

E-Reader: Turkey

Below you will find links from a variety of sources that will help to prepare for your short-term mission experience.

Getting the Most of your experience: preparing yourself for a new culture:

- Some travel tips For Turkey: <http://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g293969-c3421/Turkey:Some.Travel.Tips.For.Turkey.html/>
- Cultural shock and gender dynamics; what to expect:
<http://www.expatschange.com/ctryguide/4153/110/Turkey/Expat-Turkey-10-Tips-for-Living-in-Turkey>
<http://www.turkeytravelplanner.com/details/WomenTravelers/>
- Guide to social traditions: <http://turkishtravelblog.com/turkish-culture-guide-social-traditions/>

Country Profile

- BBC: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1022222.stm
- Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey>
- The World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/turkey>

History and Culture

- Turkey History and Culture: <http://www.tourismturkey.org>
- Political History: <http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ac94>
- Secularism: http://www.politics.ankara.edu.tr/dergi/pdf/43/1/3_bulent_daver.pdf
- Music: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_Turkey
- Food: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_cuisine
- Population Demographics: <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/turkey-population/>
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Terrorism:

- Travel Advice, 2015: http://www.turkeytravelplanner.com/details/Safety/should_i_go.html
- General safety concerns: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/turkey.html>
(Click on safety and security)

Christianity and Islam in Turkey

- History of Christianity in Islam: <http://www.turizm.net/turkey/info/religion.html>
- Life as a Catholic in Turkey: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/a-challenge-and-a-grace-life-for-catholics-in-turkey-56033/>
- Between Islam and Catholicism: Bosnian Franciscan Missionaries in Turkish Hungary
<http://www.hist.ceu.hu/files/resources/courses/Toth.pdf>
- Islam in Turkey: <http://www.turkeytravelplanner.com/Religion/Islam.html>

News and Analysis:

- New York Times:
<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/turkey/index.html>
- Guardian coverage of Turkey: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/turkey>

Pre-trip Preparation Page

- For details about health, safety, money, documents and what to pack. (See *Pre-trip Preparation Document*)

Books- All books listed can be found on Amazon.com

- Mustafa Akyol - Islam Without Extremes
- Reiner Hermann – Where is Turkey Headed?
- Helen Rose Ebaugh - Gulen Movement
- Elif Safak Forty Rules of Love (Novel about Rumi)

Cultural Experiences

- *Hagia Sophia (Ayasofya)*: The Basilica of Hagia Sophia was constructed by Roman Emperor Justinian in 537 AD. This was the largest church in the Christian world for a thousand years. Its immense dome rises nearly 200 feet above the ground and its diameter spans more than 100 feet. The mosaics covering the walls are among the most important works of art that have survived to this day of the Byzantine era. The Ottomans converted the basilica to a mosque in the 15th century after the conquest of Istanbul. Recognizing its historic and universal importance, the Turkish Government turned it into a museum in 1935.
- *Ephesus*: The ruins of Ephesus is one of the world's greatest archaeological sites. It is located 75 km south of Izmir. The city reached the peak of its glory under the Roman rule and became a very important center of trade and commerce. The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Ephesus also emerged as one of the main centers of early Christianity. St. Paul remained in the city for three years during his third missionary journey (53 - 57). The Apostle John also came to Ephesus to live and was finally buried here. Tradition has it that St. John brought Virgin Mary to Ephesus after Christ's crucifixion and that she lived and died 3 miles away. In the year 431 the Third Ecumenical Council was held in the Basilica of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus. In the following century, Emperor Justinian (527 - 565) built a massive church at the spot where St John was believed to have been buried. It became an important site of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages.
- *Sultan Ahmet Mosque (Blue Mosque)*: Sultanahmet Mosque is the most famous monument in both the Turkish and the Islamic worlds. It was built in the classic Turkish architectural style between 1609-1616 by the architect Mehmet. The building is more familiarly known as the Blue Mosque because of its magnificent interior paneling of more than 20,000 blue and white Iznik tiles. As it is located across Hagia Sophia, the mosque was designed to be as large and as magnificent as this Byzantine structure.
- *Topkapi Palace*: Topkapi Palace is certainly the most important historical site to be visited in Istanbul. The Palace served as the administrative center of the Ottoman Empire for nearly 400 years between the 15th and 19th centuries. Its principal parts were finished in 1478, then altered and enlarged by new additions in the reign of each succeeding sultan. The Palace was abandoned in 1855 when Sultan Abdülmecit I, 31st Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, moved to the new Palace of Dolmabahçe. In 1924, it was turned into a museum upon the orders of Atatürk.
- *Cappadocia*: The ancient region of Cappadocia lies in Central Anatolia between the cities of Nevsehir, Kayseri and Nigde. Three million years ago, violent eruptions of the nearby volcanoes covered the surrounding plateau with a deep layer of solidified mud, ash and lava. Since the most ancient of times, men have been carving dwellings in this soft rock; the early Christians made countless cave churches, chapels and monasteries. There are more than 200 churches in Cappadocia scattered through the valleys, with their impressive frescoes and art works.

- *Kariye Museum (The Chora Church)*: The Kariye Museum is, after Hagia Sophia, the most important Byzantine monument in Istanbul. The existing building was built towards the end of the 11TH century and dedicated to Christ the Savior. After the Turkish conquest, the church remained deserted for a time, and was turned into a mosque in 1511 by addition of a minaret. It became a museum in 1948 and its frescoes were cleaned and restored by the American Institute of Byzantine Research.

NB: For more information on significant cultural landmarks and artifact in Turkey, see <http://www.turkishconsulategeneral.us/trav/fame.shtml>