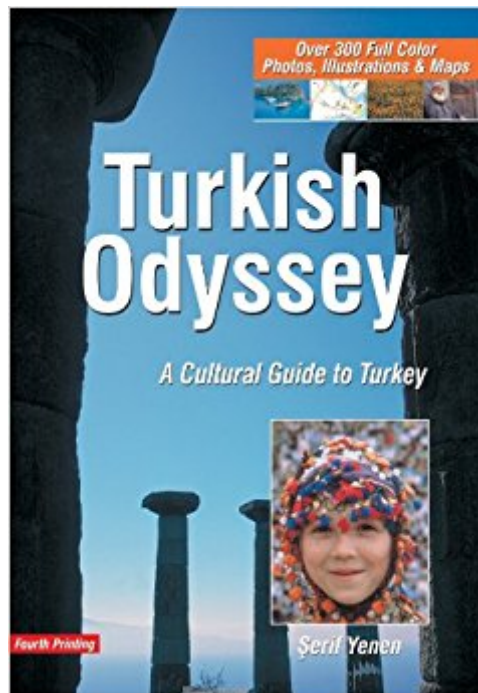




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# Turkish Odyssey, A Traveler's Guide To Turkey And Turkish Culture



## Synopsis

As travel guide, reference, or leisurely read, Turkish Odyssey is the most comprehensive cultural guide to travel in Turkey. It's also the first travel guide to Turkey written by a Turk, so it gives insights into the culture that only a local can provide. It covers subjects like people, language, education, mythology and religion, as well as geography, history, architecture, archeology, and the country's key regions and cities. Meticulously researched and fully illustrated with maps, charts and color photographs, Turkish Odyssey is essential reading for the traveler to Turkey or the general reader interested in the country.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"So far, this beautiful book has been the most comprehensive and useful (guide book) of all the published works on Turkey. You are introducing Turkey and the history of Anatolia vividly through 550 pages and a rich archive of pictures. I believe the term "guide book" will not suffice because you are presenting the cultural history of Turkey with all its richness. After reading your work thoroughly I derived the conclusion that it should be used as a reference book in every home, secondary and high school libraries. I am deeply impressed by the fluency of style in covering the areas such as geography, history, economy, administration, natural resources, religion, language, traditions, handicrafts. You have a very good command of English. And I must confess that I envy the high quality of the photos. On the other hand, the painstaking page design is a great success in its kind too...." -- Professor Ekrem Akurgal's-Archeologist, born in Istanbul, 1911- letter of April 3, 1998 to Serif Yenen  
Serif Yenen has worked as a tourist guide for many years. His Turkish Odyssey is an invaluable work in English about the history, culture, geography, customs and daily life of this

ancient land. Thousands of years after that first long journey was recorded by Homer, this book is a fresh look at the setting of that epic story. Yenen has learnt by experience what most interests foreign visitors to Turkey, and presents a comprehensive map of Turkish culture. The book opens with these famous words by the 6th century BC philosopher Heracleitus, "Everything flows and nothing stays", and continues with a quotation from Bozkurt Guvenc entitled "We Turks!... Who are we?", so introducing readers to the enigmatic process of change which runs through the history of Turkey and the Turks. As home to so many civilisations, cultures and religions over the millenia, Anatolia's history is an ever shifting kaleidoscope. -- Skylife Magazine, 11/97

**TURKISH ODYSSEY**

Here's a unique guide: a tourist's handbook to Turkey written by a Turk and packed with over 300 color photos, illustrations and maps. The focus here is upon Turkey's society and culture, from daily life and rituals to festivals and beliefs. While this will excite any destination-bound tourist, many an armchair readers will benefit from the in- depth information to Turkish culture. Use this to supplement the more usual guides to accommodations and restaurants: this has much more cultural depth than others. -- Midwest Book Review, February 1999

**TURKISH ODYSSEY**

The desirability of Turkey as a travel destination for English-speaking travelers has resulted in almost a dozen guidebooks to Turkey in print. All tell the would-be traveler how to get there, where to eat and to stay and what to see, plus additional and usually condensed background information. All of them have two drawbacks: not one of them is written by a Turk; all are by Americans, Australians, Brits, etc. Not one tells the traveler what makes Turkey and the Turks so interesting: Turkish culture. Serif Yenen's "Turkish Odyssey" fills that gap. Yenen is a professional, licensed tourist guide who has drawn on his own knowledge and that of his guide friends for answers to the questions the visitor to Turkey wants to know. "Turkish Odyssey" resembles the usual guides in its last 200 pages, in which Yenen discusses the six areas most commonly visited by tourists. Where the usual guidebook describes every place of possible interest, in this one Yenen limits his descriptions to those sites that tour groups normally visit. The independent traveler who wants to see everything will therefore want to carry a normal guide in addition to "Turkish Odyssey." Those who expect to be with a tour need bring on --Paula M. Strain, International Travel News, January 1999 p.131

Turkish Odyssey is the first guide book of Turkey ever written by a Turk. It focuses on culture rather than listing restaurants and hotels. (Nearly 80% of American tourists in Turkey travel in organized tours. This means their hotel and restaurant selections have already been made and transportation problem has been solved.) Many topics which cannot be found in other guide books are included in Turkish Odyssey; such as daily life, families, marriages, circumcision, educational system, religion,

military service, proverbs, superstitious beliefs, customs and behavior, etc. The content is based on Serif Yenen's field experience as a guide. The book is supported with many visual materials like professional quality photographs, maps, city plans, and above all, 3-dimensional reconstruction drawings.

A beautiful photographic guide to the history, culture and scenic delights of Turkey written by a passionate and knowledgeable native travel expert. His style of writing is concise and informative - a joy to read because he covers the highlights without burdensome detail. His appendix has useful, wide ranging succinct topics. This is a weighty book because of high quality pages but worth taking along!

It has more information and history about Turkey than you would ever need to know to enjoy a visit to the country. There are wonderful pictures and in depth descriptions of the interesting tourist attractions. It also gives an explanation of the local practices and mores.

Beautiful pictures and light reading gives the traveler an idea of the wonderful country. Although not a travel guide, It gives the reader the history of the area visted which helps develop an appreciation for the Turkish culture.

This is a good source for anyone planning to travel to Turkey or who just wants to know more about the country and its culture. We're planning a trip to Turkey later this year, and this book nicely supplements another travel book I had already purchased, especially with regard to history and culture.

I read this book before taking a trip to Turkey, and it really prepared me to understand and appreciate Turkey's amazing history and culture. I recommend it highly for anyone who wants to learn more about the country and its people.

A very nice travel guide. Really it is a nice history and travel guide combined. Very informative! I highly recommend it!

You get your first hint that this is a wrotten guidebook when you pick it up: it is incredibly heavy, easily over a pound. Who would want to lug that all over Turkey? As we discovered when we got

there and opened it, no one. This is a poor coffee-table book masquerading as a guide book. Lots of pictures, with descriptions of places to visit that are only a little more informative than what you would find on the back of a postcard. No lists of hotels, places to eat, or anything like that. A waste of money for any traveller.

This is the book you will want to read after you've been to Turkey (which is not to say you shouldn't read it before going). It is not the typical "travel guide" with hotel and restaurant listings nor is it the typical "insight guide" with ponderous prose and more history than any but a history professor could love. If you want a book to carry as a reference, buy something else. For one thing, this book is too beautiful to ruin carting it about in your suitcase. There are over 300 excellent photos depicting the country and the people. The book is entertaining, easy to read, and beautiful to look at. Serif Yenen answers the odd questions every traveler has (but is usually afraid to ask his travel guide), and he is unabashedly proud of his Anatolia. (The author is a well known travel guide in Turkey and you may be interested to know that he maintains an informative web site for his travel company.) I would recommend this book to someone who has been to Turkey or is planning a visit and wants to have a greater connection to the people, traditions, culture and history.

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