

## Travel in Turkey

Turkish Airlines (THY) operates regular services between Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara and a number of other important Turkish cities.

Regular steamship service is provided between Istanbul and the larger coastal towns. The journey from Istanbul to Izmir by boat takes from 20 to 25 hours.

Istanbul is linked by rail with the coastal towns of Izmir, Mersin, Iskenderun, Zonguldak and Samsun. The Anadolu Express runs daily between Istanbul and Ankara (12 hours). Sleeping and dining cars are available for all services. The Istanbul-Ankara run is shorter by the Blue Train, which runs twice a day; each trip takes 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours.

Bus service links most of the larger towns in Turkey. Although very inexpensive, the buses are often very crowded.

Taxis, identifiable by a taxi label on the roof, may be hired in all the main cities. Meters are universally used, but for longer trips, such as from airport terminals to downtown, a flat rate may apply. Tipping is not expected.

An economical way of travelling in the cities is by dolmus, shared taxis, used by up to eight people. These operate on regular routes in the cities of Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara and certain other towns, can usually be boarded anywhere en route, and cost much less than ordinary taxis.

Rental cars may be hired through a travel agent, international airline office, hotel or car rental firm. A valid international driving licence is required. Rental cars are generally considered to be expensive on a daily basis.

## Tipping

In addition to the service charge at restaurants, a tip of up to 15 per cent of the bill is usual for good service. In many cases, this is automatically added to the bill. For some services, such as those of porters at railway stations, a scale of charges is displayed, and it is usual to pay this amount plus a small tip.