

# Turkey

## Information for applicants

### Turkey

Turkey combines elements of a modern, Western, democratic, industrialised country with modern-day Islam. In line with its 1982 constitution, Turkey is a democratic, secular and social state governed by the rule of law. In a referendum on constitutional amendments in April 2017, a narrow majority of voters elected to transform the government from a parliamentary system to a presidential system.

Germany and Turkey are linked by diverse relations on a human, cultural, economic and political level. Approximately three million people of Turkish descent live in Germany and are a significant factor in bilateral relations. Moreover, the member states of the European Union (EU), especially Germany, are Turkey's main trading partners. Joining the EU remains a priority of Turkish policy.

In just a few decades, the Turkish economy has developed from a strongly agricultural to a differentiated economy, albeit with a west-east divide. Steady growth rates have transformed Turkey from a traditional developing country into an emerging country that now sometimes even acts as a donor. Cooperation between Germany and Turkey is now focused on the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Besides its contribution within the context of the EU, the German Government is also supporting Turkey with bilateral measures to deal with the consequences of the Syrian refugee crisis.

The national language is Turkish, but a number of minority languages (especially Kurdish) are also spoken in large parts of the south-east and east.

### Health care

Medical treatment in the major cities and tourist regions has improved greatly in recent years. The large number of private hospitals, in particular, provide a European level of care. However, medical care in rural areas can be problematic.

### Living in Ankara and Gaziantep

Ankara, the capital of Turkey, has about five million inhabitants. In transport terms, Ankara is very well connected by a modern airport, with direct flights to Germany. The city has a low crime rate. The air quality in Ankara varies according to the district. In the city centre it is moderate to good.

With nearly 1.1 million inhabitants, Gaziantep is the largest city in southern Turkey. It is known nationwide for its excellent cuisine. A regional airport offers daily connections to the major cities. Gaziantep also has a low crime rate. Because of the crisis in Syria, precautions should be taken when travelling in and around the south/south-eastern region.

### Finding accommodation

The usual approach is to engage a real estate agent who knows all the rental apartments in their district and who will ask a month's rent for providing their services. The rent is usually negotiable and is not expensive compared with German rents.

### Shops and services

Since almost all international products are available in Turkish cities, you do not have to go without your normal foods. Furthermore, a bakkal (grocery store) on every street corner offers a wide range of goods

in a small space. Local food and services are much cheaper than in Germany, but imported products may be more expensive. However, the favourable exchange rate with the euro means that prices are currently lower on average than in Europe. With regard to recreation, Ankara offers a wide variety of possibilities for going out, such as restaurants, bars, cafés, meyhanes, museums and theatres.

Obtaining cash is not difficult. With EC cards and credit cards you can withdraw cash at all ATMs. Foreign currency is exchanged into lira at exchange offices and banks.

## Climate

The climate varies throughout the country. The north-west and the Black Sea region have a maritime or oceanic climate. The summers are warm, but in winter, snow may fall in the coastal regions. Most precipitation is from November to February. Overall, the climate is rather humid. On the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas, the climate is Mediterranean and partly subtropical. The summers are hot and dry; the winters are very mild. The interior of Turkey has a predominantly continental climate with hot summers and cold, snowy winters. Ankara, for example, which lies at about 1,000 metres above sea level, can have a lot of snow in winter, while the summers are moderately hot during the day and the nights are pleasantly fresh.

## Accompanying partners

Accompanying partners may apply for a family residence permit, or in the case of unmarried partners, a residence permit. A job with an international or national employer is possible if the applicant obtains a suitable employment contract and applies for a work visa.

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Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
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Registered offices  
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

T +49 61 96 79-0  
F +49 61 96 79-11 15  
E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

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## Schools

Private schools are included in the national Turkish education system. Such schools have experienced teachers and are audited by the Education Inspectorate. There are German schools abroad in Ankara and Istanbul. The Turkish-German University was opened in April 2014. Gaziantep does not yet have a German-speaking or English-speaking school.

## Small children

Kindergartens are available. German-language kindergartens are available, especially in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.

## Useful links

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/tuerkei-node>

<https://tuerkei.diplo.de/tr-de>

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