TURKEY

Location

Turkey is located in 2 different continents of the world. Part of it is in Asia while the other is in Europe. The geographic coordinates of Turkey are 39 00 N, 35 00 E. The land mass is 774,815 square kilometers. The coastline of Turkey’s 4 seas is 8,333km. The surrounding countries of Turkey are Bulgaria, Greece shares the Northwest border, Armenia, Georgia shares the Northeast border and Iran, Iraq, and Syria share the Southwest border. The surrounding water around Turkey is the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Geography

The European and Asian sides are divided by Istanbul. The Anatolia is a high plateau region rising towards the east broken by about 15 valleys. The Tigris and the Euphrates are 2 rivers that run through Turkey. The elevation extremes are the Mediterranean Sea at 0m and Mount Ararat at 5,166m. Also Turkey has a very strong strategic location controlling the Turkish straights. (The Bosporus, Sea of Marmar and Dardanelles) that links the Black and Aegean Seas.

Climate

The climate varies throughout the entire country. There are basically 3 different climate zones, the climate of the Black Sea, Interior climate, and the Mediterranean climate. The average temp during the winter is 3 degrees Celsius to 11 degrees Celsius. The average temperature during the summer is 16 degrees Celsius to 29 degrees Celsius.
History

Turkey has been called “The Cradle of Civilization.” It has the world’s first town called City at Catahayuk dates back to 6500B.C. Turkey has ancient ruins found throughout the country that shows that there were many different civilizations. Turkey was created in 1923 from the Turkish Remnants of the Ottoman Empire. In 1945 Turkey joined the UN and in 1949 became a member on NATO. Mustafa Kemal Ataturuk founded the republic of Turkey on the October 29th, 1923. Turkey’s saying is “Peace At Home Peace In World.”

Population

The Turkish population is said to be around 57 million (1990 census) 41% live in the countryside. Istanbul has 7.4 million; Ankarka the capital of Turkey has 3.2 million. The growth rate is 1.27%. The Death rate is 5.96/1000.

Language

The official language of Turkey is Turkish. It belongs to Ural Altaic group and has an affinity to Finno Hungarian. Turkish is written in the Latin alphabet spoken by 150 million.

Religion

Turkish population is 99% Moslem but guarantees freedom to non-Moslem. It’s the only country in the world in which mosques, churches, and synagogues have been peaceful for centuries.

Economy

Tourism is very important to Turkish. They come to see the history and the culture also there is so much to do from swimming to skiing. Tourism contribute more that $8 billion to the economy.
Agriculture is also a big part of their economy. Turkey is self-sufficient in food production and produces enough surpluses for export as well. Leading industries include the processing of agriculture products, metallurgy, textiles and manufacturing of automobiles and agriculture machinery.

**Agriculture**

Main crops are wheat, rice, cotton, tea, tobacco, hazelnuts and fruit. Sheep is the most important livestock they produce cotton and wool. “Southeast Anatolia Project” is a multipurpose project with dams, hydroelectric power plants, and irrigation facilities. Some natural resources are coal, chrome (important export), iron, copper, bauxite, marble and sulphane.

**Currency**

Turkey’s money is called Lira. $1 U.S. = 947,000 Turkish Lira. The denominations are TL 10,000,000, 5,000,000, 1,000,000, 500,00, 250,000, 100,000. Coins are in denominations of 100, 50, 25, 10, and 5.

**Trade**

They export $26 billion a year. The export commodities are apparel 28%, foodstuff 17%, textile 12%, and metal manufactured products 9%. Export partners include Germany 21%, United States 9%, United Kingdom 7%, Italy 6% and France 6%. Turkey imports $40 billion a year. Import commodities are machinery 29%, semi finished goods 16%, chemicals 14%, transport equipment 11%, and fuels 8%. Import partners include, Germany 14%, Italy 8%, Russia 6% and United Kingdom 5%.
Food

They have an interesting assortment of food including Pasta alla turca, Tomato and peppers are very popular. Cheese (Kassen - from the mountains, Feta- white cheese). Soujouk is an all beef sausage, and super black olives.

Education

Turkey provides education all the way up to college. A few universities are named Selcuk University and Mimar Sinan University.

Land marks

Since Turkey is so ancient there is many landmarks to be found there and would be impossible to name them all. The Acropolis is the steepest theater of the ancient world. The Temple of Trojan, House of Virgin Mary, and The Temple of Diana which is one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world. You can still see the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, which is called Bursa. Also Istanbul is the only city in the world spanning 2 continents. The Ataturk Dam is one of the first dams of the of the first dams in the world.

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