

TÜRKİYE

LAND OF CULTURE, ART,
HISTORY, TOURISM,
AND MORE ...

By Pi Youth Association



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01 BRIEF FACTS

Official Languages	Turkish
Major Religion	Islam - no official state religion; the Turkish Constitution provides for freedom of religion and conscience
Capital City	Ankara
Political Stable	Unitary presidential constitutional republic
Area	783.562 km ²
Population	83.614.362
Currency	Turkish Lira (₺) (TRY)
Time Zone	GMT+3
Country Phone Code	+90
Date format	dd.mm.yyyy
Driving side	right
Internet TLD	.tr
Establishment	
War of Independence	19 May 1919
Grand National Assembly of	23 April 1920
Türkiye Treaty of Lausanne	24 July 1923
Declaration of Republic	29 October 1923



01 BRIEF FACTS

Türkiye officially the Republic of Türkiye is a transcontinental country located mainly on the peninsula of Anatolia in Western Asia, with a smaller portion on East Thrace in South-east Europe. It shares borders with Greece and Bulgaria to the northwest; the Black Sea to the north; Georgia to the northeast; Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Iran to the east; Iraq to the southeast; Syria and the Mediterranean Sea to the south; and the Aegean Sea to the west.

In about 2.000 BC Asia Minor was in the hands of the Hittites, who migrated from the area east of the Black Sea. Their civilization rivaled that of the Egyptians and Babylonians. In the 12th century BC, their empire fell to the Assyrians. Small seaboard states grew up, only to fall to the Greeks, who colonized the entire Aegean coast in about the 8th century BC. According to the legend, they first laid siege to the city-state of Troy during the Trojan War. In 560 BC Croesus mounted the throne of Lydia in Asia Minor and soon brought all the Greek colonies under his rule. King Croesus was overthrown by Cyrus the Great of Persia. Two hundred years later Alexander the Great again spread rule over the peninsula.

After its conquest by Rome in the 2nd century BC, Asia Minor enjoyed centuries of peace under Roman rule. During the Middle Ages, as a part of the Byzantine Empire, it became a center of Christianity and the guardian of Greek and Roman culture. One of the chief medieval trade routes passed through the region. As the power of the Empire declined, Arabs and Mongols invaded. In the 15th century, the Ottoman Turks conquered the peninsula and made Istanbul (then known as Constantinople) their capital. The Ottoman Empire lasted until 1922. The next year Asia Minor became the larger part of the Turkish Republic under the leadership of Kemal Atatürk. He had set up a government in Ankara, which became the new capital of Türkiye. (29 October 1923)

Eighteen female deputies joined the Turkish Parliament in the 1935 general elections. Turkish women gained the right to vote and to hold elected office as a mark of the far-reaching social changes initiated by Atatürk.

Mustafa Kemal became the republic's first President and subsequently introduced many reforms. The reforms aimed to transform the old religion-based and multi-communal Ottoman constitutional monarchy into a Turkish nation-state that would be governed as a parliamentary republic under a secular constitution. With the Surname Law of 1934, the Turkish Parliament bestowed upon Mustafa Kemal the honorific surname "Atatürk" (Father Turk).

01 BRIEF FACTS

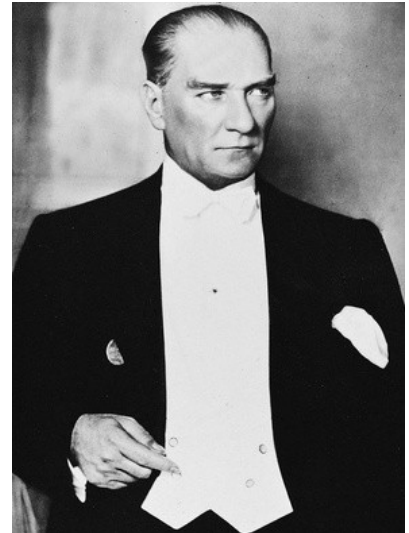
Türkiye played a prominent role in the Korean War and joined NATO in 1952. The country endured several military coups in the latter half of the 20th century. The economy was liberalized in the 1980s, leading to stronger economic growth and political stability.

Türkiye is a regional power and a newly industrialized country, with a geopolitically strategic location. Its economy, which is classified among the emerging and growth-leading economies, is the twentieth largest in the world by nominal GDP, and the eleventh-largest by PPP. It is a charter member of the United Nations, an early member of NATO, the IMF, and the World Bank, and a founding member of the OECD, OSCE, BSEC, OIC, and G20. After becoming one of the early members of the Council of Europe in 1950, Türkiye became an associate member of the EEC in 1963, joined the EU Customs Union in 1995, and started accession negotiations with the European Union in 2005.

Since 2018, Türkiye has unitary presidential constitutional republic. We do have elections in local and general elections every five years. Our current president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK

Kemal Atatürk was born (under the name Ali Rıza oğlu Mustafa which means "Mustafa son of Ali Rıza") in the early months of 1881, either in the Ahmet Subaşı neighborhood or at a house (preserved as a museum) in Islahane Street (now Apostolou Pavlou Street) in the Koca Kasım Pasha neighborhood in Salonica (Selanik), Ottoman Empire (Thessaloniki in present-day Greece). He was born Mustafa, and his second name Kemal (meaning Perfection or Maturity) was given to him by his mathematics teacher, Captain Üsküplü Mustafa Efendi. In his early years, his mother encouraged Atatürk to attend a religious school, something he did reluctantly and only briefly. Later, he attended the Şemsi Efendi School (a private school with a more secular curriculum) at the direction of his father. When he was seven years old, his father died. His mother wanted him to learn a trade, but without consulting them, Atatürk took the entrance exam for the Salonica Military School (Selanik Askeri Rüştiyesi) in 1893. In 1896, he enrolled in the Monastir Military High School (in modern Bitola, North Macedonia). On 14 March 1899, he enrolled at the Ottoman Military Academy



01 BRIEF FACTS

in the neighborhood of Pangaltı within the Şişli district of the Ottoman capital city Constantinople (modern Istanbul) and graduated in 1902. He later graduated from the Ottoman Military College in Constantinople on 11 January 1905.

He took part in some wars Balkan Wars (1912–13) First World War (1914–18) and then started the Turkish Independence war (1919–1923). After winning this battle, The Treaty of Lausanne of 24 July 1923, which superseded the Treaty of Sèvres, led to the international recognition of the sovereignty of the newly formed "Republic of Türkiye" as the successor state of the Ottoman Empire, and the republic was officially proclaimed on 29 October 1923 in Ankara, the country's new capital. With the Surname Law of 1934, the Turkish Parliament bestowed upon Mustafa Kemal the honorific surname "Atatürk" (Father Turk).

With the Leadership of Atatürk, in Türkiye, there are lots of reforms that have been made. Below you will some of them:

- 26 December 1925 The Turkish Grand National Assembly adopts the international calendar.
- On March 22, 1926, The Turkish Grand National Assembly establishes the Turkish Language Institute.
- 28 October 1927 First census of the Republic era is carried out
- 10 April 1928 Constitution is amended to include the Republic's principle of Laicism.
- 1 November 1928 The Turkish alphabet is adopted. Atatürk states: "The adoption of the Turkish alphabet will be a milestone in this country's struggle for progress".
- 1 January 1929 Public schools for adults for mandatory education open.
- 12 February 1932 Cultural community centers called "Halkevleri" open to educating the public on reforms and cultural identity.
- 18 July 1932 Türkiye joins the League of Nations.
- 21 June 1934 The Turkish Grand National Assembly adopts the law regarding surnames.

01 BRIEF FACTS

- 5 December 1934 The Turkish Grand National Assembly adopts the voting rights for Women in parliamentary elections.
- 22 April 1935 International Women's Congress meets in Istanbul. Atatürk's message to the Congress: "I am convinced that the exercise of social and political rights by women is necessary for mankind's happiness and pride. You can rest assured that Turkish women together with the world's women will work towards world peace and security".
- 5 February 1937 Amendment of the Constitution to include the principle of laicism.

US President John F. Kennedy speech about Atatürk:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3kvtIX4dAg>



President John F. Kennedy on Atatürk

174,865 views • Aug 14, 2015

👍 5.2K 🗨️ DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ≡+ SAVE ...

02 GEOGRAPHY

Türkiye is a transcontinental country bridging Southeastern Europe and Western Asia. Asian Türkiye, which includes 97 percent of the country's territory, is separated from European Türkiye by the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles. European Türkiye comprises only 3 percent of the country's territory. Türkiye covers an area of 783,562 square kilometers (302,535 square miles), of which 755,688 square kilometers (291,773 square miles) is in Asia and 23,764 square kilometers (9,175 square miles) is in Europe. The country is encircled by seas on three sides: the Aegean Sea to the west, the Black Sea to the north, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Türkiye also contains the Sea of Marmara in the northwest.

Türkiye is divided into seven geographical regions: Marmara, Aegean, Black Sea, Central Anatolia, Eastern Anatolia, Southeastern Anatolia, and the Mediterranean. The uneven north Anatolian terrain running along the Black Sea resembles a long, narrow belt. This region comprises approximately one-sixth of Türkiye's total land area. As a general trend, the inland Anatolian plateau becomes increasingly rugged as it progresses eastward.

Cappadocia is a region created by the erosion of soft volcanic stone by the wind and rain for centuries.



02 GEOGRAPHY

East Thrace; the European portion of Türkiye, is located at the easternmost edge of the Balkans. It forms the border between Türkiye and its neighbors Greece and Bulgaria. The Asian part of the country mostly consists of the peninsula of Anatolia, which consists of a high central plateau with narrow coastal plains, between the Köroğlu and Pontic Mountain ranges to the north and the Taurus Mountains to the south.

The Eastern Anatolia Region mostly corresponds to the western part of the Armenian Highlands (the plateau situated between the Anatolian Plateau in the west and the Lesser Caucasus in the north) and contains Mount Ararat, Türkiye's highest point at 5,137 meters (16,854 feet), and Lake Van, the largest lake in the country. Eastern Türkiye has a mountainous landscape and is home to the sources of rivers such as the Euphrates, Tigris, and Aras. The Southeastern Anatolia Region includes the northern plains of Upper Mesopotamia.

Far from the coast the climate of Türkiye tends to be continental but elsewhere temperate, and is becoming hotter, and drier in parts. There are many species of plants and animals.



03 CLIMATE

The coastal areas of Türkiye bordering the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas have a temperate Mediterranean climate, with hot, dry summers and mild to cool wet winters.

The coastal areas bordering the Black Sea have a temperate oceanic climate with warm, wet summers and cool to cold, wet winters. The Turkish Black Sea coast receives the most precipitation and is the only region of Türkiye that receives high precipitation throughout the year.[268] The eastern part of the Black Sea coast averages 2,200 millimeters (87 in) annually which is the highest precipitation in the country.

The coastal areas bordering the Sea of Marmara, which connects the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea, have a transitional climate between a temperate Mediterranean climate and a temperate oceanic climate with warm to hot, moderately dry summers and cool to cold, wet winters. Snow falls on the coastal areas of the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea almost every winter but usually melts in no more than a few days. However, snow is rare in the coastal areas of the Aegean Sea and very rare in the coastal areas of the Mediterranean Sea.

Mountains close to the coast prevent Mediterranean influences from extending inland, giving the central Anatolian plateau of the interior of Türkiye a continental climate with sharply contrasting seasons.

Winters on the Anatolian plateau are especially severe. Temperatures of $-30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($-22\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$ to $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) do occur in northeastern Anatolia, and snow may lie on the ground for at least 120 days of the year, and during the entire year on the summits of the highest mountains. In central Anatolia, the temperatures can drop below $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($-4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) with the mountains being even colder.

04 WILDLIFE BIODIVERSITY

Türkiye's extraordinary ecosystem and habitat diversity has produced considerable species diversity. Anatolia is the homeland of many plants that have been cultivated for food since the advent of agriculture, and the wild ancestors of many plants that now provide staples for humankind still grow in Türkiye. The diversity of Türkiye's fauna is even greater than that of its flora. The number of animal species in the whole of Europe is around 60,000, while in Türkiye there are over 80,000 (over 100,000 counting the subspecies).

The Northern Anatolian conifer and deciduous forests is an ecoregion that covers most of the Pontic Mountains in northern Türkiye, while the Caucasus mixed forests extend across the eastern end of the range. The region is home to Eurasian wildlife such as the Eurasian sparrowhawk, golden eagle, eastern imperial eagle, lesser spotted eagle, Caucasian black grouse, red-fronted serin, and wallcreeper. The narrow coastal strip between the Pontic Mountains and the Black Sea is home to the Euxine-Colchic deciduous forests, which contain some of the world's few temperate rainforests. The Turkish pine (*Pinus brutia*) is mostly found in Türkiye and other east Mediterranean countries; the other commonly found species of the genus *Pinus* (pine) in Türkiye include the *nigra*, *sylvestris*, *pinea*, and *halepensis*. The Türkiye oak (*Quercus cerris*) and numerous other species of the genus *Quercus* (oak) exist in Türkiye. The most found species of the genus *Platanus* (plane) is the *orientalis*. Several wild species of tulip are native to Anatolia, and the flower was first introduced to Western Europe with species taken from the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century.

A white Turkish Angora cat with odd eyes (heterochromia), which is common among the Angoras.



Turkish Angora cat

04 WILDLIFE BIODIVERSITY

There are 40 national parks, 189 nature parks, 31 nature preserve areas, 80 wildlife protection areas, and 109 nature monuments in Türkiye such as Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park, Mount Nemrut National Park, Ancient Troy National Park, Ölüdeniz Nature Park, and Polonezköy Nature Park. In the 21st century, threats to biodiversity include desertification due to climate change in Türkiye.

The Anatolian leopard is still found in very small numbers in the northeastern and southeastern regions of Türkiye. The Eurasian lynx and the European wildcat are other felid species that are currently found in the forests of Türkiye. The Caspian tiger, now extinct, lived in the easternmost regions of Türkiye until the latter half of the 20th century.

Renowned domestic animals from Ankara, the capital of Türkiye, include the Angora cat, Angora rabbit, and Angora goat, and from Van Province the Van cat. The national dog breeds are the Kangal (Anatolian Shepherd), Malaklı and Akbaş.



Ölüdeniz Nature Park

05 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Holidays and Observances in Türkiye

The official holidays in Türkiye are established by Act 2429 of March 19, 1981, which replaced Act 2739 of May 27, 1935. These holidays can be grouped into national and religious holidays. There are currently 14.5 days of public holiday in Türkiye, one of the highest numbers worldwide.

DATE	NAME	TYPE
1 January	New Year's Day	National Holiday
23 April	National Sovereignty and Children's Day	National Holiday
1 May	Labor and Solidarity Day	National Holiday
19 May	Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day	National Holiday
15 July	Democracy and National Unity Day	National Holiday
30 August	Victory Day	National Holiday
28 October	Republic Day Eve	Half Day
29 October	Republic Day	National Holiday
After the end of the Islamic month Ramadan	Ramadan Feast	Religious holiday for 3 days.
Begins on the 10th day of the Islamic month Dhu'l-Hijjah.	Sacrifice Feast	Religious holiday for 4 days in hajj period.

06 HEALTH SAFETY

The Ministry of Health has run a General Public Healthcare system since 2003. Known as Universal Health Insurance (Genel Sağlık Sigortası), it is funded by a tax surcharge on employers, currently at 5%. Public-sector funding covers approximately 75.2% of health expenditures.



There is also a large private healthcare sector. Private health services often offer shorter waiting lists and higher quality services. Most banks and insurance companies offer health plans and contract with certain hospitals and doctors.

Although Türkiye is a big country, it is very easy to get around the country with its well-connected destinations. You can prefer any of the domestic flights, public transport systems, high-speed trains, ferryboats, and intercity bus services.

Air Travel

Türkiye's domestic airline industry offers frequent flights to many cities around the country, and all at very reasonable prices for local and foreign visitors.

Domestic fares can go as low as 30\$ one way, off-season, with advance purchase. It is a good idea to plan, particularly if you plan on traveling during one of the major public holidays, national and religious festivals. Tickets can be purchased online, at one of the airline offices, or through an officially recognized travel agent.

Train Travel

Turkish State Railways, which has a well-developed railway network, operates passenger trains all over the country. There are comfortable sleeper trains on many routes. High-speed trains between Istanbul, Ankara, Konya, and Eskisehir, which make the journey comfortable in just a couple of hours, are useful and even the best way to travel in Türkiye.

<https://ebilet.tcddtasimacilik.gov.tr/view/eybis/tnmGenel/tcddWebContent.jsf>

Intercity Bus

One of the most popular and convenient ways to travel around Türkiye is by bus. It is usually a lot cheaper than traveling by plane but takes longer. Every city has its intercity bus terminal with numerous companies and their clean, modern buses offering tickets to just about every corner of the country. If you are traveling in a large group, you must book your ticket well in advance.

<https://www.obilet.com/>

07 TRAVELLING AND COMMUNICATION IN TÜRKİYE

Ferryboat

You can travel by ferry, which is a good way to get around Türkiye, especially along the Mediterranean, Aegean, and Marmara coastlines. There are many routes in and around Istanbul serving the Marmara region, and some routes extend to Bursa, Izmir, and Çanakkale. Daily car and passenger ferries run between Türkiye's Mediterranean coast, mostly from Taşucu port near Silifke to Girne port of North Cyprus.

Rental Car

All the major international car rental companies, as well as many local ones, have offices at airports and in all major destinations.

Public Transport

There is a huge public transport system in Türkiye. All major and touristic destinations have many public transport options including suburban trains, city buses, metro, tram, minibus, and taxis.

City Bus: All towns and cities have plentiful city buses which are cheap to use. You can purchase a smart ticket for a small deposit which, once loaded with credit, can be used not only on the buses but the metro, tram, and ferries.

Minibus: Minibuses are useful alternatives to local buses and run on standard routes posted on the front screen of the vehicle.

Taxi: Taxis are plentiful and the best board at designated taxi stops. Payment is according to the onboard meter. All taxis in Türkiye are required by law to have an onboard meter. However, set prices are more common for intercity journeys which are posted clearly at the taxi stop.

Rail System: The urban rail system, which is a fast and efficient way to get around the country, is a type of high-capacity public transport generally found in urban areas. Many Turkish cities have underground subways and commuter trains.

Tram: Several cities have trams, which are a quick and efficient way of getting around.

07 TRAVELLING AND COMMUNICATION IN TÜRKİYE

Communication

During your trip to Türkiye, you'll want to communicate with the folks at home, with your traveling companions, with airlines, hotels, travel agencies, and other travel services both inside and outside of Türkiye, and you'll want to connect to the Internet for email, information, and social media.

Free Wi-Fi Everywhere (Almost)

Wi-Fi Internet access, usually free, is common all over Türkiye. Virtually all hotels, hostels, dorms, rental apartments, and even tree houses have Wi-Fi.

Only the luxury hotels charge for it.

Many restaurants, cafés, bars, beach café-bars, and offices offer it. Some intercity buses, trains, and ferryboats have it, and airports offer it for a fee.

It's fair to say that you will have free Wi-Fi available to you at least a few hours each day. Some travelers find this completely sufficient for their needs. The connection and its speed may vary, but you'll have the opportunity to connect, and the price is the best: free! You may have to ask your hotel or restaurant staff for the Wi-Fi password (Wi-Fi şifre, VEE-fee SHEEF-reh) to access their system.

In Türkiye there are 3 GSM companies. These are Türk Telekom – Turkcell – Vodafone. Each of them offers different packages to customers. You will find their websites below:

<https://www.turkcell.com.tr/>

<https://www.vodafone.com.tr/en/roam-with-vodafone.php>

<https://www.turktelekom.com.tr/Sayfalar/Ana-Sayfa.aspx>

Make sure to have your passport on hand when registering for a new SIM card. **Another thing to note if you are staying for longer than 120 days is that you will need to register your phone and pay the local tax to keep it connected to a local service provider.**

08 TURKISH CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

The culture of Türkiye combines a heavily diverse and heterogeneous set of elements that have been derived from the various cultures of the Eastern Mediterranean, Western Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, with Eastern European and Caucasian traditions. Many of these traditions were initially brought together by the Ottoman Empire, a multi-ethnic and multi-religious state.

As a result of the studies carried out by under the responsibility of the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums, 19 of Türkiye's assets have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List so far. Detailed information can be obtained from the official website of the World Heritage Center at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/tr>

İstanbul [1985]

Divriği Ulu Camii ve Darüşşifası (Sivas) [1985]

Hattuşa (Boğazköy) - Hitit Başkenti (Çorum) [1986]

Nemrut Dağı (Adıyaman - Kahta) [1987]

Xanthos-Letoon (Antalya - Muğla) [1988]

Safranbolu Şehri (Karabük) [1994]

Troya Antik Kenti (Çanakkale) [1998]

Edirne Selimiye Camii ve Külliyesi (Edirne) [2011]

Çatalhöyük Neolitik Kenti (Konya) [2012]

Bergama Çok Katmanlı Kültürel Peyzaj Alanı (İzmir) [2014]

Bursa ve Cumalıkızık: Osmanlı İmparatorluğunun Doğuşu (Bursa) [2014]

Diyarbakır Kalesi ve Hevsel Bahçeleri [2015]

Efes (İzmir) [2015]

Ani Arkeolojik Alanı (Kars) [2016]

Afrodiasias (Aydın) [2017]

Göbeklitepe Arkeolojik Alanı (Şanlıurfa) [2018]

Arslanteppe Arkeolojik Alanı (Malatya) [2021]

Included as cultural;

Göreme Milli Parkı ve Kapadokya (Nevşehir) [1985]

Pamukkale-Hierapolis (Denizli) [1988]

are listed as both cultural and natural heritage.

The promotion of our assets in the World Heritage List is also made on the Tourism Portal website of our Ministry (<https://goturkiye.com>). Please click to access the mentioned link.

08 TURKISH CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

Turkish Cuisine

Türkiye is a crossroads between Europe, Asia, and the Orient. This unique location combined with the migration of Turks from Central Asia to Europe has shaped the identity of its gastronomy over the centuries. Because of six centuries of Ottoman regional domination and the reciprocal influence between Türkiye and its neighboring countries (Greece, Bulgaria, The Balkans, Iraq, Syria Iran, Armenia...) is the reason why we find so many common dishes in those cuisines such as dolma, börek, kebab, mantı (Turkish ravioli), and so on.

<https://www.tooistanbul.com/en/turkish-cuisine/>

Turkish Language

Günaydın. = Good morning.

Tünaydın. = Good afternoon.

Benim adım Mustafa. = My name is Mustafa

Tanıştığıma memnun oldum. = I'm pleased to meet you.

Nasılsın? = How are you?

İyim, teşekkürler. Siz? = Fine, thanks. And you?

Özür dilerim. = I'm sorry.

Yakında görüşmek üzere! = See you soon!

Güle güle. = Goodbye.

Numbers in Turkish

Zero — sıfır

One — bir

Two — iki

Three — üç

Four — dört

Five — beş

Six — altı

Seven — yedi

Eight — sekiz

Nine — dokuz

Ten — on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJRQRD6LAmY> **About Language**

09 İZMİR AND (FUN) FACTS ABOUT TÜRKİYE

İzmir is a live and cosmopolite city. It is one of the safest cities in Türkiye for women traveling alone. You can enjoy day and night life then you can go back to your home using 7/24 public transportation. As a means of public transportation, you can reach different parts of the city by bus, metro, light rail system (izban) and ferry. You can visit this website to see transportation map of İzmir:

<https://www.izmir.bel.tr/tr/ulasim-haritalari-/507/2168>

İzmir has busy schedule of trade fairs, events, exhibitions and congresses. Moreover, there are perfect places for summer destinations includes beautiful beaches like Çeşme, Seferihisar, Foça, Urla and Alaçatı. Here are some fun facts about Türkiye and İzmir:

- Turkish cuisine is one of the best in the world. For example; döner, mantı, lahmacun, pide, kebab, köfte, çiğ köfte, İskender kebab, börek as main dish and baklava, kadayıf, aşure, künefe, helva, pişmaniye as dessert. You might feel hungry now so let's continue 😊
- Black tea is very popular although you can find lots of coffee shops like Turkish ones or Starbucks.
- Türkiye is the largest producer of hazelnuts.
- Agriculture began in Türkiye (More than 11,000 years ago)
- Turkish people are extrovert, easy going and talkative. We love hugging.
- We like to help people. So don't hesitate ask someone if you need anything.
- We don't go inside of home with our shoes.
- We do like neighboring.
- Santa Claus was born in Türkiye. Also, the Virgin Mary's final resting place is thought to be somewhere near Ephesus (Ephesus is in our organisation city – İzmir)
- Tünel (in İstanbul) is the world's second oldest underground railway. (Operates since 17th January 1875)
- Türkiye introduced tulips to the world (a Flemish ambassador, who visited Süleyman the Magnificent, introduced the flower to Holland in the 16th century)
- One of the Mediterranean's main sea turtle nesting beaches is in Türkiye (For instance Fethiye, İztuzu Beach)

09 İZMİR AND (FUN) FACTS ABOUT TÜRKİYE

- Çeşme, which is one of the touristic places and located in İzmir, is one of the top destinations for windsurfing. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjQ7f30Qs1U>



- Football is very popular in Türkiye. There are big competitions especially among İstanbul teams (Beşiktaş, Galatasaray and Fenerbahçe). Except football we have famous sports like basketball, volleyball, wrestling, weightlifting, archery and equestrianism.



- You will see lots of stray cats and dogs. Don't be surprised. They even made a movie 'Kedi' about cats: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2o-FcAIDS7o>



10 | PI YOUTH ASSOCIATION



Pi Youth Association is a youth association established in 2014 to enable young people in Türkiye to develop knowledge, skills, positive attitudes, and behaviors. It actualizes the European Union's decisions, Council of Europe, and the United Nations in youth. The Association also maintains its activities by considering the universal sensitivities, global principles, and principles in human rights, participation, and environmental issues. The primary mission topic of the Pi Youth Association is "Youth Rights and Problems". In addition to this, there are five more mission topics it has, volunteering hours for the spread of volunteering, civil society capacity building to support the development of other youth associations, technology-based development to support general development, healthy living for youth to spread the habit of healthy living, and analysis of social media, which is one of the most widely used communication tools of the youth.

Pi Youth Association's target group contains all individuals and youth workers between the ages of 15-30 living in Türkiye. From the target group, women, refugees, and disabled people have priority. In addition to carrying out activities to support young's personal development, Pi Youth Association also works on youth rights to solve the problems experienced by young people in our country. Pi Youth Association also determines its medium- and long-term strategies according to the European Youth Strategy Document and the current youth situation in our country. Since 2016, Pi Youth Association has published its annual activities and balance sheets on its website by the principles of transparency and accountability. It is also a signatory of the donor rights declaration.

10 PI YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Pi Youth Association's office team consists of 16 people, including 15 professional employees, 1 intern. There is also a volunteer team of local youth, with more than 100 active young people. The name of this volunteer team is Pixel Team. Pixel Team voluntarily supports all projects and activities of the Association. It consists of young people between the ages of 15-30 who regularly participate in the Association's activities and training in the Association's culture.

Pi Youth Association is also a member of many national and international networks. The Association is a member of; AMSED Member Network, Anna Lindh Foundation, European Youth Foundation, ICYE, IG Network, LOOM (Intercultural Learning Network), Prisma European Network and Youth and Environment Europe (YEE).

Pi Youth Association is a local and non-governmental youth organization active in national and international fields and can reach many young people. Social media accounts and the website of the Association are followed by many young people. The Association has more than 40,000 followers on Instagram.

<https://www.facebook.com/pidernegi>

<https://www.instagram.com/pidernegi>

<https://x.com/pidernegi>

Gençlik Çalışmaları Ağı (Youth Works Network)

Youth Works Network (GENCA) is an online platform designed to make workshops, training, seminars, and international projects of youth associations operating in different cities of Türkiye more visible and easier for young people to access.

<https://genclikcalismalari.org/>

10 PI YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Erasmus plus and ESC

We are one of the most active youth NGOs in the field of Erasmus plus and ESC. So far, we organized Hosting and Sending ESC projects successfully. Moreover, every year we send more than 400 Turkish youngsters all over Europe.

Milestones in Pi Youth Association

- The first approved project by the Turkish National Agency was Genç Bak İŞ (KA3) project. This project also was chosen best example by the Turkish NA.
- We participated in Nantes Creative Generations Forum (NCG) with the Work of MAN project in 2017. Thanks to this project we get the award of Cooperation Award.
- We get EVS (now it is ESC) quality label in 2016. So far, we hosted volunteers from Lithuania, Greece, Croatia, Spain, and Romania.
- Thanks to Hrant Dink Foundation we started Yerel Gençlik Dernekleri Ağı (Local Youth Associations Network) which now continues its activities under the name Gençlik Çalışmaları Ağı (Youth Works Network). <https://genclikcalismalari.org/>
- We are working on the KA2 Strategic Partnerships project which we are partner with organizations from France, Italy, and, Romania, Greece, Estonia, Hungary, Serbia and more.
- We hosted a Young Entrepreneur from North Macedonia program through Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs for 5 months in 2021. <https://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/>
- We hosted Erasmus interns during summers from Germany, Romania and France.
- We host every year around 20 ESC volunteers in İzmir, Türkiye.

Important Note: Before you travel to Türkiye, please check If you need a VISA first. For visa requirements to Türkiye, you should visit this website: <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/general-information-about-turkish-visas.en.mfa>.

In case you need a visa to come Türkiye, we will prepare necessary documents for you. Also, each volunteer has a mentor from our organisation. Mentor has been chosen from our local volunteers. To become a mentor candidates should fill an application form. After evaluating their answers, we organize face to face interviews. Only those pass this process can become mentors. Also, they should get trainings provided by our ESC Team leaders. One of the biggest responsibilities for a mentor is support our volunteer(s) during residence permit process (If residence permit needed).

11 REFERENCES AND LINKS

Tourism & Cuisine

<https://www.ktb.gov.tr/> Website of Minister of Culture and Tourism

<https://www.kulturportali.gov.tr/> Website of Minister of Culture and Tourism

<https://www.officeholidays.com/countries/turkey> Holidays in Türkiye

<https://www.tooistanbul.com/en/turkish-cuisine/> Turkish Cuisine

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/tr> World Heritage list in Türkiye

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2o-FcAIDS7o> Cats of Türkiye

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjQ7f30Qs1U> Kitesurfing in Çeşme

<http://www.visitizmir.org/en> To explore İzmir

History & General Information

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey> General Information About Türkiye

<http://www.ataturksociety.org/about-aturk/political-and-cultural-reforms/> Atatürk and his reforms

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atat%C3%BCrk%27s_reforms Atatürk and his reforms

Travel to/in Turkey

<https://ebilet.tcddtasimacilik.gov.tr/view/eybis/tnmGenel/tcddWebContent.jsf> Trains in Türkiye

<https://www.obilet.com/> Bus in Türkiye

Communication

<https://www.turkcell.com.tr/>

<https://www.vodafone.com.tr/en/roam-with-vodafone.php>

<https://www.turktelekom.com.tr/Sayfalar/Ana-Sayfa.aspx>

11 REFERENCES AND LINKS

Language

<https://www.mondly.com/turkish-phrases-expressions> Turkish Language

<https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/counting-in-turkish> Turkish Language

Funding Programs

<https://genclikcalismalari.org> Gençlik Çalışmaları Ağı (Youth Works Network powered by Pi Youth Association)

<http://civilsocietydialogue.org/> Funding Programme in Turkey (Pi Youth Association is one of the beneficiaries)