

TRADITIONS AND VILLAGE LIFE IN TURKEY

Culture and traditions of Turkey are very diverse and unique and should not be stereotyped. Many of our traditions date back many years. Below are just a few;

Henna night

A celebration among the bride and her female relatives and friends before the wedding, the Henna Night traditionally involves the application of henna on the bride's hands. A religious rite of passage, the henna traditionally symbolizes blood, which marks the bride's transition from girlhood to womanhood.

Turkish Tea

Many of the tea plantations are centered around the town of Rize, and from the Georgian border to Trabzon, Arakli, Rize, Karadere and Fatsa, reaching in some places 30 kilometers inland and reaching the height of around 1000 m. Turkish tea is full-flavored and too strong to be served in large cups which is why it is always offered in little tulip shaped glasses which you have to hold by the rim to save your fingertips from burning. You can add sugar to but no milk and you can have it either strong or weak depending on your taste because Turkish tea is made by pouring some very strong tea into the glass, then adding it with water to the strength you wish.

Turkish Folk Dances

Folk dances have different characteristics based on region and location and are generally engaged in during weddings, journeys to the mountains in the summer, when sending sons off to military service and during religious and national holidays.

Turkish Carpets

Turkish carpets are sometimes also named Anatolian carpets. The oldest Turkish carpets found, originate from the 13th century. The carpets which are thick, consists of wool, cotton and silk and are always tied with a Turkish knot. Commonly used patterns are based on prayer niches with more geometrical motifs. Humans and animals are not portrayed since the Kuran (Islamic book) does not allow this.

Ramadan

In Islam, Ramadam is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and it is the holy month of fasting. It begins and ends with the appearance of the new moon. After the sunset prayer, Muslims gather in their homes or mosques to break their fast with a meal called ifṭār that is often shared with friends and extended family, fasting begins again at sunrise.

Nazar (The Evil Eye)

One of Turkey's most popular souvenirs, these blue eyes made of glass are actually meant to ward off the negative energy from someone's eyes who feels envious of you. The evil eye is blue because according to superstition, blue eyes give off the most negative energy, and the glass eye is supposed to cancel it out. Traditionally, Evil eyes are pinned onto newborn babies' clothes as well as hung above doors in houses and businesses for protection against bad luck.

Loud Car Honking

Turkish people are notorious for their impatience when it comes to traffic, however car honking is also a tradition associated with special events. If you hear car honking you can be sure that either a wedding is taking place or that someone is being sent off to their military service.