



Motorcycle Safari Checklist -- Turkey

Congratulations! You've chosen to join our Turkish Treasures Motorcycle Safari. Thanks for your booking. In addition to the itinerary you have already received, you should take careful note of the following information for your maximum comfort and enjoyment.

Please retain this checklist, as you will probably need to refer to it several times before we depart.

The first thing you should do now is **Book your Airfares** ! Please don't leave this until 'a little bit later' or you may be very disappointed. In the aftermath of terrorist attacks, subsequent company collapses and corporate rationalisations, the airline industry is in a state of disarray. Schedule changes are frequent, overbookings are commonplace and it is critical that you book as far ahead as possible – and this will also secure you the lowest possible price. So, please get onto your agent as soon as you finish reading this! Or feel free to use our local agent, Press & James Travel Associates, Ph 02 9979 5235 or email Natasha_Dann@travel-associates.com.au

Visit your doctor or **Travellers Medical Centre** and ask their professional advice on which immunisations are currently recommended for Turkey. Some immunisations require multiple injections a few weeks apart, so it's best to get started on this sooner rather than later.

Australian clients will receive an **insurance** application booklet from us. We'll need the completed form sent back to Ferris Wheels at least eight weeks prior to departure; the official Certificate will then be processed and sent back to you. International clients, we regret, you'll have to arrange your own travel insurance, and please note that this is mandatory. We cannot accept any uninsured participants on tours such as this.

You obviously need to have a valid **passport**. A visa for Turkey currently costs US\$20 and is payable at the Immigration counter upon arrival in Istanbul airport. Before departure, please take **photocopies** of your insurance certificate and your passport title page to take with you as a security in the case of loss whilst overseas. Take a few spare **passport photos** *just in case* we need to apply for a special permit or something bureaucratic.

For your spending money, traveller's cheques are no longer popular, as auto-teller machines (ATM's) are now widely available at airports and pretty much everywhere else. ATM's are connected worldwide via the Maestro or Cirrus networks; they dispense local currency and the converted equivalent is simply debited to your bank account back home. If you do not have an ATM card you'll need to take US\$ cash or TC's and find a change bureau, which can be a bit of a hassle. Best to get an ATM card! Unless you're a big souvenir hunter, you'll probably spend less than \$500 for the whole trip -- remember all your meals are included.

Bring a protective **jacket**, preferably with a zip-in liner, as well as gloves, boots, sturdy jeans and of course your **helmet**. An open-face versus a full-face is purely personal choice; an open-face will allow quicker and easier photography. Reliable **wet weather gear** is also always advisable.

Our visit is timed for the northern spring, and in Turkey it can get quite hot. Make sure you have a **hat** or **cap** of some sort for when you're not wearing a helmet, as well as **sunglasses, sunscreen** and a couple of light long-sleeved shirts. A thin **scarf** or bandanna is useful for keeping diesel and dust off your face, as well as preventing chapped lips from the wind. T-shirts, in fact all clothes, are best in *earthy* colours – whites don't stay white for very long. Bring **plenty of socks**; there's nothing worse than trying to put on yesterday's wet, dirty socks to start a new day. But having said that, each rest day on our itinerary gives us an opportunity to have some laundry done so don't go overboard with *too* many clothes. A week's worth should be fine. If you belong to a motorcycling club, take your **club T-shirt** or cap for a posed-photo you can show everyone (and publish in your magazine . . . ☺) when you get back.

We will be dining in comfortable, pleasant restaurants each night so bring some smart **dining out gear**, a welcome change after all day in boots, jeans, jacket and helmet! Your hair dryer of course is optional... One or two of our hotels may have a pool and Turkey has some brilliant coastline, so bring your **swimsuit**.



Bring your **camera** of course and plenty of **film** or **memory cards**. Remember your **camera charger**, or fresh **batteries** before leaving home will see you through the trip. Also bring a few pictures of yourself, your family, your dog, your bike, etc. because you can win friends by showing people a little bit about yourself.

A small **torch** (flashlight) is always a useful thing to have, as is a **travelling towel** and an **alarm clock**. Electricity in Turkey is the same as Europe, 240volt, and the power plugs have two round pins. A **power plug adapter** is necessary for using small appliances such as razors, hairdryers and phone/battery chargers; these are readily available at travel shops and airports. The cellphone network coverage is quite good in all but the most remote regions, so get International Roaming authorised and bring your phone.

Bring a couple of pens and a **diary** if you are so inclined. Bring all your friends' address details; the unofficial record for postcard writing on a three-week trip so far stands at 134.

Your luggage may cop some rough treatment, so **don't** bring an expensive, hardcover suitcase. A tough hiking backpack is OK but the harness and straps can be a nuisance. The best luggage to take is a soft, tough, carry-all **canvas bag** that can take some throwing around. The army surplus disposal stores are a good place to find a great bargain, like our \$75 Carribee Magnum which has zip-away shoulder straps. Bring a small **daypack** for holding your camera, sunscreen, etc. while you're riding or if you have one of those magnetic-grab **tankbags**, bring it along. Some people like to wear a **moneybelt** or **bumbag** or you can use buttoned or zipped pockets as a safety measure. A few **plastic bags** are useful for dirty laundry or keeping your soiled boots off your clothes and 'zippered' plastic bags are good for small clothing items.

We will have emergency medical supplies with us for use in the case of an accident or severe illness, but you should bring your own simple **medicines** for headache, nausea, etc. and any regular medications.

Bring an 'occy' **strap** to tie your jacket onto the back of the bike. Even better are those new velcro 'Andy Strapz' or even a cargo net. And, just before you zip up your bag, throw in a couple of **mothballs** to protect all your gear and make you smell nice and clean.

Quite a lot to remember, isn't it? So, here's a checklist for you to begin with:-

Passport	Wet weather gear	Soft shoes, shorts	Alarm clock
Insurance certificate	Jacket, helmet	Underwear, socks	Address book
Photocopies thereof	Boots, gloves x 2	T-shirts, thermals	Writing materials
Passport photos	Jeans, shirts	Dining out gear	Diary or notepad
Family photos, etc	Cap, sunglasses	Swimsuit	Power adapter
Travellers cheques	Scarf, sunscreen	Tank bag	Plastic bags
Some US\$/Euro cash	Camera, card, charger	Bike straps	Your itinerary &
ATM/credit card	Torch, batteries,	Cargo net	this checklist
Immunisations	Toiletries, small towel	Guidebook	Feed the cat &
Daypack, bumbag	Medicines, earplugs	Insect repellent	lock the door.

No doubt you'll think of a few other things also, but remember your 20kg flight luggage limit. And you have to leave room for all the Turkish delight you'll want to bring home with you!

Finally, a word of advice. **Do some research** on the places you're about to visit; don't go in 'cold'. Turkey is a fascinating country and you'll get more out of it if you prepare and learn a little beforehand. Grab a guidebook and read it from cover to cover. Go to a Turkish restaurant and try some dishes you've never heard of and can't pronounce.

That's it for now. We'll be in touch in due course with your exquisite **Ferris Wheels** Safari shirt.

Mike & Denise