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- **Turkey**, officially the **Republic of Turkey**, is a transcontinental country straddling Southeastern Europe and Western Asia. It is bordered on its northwest by Greece and Bulgaria; north by the Black Sea; northeast by Georgia; east by Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Iran; southeast by Iraq; south by Syria and the Mediterranean Sea; and west by the Aegean Sea. Istanbul, which straddles Europe and Asia, is the country's largest city, while Ankara is the capital. Approximately 70 to 80 percent of the country's citizens are ethnic Turks, while the largest minority are Kurds at 20 percent.



# Etymology

- The English name of Turkey means "land of the Turks". Middle English usage of *Turkye* is evidenced in an early work by Chaucer called *The Book of the Duchess* (c. 1369). The phrase *land of Torke* is used in the 15th-century Digby Mysteries. Later usages can be found in the Dunbar poems, the 16th century *Manipulus Vocabulorum* and Francis Bacon's *Sylva Sylvarum*. The modern spelling "Turkey" dates back to at least 1719. The Turkish name *Türkiye* was adopted in 1923 under the influence of European usage.



# Geography

- Turkey is a transcontinental country bridging Southeastern Europe and Western Asia. Asian Turkey, which includes 97 percent of the country's territory, is separated from European Turkey by the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles. European Turkey comprises only 3 percent of the country's territory. Turkey covers an area of 783,562 square kilometres (302,535 square miles), of which 755,688 square kilometres (291,773 square miles) is in Asia and 23,764 square kilometres (9,175 square miles) is in Europe. Turkey is the world's 37th-largest country by land area. The country is encircled by seas on three sides: the Aegean Sea to the west, the Black Sea to the north and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Turkey also contains the Sea of Marmara in the northwest.



# Geography

- Turkey is divided into seven geographical regions: Marmara, Aegean, Black Sea, Central Anatolia, Eastern Anatolia, Southeastern Anatolia and the Mediterranean. The uneven north Anatolian terrain running along the Black Sea resembles a long, narrow belt. This region comprises approximately one-sixth of Turkey's total land area. As a general trend, the inland Anatolian plateau becomes increasingly rugged as it progresses eastward.



Mount Ararat (Turkey's tallest mountain, right) and Lake Van (left)

# Traditional food



Cag Kebab



Ezogelin corba



Gozleme



Hamsili pilav



Inegol kofte



Iskender kebab

# Traditional food



Kisir



Manti



Mecimek kofte



Perde pilav



Pide



Saksuka



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