. Their accent is quite different from Istanbul, which is considered the standard for Turkish.

REGIONAL CULTURAL EVENTS

- Ordu Boztepe Festival - *Summer*
- Giresun Hazelnut Festival - *August/September*
- Artvin Kafkasor Culture and Art Festival - *August*
- Giresun Int. Plateau Culture a& Art Festival - *July/August*

SINOP

The Ethnography Museum was fascinating. You can walk everywhere for the sites but I recommend a drive around the peninsula.

Tourist Attractions

- Historic Sinop Prison
- Sinop Archeology Museum
- Boyabat Castle
- Ethnography Museum
- Basalt Rockies

Places to Stay

[Denizci Hotel](#) - \$

[Otel 57](#) - \$\$

[Perice Konak](#) - \$\$\$ - Groups

Events/Festivals of note

- Ayancik Culture Linen & Wood Festival - *July*
- Music Festival - *August*

KARABÜK

Safranbolo and Kastamonu hold some of the most incredible Ottoman styled buildings. The city was built in the 1930s.

Tourist Attractions

- Safranbolu & Historic Houses
- Clock Tower
- Turkish Coffee Museum
- Bulak Mencilis Cave
- Eskipazar Rock-Cut Tombs

Places to Stay

[Emiroğlu Konak Hotel](#) - \$

[Dadibra Konak Hotel](#) - \$\$

[Kanyonvadi Hotel](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Architectural & Folklore Week - *Sept*
- Int. Documentary Film Festival - *June*

SAMSUN

I didn't have much time here but I really enjoyed the museum about Ataturk. He is so loved by the Turks and it was fun to learn more about him.

Tourist Attractions

- Bird Sanctuary & Zoo
- Tekkekoy Caves
- Ataturk Park
- Museum of History and Ethnography

Places to Stay

[Hampton by Hilton](#) - \$

[Çepnis Hotel](#) - \$\$

[Venn Boutique Hotel](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Music Festivals - *year round*
- Amisos Cultural Festival - *July*

RİZE

Even as one of the smallest provinces, Rize is important because of its tea industry. Make sure you get tea while you're here!

Tourist Attractions

- Ziraat - Botanical Tea Park
- Zilkale Castle
- Ayder Highlands
- Waterfalls

Places to Stay

[Dereli Suit Apart](#) - \$

[Zümrüdüanka Hotel](#) - \$\$

[Vagona Tiny House](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Kaçkarfest (nature/outdoor sports/yoga) - *August*
- Snow Festival - *January*
- Tea Festival - *Summer*

Eastern Anatolia Region

The weather in this region varies drastically per location. Because of the continental climate, the weather is generally hot summers and cold winters.

- **Spring** can still be **quite cold** and obviously the closer you get to summer, the warmer the days will be. There is **some rainfall** but not as much as more tropical climates.
- **Summers** are **hot during the day and cool in the evening**. However, it is not nearly as humid as the coastal regions. This is definitely **peak season** as tourists try to find cooler places to visit.
- In the **Fall** you can see beautiful **autumn leaves**. As the months progress there is a significant shift in dropping temperatures. **September is typical fall weather followed by cooler weather in October and a noticed difference of cold weather in November**.
- **Winter** is marked by **freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall**, especially in the mountains. December is still the transition month but it is significantly colder in January and February.

FOOD/DRINKS TO TRY:

- Meat Soup - Yuvarlama Çorbası
- Cağ Kebabı
- Wine in Elazığ
- Kadayıf Dolması
- Goose in Kars

KARS

If you want a fun way to get out to take the nostalgic winter train out there and fly back. You won't be disappointed!

Tourist Attractions

- Grand Cathedral
- Tigran Honents Church
- Beylerbeyi Palace
- Fethiye Mosque
- Kuyucuk Bird Sanctuary
- Archaeological Museum
- Cheese Museum - yes please!
- Skiing center in Karikamis
- Ani Ruins the many Armenian churches - UNESCO site

Places to Stay

[Kars Konak Hotel](#) - \$

[Mavi Ladin Konukevi](#) - \$\$

[Kars Hotel](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Sarikamis Winter Games - March

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

- Javelin Games - Erzurum - April/May
- Ahlat in Bitlis - ancient center of Turkish art and Seljuk graveyards
- Mount Ararat - a dormant volcano in the Agri province - believed to be home to Noah's Ark though never found - great for experienced climbers

ELAZIĞ

This city has a much older history dating back to ancient Anadolia times (think Hittites, Byzantines, etc). It is also

Tourist Attractions

- Ethnography and Archaeology Museum
- Skiing center on Hazarbaba Mtn.
- Keban & Karakaya Dams for the Euphrates River

Places to Stay

[Ramada by Wyndham](#) - \$\$

[Doubletree by Hilton](#) - \$\$

[New Marathon Hotel](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Children's Festival - *May*

ERZURUM

Here you must eat a cağ kebab. It is like a normal one but roasted horizontally and made especially well in Erzurum.

Tourist Attractions

- Byzantine City Walls
- Erzurum Museum
- Seljuk buildings in town
- Ulu (Grand) Mosque
- Lake Tortum & waterfalls
- Double Minaret Theology School - excellent picture of Seljuk architecture

Places to Stay

[Lala Grand Hotel](#) - \$

[Hotel Zade](#) - \$

[Balsoy Mountain Hotel](#) - \$

Events/Festivals of note

- Izmit Int. Short Film Festival - *October*
- Icebreak Palandoken - *December*

MALATYA

Make sure you buy apricots and some copper in Malatya!

Tourist Attractions

- City Museum
- Tohma Canyon & Groove Pond
- Gunpinar Falls - over 200 waterfalls
- Ansir (Buzluk) Caves
- Arslantepe Mound - tumulus datig back to 5500 BC - UNESCO site

Places to Stay

[Movenpick Hotel Malatya](#) - \$\$

[Hanem Hotel](#) - \$\$

[Anemon Malatya Hotel](#) - \$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Music Festivals - *year round*

VAN

Because it is located on the border of Iran, the food and culture are quite different than the rest of Türkiye. It is also seated in the midst of the Eastern Anatolian Mountain Range.

Tourist Attractions

- Lake Van
- Plenty of outdoorsy stuff
- Akdamar Island w/church
- Tirsin pasture - open air museum
- House of Van Cats

Places to Stay

[Deluxe Apartment in Van](#) - \$

[Conforium Hotel Van](#) - \$\$

[Elite World Van](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

Theater Film Festival - *October*

Southeastern Anatolia Region

The semi-arid climate in this regions means it is typically hot summers and cool winters. The range of temps is quite high as well getting as low as 32° to more than 100°.

- **Spring** is stereotypical cooler in the beginning months and warmer by the time summer approaches. There is an average of 7 rain days a month.
- **Summers** are long and hot. There is rarely rain and while it might feel a little humid, it is significantly less humid than Istanbul. July and August are the hottest months reaching the 100s.
- **Fall** brings shorter days with it as well as cooler temps. At the beginning of the season you'll likely see lows in the upper 70s but by November they are in the low 50s.
- **Winter** is also the wettest month with the most number of rain days per month. Thankfully the sun still shines unlike other places in Türkiye.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

- Ancient city of Perre
- Assyrian Monasteries - Midyat
- Mount Nemrut - so much history and incredible limestone statues
- Hasankeyf Castle in Batman
- Traditional Olive Oil Production Methods in Siirt
- The Tumulus in Siirt
- Noah's Mausoleum in Sirnak

DIYARBAKIR

It is renowned for its well-preserved city walls, dates back to Roman times, and offers panoramic views of the Tigris River. The largest city in the region is celebrated for its traditional cuisine, vibrant bazaars, and ancient landmarks.

Tourist Attractions

- Malabadi Bridge - Artuklu Seljuk design
- Zerkervan/Samachi Castle - 2nd/3rd cent. temple dedicated to Mithras
- City Walls (Middle Ages Architecture) & Heysel Gardens - UNESCO site
- Fortress - maybe built by the Hurri
- Surp Giragos Armenian Church
- St. Mary Church

Places to Stay

[Köprücü Hotel](#) - \$

[Karga Boutique Hotel](#) - \$\$

[Movenpick Diyarbakir](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Culture and Art Festival - *September*

FOOD/DRINKS TO TRY:

- Pistachios are a must in Gaziantep
- Beyran Çorbası - my favorite
- Urfa Kebab - similar to Adana but not spicy
- Lahmacun - thin cheeseless pizza that you put some fresh veggies inside and roll it up to eat
- Katmer - favorite dessert
- Otlu Peynir - Herb cheese

MARDIN

Some say this city dates back to the Flood and has been inhabited by many different cultures.

Tourist Attractions

- Zinciriye Medresse
- Kasimiye Medresse
- Dayrul-Zeferan Monastery
- 40 Martyrs Church
- Check out the Old City
- Mor Gabriel Monastery
- Day-trip to Ancient Roman City Dara
- Ulu (Grand) Mosque - yes another one

SANLIURFA

This is known as Urfa and believed to be the birth place of Abraham according to the Bible and the Quran. Other people like Jethro, Job, and Elijah also lived here and it is the region Moses lived in for years working as a shepherd.

Tourist Attractions

- Göbeklitepe - still being excavated. It's on my bucket list! UNESCO site.
- Karahantepe - 12k years old!
- Halfeti - submerged city
- The Pool of Sacred Fish & Abraham's Cave
- Sanliurfa Fortress - being renovated check if open before visiting
- Ancient City of Harran - mud brick village

Places to Stay

[Tessera Hotel](#) - \$\$

[Hanehan](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Int. Ataturk Dam Sailing Competition - October

Places to Stay

[Maristan Tarihi Konak](#) - \$

[Mirsoum Han](#) - \$\$

[Mirsoum Hotels](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Flying Carpet Festival - music and arts festival for vulnerable and refugee children - September
- Music Festivals - year round
- Int. Children & Youth Theater Festival - November

GAZIANTEP

It is also known as Antep and was originally a Hittite city. It is one of the most modern provinces in the region and the center of pistachio cultivation. You should definitely buy some. It is also one of UNESCO's "Creative Cities Network" for Gastronomy so you can't go wrong with food here in general.

Tourist Attractions

- Karkamis district - Legend of Gilgamesh
- Beautiful old style buildings/houses
- Buy some copper and baklava
- Zincirli Bazaar
- Emine Göğüş Culinary Museum
- Ancient Zeugma City & Mosaic Museum

Places to Stay

[Anadolu Evleri](#) - \$

[Dedeman Park City Center](#) - \$\$

[Shimall Hotel](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Golden Pistachio Festival - Sept/Oct
- Tourism Fair - April
- GAP Culture & Art Festival - September
- Children's Festival - May

Mediterranean Region

This region has a Mediterranean climate and is known for its hot, dry (albeit more humid than Istanbul) summers and mild, wet winters.

- **Spring** is one of my favorite seasons. You get the chill from the winter that has yet to fade with the warming temps during the day of the summer that is approaching. There is some rain but it isn't too much.
- **Summers** on the other hand are much hotter. I typically avoid visiting during this time. Not only is it hot, it is high tourist season. The beaches are packed and the sun is at its fullest. Be prepared to sweat.
- **Fall** is my other favorite season. This is especially a great season if you want to avoid some crowds and still go to the beach, September in particular. Rain does start to pick up but it is a pleasant time to visit still.
- **Winter** is the wettest (compared to most of Türkiye) and coldest season.

REGIONAL CULTURAL EVENTS

- Alanya International Tourism and Art Festival - June
- Olive Oil Festivals - year round
- Kaş Lycian Culture & Arts - June
- Alanya Int. Triathlon - October
- Guitar Festival - held at various cities throughout the region -
- Int. Sailing Regattas - various ports - year round
- Cuisine Festival

ANTALYA

This city reminds me of my home in Florida...at least climate wise. If you're looking for outdoor stuff in the heat, this is a great place for you!

Tourist Attractions

- Kalkan/Kaş beaches
- Antalya proper beaches
- Ancient city of Perge
- Nightlife - bars, pubs, & beach clubs
- Upper & Lower Duden Falls
- Aspendos Ruins

Places to Stay

[Bütünoğlu Pansiyon](#) - \$

[Mai Ince Hotel](#) - \$\$ - Sustainable Tourism

[White Garden Hotel](#) - \$\$\$ - Adults Only

[IC Hotels Airport](#) - \$\$\$ - I'm a huge IC fan!

Events/Festivals of note

- Aspendos Opera & Ballet Festival - *June/July*
- Sand Sculpture Exhibition - *Summer through September*
- Phaselis Festival - *September*
- Istanbul Marathon - *November*
- Nevruz Spring Festival - *March*
- International Piano Festival - *November*
- Sky & Science Festival - *July*
- Yoga Retreats - *year round*
- Tango Festivals - *year round*

FOOD/DRINKS TO TRY:

- Maraş ice cream - not my fav but worth a try for sure!
- Tantuni in Mersin - yummmm
- Adana Kebab - without a doubt
- Kısır - bulgar wheat salad - so tasty

THINGS TO DO IN THE REGION:

- Saklikent Canyon - between Fethiye and Antalya - Skiing in the winter
- Taurus Mountains - hiking, waterfalls, etc
- Manavgat Tourism Festival - *July*
- Pamphylia - rich in ancient history
- Throughout this and the Aegean Region there are many ancient Lycian cities
- Kemer Carnival - *September*
- Finike Festival - *June*
- Int. St. Nicholas Syposium - *December*

ADANA

Its name comes from mythology as it was claimed to be founded by the son of Cronus, Adanus. If you go to Adana, you must get an Adana Kebab, though it is a little spicy FYI. It's one of my top 5 kebabs in Türkiye.

Tourist Attractions

- Kapıkaya Canyon
- Körkün Canyon
- Central Park
- Belemelik - great for nature & picnics
- Anavarza Ancient City
- Varda Bridge - in James Bond movie

Places to Stay

[Sky Garden Suites](#) - \$\$

[Türkmen Riverside Hotel](#) - \$\$

[Sheraton Grand](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Int. Orange Blossom Carnival - *April*
- Int. Theater Festival - *April/May*
- Golden Cocoon Film Festival - *September*

MERSIN

It boasts being the largest port in the region and has a Free Trade Zone as well.

Tourist Attractions

- Cennet-Cehennem (Heaven-Hell) Sinkholes - Natural phenomenon
- Ancient city of Tarsus - Paul's home
- Caves & Outdoor adventures

Places to Stay

[Saya Life Konaklama](#) - \$

[2 Bedroom Apartment](#) - \$\$

[Divan Hotel](#) - \$\$\$

[BN Hotel Thermal & Wellness](#) - \$\$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Music Festivals - *year round*
- Citrus Festival - *November*
- International Fair - *September*
- Arts & Cultural - *September/October*

ISPARTA

You will find so much natural beauty here and if roses are your thing, Isparta is your place.

Tourist Attractions

- Ulu (Grand) Mosque
- Kovada National Park
- Kasnak Forest - famous for its varieties of butterflies
- Isparta Museum - check if open

Places to Stay

[Melodi Hotel](#) - \$

[Aliya Konak](#) - \$\$ - Incl. breakfast & dinner

[Ramada by Wyndham](#) - \$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Egridir Lake Festival - *July*
- Int. Carpet and Rose Festival - *June*

Aegean Region

This region is also a part of the Mediterranean Climate meaning generally speaking hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. For at least 6 months of the year the average temp is over 77°.

- **Spring** the weather is March is chillier with an average of 55° but by May the average is closer to 64°. There is also an average of 6 rainy days across the region.
- **Summers** will have a little rain in June but rarely any in July and August. The average is between 75° and 80°. It is also quite humid in the summer.
- **Fall** brings shorter days and cooler temperatures but the sea takes a bit to cool off which means though the Turks won't enter it, it is often warm enough for most western tourists.
- **Winter** is known to be exceptionally wet with an average of 10 rainy days a month. It gets cold in this region those rarely snows.

REGIONAL CULTURAL EVENTS

- Ephesus & Selcuk - day trip
- Manisa Mesir Paste Festival - *March*
- Int. Sailing Regattas - various ports - *year round*
- Manisa Traditional "Misir" Festival - *Apr*
- Datça Almond Blossom Festival - *Feb*
- Marmaris Festival - *June*
- Int. Gullet Biennial - *October*
- Marmaris Int. Yachting Festival - *May*
- Marmaris Int. Yacht Race - *November*
- Balikesir Carpet Festival - *September*

IZMIR

There is so much in this province so I grouped it by province instead of city. Izmir city is also the 3rd largest city in Türkiye.

Tourist Attractions

- Smyrna - Kadifekale Fortress & Agora
- Çeşme & Kuşadası - beaches
- Konak Square & Izmir Clock Tower
- Kızlarağası Han
- Hisar Mosque
- Archaeology & Ethnography Museum

Places to Stay

[Dalyan Risus Suite](#) - Çeşme - \$

[Deka Evleri](#) - Izmir - \$

[Eflin Haus](#) - Çeşme - \$\$

[Marin Hotel](#) - Urla - \$\$

[Hayatt Regency](#) - Izmir - \$\$\$

[Huzurla Hotel](#) - Urla - \$\$\$

[Çeşme Alacati Port Ladera](#) - Çeşme - Adults Only - \$\$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- International Fair - *September*
- Camel Wrestling Festival - *January/February*
- Anzac Day - *April*
- Alaçatı Herb Festival - *March*
- Izmir Tile Festival - *November*
- Urla Artichoke Festival - *April*
- Ephesus Festival of Culture and Tourism - *May*

FOOD/DRINKS TO TRY:

- All the citrus & wine
- Çiçek dolması - stuff flowers...so good
- Black and green olives
- Cigirtma (Eggplant) in Bergama
- Kiwi - becoming more a thing
- All the fish - Mediterranean diet here

AYDIN

Known for their figs, olives, strawberries and cotton. Since it was ruled by the Seljuks, you will see the influence in the architecture.

Tourist Attractions

- Mineral springs & spas
- Didyma - UNESCO site
- Ancient City of Aphrodisias

Places to Stay

[Ionia Guest House](#) - \$\$

[Efeler Hotel](#) - \$\$

[Anemon Kent Hotel](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Didim VeganFest - April
- Didim Lavendar Festival - July
- Strawberry Agriculture & Art - May
- Yenipazar Pitta & Gastronomy - May

BODRUM (MUĞLA)

This is where you will find a lot of western tourists. There have great nightlife and stunning beaches.

Tourist Attractions

- Boat trips and check out local villages
- Wine tours and tasting
- Horseback Riding

Places to Stay

[Bodrum Sade Pension](#) - \$

[Gumbet Hotel](#) - \$\$

[Villa Oliva Boutique Hotel](#) - \$\$\$

[La Local Yalıkavak](#) - \$\$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Int. Ballet Festival - August
- Cycling Tour - April
- Int. Sailing Cup - October

FETHIYE (MUĞLA)

Muğla is my favorite. Renting a car, staying Fethiye (Telmessos) and taking day trips from there is awesome.

Tourist Attractions

- Patara, Letoon, and Tlos were great
- Saklikent Canyon - camping/picnics
- Ölüdeniz and the hike from Kayaköy

Places to Stay

[Chillsteps Hostel](#) - \$

[Woynpoint Hotel & Cafe](#) - \$\$

[Ada Dreams City](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Almond Blossom Festival - February
- Yeşil Üzümlü Mushroom Festival - Apr
- Air Games - October

DENİZLİ

You will need a car here to get around unless you have booked tours but its worth a wander. Know as the city of festivals.

Tourist Attractions

- Pamukkale
- Ancient city of Hierapolis
- Laodicea - my favorite of the 7 churches
- Forests - camping, camping, & picnics
- Thermal Resorts

Places to Stay

[JK Business Hotel](#) - \$

[Pamukkale Apollon Garden](#) - \$\$

[Casa Bianca Hotel](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Melon Watermelon Festival - Sep
- Culture and Apple Festival - Sep
- Folk Dance Festival - July

Central Anatolia Region

Since this region is landlocked, it experiences a continental climate with hot, dry summers and cold, snowy winters.

- **Spring** typical spring weather for all three months, warming up as it approaches summer. You're more apt to see rain in March and April.
- **Summer** can be quite toasty and is also the driest season. Temperatures can reach the high 90s and there are long, sunny days.
- **Fall** brings with it the start of cooling weather. There is less rain in the fall than in the spring but you will see it especially closer to winter.
- **Winter** is the time to go if you wanna see snow, especially up in the mountains. The weather is quite cold in the winter compared with many other regions. It is also the month with the most precipitation, usually in the form of snow.

REGIONAL CULTURAL EVENTS

- Niğde Cherry Festival - *May/June*
- Kırşehir International Nasreddin Hodja Festival - *Summer*
- Aksaray International Culture and Art Festival - *June/July*
- Erciyes Snow Festival - *February*
- Cultural and Arts Workshops - throughout the region - *year round*

CAPPADOCIA

Renowned for its surreal landscapes of fairy chimneys and ancient cave dwellings, offering an unforgettable experience.

Tourist Attractions

- Göreme Open-Air Museum
- Hot Air Balloon ride at Sunrise
- Horseback Riding through valleys
- Visit other locals cities
- Watch the sunset at Rose Valley
- Fairy Chimneys & Underground Cities
- Avanos Hair Museum - Weirdest Award

Places to Stay

- [Narcissos Cave Hotel](#) - \$
- [Rustic Caves Hotel](#) - \$\$
- [Woox Cappadocia](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Hot Air Balloon Festival - *July*
- Mountain Biking Race & Festival - *June*
- Wine Festival - *October*
- Cappadox (music/art/gastronomy/outdoors) - *June*
- Int Hittite Culture & Arts Festival - *May/June*

FOOD/DRINKS TO TRY:

- Manti - Kayseri version is more soupy
- Eskisehir Çiğ börek - savory, meat filled fried dough
- Firin Mantar - mushrooms with meat, herbs, and rice
- Konya Etli ekmek - like a cheeseless pizza - trust me.
- Testi Kebab - cooked in a clay pot
- Konya Sikma - similar to tantuni
- Yağlama - Turkish lasagna
- Yogurt soup from Kırşehir

ANKARA

The capital of Türkiye is a melting pot of history, politics, and culture, blending ancient landmarks with modern developments.

Tourist Attractions

- Anıtkabir (Atatürk's Mausoleum)
- Atakule Tower
- Gençlik Park
- Ankara Citadel (Hisar) - great views

Places to Stay

[Esenboğa Airport Luxury Residence](#) - \$

[Bahçelievler Hotels](#) - \$\$

[Divan Cukurhan](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Jazz Festival - April/May
- Int. Cartoon Festival - June/July
- Int. Theater Festival - Sep/Oct
- Int. Film Festival - March/April

ESKISEHIR

This is a really cute college town. If you're looking for something close to IST but also with more space, this is a great option.

Tourist Attractions

- Science Arts and Culture Park
- Odunpazarı Historic District
- Modern Art Museum is great!
- Walk along the river

Places to Stay

[Arasta Konak Boutique Hotel](#) - \$

[Smart by Dedeman](#) - \$\$

[Tasigo](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Yunus Emre Culture & Art Week - May
- Int. [Meerschaum](#) Festival - September
- Int. Festival - September/October

KONYA

Konya is the spiritual center of Türkiye as well as is home to some amazing food!

Tourist Attractions

- Konya Archaeological Museum
- Konya's Bazaars and Markets
- Alaeddin Mosque - Seljuk Architecture

Places to Stay

[Konya Dervish Hotel](#) - \$\$

[Araf Hotel](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Whirling Dervishes Festival - Nov
- Nasreddin Hoca Festival - July
- Javelin Games - September

SIVAS

It is known for its traditional handicrafts & cultural scene. It offers you a glimpse into Anatolian heritage amidst its scenic views.

Tourist Attractions

- Ataturk Congress & Ethnography Museum
- Great Mosque & Hospital - UNESCO site
- Sifaiye Madrasah & other Seljuk monuments/architecture
- Largest Archaeological Museum

Places to Stay

[Beyaz İnci Hotel](#) - \$

[Özkaya Hotel](#) - \$\$

[The Green Park](#) - \$\$\$

Events/Festivals of note

- Traditional Handicrafts Festival - year round
- Cultural Festivals - year round
- Congress Culture & [Art Week](#) - Sep/Oct

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT FOUR BIG IDEAS

This section is addressing the four big ideas:

1. budget
2. when to visit
3. what to do while you're there
4. where to go

Now that you know a bit more about Türkiye, let's figure out how to take the big ideas and make them **your** ideas.

W H E N S H O U L D I G O ?

Hey there, fellow traveler! So, you're dreaming of Türkiye, huh? Before you pack your bags and hop on a flight, let's talk timing. Figuring out when to go can make all the difference in your Türkiye adventure.

Why does it matter so much? Well, think of it like savoring your favorite fruit. Sure, these days you could enjoy it any time of year, but isn't it more delicious when it's in season and bursting with flavor? Similarly, choosing the right time to visit Türkiye ensures you can enjoy it in the right season for you, making your trip all the more enjoyable.

Timing your visit to Türkiye rightly can help you avoid the hustle and bustle of peak tourist season. Plus, being in the know about local holidays and events means you can join in on the fun or plan around the crowds.

So, grab your calendar and get ready to pick the perfect date for your Türkiye adventure. With a little planning and a whole lot of excitement, you'll be ready to rock Türkiye like a pro!

Let's answer some questions!

When should I go?

Select the option that best reflects your typical travel preferences

- 1 How do you prefer the weather during your travels?**
 - a) Mild and cool
 - b) Warm and sunny
 - c) Hot and sunny
- 2 Are you planning your trip around specific holidays or events?**
 - a) No, flexible travel dates
 - b) Yes, I want to experience local festivals or events
 - c) Yes, I prefer to avoid crowds
- 3 Are you interested in experiencing Türkiye's cultural festivals or events?**
 - a) Yes, cultural experiences are a priority
 - b) Somewhat, but not a top priority
 - c) No, I'm more interested in other activities
- 4 How do you feel about crowded tourist attractions?**
 - a) I don't mind crowds
 - b) I prefer to avoid crowds when possible
 - c) I want to avoid crowded places entirely
- 5 Are you traveling on a tight budget?**
 - a) Yes, I'm looking for budget-friendly options
 - b) My trip has a moderate budget
 - c) Budget is not a concern
- 6 Do you prefer to visit destinations during their peak tourist season?**
 - a) Yes, I want to experience the destination at its busiest
 - b) I'm open to visiting during peak season if it's the best time to go
 - c) No, I prefer to visit during off-peak times to avoid crowds
- 7 How important are historical sites and landmarks to your travel itinerary?**
 - a) Very important, I want to visit as many historical sites as possible
 - b) Moderately important, but not the main focus of my trip
 - c) Not important, I'm more interested in other activities
- 8 What time of day do you prefer to engage in outdoor activities?**
 - a) Morning
 - b) Afternoon
 - c) Evening
- 9 Which regions or cities in Türkiye are you most interested in visiting?**
 - a) Coastal areas and beaches
 - b) Historical sites and ruins
 - c) Urban centers and cultural hubs
- 10 How long do you plan to stay in Türkiye?**
 - a) Short trip (1-2 weeks)
 - b) Medium trip (2-4 weeks)
 - c) Extended trip (more than 4 weeks)

Scoring Directions for WHEN Preference Quiz

Scoring Method:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. (a): +1 point (b): +2 points (c): +3 points | 6. (a): +2 points (b): +1 point (c): +3 points |
| 2. (a): +1 point (b): +2 point (c): +3 points | 7. (a): +2 points (b): +1 point (c): +3 points |
| 3. (a): +2 points (b): +1 point (c): +0 points | 8. (a): +1 point (b): +2 points (c): +3 points |
| 4. (a): +1 point (b): +2 points (c): +3 points | 9. (a): +2 points (b): +3 points (c): +1 point |
| 5. (a): +3 points (b): +2 points (c): +1 point | 10. (a): +1 point (b): +2 points (c): +3 points |

Total Score 15-23 points: For you, the best time to visit Türkiye is likely during the shoulder seasons of spring (April - June) and autumn (September- November). These times offer nice weather, fewer crowds, and lower prices compared to the peak summer season. There are also moderate temperatures and both cultural attractions and outdoor activities this time of year.

Total Score 24-34 points: For you, the best time to visit Türkiye is likely during the summer months (June - August) because of the hot and sunny weather, beach activities, and vibrant cultural events. This period is peak tourist season, so expect larger crowds and higher prices, especially in popular tourist destinations.

Total Score 35-45 points: For you, the best time to visit Türkiye is likely during the winter months (December - February) for those who prefer cooler temperatures and want to explore historical sites and urban centers without the summer crowds. There are unique experiences such as skiing and cultural events and festivals. However, coastal areas may be quieter during this time.

Best time to go to Türkiye: _____

Next Steps:

Now that you know the season you prefer to travel we can take a look at some reflection questions to get you thinking a bit more about what you want. You are on your way to planning your dream trip!

Self Reflection on WHEN to go to Türkiye

Are there any festivals or season specific things you want to see?

Türkiye has music, coffee, beer, tulip festivals and so many more. Is there anything specific you want to see that is tied to a certain season?

What kind of weather do you prefer?

You may be able to find your preferred weather year round in some places depending on what you want to do/season you prefer.

Self Reflection on WHEN to go to Türkiye

Are there types of activities that are must-do on this vacation?

Is the beach a must? Do you need to see all the museums? Really want to take a cruise on a Turkish Gullet?

Do you prefer crowds/peak tourist times or shoulder/off-season?

Peak seasons are summer and Christmas break. Shoulder seasons are spring and fall, save spring break.

WHAT SHOULD I DO ?

Now we're getting to the fun stuff. Sure, you could stick with the basics, but where's the fun in that? Just like the perfect charcuterie board, Türkiye offers a wide variety of experiences waiting to be enjoyed.

From exploring ancient ruins that whisper tales of civilizations past to indulging in culinary delights that dance on your taste buds like a Turkish folk dance, you're sure to find something perfect for you.

Picture yourself soaring above Cappadocia's surreal landscapes in a hot air balloon or getting lost in the labyrinthine streets of Istanbul's lively bazaars. Each experience is like a different ingredient in the recipe of your Turkish adventure, blending together to create a feast for the senses.

So, grab your metaphorical fork and knife (and maybe an actual map), and get ready to dig into all that Türkiye has to offer. With a little bit of curiosity and a whole lot of appetite for adventure, you'll be feasting on unforgettable experiences in no time.

Through a series of questions, I will help you plan a trip that is just right for you!

What should I do in Türkiye?

Select the option that best reflects your typical travel preferences

1 Preferred Activity Type:

- a) Exploring historical sites and ancient ruins
- b) Relaxing on beautiful beaches and enjoying coastal scenery
- c) Engaging in outdoor adventures and nature activities

2 Interest in Cultural Experiences:

- a) Visiting museums, art galleries, and cultural landmarks
- b) Attending traditional festivals and experiencing local customs
- c) Participating in culinary tours and trying authentic Turkish cuisine

3 Desired Adventure Level:

- a) Mild adventures such as hiking and nature walks
- b) Moderate adventures such as water sports and boat tours
- c) High-adrenaline activities such as paragliding and hot air ballooning

4 Preferred Setting:

- a) Exploring bustling cities and vibrant urban centers
- b) Relaxing in tranquil coastal towns and beach resorts
- c) Immersing yourself in scenic countryside and rural villages

5 Interest in Unique Landscapes:

- a) Exploring geological wonders and natural formations
- b) Enjoying panoramic views of the Mediterranean or Aegean Sea
- c) Discovering hidden gems and off-the-beaten-path destinations

6 Attraction Priorities:

- a) Visiting iconic landmarks and UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- b) Exploring local markets and shopping districts
- c) Discovering lesser-known attractions and hidden treasures

7 Desired Cultural Immersion:

- a) Participating in guided tours and cultural workshops
- b) Interacting with locals and experiencing authentic Turkish hospitality
- c) Attending cultural performances and traditional music concerts

8 Interest in Historical Sites:

- a) Exploring ancient cities and archaeological sites
- b) Visiting Ottoman palaces and historical mosques
- c) Learning about Türkiye's rich cultural heritage and diverse history

9 Preference for Guided Tours:

- a) Enjoying structured tours with knowledgeable guides
- b) Exploring independently and discovering hidden gems on your own
- c) Combining guided tours with free exploration for a well-rounded experience

10 Travel Companions:

- a) Traveling with friends or family members
- b) Traveling solo or with a partner for a romantic getaway
- c) Traveling with a group of like-minded adventurers or joining organized tours

Scoring Directions for Travel Preference Quiz

Scoring Method:

- Assign yourself one point for each time you chose option A.
- Assign yourself two points for each time you chose option B.
- Assign yourself three points for each time you chose option C.

Add up your total score at the end to determine your ideal activities and attractions in Türkiye.

What does your score mean:

- **10-20 points:** You're inclined towards exploring Türkiye's rich history and cultural heritage. Consider visiting iconic sites like Hagia Sophia, Ephesus, and Pamukkale.
- **21-30 points:** You're drawn to the relaxing coastal beauty and vibrant cultural scene of Türkiye's beach destinations. Explore places like Bodrum, Antalya, and Marmaris for a mix of relaxation and culture.
- **31-40 points:** You enjoy adventurous outdoor activities and exploring Türkiye's diverse landscapes. Consider experiences like hot air ballooning in Cappadocia, trekking the Lycian Way, or rafting in the Köprülü Canyon.

I'm drawn to: _____

Next Steps:

Now you know have a better idea of what might make your trip really special, such as certain activities, tours or events. Take a few minutes on these reflection questions and dream a little about the perfect vacation to Türkiye and what it could look like. Are there any anomalies? Are you an adventure person but also you'd really like a day at the spa?

Self Reflection on WHAT I Want to Enjoy

Are there any specific attractions/landmarks you want to visit?

Are you a history buff with a need for UNESCO sites or do you absolutely love old churches?

What are your must-do activities or experiences while in Türkiye?

Did you see something in a show or book about Türkiye that you're dying to see or experience?

Self Reflection on WHAT I Want to Enjoy

Do you prefer organized activities or independent exploration?

Not everyone loves a group tour but those who do, love them! Would you rather figuring it out on your own?

Are there any activities or experiences you'd like to include that are unique to your interests or passions?

Are you scuba diver or rock climber? Do you have specialized hobbies?

W H E R E S H O U L D I G O ?

Planning your trip is like piecing together a beautiful mosaic. From the vibrant hues of Istanbul's bustling streets to the serene blues of the Aegean coastline, Turkiye's mosaic is a masterpiece waiting to be discovered by you.

You might find yourself tracing the ancient footsteps of Alexander the Great in Anatolia or basking in the Mediterranean sun on the shores of Antalya or Fethiye or perhaps stepping back in time on a nostalgic train out east in the winter.

Just like assembling a mosaic requires patience, creativity, and attention to detail, planning your Turkiye adventure involves carefully **selecting the elements that resonate with you**. Regardless of you're drawn to, each tile adds depth and texture to your mosaic, creating a journey that's uniquely yours.

So, grab your metaphorical mosaic pieces and let's start figuring out the best places in Turkiye to see. With each region offering its own distinct charm, you're sure to create a masterpiece that leaves a lasting impression!

Ready?! Let's answer some questions.

Where should I go in Türkiye?

Answer by selecting the option that best describes your preferences

1 Desired Climate:

- a) Mild temperatures and cooler climates
- b) Hot and sunny weather with access to water activities
- c) Moderate climate with pleasant breezes and outdoor dining opportunities

2 Activity Preferences:

- a) Hiking in scenic landscapes and exploring nature reserves
- b) Participating in water sports and beach activities
- c) Shopping in vibrant markets and experiencing cultural events

3 Cuisine Preference:

- a) Sampling traditional Turkish cuisine and trying local street food
- b) Dining at upscale restaurants and experiencing gourmet cuisine
- c) Exploring diverse culinary scenes and trendy cafes

4 Accommodation Preference:

- a) Staying in charming boutique hotels or traditional guesthouses
- b) Luxuriating in upscale resorts with extensive amenities
- c) Opting for trendy boutique hotels or stylish apartments

5 Interest in Cultural Heritage:

- a) Visiting museums, mosques, and historic sites
- b) Attending cultural festivals and traditional performances
- c) Exploring contemporary art galleries and modern cultural

6 Preferred Travel Experience:

- a) Exploring historical sites and ancient ruins
- b) Relaxing on beautiful beaches
- c) Immersing yourself in city life

7 Activity Level:

- a) Active exploration and participation in outdoor adventures
- b) Relaxed sightseeing and leisurely activities
- c) Engaging in energetic city exploration and socializing

8 Interest in Unique Landscapes:

- a) Exploring unique geological formations and natural wonders
- b) Relaxing in picturesque coastal towns and enjoying sea views
- c) Admiring modern architecture and urban landscapes

9 Preference for Urban vs. Rural:

- a) Exploring historic cities and bustling urban centers
- b) Relaxing in tranquil villages and experiencing rural life
- c) Enjoying the cosmopolitan vibe of trendy neighborhoods and entertainment districts

10 Travel Companions:

- a) Traveling with friends or family members
- b) Traveling solo or with a partner for a romantic getaway
- c) Traveling with a group of friends or seeking social interactions while traveling

Scoring Directions for Travel Preference Quiz

Scoring Method:

- Assign yourself one point for each time you chose option A.
- Assign yourself two points for each time you chose option B.
- Assign yourself three points for each time you chose option C.

Add up your total score at the end to determine your ideal destination in Türkiye.

What does your score mean:

- **10-20 points:** You're inclined towards experiencing Türkiye's rich history and cultural heritage. Consider exploring cities like Istanbul, Ephesus, and Cappadocia.
- **21-30 points:** You're drawn to the coastal beauty and relaxation of Türkiye's beach destinations. Destinations like Bodrum, Antalya, and Marmaris might be perfect for you.
- **31-40 points:** You enjoy the vibrant energy and cultural offerings of Türkiye's urban centers. Consider cities like Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir for your next trip.

I'm drawn to: _____

Next Steps:

Now that you have a feel for a potential general idea of where you could go, let's reflect a bit more about what is really going to be important to you. As you nail down the "where" your plan is starting to come together!

Self Reflection on WHERE to go

What are your main interests when you travel?

History, culture, adventure, outdoors, food, etc.

Do you already know which region is calling your name?

Or are there a couple that you have thought about checking out?

Self Reflection on WHERE to go

Do you prefer to do touristy stuff or off-the-beaten-path things?

Do you need to see the Hagia Sophia or would you be more contented to wander through a neighborhood and sip coffee?

How long of a vacation can you take?

Do you only have a few days or can you take an extended trip for a few weeks through Türkiye?

WHAT IS MY BUDGET?

Last but definitely not least, we need to talk money. Before you jet off to Türkiye, there's one important thing to tackle: the budget. Yep, that little six letter word can make or break your trip.

Why is budgeting so important? Think of it like this: the budget is the DJ for the trip. It sets the mood, keeps the party going. But why would you settle for a generic playlist when you could have a custom made one?

Personalizing your budget is like creating your own Spotify playlist of travel experiences tailored just for you.

By figuring out what makes your heart sing and where you're willing to reign it in, you can craft a budget that's as unique as you are. And remember, flexibility is key! With a little wiggle room for spontaneity, you'll be ready to enjoy Türkiye like a boss!

What should my budget be?

Select the option that best reflects your budget preferences

- 1 When you travel, what type of accommodation do you typically prefer?**
 - a) Hostels, budget hotels, Airbnb
 - b) Standard hotels, vacation rentals
 - c) Boutique hotels, resorts, all-inclusives
- 2 How do you prefer to get around during your travels?**
 - a) Public transportation or budget airlines
 - b) Rental cars or economy flights
 - c) Private transfers or first-class flights
- 3 How important is dining out and trying local cuisine during your travels?**
 - a) I prefer budget-friendly dining options
 - b) I enjoy a mix of budget and mid-range dining experiences
 - c) Fine dining experiences are an essential part of my travel
- 4 What types of activities do you typically participate in while traveling?**
 - a) Sightseeing, hiking, exploring neighborhoods
 - b) Museums or guided tours
 - c) Private tours and spa treatments
- 5 What is your typical daily travel budget (excluding accommodation and transportation)?**
 - a) Less than \$50 per day
 - b) \$50 - \$150 per day
 - c) More than \$150 per day
- 6 What amenities are essential to you when selecting accommodation?**
 - a) Basic amenities
 - b) Pool, fitness center, breakfast
 - c) Spa, concierge service, gourmet food
- 7 How often do you travel for leisure?**
 - a) Once a year or less
 - b) 2-3 times a year
 - c) More than 3 times a year
- 8 Do you have any special occasions or milestones you'd like to celebrate during your travels?**
 - a) No special occasions planned
 - b) Birthday or anniversary
 - c) Celebrating a milestone event (honeymoon, retirement, etc.)
- 9 Who do you typically travel with?**
 - a) Solo or with friends, on a budget
 - b) With family or a partner, seeking comfortable but not extravagant experiences
 - c) With a partner or group, seeking luxury and indulgence
- 10 Based on your preferences and priorities, how would you describe your ideal travel experience?**
 - a) Prioritizing authentic experiences over luxury
 - b) Balancing affordability with comfort and convenience
 - c) Indulging in luxurious accommodations and experiences

Scoring Directions for Budget Preference Quiz

Scoring Method:

Assign points to your responses as follows:

If you selected mostly a's: **Budget Travel** is your preference

If you selected mostly b's: **Mid-Range Travel** is your preference

If you selected mostly c's: **Luxury Travel** is your preference

My budget is: _____

Next Steps:

Once you have an idea of which ones is best for this trip, you can use that to fine tune the things you want to see in the places you want to see them. Look for the stars for references to your particular budget. Let's take a look at some reflection questions to really flesh out some of the important bits first, however.

Self Reflection on my Desired Budget

How much money am I willing to spend on this trip?

Are you willing to spend big bucks or not so much? Come up with a number so you know how you can plan the rest of your trip.

Where do I want to skip/splurge on this trip?

Do you want to splurge on good food and skip a fancy hotel? Would you rather skimp on food and splurge on experiences? What is important to you?

Self Reflection on my Desired Budget

What's my plan for unexpected expenses or opportunities?

*Do you have a contingency built into your budget? Is your budget quite flexible?
Is there a hard cut-off with your budget?*

What's the one thing with money that would make me happiest?

*Would coming home having spent less than you wanted be the thing?
Perhaps an experience that you were not expecting to have?*

TRAVEL SUMMARY

DESTINATION:

DURATION:

DESTINATION:

DURATION:

WHEN TO GO

TURKISH FOODS TO TRY

MUST SEE

WANT TO SEE

HARD PASS

BUDGET

NOTES

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 First Destination



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Day 2 Second Destination



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Day 3 Third Destination



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Day 4 Fourth Destination



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HERE ARE A LIST OF RESOURCES THAT I USE FOR MY TRIPS

These are tried-and-true resources that will help you both plan your trip but also make sure it goes as smoothly as possible.

There are resources for each of the four sections of this book as well as general travel and planning tips to really help you pull all of the pieces together for your Dream Trip to Türkiye.

PLANNING RESOURCES

Budgeting:

- [Budget planner](#) - put your budget in [Wanderlog](#) to help keep track of everything as you go.
- [Video](#) with some thoughts on budgets and saving money.

When to go to Türkiye:

- [Weather resource](#) - has both the regions and various cities with some great charts to make it easy to understand the weather.

Where to go in Türkiye:

- Itinerary planner - Record what you wrote on the daily itinerary pages in [Wanderlog](#) and always have it at your fingertips.

What to do in Türkiye:

- Make a checklist of must sees in [Wanderlog](#) from the worksheets you completed.

What to do in Türkiye:

- [Video](#) describing how to say various words and phrases.
- [Google doc with vocabulary](#)

General planning:

- [Packing List](#) - make a copy and customize for yourself
- [Travel Tips for international travel](#) - blog post
- [Packing your carry-on correctly](#) - blog post
- [Resource List](#) - my favorite resources for travel
- [Video](#) with cultural tips
- [Video](#) with some practical travel tips

A P P S T O D O W N L O A D

- **Wanderlog** - This app keeps all the things for your trip in one app. With Pro you can even sync it to your email so it automatically loads.
- **Google Translate** - Seriously a saving grace. It isn't perfect but when you're out and you need to communicate, it gets the job done.
- **Yemeksepeti** - Sometimes you don't want to go out and would rather order in. This is a great app to do just that. Make sure you have cash in case they don't take a foreign card.
- **Units Plus** - This saves me regularly. They use Celsius and cm here....I am often confused. But it also has a money conversion so everything all in the same place.
- **Radar Bot** - If you're going to rent a car, this is an incredible app to make sure you don't get caught going too fast for a camera station you didn't even know about.
- **Google Maps** - seriously a Godsend. I use it regularly to navigate the city. In Istanbul, you can even use it to figure out transportation routes, though sometimes it isn't 100% accurate.
- **SurfShark** - This is my preferred VPN because it is inexpensive and works well! I have been using it for 5+ years.
- **Whatsapp** - This will allow you to communicate with friends and family back home with ease with data not SMS.
- **Splitwise** - Traveling with a group? This app helps keep track of shared expenses and splits them up for you. It makes sharing bills easy peasy.

G I F T I D E A S T O T A K E H O M E W I T H Y O U

- Turkish towels
- Turkish-style coasters/ceramics
- Turkish spices
- Coffee - both Turkish coffee and roasted in Türkiye
- Chocolate
- Turkish tea
- Raki - especially for black licorice lovers
- Hookah - both the tobacco and the apparatus
- Musical instruments
- Jewelry - handmade and gold are big here
- Anything leather - make sure it is “hakiki” (genuine)
- Luggage
- Kolonya - similar to hand sanitizer but better
- Pashmina
- Soaps & Kese (scrubby thing from the hammam)
- Turkish delight and baklava
- Pillow covers
- Turkish Lamps

You can read more in-depth about each of these on my [Ultimate Guide to Gifts](#).

Pro Tip: Don't buy antiques unless you KNOW that they are less than 100 years old, otherwise you could find yourself being arrested when you leave the country.

THANK YOU!

I hope this workbook has been helpful in planning your trip to Türkiye. I know it can be overwhelming and my goal for this workbook was to cut some of that overwhelm out.

From here there are a couple of possible next steps.

1. You can hop on over to the website and [read more articles](#) on topics that will be specifically helpful to you.
2. You can check out the [\\$9 Travel Capsule Wardrobe workbook](#) and take some of the stress out of packing for your trip.
3. If you enjoyed this but it just wasn't enough and you'd still really like to chat with me and get some further help, you can schedule a [Turkey Unlocked Consultation](#) for me to help you come up with a plan for your trip!

Note: To take advantage of this special discount please send me your completed workbook as it is the first step towards maximizing our time together. I look forward to working with you!

C O N T A C T M E

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