

# Turkey National Day Special

## Long history at continental crossroads

Situated between the Mediterranean and Black seas, Turkey is often referred to as the crossroads of Europe and Asia. The nation of 83.5 million celebrates Republic Day on Oct. 29, the anniversary of the proclamation by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk that confirmed the status of Turkey as a republic.

Istanbul is divided by the Bosphorus, one of the geographic boundaries of the two continents. The long history of the city can be seen in the grand sights of the Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace while the colorful bustling atmosphere of the Grand Bazaar and Spice Bazaar shows the human side of the former capital. Home to a wide selection of museums, including the neoclassical Istanbul Archaeological Museum, the city is the country's largest and its center of finance. Many sites associated with classical history are found in modern-day Turkey.

The archaeological site of Troy, near modern Hisarlik on the Aegean coast, has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1998 and the many eras of its history are preserved for visitors. Another

UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ephesus, is near Selcuk. There are many remains to be seen, including the Temple of Artemis, which is designated as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Also near the Aegean coast is Bergama, where the archaeological site of Pergamon can be found. A major cultural center of the ancient Greek world, the Pergamon Altar stands out among the many remaining monuments.

Cappadocia, in the center of Turkey, is a popular and enigmatic destination. Characterized by otherworldly geological formations and a series of hand-carved underground settlements built by early Christians, the landscape, as well as the Byzantine-era frescos, are extremely popular draw cards. Early morning hot air balloon flights allow visitors to watch the sun rise over the scenery.

While Turkey's long stretches of coastline offer a range of opportunities to see the natural beauty of the country, the Mediterranean has scuba diving at Kas, with more than 40 dive sites within range of the city's Old Harbor. The clear water



**The Temple of Trajan in Pergamon dates back nearly 2,000 years.** GETTY IMAGES

makes for high visibility, which also makes the beaches in the Mersin area good for swimming. The 600-meter-long Insuyu Cave and Kapikaya Canyon are other highlights for nature enthusiasts.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*

Congratulations  
to the People  
of the Republic  
of  
Turkey  
on the Occasion  
of  
Their National Day



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