

Turkish Culture and Traditions

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There are lots of nations and countries in the world. Every country has more or less different **culture and traditions**. And now we are reading about an interesting country Turkey and its great people Turks.

The citizens of the Republic of Turkey are known as the Turkish people (or Turkish, Turk, Turks). Being 'Turkish' is a geographical name. Turkish people have a very different culture. Because, Turkey is a bridge between Asia and Europe. It has **various** elements the **Oguz** Turkic and Anatolian, Ottoman, and Western culture and traditions. The **Westernization** began in the Ottoman Empire and continues today. So the Turkish culture has Central Asia, Asia in and Western features. During the first years of the Republic, the government invests lots of money into **fine arts**, such as museums, theaters, and architecture.

99% of Turks are Muslim. **Religion** has an important role in the Turkish Customs and Traditions. During the Ottoman Empire, it was more important. There are religious **festivals**, for example Ramadan and Kurban Festival. During these festivals, there are four days' holiday. Because of the Islamic **calendar**, religious festivals date **change** every year. Religious festivals are good times for Turks to visit their **relatives** and hometowns.

You want to learn better culture of Turkey. So, you should listen to Turkish **folk music** and Turkish films. Folk music is very energetic. You can listen to music on the radio and music TV channels every time. Cinema in Turkey has a long history. It began in the early 20th **Century**. And it became very popular. And today there are lots of films about Turkish people and **lifestyle**.

Some interesting things about Turkish Culture. Turks take off their shoes in houses. They visit mosque every Friday. They drink a lot of tea; they drink tea in the mornings, afternoons and at nights, shortly every time. Also Turkish coffee is very popular. Coffee houses are very popular in Turkey. Even in small villages you can see coffee houses. Turkish people like their flags and **national anthem** a lot. You can see Turkish flag every time and everywhere. They are very warm people. They are fond of football. Football match days are like festivals. And they like visitors a lot.

There are lots of different folk dances in Turkey. Each region has its own, special folk dance. Some of them are Horon (generally played in the Black Sea region), Kayık Oyunu (Spoon Dance) (generally played in Konya and Sivas), Kılıç Kalkan (The Sword and Shield Dance) (generally played in Bursa, and played by only men), Zeybek (generally played in Aegean region – and played only by men).

As a result culture of Turkey is very different and enjoyable, like Turks.

Vocabulary

Culture and traditions: *Gelenek ve gelenekler*

citizen: *vatanşah, yurttaş*

various: *çeşitli*

Westernization: *Batılılaşma*

feature: *özelliik*

fine art: *gizel sanatlar*

religion: *din*

festival: *bayram*

calendar: *takvim*

change: *değişmek*

relative: *akıba*

folk dance: *folk dansı*

Century: *Yüzyıl*

lifestyle: *yaşam şekli*

national anthem: *ulusal marş*

As a result: *sonuç olarak*

Answer these questions about the passage

1. What is the passage about?
2. Who are Turks?
3. Why are Turkish culture and traditions very different?
4. Say the names of religious festivals celebrated in Turkey.
5. What can you say about Turkish folk music?
6. Is cinema popular in Turkey?
7. Say two interesting things about Turkish culture.
8. What do Turks generally drink?
9. Which sport is very popular in Turkey?
10. In which region do people play Horon?
11. Who plays Zeybek, men or women?
12. How many folk dances are said in the passage?