

Turkey Fun Facts

1. Turkey has one of the oldest and biggest malls. Istanbul's Grand Bazaar dates to 1455 and was established shortly after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople.
2. Grand Bazaar has grown to a warren of 61 streets lined by more than 3,000 shops and currently occupies 333,000 square feet.
3. The signature Ottoman treat is tavuk gogusu, or chicken breast pudding. It's a strange blend of boiled chicken, milk, sugar and dusted with cinnamon.
4. Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) is from Turkey.
5. One of the Mediterranean's primary sea turtle nesting beaches is in Turkey, Iztuzu Beach.
6. Turkey popularized the tulip and facilitated their introduction to Europe.
7. Turkey has more than 130 peaks that reach over 9,800 feet. Palandoken is Turkey's highest peak that reaches 10,200 feet and claims Europe's longest natural ski run.
8. Istanbul is one of Europe's most exciting art scenes.
9. Oil wrestling is the national sport of Turkey.
10. The longest word in Turkish is 70 letters long and is "Muvaffakiyetsizlestiricilestiriveremeyebilecekerimizdenmissinizcesine" which means "as if you are from those we may not be able to easily make a maker of unsuccessful ones."
11. The Turkish alphabet doesn't include "X" or "Q", but has other letters such as the dotless "I".
12. Turkey is actually called the Republic of Turkey.
13. In 1503, Leonardo da Vinci submitted plans for a bridge across the Bosphorus – it was never built.
14. Turkey is responsible for 80% of the world's hazelnuts exports.
15. Turkey was the birthplace of historical figures such as Aesop, Homer and St. Paul the Apostle.
16. More journalists are imprisoned in Turkey than any other country.
17. Turkey's Istanbul Tunnel is the world's second oldest underground railway – it began operation in 1875.
18. Turkey's Black Sea coastline stretches for 1650 km. That's the same distance as Paris to Berlin.
19. There is no desert in Turkey and there are no native camels.
20. An old Turkish tradition says "a stranger at one's doorstep is God's guest for at least three days."
21. Istanbul is the world's only city spanning two continents and only 3% of Turkey is in Europe.
22. Turkey has the third highest number of Facebook users in the world, with 14 million users, after the U.S. and U.K.
23. Jelly beans began as an American version of the "Turkish Delight" confection.
24. While nearly all of the Turkish population is Muslim, Turkey is not officially a Muslim country. Turkey has officially been a secular nation since 1927.
25. Turkey is the 6th most popular tourist destination in the world.
26. There are at least 150 archaeological digs going on in Turkey each year.
27. One way of protecting a newborn baby in Turkey is by "salting," which is a custom where the baby's body is rubbed all over with salt in the belief that will give the child strength to resist harmful influences.
28. The fez is a traditional, short, conical, red felt cap worn by Turkish men, but they are almost never worn today. They were banned by the government in 1925.
29. Most Turks did not have surnamed until a law was passed requiring it in 1934.
30. One of the world's earliest civilizations, the Hittites, flourished in Turkey around 1600 B.C. They were among the first people to work iron and use a system of writing.
31. The legendary city of Troy is located on the Aegean coast on Turkey.
32. Turkey has 82,693 mosques, more than any other country per capita in the world.

33. "Ashure", supposedly the last meal on Noah's Ark, is a sweet and sour pudding. It is still served throughout Turkey. It supposedly contained 40 different ingredients, which were the remainders of his supplies.
34. Turks introduced coffee to Europe, during the Ottoman raids into Central and Eastern Europe in the 16th century.
35. According to Turkish tradition, all major life events begin with eating sweets. A baby is welcome at birth with halva, and it is also made again for a funeral. When a woman gives birth, she is given sweet fruit drinks to drink.
36. Julius Caesar pronounced his famous words, "Veni, Vidi, Vici" ("I came, I saw, I conquered") in Turkey when he defeated Pontus, a kingdom of the Black Sea region of Turkey.
37. The oldest known shipwreck on earth was found and examined in Uluburun in the Mediterranean region of Turkey. It was dated to be at least 3,300 years old.
38. The first coins in world history were made of electrum and used by Lydian King Alyattes in Sardis, in the Aegean region of Turkey, in 640 B.C.
39. Turkish Delight is one of the oldest sweets in world history, dating back 500 years. Napoleon and Winston Churchill were particularly fond of the ones with pistachio filling, and Picasso used to consume it daily while painting.
40. Most Turks drink 10 or more cups of tea per day, and the country has the highest per-capita consumption of tea in the world at nearly 7 lbs. per person per year.
41. 96% of the population drinks tea every day.
42. Turkey also ranks in the top 5 tea producers in the world.
43. The word "turquoise" comes from turc, meaning "Turkish," and it was derived from the beautiful color of the Mediterranean Sea on the southern Turkish coast.
44. Turkey is the site of the world's first beauty pageant.
45. Turkey has had equality for women going back a millennium to the Hittite civilization, and it gave women the right to vote before most European countries and the United States.
46. The word for "lion" in Turkish is aslan, which is also the name of the great lion in C.S. Lewis' classic children's series *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*.
47. Gaziantep, Turkey is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world.
48. One-third of the 9,000 plant species found in Turkey are endemic, meaning they grow only in that country and nowhere else.
49. Turkey is home to 5 unique mammal species, 13 reptile species, and 52 freshwater fish species not found anywhere else on Earth.
50. About 1/4 of the roses grown in the world come from Turkey.
51. Turkey is the world's fourth largest producer of tomatoes.
52. Backgammon is deeply rooted in Turkish culture. It is one of the most ancient of all board games, with origins dating as far back as 3000 B.C. and Turks take playing it very seriously.
53. The oldest recognized human settlement is in Catalhoyuk, which is in Central Turkey.
54. The country has two places which are part of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. They are the Temple of Artemis and Mausoleum of Halicarnassus.
55. The world's most precious silk carpet is stored in the Mevlana Museum, which is located in Konya.
56. Istanbul was formerly known as Constantinople. It was the Roman Empire's capital.
57. The first ever university known to man is located in Harran.
58. Carpets are very important in Turkish culture. Seen as religious symbols, they are used in mosques.
59. Turkey is most famous for their kebabs and seafood.
60. Soup is an essential part of the Turkish culture. They have it before every meal.

61. The most famous coffee in Europe is made in Turkey.
62. The Turkish flag is red and has a white crescent moon and star.
63. It is common to kiss an elderly individual's hand as a sign of respect.
64. Turkish public buildings commonly have a black arrow placed on their ceilings. It shows the direction of Mecca, which is considered to be the holiest place on Earth for Muslims.
65. Bargaining is a big part of Turkish culture. It is mostly seen on Istanbul's streets.
66. Hundreds of marinas and beaches have a "blue flag." It is only given to the cleanest and best beaches in Europe.
67. Istanbul is the largest city in the country, but Ankara is Turkey's capital.
68. The national animal of Turkey is the gray wolf.
69. The population of Turkey is roughly 80.2 million.
70. Their national currency is the lira.

Istanbul Erdogan Airport

1. Istanbul's newest and largest airport is the Erdogan Airport.
2. It officially opened on October 29, 2018 and is fully functioning at the end of 2018.
3. The airport is 76.5 million square meters in total.
4. It has the world's largest terminal under one roof.
5. This airport was built in the hopes that it will see 200,000 or more passengers passing through daily.
6. This airport calls itself a "green" airport, thanks to its recycling capabilities and rainwater utilization capacity.