

TURKEY TRAVEL 101 FOR FAMILIES

First-Timers Guide to Turkey



adventurefolio
DISCOVER TURKEY

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"My wife and I have just completed three weeks of touring Turkey. We are thankful for the information we learned from your blog and guides."

-GUS



DISCOVER

TURKEY



Thank you for downloading the 101 guide!

How exciting to plan a trip to Turkey with your family!

There are a few "Turkey basics" you need to know before you plan your first visit to Turkey. Read it now, save it on your iPhone or iPad, and then read it again a few days before your trip so you're fully prepared.

If you have more questions about Turkey beyond what's covered here, send us an email at hello@adventurefolio.com.

Happy Exploring!

Dania & Enes



"Planning a trip with our 9 and 10 year olds and this guide is perfect!"

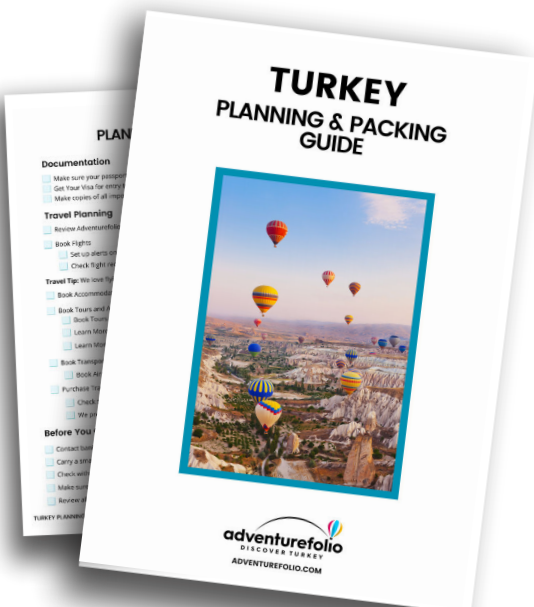
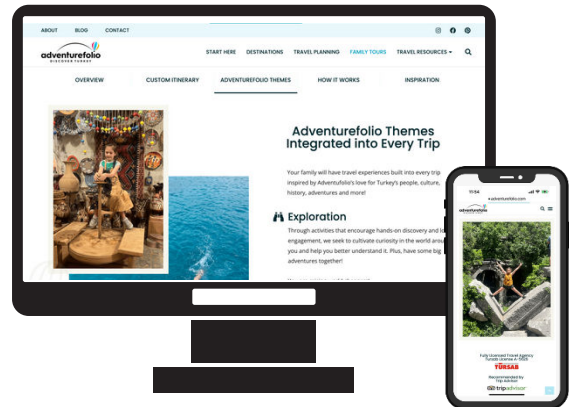
-VICTORIA

RESOURCES

CUSTOM FAMILY TOURS

Overwhelmed planning a trip to Turkey for your family? Fill out the custom tour form to get a custom tour itinerary from our favorite family-friendly tour operator in Turkey. Enjoy local experiences, freedom to explore, and make life-long memories together.

[Request Your Custom Tour Itinerary & Price](#)



TURKEY PLANNING & PACKING GUIDE

Instead of scouring the internet to find out all you need to do before, during & after your trip, get our Turkey Planning & Packing Guide. It includes a planning checklist along with a Turkey packing list. Confidently plan your trip knowing you won't miss a thing!

[Download the Guide](#)

FAST FACTS

Official Name:	Republic of Turkiye
National Currency:	Turkish Lira (TL)
Capital:	Ankara
Language	Turkish
Population:	86.1 Million
Best Time to Go:	April - October
Time Zone:	TRT - UTC + 3
Plugs:	Standard C 220 V 50 Hz
Measurements:	Metric
Credit Card Acceptance:	Medium - High



MONEY

WHERE TO GET TURKISH LIRA WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN TURKEY

You can convert your local currency to Turkish Lira once you arrive at the airport or you can find an ATM to withdraw Turkish Lira. We would suggest finding one of the national bank ATMs such as Garanti Bank, Yapi Kredi Bank, Vakifbank, or Isbank.

Be sure to check with your bank on any fees for withdrawing foreign currency overseas. Note you will typically get a better exchange rate during the week when changing or withdrawing money in Turkey.

CREDIT CARDS

Turkey is credit card friendly, but it is good to have cash on hand.

Check with your bank before your trip to see if they will charge any additional fees for using your card abroad. If they do, it's worth doing some research and getting a card that caters to international travelers and has lower fees.

As you are planning your trip to Turkey, be sure to notify your bank and credit cards when and where you will be traveling so, they do not put a block on your card due to unusual activity during your trip.

TIPPING IN TURKEY

When you travel in larger cities, you'll find that there is an expectation for tipping among service providers. If you're in more rural areas, you'll find that there is not an expectation but genuine surprise and appreciation when a tip is given. Following are suggestions on tipping in Turkey:

RESTAURANTS

When eating at a restaurant with **waitstaff** who've taken your order at your table, generally an acceptable tip would be **10% of the total bill**. Most restaurants will not add a tip to the bill, but be sure to check your final bill before paying. If there is a "service charge" on the bill, the tip is included, and you do need to tip extra.

"If you're paying by credit card, you will not be able to include your tip on the credit card charge. Pay cash."

TRAVEL SERVICE PROVIDERS

In **hotels**, you can tip each person service - concierge, bell boy, room service, hotel staff, etc for each occasion they provide a service. 50 - 100 Turkish Lira per service is acceptable.

For **travel guides**, a **10% - 20% tip** is appropriate at the end of your time together if you feel that they did a good job and you enjoyed their services. In addition, if you have a **driver**, you can provide an additional tip of 50 Turkish Lira to them. The tip you provide to the guide will not be shared with the driver.

You will need to pay the tip in Turkish Lira cash and give the tip directly to the service provider.

It's polite to tip **taxi drivers** a few extra Turkish Lira in cash.



WEATHER

To [plan your first trip to Turkey](#), you want to go when the weather is great. Depending on what you want to do and where you want to go, there are best times to travel to Turkey. Generally, the best time to visit is April to October. Here's what you can expect:

SPRING | MARCH - MAY

In March and April, the weather is starting to warm up and it's a great time to explore without it being too hot or humid. In the cities, you'll find flowers and specifically in Istanbul, the famous tulips will be blooming.



SUMMER | JUNE - AUGUST

This is the peak tourist season. It's hot and you'll find the prices higher during this time. Expect high humidity and temperatures along the coastal regions of Turkey. It's a great time to enjoy the beach and swim in the Mediterranean.

FALL | SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

The tourist season begins to slow down and you may see rain in November. You'll find the classic sites to still be a buzz but less crowded than in the summer months. This is our favorite time of the year to travel in Turkey.

WINTER | DECEMBER - FEBRUARY

These are the cold months with a slow amount of activity happening across the major cities. In Istanbul and the northern part of Turkey, you'll have snow and rain and along the coast, you'll have torrential rain that blows through regularly. You can still plan on visiting the classic sites, just remember your winter coats, hat, and gloves.

[Ultimate Turkey Packing Guide](#)

TOP TURKEY DESTINATIONS FOR FAMILIES

A child in a hoodie and shorts stands on a pebbly beach, looking out at the sea. In the distance, several sailboats are visible on the water. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

**Fill your life with
experiences, not things.**

FAST FACTS

Population | 15.6 Million

Climate |

Hot Summers

Mild and Sometimes Rainy

Spring and Fall

Cold Snowy Winters

Best Family Trip Types |

Historical

Food



ISTANBUL



With Istanbul's long history and various civilizations that ruled the city, it's easy to see how this major Turkish city became a melting pot of cultures. It's a bridge between the East & West. Each neighborhood and town provide insight into the rich history of the city. In some areas, you'll find relics from the ancient Egyptians. In other areas, you'll find Byzantine churches.

Don't forget the food! You can try the local street food or hop into a favorite restaurant to try a local dish.

MUST READS |

[Istanbul Destination Guide](#)

[Turkey for Foodies Guide](#)

FAST FACTS

Population | 300,00+

Climate |

Hot Summers

Mild Spring and Fall

Cold Snowy Winters

Best Family Trip Types |

Historical

Adventure

Food



CAPPADOCIA



A visit to Cappadocia, Turkey is a stunning location that seems straight out of a fairytale. This region is magical with rock formations (also known as “fairy chimneys”), hidden cities, and colorful [hot air balloons](#) floating high in the sky to capture the sunrise.

Whether you choose to hike through its many valleys like Pigeon Valley, Love Valley, or Red Valley or spend time exploring the ancient cave dwellings, you’ll find unique and interesting activities to enjoy. Don’t miss the pottery in Avanos, the hot air balloons in Goreme or exploring the monastery at the Zelve Open Air Museum. We recommend staying in Goreme or Urgup in Cappadocia.

MUST READS |

[Cappadocia Destination Guide](#)

[Top 10 Things to Do in Cappadocia](#)

FAST FACTS

Population | 1.28 Million

Popular Destinations |

Antalya

Cirali

Kas

Fethiye

Best Family Trip Types |

Beach

Boat Trips

Historical

Adventure

Food

Climate |

Hot Humid Summers

Mild Spring and Fall

Rainy Winters



ANTALYA

& MEDITERRANEAN



Antalya is the largest city along the Mediterranean coast with all kinds of fun activities for younger and older kids alike. There are many options for spending time in the water, hiking, or for adventure seekers, paragliding, or parasailing.

If this is just one of your stops in your Antalya trip itinerary while you are in Turkey, we recommend 2 – 4 days depending on how much time you have what you want to do while you're here. After visiting Antalya, you can head down the coast to other beach towns on the Mediterranean, like Kas or Fethiye.

MUST READS |

[Turkish Riviera Travel Guide](#)

[Antalya Destination Guide](#)

[Antalya with Kids](#)

[Best Beaches in Antalya](#)

FAST FACTS

Popular Destinations |

Izmir

Kusadasi

Pamukkale

Bodrum

Marmaris

Best Family Trip Types |

Beach

Boat Trips

Historical

Adventure

Food

Climate |

Hot Humid Summers

Mild Spring and Fall

Rainy Winters



AEGEAN & EPHEBUS AREA



Home to breathtaking beaches surrounded by olive trees, a picturesque coastline, incredible landscapes, lively cities, and rich history, the Aegean Region of Turkey is full of great things to do for first-timers and those returning to explore more of the area. This region of Turkey is home to the ancient city of Ephesus and also offers a vacation with something for all kinds of tourists – beach days, adventurous souls, photographers, nature lovers, and archaeologists. The coastline of the Aegean and the land tells a story that spans over 5,000 years.

MUST READS |

[Aegean Travel Guide](#)

[Ephesus Destination Guide](#)

[Pamukkale Travel Guide](#)



ACCOMMODATIONS

When traveling in Turkey with kids, the first thing to note is that hotel rooms are small, more along the size of European standards. If you are a family of four, you will probably have to book a family suite to stay in the same room together. If your kids are older, you can potentially book two rooms at the hotel. Check with your hotel about what they suggest and the rooms they have available to accommodate your family.

5-STAR HOTELS

In all of the major travel locations in Turkey, guests will find options for 5-star hotels that are perfect for family travel. Some will have all-inclusive options, more amenities, and larger rooms available for families.

LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTELS

Luxury boutique hotels are a great option for a dressed-up “Turkish Experience”. Typically, the rooms have been renovated in an ottoman style with luxury finishes. They’ll have smaller rooms and possibly have a few larger rooms for a family of 4. Depending on the age of your kids, you may need to book 2 rooms if you stay in a luxury boutique hotel. Usually, Turkish breakfast is included with your stay.

APART HOTELS

Apartment hotels are great if you want more space, have young kids, or have a larger family. You can find apartment hotels that have multiple rooms and a small kitchen included. It's nice if you want to cook some meals or have younger kids that need a little more space. The downside is you’ll miss the amenities and service of the hotels and have to be set up or have a plan for breakfast each morning.

BUDGET HOTELS

Budget hotels can be a great option when you are traveling on a budget with your family. The rooms will be basic and clean. Keep in mind the rooms will be small and you will probably need to book multiple room for over 3 people.





FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY

At Adventurfolio, we have a deep love for Turkish culture, history, adventure, and food! We believe we are better together and that engaging in local experiences, helps us to appreciate our differences and how we all bring something beautiful to the table.

Traveling with your family is definitely a different experience than traveling solo or with adults only. To keep kids engaged you need to bring them into the conversation to help plan your trip to Turkey. Whether your kids are elementary school-aged, tweens or teenagers, we've got some of our favorite activities to experience with your kids in Turkey:

TOP 10 FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise the Bosphorus to see historic Istanbul
- Ebru (Marbling Art) & pottery making
- Shopping at the farmers market and cooking with a local in Istanbul
- Cappadocia hot air balloon ride & exploring the underground cities
- Hiking sections of the Lycian Way on the Mediterranean coast
- Boat trip and swimming in the sea
- Adventure: Paragliding, Canyoning, Kayaking & Water Sports
- Visiting a local village to learn about rural life and culture
- Lazy days on the beach
- Live folk music performances



Turkey Trips Designed for Families

adventurefolio.com

HISTORY, BEACHES & LANDSCAPES

Bonus Day Trips

HISTORY, BEACHES & LANDSCAPES

3 Day Antalya Itinerary



HISTORY, BEACHES & LANDSCAPES

3 Day Antalya Itinerary