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Lonely Planet Turkey



Synopsis

“A richly historical land with some of the best cuisine you will ever taste, one of the world’s greatest cities and scenery from white-sand beaches to soaring mountains.” —James Bainbridge, Lonely Planet Writer

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Inside This Book 8 authors 6 months of research 112 maps 139 photos Clear, easy-to-use maps Pull-out city map Comprehensive planning tools In-depth background Easy-to-read layout

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Customer Reviews

My wife and I are in our 60s, and travel light -- with one change of clothes, two toothbrushes, a laptop and two cameras. We spent 7 weeks in central Turkey in 2010, 10 weeks in 2011 and are returning for 11 weeks in 2012. We travel cheap, without an fixed itinerary, and use inexpensive lodging and eateries. The Lonely Planet guide was our travel bible. Whenever we met another trekker (as opposed to a tourist) we found that (regardless of nationality) a worn copy of Lonely Planet protruded from his knapsack. Lonely Planet is not for upscale tourists; they should use a Frommers (which is useless for us). One drawback is Lonely Planet’s popularity. We repeatedly found that any hotel well-recommended would raise its rates 25% to 50%. We would go to a "lesser" selection. Are there shortcomings? That is a moot question, since there is none better.

DO NOT buy this if you want a guide book on Turkey. Navigation is almost impossible or at least unuseable as a guide book. Only buy it if you want a novel. That is, you have to read it from front to back just like a novel. This is a very very poor effort by Lonely Planet to try to sell ebooks. It is a large backward step for Lonely Planet. I imagine that all their guide books for Kindle are probably as badly designed and user UNfriendly. I should have heeded the warning of another review. My mistake and \$15 badly spent.

Do not buy the kindle edition of the lonely planet turkey guide. I agree with the other reviewers regarding content (it's very Istanbul centric). Often the 'summary' description of a place found in the front of the book (e.g. top 10 places in Turkey) is what you'll find later on in the book when looking for more information about a specific place. More importantly, the kindle lonely planet reading experience is terrible. Maps are shown in single-page tiles, so you'll often find yourself scrolling through 9 pages of map tiles for each place. The index isn't much help either, as it doesn't show any more detail than the region you're looking for. Want to find the section on Olympos? You'd better know which region it belongs to. Doing this by hand with a printed lonely planet is much easier and enjoyable. Do not buy this kindle ebook.

Turkey is a large, diverse country, which makes it a difficult place to fit nicely into a travel guide. This guide does a decent job of providing an overview of the country and highlighting some of the best places to travel. It's great for reading about the major tourist spots in a given city, such as Istanbul, to make decisions about what to do with your time. But it has its limitations. First, Lonely Planet is apparently not for budget travelers anymore. This is my biggest complaint and a huge change from about ten years ago when I used Lonely Planet's guides to travel around Western Europe on a student budget. Many of the highlighted hotels and restaurants are aimed squarely at the upper middle class traveler, with one or two budget options thrown in for good measure. I'm not sure when Lonely Planet made this transition, but it was quite disappointing. My friends and I luckily booked most of our accommodations through airbnb, which I think is a much better option for budget travelers than following this guide. Second, as with most guides, the prices are already out of date, just a year or so after publication. Prices in Turkey are on the rise, so if you use this guide in 2012/13, add 5 to 10 Lira to the price of admission to most major tourist destinations (Aya Sofia, Topkapi Palace, etc.) And finally, the maps are almost useless in a place like Istanbul. Buy a detailed map when you arrive and chuck the useless map insert included with this book. Istanbul is a city filled with small back alleys that are easy to get lost in, and this map only shows major roads. Even

in smaller cities and towns, the maps still weren't detailed enough. Though I found it useful to have a guide in hand throughout my trip, some good online research was necessary to supplement this guide.

This book was incredibly helpful when I was planning my trip to Turkey. I visited many of the highly recommended sites, and decided to use my guide book to learn more about the different places. Though many places offered audio tours or the option of hiring a tour guide, I felt that this book was quite informative and provided me with the amount of historical information I desired. (Honestly, having more info than what the book provided could have seemed overwhelming!) When making the scrapbook for my trip, I hauled out this book to recall details and facts about the places I went to. I recommend this book!

It may be a little unfair, as I have this Guide on a Kindle and yes it DOES lose a lot compared to hard copy and coloured pictures. But having been a Lonely Planet user for years and years, I have to confess to preferring the old layout. I find it VERY hard to find things in this one, maybe it is just the e-book, and maybe the index is not full enough. But I had to search and search, trying to guess where to find something basic like the exchange rate! and as I said, I am familiar with the LP formats. For someone new, on an e book, well I think they might struggle and decide not to go there! pity. Of course, the advantage of the e-book is that you can follow the link to eg accommodation and make a booking. Yes that's good but it is hard to get an overall view of the country and where you might want to go. Again it is hard to judge this in e format, but this Guide seems very slim to me? I must go and look at a hard copy in a bookshop! Or maybe my travel companion will buy one.

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