



EXPAT EXPLORE TURKEY TOURS ARE FULLY PRESENTED IN TURKEY BY FEZ TRAVEL Ltd.

Fez Travel Ltd

Akbiyik Caddesi No:17,  
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Turkey

Tel. : +90 (0212) 516 90 24 Fax :  
+90 (0212) 638 87 64

Emergency Contact : +90 (0) 532  
217 2898 [feztravel@feztravel.com](mailto:feztravel@feztravel.com)

## General Turkey Information

The Australian and New Zealand governments ask that their citizens travelling in Turkey register themselves via their respective websites.

They may be found at :-

Australians <https://www.orao.dfat.gov.au/>

New Zealand <http://www.nzembassy.com/registration.cfm?c=1021&l=1>

**How do I get to Sultanahmet and the Fez office from Ataturk airport ?**

A taxi is the easiest but most expensive way to get to Sultanahmet from the airport. A taxi should cost around 30YTL (approx £13) with 'gunduz' (day time rates - from 7 am till midnight). Every 30 seconds the taxi meter should flash 'gunduz'. This means the meter is charging day rates. If the driver sets the meter to night rates, 'gece' (night) flashes up and you will pay double. If this happens, try repeating the word 'gunduz' (goondooz) a few times and hope for the best. If you get a taxi driver that has done the right thing with the meter and helped you with your bags, a tip of £1 will be appreciated and hopefully encourage such behaviour.

The best way to the Fez office is to take the Metro from the airport. Go out the front doors and you will see signs to the 'light rail system'. Cost is 1.30 YTL (50 p), and there is only 1 line. Once on the metro you have two options:



- You can take this line to the end stop, Aksaray. From Aksaray, you can transfer to the tram and catch it to the Sultanahmet stop or jump in a taxi to your hostel/hotel (in Sultanahmet) which will cost around 5 YTL (£2-3).
- Or you can change from the light rail to the tram at Zeytinburnu and catch the tram all the way to the Sultanahmet stop.



From the tram stop, walk down the wide promenade in between the Blue Mosque and Aya Sofya (hard to miss). As you pass all the touts and the Aya Sofya, you come to a T inter section where you should go left. You will come to an entrance for Topkapi palace where you must follow the road down the hill and around to the right. Take the second street on your right and as you walk down it, you will pass the Sultan, Orient and Universal hostels/guesthouses. The Fez office is right between the Sultan hostel ([www.sultanhostel.com](http://www.sultanhostel.com)) and Orient hostel ([www.orienthostel.com](http://www.orienthostel.com)). These hostels can be found in most guide books.

The Fez Office in Istanbul is located at :-  
**Akbiyik Cad. No: 15**  
**Sultanahmet**  
**Istanbul.**

## Visa And Customs

Visa requirements often change and you should check the requirements before travelling.

<http://www.turkishconsulate.org.uk> is a very useful website with up to date information about visa requirements and customs.

If you are flying in to Istanbul and do not have the relevant visa, go to the visa counter on your left just before the passport control area to obtain the necessary visa. Passport control will send you back to the visa section if you do not have a valid visa. It's a good idea to have the correct change in the correct currency for your visa or you may end up paying too much.

Customs formalities are very lax when arriving in Turkey. There is a duty free allowance of 200 cigarettes and 50 cigars or 200 grams of tobacco and 3 litres of alcohol. Prices are usually in Euros with a conversion to other currencies. Jewellery and electronic items such as video cameras may be noted on a form accompanying your

passport to ensure they are exported at the end of your holiday. It is a criminal offence to export antiquities out of the country.

## About Turkey !

Turkey has so much to offer the traveller with its breath-taking natural beauty, unique historical sites and the famous Turkish hospitality. Walk across the soil that holds intact remains from the Hittites to the Ottomans and more classical Hellenistic sites than Greece! Nearly every major empire has conquered, occupied and left their trace on these lands.

Turkey is a country with a double identity, poised delicately between East and West. The only NATO member in the Middle East region, the country has recently been accepted as a candidate for membership of the EU. Yet although in many respects Western Turkey retains its frustrating differences, and it's fascinating contradictions: mosques co-exist with churches, and remnants of the Greco-Roman Empire, ancient Hittite and Neolithic sites, crumble alongside modern culture. Politically, modern Turkey was a bold experiment, founded on the remaining Anatolian kernel of the Ottoman Empire and almost entirely the creation of a single man, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. An explicitly secular republic, though one in which almost all of the inhabitants are at least nominally Muslim. It's a vast country and incorporates large disparities in levels of development. At the same time, it's an immensely rewarding place to travel, not least because of the people, whose reputation for friendliness and hospitality is richly deserved.

## Geographical Area

814, 578 sq kms - 3% on the European continent and 97% in Asia. It is bordered by Europe and the Aegean Sea to the West, the Caucasus Mountains to the East, the Black Sea in the north and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. With 7000 kms of coastline, snow-capped mountains and volcanoes, natural wonders, immense rivers, pristine beaches, crystal clear waters and rich agricultural valleys, welcome to Turkey

## Population

2005 est. : 69,660,559 (growth rate: 1. 1%); largest city: Istanbul 12 million; capital city: Ankara 5 million; birth rate: 16. 8/1000; life expectancy: 72. 4; Literacy rate: 87% (2003 est. ).

## Time Zones

Turkey is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Meant Time. During day light saving Turkey is 3 hours ahead of GMT, which is from the last Sunday in March to the last Saturday in October.

## Electricity

All appliances need a double round pin type plug for 220 volts AC, 50-hertz.

## Health And Safety

All clients travelling with Fez Travel must have personal insurance to cover all medical and repatriation costs. Please take your insurance policy with you. You will be asked to produce the policy number and emergency contact details by the tour guide at the beginning of your tour.

Whilst there are no mandatory vaccinations for travellers to Turkey it is advisable to ensure typhoid, polio and tetanus inoculations are up to date. Some travellers feel more confident with hepatitis A and B and meningitis inoculations as well. Rabies exists in Turkey in some rural areas although it is extremely unlikely that you will come in contact with a rabid animal, especially whilst on this tour. Immunisation is available in either a series of three injections over a period of one month (lasts 3-5 years) or a single visit booster dose that lasts only 6-12 months. Please consult a medical practitioner for advice.

Bottled water is readily available throughout your tour and we recommend that you purchase this rather than drink

the local tap water. Whilst the local water is usually heavily chlorinated and safe many people find they get upset stomachs after drinking such supplies. It is advisable to carry some Imodium with you in case you get an upset stomach from the difference in cuisine. The different spices and foods may be a little upsetting to your stomach and it is best to be prepared... just in case.

It is often difficult to find the precise medication that is available in one's home country and for this reason we recommend that you carry all current medication with you.

Toilet paper is rarely provided so it is a good idea to carry a spare roll in your bag. It should be placed in the basket beside the toilet, not flushed away, for you might block the pipes.

Each year, thousands of visitors return home from Turkey with nothing but happy memories. Turkey is a safe country compared to most of the world. Street crime is not a big problem, although, you should always take the normal travel precautions. It is wise not to accept gifts of food or drink from any strangers for the risk of possibly being a victim of theft by drugging. Take care with your passport, credit cards and money - a money belt to fit beneath your clothes is highly recommended.

## Religion And Local Law

90% of Turkish people are Muslim, however, for many people this is more of an identity rather than a strict religion. You would never guess this statistic walking around much of Western Turkey, especially Istanbul, which in part is a trendy, cosmopolitan city. Turkish Law is secular and guarantees complete freedom of worship to people of all religions. It is recommended that at least one set of modest clothing is taken with you. It is a sign of respect to cover your shoulders and legs when visiting mosques and also attracts less unwanted attention. You cannot visit a mosque during prayer time unless you are praying.

If you have any questions concerning appropriate (and legal) behaviour please ask your tour guide or leader. If accused of and detained for illegal behaviour, the Turkish authorities are obliged to inform your embassy or consular representative immediately, you can also insist on communicating with them directly. Turkish authorities command a high level of respect so be polite at all times.

Turkish law requires everyone (Turks and non-Turks) to carry ID at all times. Always remember that in Turkey you are bound by Turkish law.

## Money

You should always carry some back up cash or traveller's cheques separate to the rest of your money and cards. So if you lose your wallet or handbag, you have enough back up money to at least make some phone calls and eat for a few days.

A mixture of cash and credit cards are the best forms of currency. Credit cards are also accepted in most of the restaurants, bars and pubs. MasterCard and Visa are most welcomed; American Express cards work at some ATMs and Amex offices. Credit cards are also useful for cash advances, which allow you to withdraw Lira instantly from associated banks and ATMs throughout Turkey. Cash cards and ATM's are widespread in most of Turkey; in Istanbul, Canakkale, Selcuk, Pamukkale, Fethiye, Kas, Cappadocia, and Ankara. When travelling, plan your budget and use the ATM machines before leaving the main towns.

Always try and use ATM's that are attached to banks while the bank is open, so that if the ATM swallows your card, you can go into the bank and get the card back.

It is much cheaper to convert money to Turkish Lira in Turkey than at home. Using an ATM or a credit card will

often get you the best possible exchange rates; the post and telephone office (PTT) and banks offer very reasonable rates too. In the past, because of Turkey's high inflation rate, it was best to convert money on a daily basis. However, the currency has remained steady against all major currencies for the past 3 years.