

Sierra Club Tours

Sunday October 03, 2004 - Saturday Oct. 16, 2004

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CLIMATE



Climate of Turkey

Although Turkey is situated in a geographical location where climatic conditions are quite temperate, the diverse nature of the landscape, and the existence in particular of the mountains that run parallel to the coasts, result in significant differences in climatic conditions from one region to the other. While the coastal regions enjoy milder climates, the inland Anatolia plateau experiences hot summers and cold winters with limited rainfall.

Because of Turkey's geographical conditions, one can not speak about a general overall climate. In Istanbul and around the sea of Marmara (**Marmara region**) the climate is moderate (winter 4 deg.C and summer 27 deg.C); in winter the temperature can drop below zero. In Western Anatolia(**Aegean region**) there is a mild Mediterranean climate with average temperatures of 9 deg.C in winter and 29 deg.C in summer. On the southern coast of Anatolia (**Mediterranean region**)the same climate can be found. The climate of the Anatolian Plateau (**Central Anatolian region**) is a steppe climate (there is a great temperature difference between day and night). Rainfall is low and there is more snow. The average temperature is 23 deg.C in summer and -2 deg.C in winter. The climate in the Black Sea area (**Black Sea region**) is wet, warm and humid (summer 23 deg.C, winter 7 deg.C). In **Eastern Anatolia** and **South-Eastern Anatolia** there is a long hard winter, where year after year snow lies on the ground from November until the end of April (the average temperature in winter is -13 deg.C and in summer 17 deg.C).Season and Climate in Turkey Turkey is a year-round destination depending on your itinerary. Although the tourist "high season" (with associated higher rates) is from mid-June through mid-September, Spring and Fall are the best seasons to travel. The sun is warm and skies are generally clear. You can expect mild to warm temperatures and some rain during this time.

What is the best time for traveling to Turkey ...

Below a chart of the best time to travel is summarized based on climate(Swimming,Touring) and rates (High, Low season).

Marmara, Aegean and Mediterranean Coasts:

These coasts have a typical Mediterranean climate with hot summers and mild winters. The swimming season becomes shorter as one travels north. Because of the mountains, the east side of the Aegean and the North side of the Mediterranean

could have regionally different climate...

<i>Marmara and North Aegean :</i>	<i>South Aegean and Mediterranean:</i>
<i>Swimming</i> : June to September.	<i>Swimming</i> : April to October
<i>Touring</i> : March to November.	<i>Touring</i> : All year round, July-August is not recommended as it may be too hot (40 Celsius)
<i>The High Season</i> : Mid March-Mid November .	<i>The High Season</i> : June-August ; <i>Mid Season</i> : May, June and September ; <i>Low Season</i> : March, April and October . ! Many Resorts on the coasts are closed from mid October to end of March.

Black Sea Coast:

Temperate climate with warm summers, mild winters and relatively high rainfall.

Swimming : July and August .

Touring: April to September.

The High Season: July and August ; *Mid Season* : April-May-June-September October

Central Anatolia:

These areas have a steppe climate with hot, dry summers and cold winters.

Swimming possible in pools of hotels : June to August .

Touring: March to November .

The High Season : April to October

Eastern Anatolia:

Long snowy, very cold and hard winters with hot summers.

Touring: March to November .

The High Season: April to October

Southeast Anatolia:

These areas have a very hot summer with cold winters.

Touring: March to November .

The High Season : April to October

Average Temperatures for Major Regions (IN CELSIUS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
ANTALYA (South)	10	11	13	16	20	25	28	28	25	20	15	12
IZMIR (West)	9	10	11	16	20	25	28	27	23	18	15	10
ISTANBUL (Northeast)	5	6	7	12	16	21	23	23	20	16	12	8
TRABZON (North)	6	6	7	11	15	20	22	22	19	15	12	9
ANKARA (Central)	0	1	5	11	16	20	23	23	18	13	8	2
ERZURUM (East)	-9	-7	-3	5	11	15	19	20	15	9	2	-5
DIYARBAKIR (Southeast)	2	2	8	14	19	26	31	31	25	17	10	4

WHAT TO WEAR

Don't forget your swimming suits. A scarf for mosque visits will be handy, also since we take our shoes when we enter the mosques and people's homes and easy slip on and off type of a shoe will be more comfortable. The women will need to wear a long skirt or long pants in the mosque .Through out the tour shorts are O.K.

LAUNDRY

You can have laundry done in all the hotels where we have more than one night stay. We generally arrange for a laundry for the group upon arrival to Cappadocia .

MEALS

Turkish food has enough variety to meet every one's need. Vegetarian menus are available. If special diet food is required we can arrange for that easily.

EXTRA EXPENSES

Virtually everything on the tour is included except for your drinks. Your daily average expenditure while on the tour will be about US \$20 a day per person (mostly for drinks and souvenirs), though your actual expenditure could be far lower. People on shoe string budgets have spent as a little as \$100 during the entire tour, while others have spent thousands of dollars (usually on carpets.)

PERSONAL CHECKS

If you want to make a purchase over \$100 you can pay with your traveler's checks . But cashing traveler's checks in a bank is expensive and not always easy. Do not rely on traveler's checks for cash.

ATMs are available. US\$ currency can be used through out the country. If you need to change US\$ to Turkish Lira, .you can do it at the airport very

easily. The rates almost all the same. Personal Checks are honored if you should do a big purchase and are treated like cash.

CREDIT CARDS

Yes you can use your credit card in many places in Turkey but please remind your bank or credit card organization that you are going to be in Turkey for a while. Because for some reason the banks or credit card companies block the card when they see purchase is made in Turkey

SHOPPING INFORMATION

This tour is quite hectic. So you will have very little time for shopping. But amazingly people find enough time to shop .One of my groups had shopped so much in the seconds that we had time for shopping we had a garage sale at the end of the tour.

If you are interested in buying kilims and or carpets make sure you have your dimentions and colors with you. Very few leave Turkey with out a Kilim or a Carpet on these tours

KILIM, CARPET, TOWELS, FELT

However, the Turkish Carpets are so inviting it is very difficult to resist the temptation. If you already have the bug for the Turkish,Kurdish and Central Asian KILIMS you will find your self in heaven. If you have not yet developed a taste ,this might be the place to get aquatinted with that incurable bug.

PESTEMAL

In the Turkish Bath, the pestamal is used like a wrap around the body. We will be able to buy the pestemals off from a loom

WOODWORK IMBEDDED WITH MOTHER OF PEARL

Gaziantep is known for this craft which used to be favorite art/craft of the Ottoman Sultans. Mirrors,jewelery boxes, shelves,chairs and many more tempting and carriable pieces hand made in Gaziantep are available in the souvenir shops.

BRASS WORKS

Very delicately carved trays, pots and shish kebab scewers and statuetts will be nice Christmas gifts.

MINIATURE PAINTINGS

Replicas of Ottoman paintings are favorite shopping theme for most of Melitour tour members. They are available only out side the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul

SILVER JEWELERY

Authentic or replicas of old jewelery are available at few places along the tour. Especially the jeweler at Ephesus has excellent examples of old jewelry.

TEXTILES

Material with wood block prints, scarves with OYA, lace, suzanis

[Itinerary/Tour Map/Hotel Chart /FAQ/ Sierra club travel Plan/Turkish Phrases/After The tour Options](#)