

# Moving to Turkey: Your Relocation Guide



By Appointment To  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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TELEPHONE:	Country code (90) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT + 2 hours
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220v AC 50Hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Inoculation against Malaria, Hepatitis A, Typhoid and Polio recommended
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, Apr 23, May 1, 19, Jun 25, 26 Jul 15 Aug 30, Sept 1,2,3,4, Oct 29 Dec 29
OFFICE & BANK HOURS:	0830 – 1200, 1300 – 1730 Mon-Fri
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	155 – Police 110 – Fire 112 - Emergency
UK EMBASSY IN TURKEY:	UK Embassy Sehit Ersan Caddesi, 46/A Cankaya, Ankara Tel: (312) 455 3344 Fax: (312) 455 33 52 Web: <a href="http://ukinturkey.fco.gov.uk/en/">http://ukinturkey.fco.gov.uk/en/</a>
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Ministry of Tourism Ismet Inonu Bul. 5, Bahcelievler, Ankara Tel: (312) 212 8300 Fax: (312) 213 6887
TURKISH EMBASSY IN LONDON:	43 Belgrave Square London SW1X 8PA Tel: 02073 930 202 Fax: 02073 930 066
CONSULAR SECTION:	Tel: 02075 916 900 Fax: 02075 916 911 Web: <a href="http://turkey.embassyhomepage.com/">http://turkey.embassyhomepage.com/</a>

## Customs

**To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into Turkey prior to departure of your effects. However, it is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.**

### Household Goods

Documents Required:

- Inventory must be in detail and contain brand name and serial numbers of electrical items
- No “packed by owner” items
- Original passport of owner which has the last entry stamp into Turkey
- The goods must arrive in Turkey two months before or four months after owner’s last entry into Turkey
- The goods must be used
- Consignee on Bill of Lading / Airway Bill must be owner’s full name as in passport c/o your address in Turkey notifying the moving company

### For all Foreigners

Documents Required:

- Original Passport
- Original Residence Permit (if required by customs authorities)
- Turkish or Turkish citizen ID number for foreigners
- Power of Attorney notarised by a public notary enabling port brokers to represent shipper against authorities
- Rental contract (that has minimum of 12 months duration) certified by notary or title deed of a residence in Turkey certified by notary
- Customs documents to be provided by your destination agent for signature only
- Bandroll tax to be levied on tv, hi-fi, vcr, dvd & cd players, videos, radios, satellite receivers, home cinema systems and projectors

### Foreigners coming for reason of marriage

- Arrival of goods in Turkey must be within six months after the marriage date
- Bandroll tax to be levied on tv, hi-fi, vcr, dvd & cd players, videos, radios, satellite receivers, home cinema systems and projectors
- Turkish spouse must have lived in Turkey for the whole year

**Returning Turkish Citizens** (must have stayed abroad more than 2 years)

Documents Required:

In addition to items listed under Household Goods:

- Permanent return certificate from nearest Turkish consulate in origin country bearing 2 years stay abroad (ikamet nakil belgesi)
- Birth certificate registry form which can be obtained from the nearest registry office
- Spouse’s passport if married and the marriage certificate
- If bachelor, ID certificate from Registry Office

Bandroll tax to be levied on tv, hi-fi, vcr, dvd & cd players, videos, radios, satellite receivers, home cinema systems and projectors.

If you can not get the return certificate, a notarised 2 years rental contract or title deed can also be used but you still must have stayed abroad more than 2 years.

### Returning Turkish Diplomats and Government Officers

Documents Required:

In addition to items listed under Household Goods:

- Assignment letter from Government office

Bandroll tax to be levied on tv, hi-fi, vcr, dvd & cd players, videos, radios, satellite receivers, home cinema systems and projectors.

Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats but limited to annual quota agreed by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is 240 bottles per year per diplomat.

### Foreign Diplomats

Documents Required:

In addition to items listed under Household Goods:

- Diplomatic import permit from Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Inventory must be detailed and contain brand name and serial numbers of electrical items

Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats but limited to annual quota agreed by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is 240 bottles per year per diplomat.

### Importing Cars

Documents Required:

- Invoice if new, registration booklet or bill of sale
- Original passport of owner which has the last entry stamp into Turkey
- Tax ID number of owner



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- Original insurance policy
- Notary approved power of attorney

The car must arrive in Turkey two months before or six months after owner's last entry into Turkey.

Consignee on bill of lading or airway bill must be owners full name in passport.

### Foreigners with work contract

Documents Required:

In addition to the above:

- Work visa, work and residence permit
- Letters of applications and guarantee from employer in Turkey
- Touring carnet
- Driving licence
- Financial guarantee for customs tax. Amount will be determined as per weight, year and capacity of the vehicle

ONLY TEMPORARY IMPORT IS ALLOWED

### Returning Turkish Citizens including Turkish diplomats and government officers

Documents Required:

- Permanent return certificate from the nearest Turkish Consulate in origin country bearing two years stay abroad
- The list of entries and exits to / from Turkey within the last two years from security department in Turkey
- Spouse's passport if married
- If bachelor, ID certificate from Registry Office

The car must not be older than three years when it was bought.

The car must have been used for minimum of six months prior to importation.

Import allowed against payment of tax / duty. For cars with an engine bigger than 2000 cc, higher tax / duty is applicable.

Total days of stay in Turkey within each year of the last two years must be less than 180.

### Foreigners coming for reason of marriage and / or to reside without work contract

Not Allowed.

Only touristic import rules are applied.

### Foreign Diplomats

Documents Required:

- Diplomatic import permit from Turkish ministry of foreign affairs
- Copy of diplomatic ID card

- Tax exemption letter for OTV (from Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

### Prohibited Items

- Aerosols containing Flammables
- Ant Farms
- Bleach
- Currency
- Explosives
- Pornographic Material
- Paint
- Cigarettes
- Propane Tanks
- Used Gasoline Cans
- Weapons or Firearms
- Toner Cartridges for Printers
- Pet Food
- High quantity and/or unopened cosmetics (such as shampoo, deodorant, make up items etc – forbidden for air shipment, not recommend for sea shipment)
- High quantity and/or unopened cleaning supplies (such as detergent etc.)
- Ammunition
- Aquariums with water
- Coin or Stamp Collections
- Deeds, Securities, Special Papers/Documents
- Gun Powder
- Live Animals
- Food or alcohol (such as rice, dry food, soy sauce, nori, wine etc
- Unsealed Liquids
- Plants (Live or Dried)
- Jewellery, Precious Stones
- Medication without prescription
- Lithium Batteries (must be removed from all electronics in an air shipment)
- Foosball
- Drones

### General information on The Republic of Turkey

#### Background

Modern Turkey was founded in 1923 from the remnants of the defeated Ottoman Empire by national hero Mustafa KEMAL, who was later honored with the title Atatürk or "Father of



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the Turks.” Under his leadership, the country adopted radical social, legal, and political reforms. After a period of one-party rule, an experiment with multi-party politics led to the 1950 election victory of the opposition Democrat Party and the peaceful transfer of power. Since then, Turkish political parties have multiplied, but democracy has been fractured by periods of instability and military coups (1960, 1971, 1980), which in each case eventually resulted in a return of formal political power to civilians. In 1997, the military again helped engineer the ouster - popularly dubbed a “post-modern coup” - of the then Islamic-oriented government. Turkey intervened militarily on Cyprus in 1974 to prevent a Greek takeover of the island and has since acted as patron state to the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus,” which only Turkey recognizes. A separatist insurgency begun in 1984 by the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) has long dominated the Turkish military’s attention and claimed more than 40,000 lives. After the capture of the group’s leader in 1999, the insurgents largely withdrew from Turkey mainly to northern Iraq. In 2013, the PKK and the Turkish Government agreed to a cease-fire, but fighting resumed in 2015. Turkey joined the UN in 1945 and in 1952 it became a member of NATO. In 1963, Turkey became an associate member of the European Community; it began accession membership talks with the EU in 2005. Over the past decade, economic reforms have contributed to a quickly growing economy.

Late 2015 and the first half of 2016 witnessed an uptick in terrorist violence in Turkey’s two largest cities and elsewhere. Several car bomb and gun attacks in Ankara in October 2015, and two attacks there in February and June 2015 were followed by an attack on Istanbul’s Ataturk Airport. On 15 July 2016, elements of the Turkish Armed forces attempted a coup at key government and infrastructure locations in

Ankara and Istanbul. An estimated 300 people were killed and over 2,000 injured when Turkish citizens took to the streets en masse to confront the coup forces. Turkish Government authorities subsequently conducted mass arrests of military personnel, detained several thousand judges and journalists, and suspended thousands of educators in connection with the coup. The government accused coup leaders of links to the “Gülen” movement - an Islamic transnational religious and social movement, which the government designates as a terrorist group.

## **Geography**

Turkey occupies the Asia Minor peninsula of Southwest Asia and has coast lines on the Black, Mediterranean and Aegean Seas. It includes Thrace, which is in south Europe and separated from the rest of the country by the Bosphorus, sea of Marmara and Dardanelles. The Asian mainland consists of the semi-arid Anatolian plateau, flanked to the north, south and east by mountains.

Agricultural products include cotton, grain, tobacco, fruit nuts and livestock, also a leading producer of chrome, iron ore, lead, tin, borates and barite, coal is also mined.

Manufacturers of textiles which is the chief export also food processing, steel, vehicles and chemicals. Tourism is a major industry with 9 million visitors a year.

International disputes are complex maritime, air, and territorial disputes with Greece in the Aegean Sea; status of north Cyprus question remains; Syria and Iraq protest Turkish hydrological projects to control upper Euphrates waters; Turkey has expressed concern over the status of Kurds in Iraq; in 2009, Swiss mediators facilitated an accord re-establishing diplomatic ties between Armenia and Turkey, but neither side has ratified the agreement and the rapprochement effort has faltered; Turkish authorities have complained that blasting from quarries in Armenia might be damaging the medieval ruins of Ani, on the other side of the Arpacay valley.

## **Climate**

The coast has a Mediterranean climate hot, dry summers with mild, wet winters, but inland conditions are more extreme. Very hot and dry in the summer with cold snowy winters. Natural hazards are very severe earthquakes, especially in Northern Turkey, along an arc extending from the sea of Marmara to Lake Van.

## **Population**

Over 40 per cent of the 71 million Turkish population live in central Anatolia and the Marmara and Aegean coastal plains. Agriculture involves about 35 per cent of the workforce. The capital is Ankara

## **Language**

Turkish is the national language. Turkish is written in the Latin alphabet and is spoken by some 150 million people around the world. Other languages are Kurdish, Arabic, Armenian, Greek.

## **Religion**

Although Turkey is 99.8% Muslim, it is a secular state that guarantees complete freedom of worship to non-Moslems. The remaining 0.2% mostly Christians and Jews.

## **Economy**

Turkey’s largely free-market economy is increasingly driven by its industry and service sectors, although its traditional agriculture sector still accounts for about 25% of employment. An aggressive privatisation program has reduced state involvement in basic industry, banking, transport, and communication. An emerging cadre of middle-class entrepreneurs is adding dynamism to the economy and expanding production beyond the traditional textiles and clothing sectors. The automotive, petrochemical, and electronics industries are rising in importance and have surpassed textiles within Turkey’s export mix.



Oil began to flow through the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline in May 2006, marking a major milestone that has brought up to 1 million barrels per day from the Caspian region to market. The joint Turkish-Azeri Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP) is moving forward to help transport Caspian gas to Europe through Turkey, helping to address Turkey's dependence on imported gas, which currently meets 98% of its energy needs.

After Turkey experienced a severe financial crisis in 2001, Ankara adopted financial and fiscal reforms as part of an IMF program. The reforms strengthened the country's economic fundamentals and ushered in an era of strong growth averaging more than 6% annually until 2008. Global economic conditions and tighter fiscal policy caused GDP to contract in 2009, but Turkey's well-regulated financial markets and banking system helped the country weather the global financial crisis, and GDP rebounded strongly to around 9% in 2010-11, as exports returned to normal levels following the crisis. Two rating agencies upgraded Turkey's debt to investment grade in 2012 and 2013, and Turkey's public sector debt to GDP ratio fell to 33% in 2014. The stock value of Foreign Direct Investment reached nearly \$195 billion at year end 2014.

Despite these positive trends, GDP growth dropped to 4.4% in 2013 and 2.9% in 2014. Growth slowed considerably in the last quarter of 2014, largely due to lackluster consumer demand both domestically and in Europe, Turkey's most important export market. High interest rates have also contributed to the slowdown in growth, as Turkey sharply increased interest rates in January 2014 in order to strengthen the country's currency and reduce inflation. Turkey then cut rates in February 2015 in a bid to spur economic growth.

The Turkish economy retains significant weaknesses. Specifically, Turkey's relatively high current account deficit, uncertain commitment to structural reform, and turmoil within Turkey's neighborhood leave the economy vulnerable to destabilizing shifts in investor confidence. Turkey also remains overly dependent on often volatile, short-term investment to finance its large current account deficit.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the Turkish Lira (TL).

The following denominations are available:

- Notes: 20,000, 50,000, 100,000, 250,000, 1,000,000, 5,000,000 and 10,000,000 lira
- Coins: 25,000, 50,000 and 100,000 lira pieces

## Education

Schooling in Turkey is compulsory from the age of five to sixteen. The educational system comprises of three stages Primary, which lasts for 5 years, Secondary that lasts for three years and high school which also, lasts for three years. During the final year of high school pupils are assessed to obtain university or vocational education placements.

There are many schools that are suitable for Expatriate children and follow the UK National Curriculum, for further information contact the Turkish Education Counselor Office – Tel: 202 612 6810  
Fax: 202 319 1538.

## Health

Medical and emergency care is available in major cities at western standards, in urban areas the facilities may be more limited, some doctors speak English. Ambulance service is available but can be slow in arriving. You need to ensure your medical insurance covers both European and Asian sides of Turkey, Doctors and Hospitals expect immediate cash payment.

Public health standards in the larger cities is close to Western Europe but malnutrition and disease are widespread among rural regions.

## Driving Conditions

Turkey has an extensive road network however, the accident rate is very high being the fifth most dangerous country for drivers. It is recommended to drive very defensively and avoid driving at night. Evening rush hour (5-8pm) is the most dangerous time on local highways. Dusk is a particularly dangerous time on intercity highways as motorists often delay turning headlights on until well after dark. The highest risk group is pedestrians at 40 per cent mainly children and adolescents.

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*