

# 1. Turkey

Republic of Türkiye; Turk. *Türkiye Cumhuriyeti*.  
Unitary presidential republic. President: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.  
Population: 85.6 m.  
Currency: Turkish lira TRY ₺. US\$ 1 = ₺36.5.  
Calling code +90. Internet .tr.

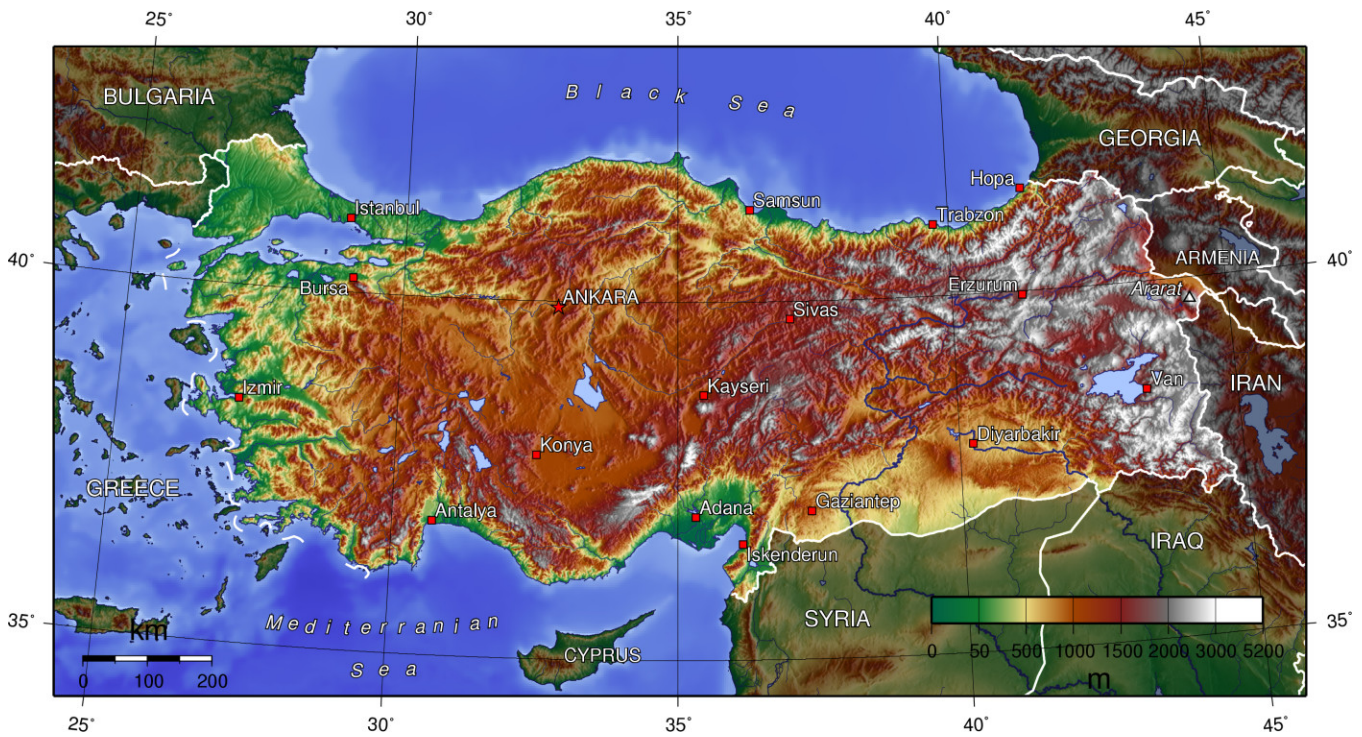


## I. Geography

3% is in Europe (Thrace), the rest in Asia. Of this c. 75% is Anatolia (Gk *Anatolē*, rising (sun); Turk. Anadolu); was alternatively known as Asia Minor (Gk *Mikra Asia*).

Size: c. 1600 × 800 km, 1000 × 500 mi.

Very mountainous country. Highest peak: Mt Ararat 5137 m (16,854 ft). The Taurus Mountains border the Mediterranean along the south coast.



## II. History

### A. Prehistory

Çatalhöyük (*höyük* = tell): one of the earliest (or even the earliest) towns yet discovered

### B. Hittite Empire

capital Hattuşaş (present-day Boğazkale).

1274 BC Battle of Kadesh between Hittites and Egypt. ca. 1259 Hattushili III and Ramses II of Egypt signed peace treaty, Treaty of Kadesh (in Istanbul Arch. Museum).

### C. The Greeks

c. 1000 BC Greeks settled the islands and coastlands of the eastern Aegean: Aeolus (Aeolian), Ionia (Ionian), Doris (Doric).

Ionia: (Gk *Iōnia* or *Iōniē*; Heb *Yavan*). chief city: Miletus.

Ionian League: c. 650 BC, 12 cities: Miletus, Myus, Priene, Ephesus, Colophon, Lebedus, Teos, Clazomenae, Phocaea, Chios, Erythrae, Samos. Ionia taken by King Croesus.

### D. Anatolian Kingdoms

- Phrygia (Gk *Phrygia*). legendary kings: Gordias, Midas. capital Gordium. Peak power 8th c. under Midas.
- Lydia: arose c. 700; capital: Sardis. Zenith under King Croesus (r. 560-546). Invented coins (of electrum, a gold-silver alloy).
- Lycia:

### E. Persia

Cyrus the Great captured Sardis 546.

### F. Hellenistic Period

Alexander the Great (356-324), son of Philip of Macedon, campaign 333-324. Cut the Gordian Knot. Defeated Persia (Darius III) at Battle of Issus, 333, near Iskenderun. Died suddenly of fever in Babylon, leaving no heir. His generals (Diadochi, Διάδοχοι, successors) fought over the empire (The Wars of the Diadochi).

By 281 stability was achieved: Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, Seleucid Empire in east, Kingdom of Pergamum, Macedon.

### G. The Romans

Defeated Carthage in the two Punic Wars. In second century BC expanded into eastern Mediterranean. Last ruler of Attalid kingdom (capital Pergamum) bequeathed realm to Rome; became province of Asia.

Diocletian (284-305). Greatest period of Christian persecution. capital: Nicomedia.

## Turkey 2025

285 appointed a co-emperor: Maximian (capitals Milan, Trier). 293 appointed two Caesars: Constantius (w.), Galerius (e.). Divided empire into a tetrarchy (293-313): east and west, each with an augustus and a caesar.

305 Diocletian, Maximian resigned; Constantinus, Galerius became augustii; Severus, Maximin appointed their Caesars.

306 Constantinius died in York (Eboracum); per Constantinius's wishes, army acclaimed Constantine augustus. Galerius refused to recognize, but appointed him Caesar (Britain, Gaul, Spain); Severus emperor.

312 Battle of Milvian Bridge, Constantine defeated Maxentius. Prior to battle saw a vision: *in hoc signo vinces*, in this sign you will conquer: chi-rho ☩. Arch of Constantine in Rome (315) celebrates this victory.

313 Edict of Milan, w. Licinius; tolerating Christianity. Licinius defeated Maximian to become sole ruler of east.

324 Constantine defeated Licinius to become sole ruler of Roman Empire.

## H. Byzantine Empire

Constantine elected Byzantium as capital, calling it New Rome. 330 dedicated newly rebuilt city. Became known as Constantinople (city of Constantine).

The rulers continued to refer to their empire as the Roman Empire (Gk *Basileia Rhōmaiōn*; Lat *Imperium Romanum*) or Romania (*Rhōmania*). Later historians gave it the name Byzantine.

### Ecumenical Church Councils

1. 325 Nicaea: repudiated Arianism; Nicene Creed: Christ "*homoousios* with the Father" (of the same substance)
2. 381 Constantinople: repudiated Arianism (again); creed revised to incl Holy Spirit.
3. 431 Ephesus: repudiated Nestorianism (dyophysitism), proclaimed Mary Theotokos (God-bearer).
4. 451 Chalcedon: repudiated monophysitism; Chalcedonian Definition: hypostatic union of human and divine natures in Christ.
5. 553 Constantinople
6. 680 Constantinople
7. 787 Nicaea: repudiated iconoclasm; restored icons.

Justinian: empire reached zenith. Wife Theodora. Two lasting accomplishments:

1. Hagia Sophia
2. Codified Roman law.

1054 Great Schism: between Eastern and Western Churches.

### The Crusades

1. 1095-1099. After Byzantine defeat by Selçuks at Manzikert 1071, Emperor Alexios I appealed for Western aid. Pope Urban II proclaimed Crusade to recover Holy Land. Captured Jerusalem 1099.
2. 1147-1149
3. 1187-1192. Saladin defeated Crusaders at Battle of Hattin. Richard the Lionheart.
4. 1202-1204. Proclaimed by Pope Innocent III. To use Venetian fleet, but couldn't pay, so Doge Enrico Dandolo enlisted them for his own purposes, whereupon Pope excommunicated them. Crusaders went to Constantinople, sacking it in 1204, establishing Latin Empire (1204-1261). Byzantines continued rule in Nicea. Regained Constantinople 1261 under Michael VIII Palaiologos.

## Turkey 2025

### I. The Turks

Selçuk Turks began migrating into Anatolia 11th c.

1071 Selçuks defeated Byzantines at Battle of Manzikert; 1075 captured Nicea (Izmit), Nicomedia (Izmit).

1077 establ. Selçuk Sultanate of Rum (1077-1307), capital Izmit. 1097 capital moved to Konya. Selçuks called their land Rum; contemporaries called it Turkey (land of the Turks).

1243 Mongols defeated Selçuk army at Köseadağ.

Osman I (r. 1299-1326), son of Ertuğrul, who had established a small emirate in Eskişehir, founded Ottoman dynasty.

1453 Mehmet II captured Constantinople.

Suleiman the Magnificent (b. 1494; r. 1520-1566)

1529, 1683 Ottomans besiege Vienna. Empire at zenith c 1590.

Decline of the Ottoman Empire

1832 Greece independence.

World War I: Ottoman Empire fought with Germany against the Allies. 1915 Gallipoli. Col. Mustafa Kemal distinguished himself.

1919 Paris Peace Conference

San Remo Conference April 1920. Britain, France, Italy, Japan. Resolution: League of Nations Mandates: Syria, Mesopotamia, Palestine.

Treaty of Sèvres 1920.08.1 between Ottoman Empire and Allies (Britain, France, Italy, but excl. USA, Russia) who carved up remnants of Ottoman Empire among themselves.

- renunciation of non-Turkish territory; ceded to Allies -> Mandates of Syria, Palestine. Kingdom of Hejaz (Mecca, Medina).
- recognized Armenia as a state.
- Possibility of a Kurdish nation in Turkish area.
- Zones of influence: France, Italy, Greece.

Greece did not accept borders, never signed. Later annulled by Turkish nationalists.

War of Independence (1919-1922)

1919.05.15 Greek forces landed at Smyrna, with Allied authorization, to create the Smyrna Zone, ostensibly to protect the Greek population. They reached almost to Ankara by August 1922.

1920.04 Gen. Mustafa Kemal set up Turkish Grand National Assembly in Ankara.

1922.08 Kemal stopped Greek advance, drove them back to Smyrna, and out.

1922.11.01 Ottoman Empire abolished.

1923.10.29 Kemal proclaimed Republic of Turkey, . Took name Atatürk (Father of the Turks), first president; d. 1938.

Treaty of Lausanne 1923.07.24.

- Turkey surrendered any claim to rest of Ottoman Empire (Cyprus, Egypt, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Dodecanese).

Convention Concerning the Exchange of Greek and Turkish Populations, signed 1923.01.30 in Lausanne by Greece, Turkey. Greek Orthodox to Greece, Moslems to Turkey. exempt: Greek Orthodox of

## **Turkey 2025**

Constantinople; Moslems of w. Thrace. 1923-4 forced transmigration: 1,000,000 Greeks from Turkey to Greece; 400,000 Turks from Greece to Turkey.

current Turkic states: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

### **III. Politics**

#### **A. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938)**

First President (1923-1938).

Atatürk's reforms (Kemalism): Romanized alphabet;  
religious: abolition of caliphate; abolition of fez, veil, and other distinctive religious headdresses; equal rights for women; secular.

#### **B. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (1954–)**

Mayor of Istanbul (1994-98), Prime Minister (2003-2014), President (2014-). With Abdullah Gül, cofounded Justice and Development Party (AKP) 2001.

#### **C. Muhammed Fethullah Gülen (1941–2024)**

Founder of Gülen movement (Hizmet, "service"). Lives in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania.  
c. 150 charter schools in US.