



WELCOME TO
TURKEY



WHERE IS TURKEY?

TURKEY is a vast peninsula, covering an area of 780,000 sq km and linking Asia to Europe through the Sea of Marmara and the Straits of İstanbul and Çanakkale.

Occupying a highly strategic position on the world map, Turkey combines the wealth of the East and the West, offering a synthesis of the traditional and the modern, the old and the new.

Bordering the Black Sea, between Bulgaria and Georgia, Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, between Greece and Syria, Turkey sits beautifully on the world map. Other bordering countries are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran and Iraq.

The 3% of Turkish territory north of the Straits lies in Europe renowned as the European Turkey, while the 97% of the country in Asia is referred to as Anatolia. İstanbul, which straddles the Bosphorus, is the only metropolis in the world located on two continents.

Turkey has an extremely rich cultural heritage. Perhaps no other land has witnessed such diverse civilisations over the last 11,500 years, as did Turkey.



After the great Mesopotamians, the Hittite and Urartian kingdoms flourished in Anatolia. The Ionian and Roman civilisations predominated the western Anatolia.

Istanbul has the honour of having served as the capital of three successive empires – the

Roman, the Byzantine, and the Ottoman. Anatolia itself became a crossroads of peoples, cultures and religions.

Christianity, for example, thrived in these lands and Islam was glorified by the Seljuks and Ottomans.

QUICK FACTS



- **Capital City:** Ankara
- **Population:** 82 Million
- **Currency:** Turkish Lira
- **Religion (etiquette):** 99% Muslim
- **Language:** Turkish
- **Time Zone:** UTC +3 all year
- **Business Hour:** 09:00-18:00
- **Working Days:** Monday-Friday, Saturdays and Sundays are holidays.

VISA REGULATIONS

Diplomatic passport holders are exempt from visa for their travels to Turkey for up to 90 days.

Ordinary, Special and Service passport holders are required to have visa to enter Turkey. Ordinary, Special and Service passport holders with a valid Schengen members or USA, UK, Ireland visa or residence permit may get their single entry e-Visas valid for one month via the website www.evisa.gov.tr

You may apply for your e-visa on www.evisa.gov.tr and make payment with your credit card with in a short time.

Sticker visa

The sticker visa for Turkey can be easily applied at the Gateway visa processing centers in 16 cities of India with VIP/Premium lounge in selected ones. One can acquire the visa with limited number of documents.

Group Visas

MICE Groups and Destination Weddings

The Visa process for guests of MICE and weddings can be co-handled with the organizer. The requirement of many personal documents is waived in such a case.

For more details visit

<http://yenidelhi.be.mfa.gov.tr/Mission/ShowAnnouncement/359720>



HOW TO GET TO TURKEY?



For over a decade now, the flight connectivity between Turkey&India has been rapidly growing and improving. Turkish Airlines and Indigo have daily direct flights to Turkey.

Turkish Airlines

Turkish Airlines is the National Flag carrier airline of Turkey. With a young fleet of 361 Aircrafts operating to 319 cities covering 322 airports.

Turkish airlines flies to 127 countries making it the only airlines which flies to maximum countries than any other airline.

In India, Turkish Airlines has daily departures from Delhi and Mumbai to its hub in Istanbul operating the latest state of the art aircraft offering inflight entertainment system, free Wi-Fi and meals on board.

Indigo

With its fleet of over 250 aircrafts, Indigo offers over 1500 daily flights and connects 63 domestic and 24 international destinations.

IndiGo's codeshare and mutual cooperation agreement with Turkish Airlines enable its customers to fly to 20 additional international destinations via Istanbul.

IndiGo operates double daily service between Delhi and Istanbul.

For more information visit www.goindigo.in



Besides direct flights by Turkish Airlines and Indigo, there are other airlines that fly to Turkey from different cities of India via their own hubs.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| ● Air Arabia | ● Kuwait Airlines |
| ● Emirates Airline | ● Oman Airlines |
| ● Etihad Airways | ● Qatar Airlines |
| ● Gulf Air | ● Saudia Airways |
| ● Jazeera Airlines | ● Uzbekistan Air |



GETTING AROUND TURKEY

Air Connectivity

Turkey is considered as one of the most developed countries in Europe in terms of the connectivity and the volume of the aviation industry.

In the past decade, the international air transportation sector expanded 5.6% worldwide, while Turkey achieved the growth of 14%.

Turkey has more than 55 civil airports.

Istanbul Airport

Provides service in Istanbul, the intersection of Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

The Istanbul Airport serves as one of the world's most significant aviation hubs at a strategic geographical position connecting continents.

The Istanbul Airport launches flights to a total of 146 destinations at various continents within 3 hour connecting 120+ countries, 60+ capital cities,

250+ international and 50 domestic destinations.

When the airport is put into operation in full capacity, the number of flight destinations will exceed 350 and the numbers of the passengers will be 200 million.

One can find flights to destinations such as Antalya, Izmir, Cappadocia, Bodrum and Dalaman from Istanbul Airport.



Sabiha Gokcen Airport

Located in the Asian part of the Istanbul, Sabiha Gokcen Airport is only 1-hour drive from Istanbul Airport.

Both international and domestic flights operate from Sabiha Gokcen Airport.

Sabiha Gokcen Airport has been selected as the "Airport of the Year" in the 30+ million passenger capacity category at Center of Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) Awards for Excellence 2019.

Low cost airline companies like Pegasus and Anadolu Jet use Sabiha Gokcen Airport as their hubs.

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Other Important Airports in Turkey

- Antalya Airport
- Ankara Esenboga Airport
- Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport
- Bodrum Havalimani
- Dalaman Havalimani

Domestic Airline Companies:

Turkish Airlines has more than 360

aircrafts, uses Istanbul airport as the hub airport. <https://www.turkishairlines.com/>

Pegasus Airlines, a low-cost airline company owing more than 82 aircrafts, uses Sabiha Gokcen Airport as the hub airport. <https://www.flypgs.com/en>

Anadolu Jet, trademark of Turkish Airlines with a fleet of 57 aircrafts uses Sabiha Gokcen Airport as the hub destination. <https://www.anadolujet.com/en>

Sun Express, a joint venture of Turkish Airlines and Lufthansa having more than 69 aircrafts, uses Istanbul, Izmir and Antalya airports. <https://www.sunexpress.com/en/>

Onur Air, low cost airline company having more than 27 aircrafts, uses Istanbul airport as the hub airport. <https://www.onurair.com/en/>



OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES



High Speed Trains

Train travel through Turkey has become increasingly popular over the years as improvements have been made, with high-speed lines such as İstanbul-Ankara route. High speed trains connect Ankara, İstanbul, Konya, Eskisehir, with a speed up to 250 km/h.

- İstanbul-Ankara High-Speed Train- 5-hour journey (4 Times a Day)
- Ankara-Istanbul High-Speed Train- 5-hour journey (4 Times a Day)
- İstanbul-Konya High-Speed Train- 5 hour journey (2 Times a Day)
- Konya-Istanbul High-Speed Train- 5 hour journey (2 Times a Day)
- Ankara Konya High-Speed Train- 1.5 hour journey (2 Times a Day)
- Konya-Ankara High-Speed Train 1.5 hour journey (2 Times a Day)

Inter City Bus System

- Modern, comfortable intercity bus system.
- Affordable prices and quality service.
- Connects almost all cities of the country.
- One may find buses between

- Antalya-Bodrum, Antalya-Pamukkale, Antalya-Fethiye and vice versa
- Pamukkale- Kuşadası, Kuşadası-İzmir and vice versa
- Kapadokya-Konya, Kapadokya-Antalya, Kapadokya Pamukkale and vice versa
- Konya-Antalya and vice versa

Rent-a-Car System and using the driving licence

The country has well maintained modern roads with

State Highways spreading across 31.021 km (2019) Dual carriageways spreading across 17.550 km (2019)

- Almost all international rent-a-car companies operate in Turkey.
- One can pick and drop the car in different destinations.

- Indian travellers can use their Indian driving licence in Turkey for period of 6 months, beginning from the entrance day to the country.
- Post the completion of initial six months in Turkey these driving licence should be replaced with Turkish ones.



ACCOMMODATION IN TURKEY

Turkey houses around 4600 Hotels with a total of 1.3 million bed capacity, out of which

- There are 670 5-Star hotels with a bed capacity of 5 lakhs.
- There are 820 4-star hotels with a bed capacity of 2.4 lakhs.

City hotels operate in destinations such as Istanbul and Izmir and Ankara. These usually operate on Bed and

Breakfast system.

Resort Hotels with All Inclusive (AI) System operates in leisure destinations such as Antalya, Bodrum, Fethiye and Kuşadası.

In Turkey, almost 90% of the resort hotels operate on All Inclusive System which implies that food and beverages (including liquor) consumed in the hotel are included in the accommoda-

tion package.

Most of the All-Inclusive resort hotels located in Antalya and Bodrum.

Apart from these, Special Category hotels also operate in Turkey. Historical Hotels and historical boutique hotels, Cave hotels (especially in Cappadocia region quite popular among the travellers).



(Antalya)

WHAT TO EAT



Turkish Cuisine

Turkey may be famous for its kebabs, but this popular dish is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Turkish cuisine. Turkey's rich and diverse food culture is an ode to its geography and

the heritage of Ottoman Palace kitchens. Hence, it is impossible to fit Turkish cuisine into a short list. Yet, it can be categorized based on ingredients and regions.

Turkish breakfast is a rich ex-

perience accompanied by local brewed black tea, bread and white cheese (similar to feta), old cheese black and/or green olives butter, honey, jam, an omlette or boiled eggs sliced tomatoes and/or cucumbers.

Vegetable dishes: Turkish cuisine incorporates a huge range of vegetable dishes known as zeytinyagli yemegi - food cooked in olive oil. Traditional Turkish foods rely less on seasonings and more on tasty fresh ingredients.

Sea Food: A country located on a peninsula surrounded by three seas offers a rich variety of seafood dishes accompanied by small platters of 'meze', a selection of dishes served at the start of the meal.

Soups made with vegetables and grain, yogurt, pastries, desserts are most commonly additions to lunch or dinner menus.

Kebabs: Popularly known as the 'Kebap', this is the best known meat dish which offers a variety of grilled meat, meatballs or döner; beaten pieces of meat seasoned with suet, local herbs and spices, skewered on a spit and grilled vertically.



Indian Food

The restaurants in Turkey have developed their understanding according to the demands of domestic and foreign guests visiting the country. The country is scattered with restaurants and cafes serving the best and authentic Indian cuisine, with the traditional food like Biryani, Tikka Kebab and Tandoori. Turkey has much more to offer when it comes to India food.

Turkey has experienced chefs from India's best hotels and restaurants serving mouth-watering food from all parts of India.

The restaurants serve vegetarian and non-vegetarian food with delicacies like Samosas, Pakoras Biryani, Curries and much more. Along with the finger licking amazing food, you get the most astonishing view of the country from many India restaurants.



They also provide catering service for the group at any desired location. Along with this Jain food is also available on request.

There are more than 10 renowned

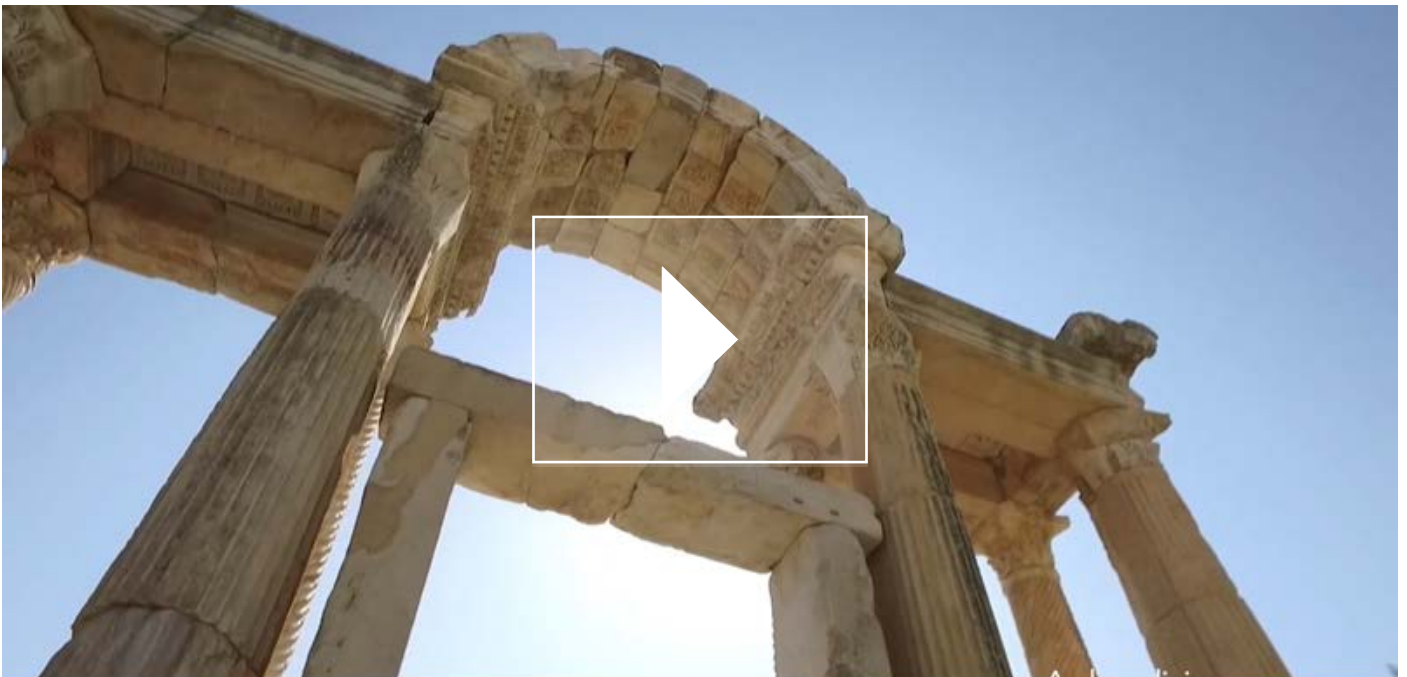
Indian Restaurants in Istanbul. Cappadocia has 5 Indian restaurants.

Indian restaurants can be found in destinations such as Antalya and Pamukkale as well.



UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- A combination of history and natural beauty
- 18 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Istanbul- a world metropolis on two continents
- Cappadocia- a fairy landscape with hot-air balloons
- Antalya- perfect all-inclusive resort city for family vacations
- Bodrum- an Aegean luxury escape for honeymooners
- Rich cuisine with a variety of vegetable, meat, poultry dishes and deserts
- With over 8.000 km of coastline and over 459 blue flag beaches
- Four seasons throughout the country



Turkish Culture, Art Events & Festivals

As the cradle of Western and Eastern cultures, Turkey is the hub for some of the world's most important art and cultural events and festivals.

Whether it be theatre, music, dance, food or art - Turkey can add something special to anything & everything. Istanbul, the capital of culture and art events & festivals, offers great opportunities and unique experiences with a perfect blend of tradition and modernity.



MAJOR ART AND CULTURE EVENTS AND FESTIVALS IN TURKEY



(Contemporary Istanbul)

● Fine Arts

The Istanbul Biennial (From September to November, Istanbul)

The Istanbul Biennial is a prominent art event in Turkey and is considered as one of the most prestigious biennials alongside Venice, São Paulo and Sydney. Istanbul Biennial attracts over 500,000 visitors all around the globe during 3 months.

<https://bienal.iksv.org/en>

Contemporary Istanbul (September, Istanbul)

Contemporary Istanbul is one of the major art events in Turkey and the leading annual international art fair which takes place every September.

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

● Film Festivals

Golden Orange Film Festival (Antalya, October)

Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival which will celebrate its 57th anniversary this year is Turkey's oldest film festival and it is regarded as the Oscars of Turkish Cinema.

<https://www.antalyaff.com/en/>

Istanbul Film Festival (Istanbul, April)

Istanbul Film Festival is the first international film festival in Turkey, organised by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV) and it is held every year in April.

<http://film.iksv.org/en>

● Music Festivals

Istanbul Music Festival (May-June, Istanbul)

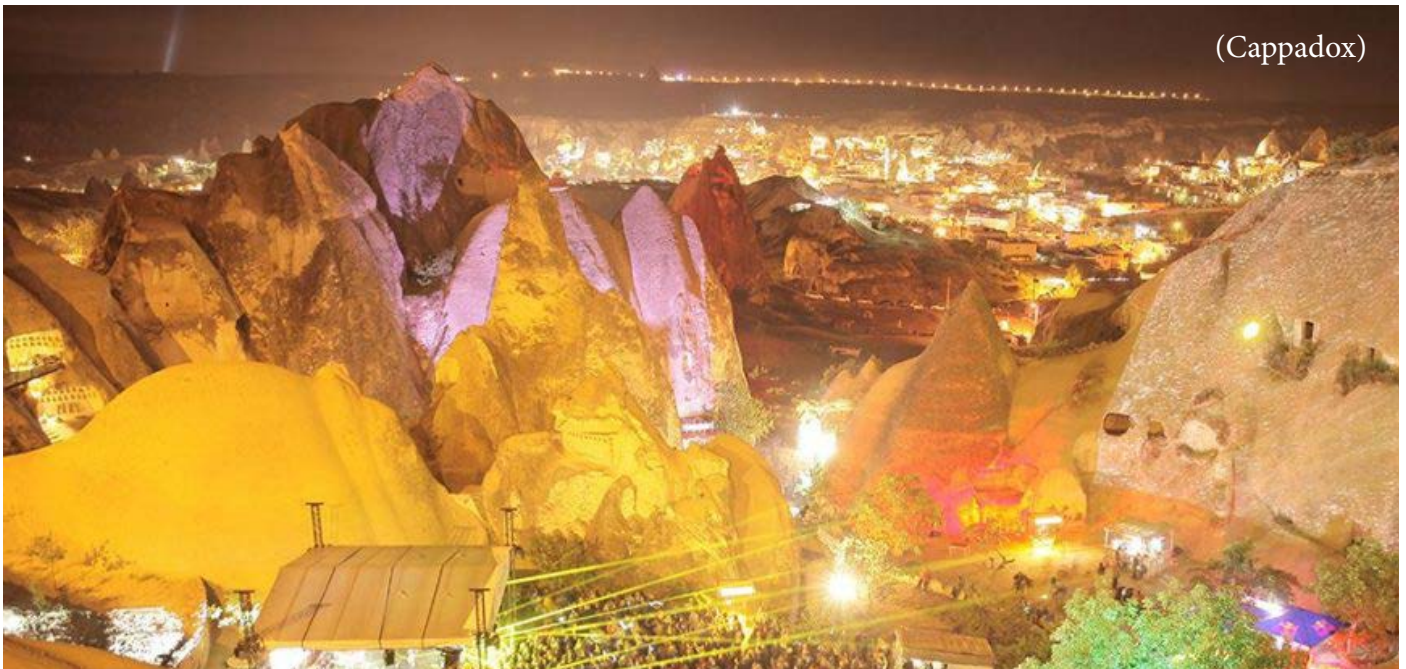
The Istanbul Music Festival is considered as the most prestigious and established classical music event in Turkey for more than 40 years and it takes place every year in June.

<https://muzik.iksv.org/en>

Istanbul Jazz Festival (July, Istanbul)

Istanbul Jazz Festival is organised every year in the month of July by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV) and offers a selection of jazz music performances with the participation of famous artists from all over the world.

<https://caz.iksv.org/en>



(Cappadox)

Sónar Istanbul (April, İstanbul)

Sónar Istanbul is a compact version of Sónar Barcelona, an international music festival which gathers thousands of people from various countries. It brings together local and international musicians with music lovers in its multicultural, colorful, dynamic and living atmosphere.

<https://sonaristanbul.com/>

Cappadox (June-July, Cappadocia)

Turkey's first destination festival Cappadox is a multi-disciplinary cultural festival including music, contemporary art,

gastronomy and outdoor disciplines and welcomes many Turkish and international artists in Cappadocia.

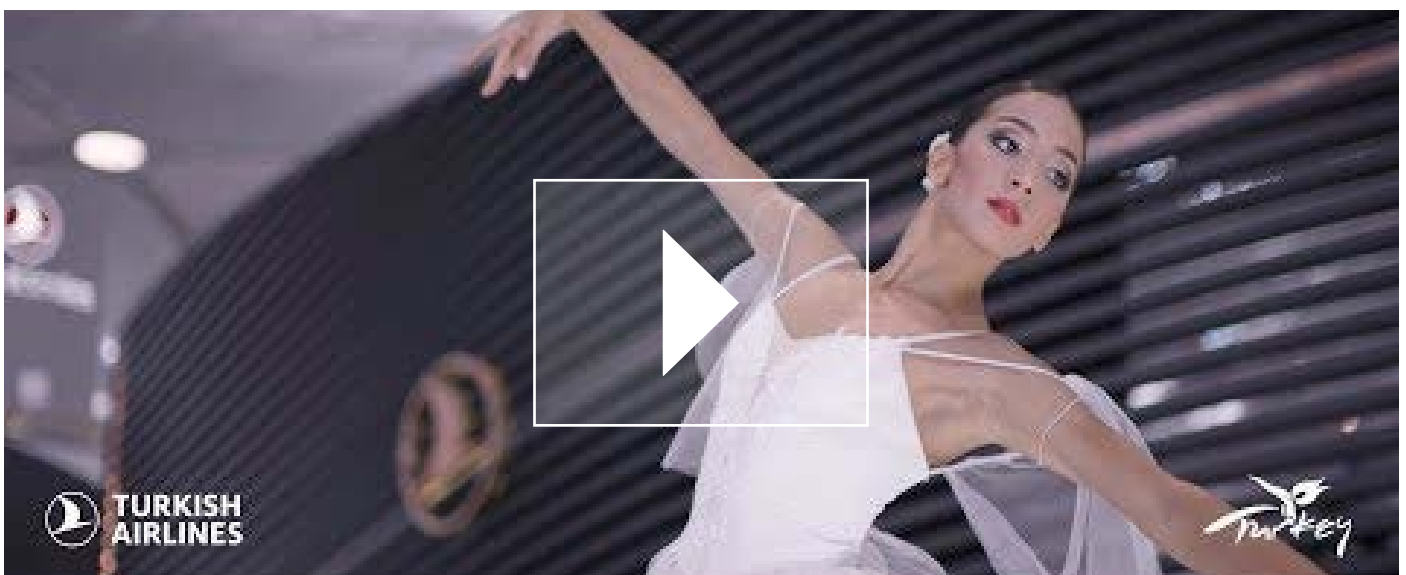
<http://cappadox.com/>

●Stage Performance Festivals

Istanbul Theatre Festival (November, İstanbul)

Istanbul Theatre Festival which is held every year in the month of November, brings together the theatre companies and dance groups from Turkey and abroad.

<https://tiyatro.iksv.org/en>



**International Aspendos
Opera and Ballet Festival
(August-September, Antalya)**

International Aspendos Opera and Ballet Festival, the first opera and ballet festival in Turkey, is held every year in the month of June and July in one of the most well-preserved ancient theatres, Aspendos Ancient Theatre, in Antalya.

**Bodrum International Ballet
Festival
(July, Bodrum)**

Bodrum International Ballet Festival is one of the most prestigious ballet festivals in Turkey and brings together high-quality ballet performances from various countries. Performances take place during July in Bodrum's historic castle of the Knights of St John.



(Cesme-Alacati Herb Festival)

●Gastronomy Festivals

Cesme-Alaçatı Herb Festival (April, İstanbul)

Alaçatı Herb Festival can be regarded as one of the greatest examples of traditional and local gastronomy festivals in Turkey. At this festival, visitors can find various herbs of the Aegean region, dishes made with these herbs, and can participate in food workshops and concerts organized in the festival area.

Urgup Grape Harvest Festival (October, Cappadocia)

Cappadocia is one of the major grapes and wine producing region in Central Anatolia and the Grape Harvest Festival is one of the most important autumn events of the region which takes place in Urgup every October.

●Traditional Festivals

Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Championship (July, Edirne)

Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Championship is 600-year-old traditional sports competition held in Edirne every year in the month of June.

Mevlana Whirling Dervishes Festival (Seb-i Arus) (December, Konya)

Mevlana Whirling Dervishes Festival is held to celebrate the thoughts of one of the world's greatest philosophers and the father of the Mevlevi sect. The festival is organized in Konya every year in the month of December, offering a great spiritual experience through the music and dance performances of the dervishes.

