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Turkey by Sea: A Vacationer's Guide

Turkey has for centuries been seen as a pivot into Asia, a gateway to the East that has captured the traveler's imagination with its unique architecture, incredible cuisine, and oriental culture. It's a land of towering minarets and mysterious ancient relics, peppered with some of the most diverse natural landscapes in the world. With a long coastline on the Mediterranean coastline to the south, Turkey plays host to a number of chartered vessels that help tourists explore this mystical land by sea, just as the ancient civilizations did before them. This article maps out how you can take your own voyage through one of the world's most diverse and exciting destinations.

Finding a Boat

When you're traveling by sea, one of your first ports of call is to find yourself the ideal boat. Chartered boats come in all shapes and sizes – some are large enough just for you and your family, while others resemble small cruise ships that scythe through the Mediterranean silently day after day.

By far the most comfortable and opulent option – for couples and families in particular – is to find yourself a [Turkey luxury gulet](#) upon which to conduct your voyage. These elegant vessels are decked out in the finest interiors on the seas and will enable you to relax in luxury in delightful cabins, or else on breezy and charming decks, for the duration of your stay in Turkey.



Destinations

Turkey's southern coastline is incredibly long. It's dotted intermittently with fishing villages, bustling market towns, and cities built upon and around ancient relics from civilizations that conquered [this coastline](#) millennia before you. In between, expansive woodland, generous beaches, teetering mountain ranges, and scorched deserts tumble down to meet the sea, which means you'll always have a new view when you awake after a night's sailing.

When you charter your boat, ensure that you're working with a company with which you'll be able to tailor your itinerary – taking in only the parts of Turkey that most excite and intrigue you. Whether you'd like to park up at Bodrum for the city's famous nightlife, or at Gocek for its alluring beaches is entirely up to you.

Then there are the sights in Turkey that lie a little further inland. They're equally astounding but will require your company to book transportation inland when you dock. One of the country's must-see places (other than Istanbul, which you can, of course, dock in) is [Cappadocia](#), the ancient city whose inhabitants carved for themselves houses out of the rock. Simply outstanding.



Privacy

Perhaps the most dreamlike and wonderful part of seeing Turkey by sea is the fact that you can retreat at any time into complete, luxury privacy. Unlike land-based travel, where you'll traipse back to your hotel exhausted only to find that the sounds of the city are still echoing in your ears, at sea all you'll hear are the birds overhead, and the lapping waves beneath you.

It's why luxury boats are so often chartered in Turkey by honeymooning couples. On such trips, travelers tend to enjoy finding those secluded spots to drop anchor just as much as exploring what there is to see on land – and with private coves and myriad islands at your mercy while at sea, there are always plenty of places to go exploring in which you'll know you'll not see a single soul.



Food and Drink

A vacationer's guide to Turkey would simply be incomplete without mentioning the nation's stunning cuisine. You might have tried a Turkish kebab in your home city, but it cannot compare to the real thing taken at a beachside restaurant in the south of the country. You may be less enthused by the super-strong after-dinner drink called raki, but it's often a party starter if you're on vacation for that sort of thing.

Meanwhile, the Mediterranean country has its fair share of healthy sea-faring food, with fresh-caught fish, olives and sundried tomatoes in abundance forming one of the [most delightful and healthy cuisines](#) in the world. It's certainly something to explore – either from your boat's kitchen or from restaurants perched on the edge of the sea.



Extras

A small note on the things you should bear in mind when traveling to Turkey:

Make sure you travel with valid passports and the necessary visas.

Take printed evidence of your insurance, covering you for misadventures at sea.

Pack sun-protection items such as sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses.

Take at least two sets of swimmers – you're going to be going in the sea a lot!

A vacation to Turkey by sea is one of the most peaceful and luxurious ways to come into contact with this marvelous nation – so find yourself a boat and prepare your itinerary today.

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