Customs & Culture: Turkey

The Southern US & Turkish traditions, more similar than you think!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7rq57AcShs
Demographics

- Population
- Land Area
- Europe or Asia?
- Ethnic/Religious/Linguistic composition
- Currency – YTL (New Turkish Lira)
- Climate
Interpersonal relations

- Personal space and eye contact
- Deference to elders
- Friendliness; Kissing on the cheek
- Men holding hands; gender greeting
- CTM’s
- “tsk”
- The bottom of your shoe
- “the hand with which you wipe”
- “giving ‘em the bird”
Punctuality

- Forget it!
- Turkish time
- Driving, bus, dolmush, tram, metro
Cafe culture

- Nargile
- Drinking culture
- Raki
- Tea, coffee and Nescafe
- Smoking & the new laws
- Tips not built into bill; usually 10% in cash
Shopping & popular culture

- Price negotiation at the bazaar
- Western fixed prices
- Movies, music & fashion
- The headscarf
- Urban vs rural
- PDA; Turkey is not spring break
- Football, basketball
Nationalism and Superstition

- Nationalism and “Insulting Turkishness”
- Secular, moderate and conservative Islam
- The “Evil eye”
- The “deep state”
- “Kurtlar Vadisi Irak”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvN8DuLiPm0
Toilets & Hygiene

- Western
- Eastern
- “Tuvalet nerede?”
- Deodorant
- Hamam
Who speaks English in Istanbul?

- Tourist areas
- Sariyer
- Rural areas
Turkish alphabet

- Latin script as of 1927
- C as in cat is J as in Jon (K is their C)
- Ç is Ch as in chair
- Ş is Sh as in shoe; a regular S exists too
- İ (as in machine) and I (as in open)
- Ğ is like H as in Prime Minister Erdoğan; a regular G exists also
- Ö (as in German über) and Ü (as in turn)
Common phrases/numbers

- **Merhaba** – hello; **Hoschakal/gule gule** – goodbye; **Benim adim Jon – misiniz?** My name is Jon, what’s yours?
- **Lutfen** – please; **Teshekkuler ederim** – thank you; **pardon/affedersiniz** – pardon; **Hosh geldiniz** – welcome
- **Yok** – no; **Evet** – yes; **inejeck var** – stop here on bus/dolmush; **buyrun** – can I help you (in sales)
- **Gunaydin** – good morning; **Iyi gunlar** – good night
- **Bay** – man; **Bayan** – woman; **Arkadash** – friend
- **Yani** – used as “like” in English
- **Chok guzel** – very good; **var mi** – is there...?
- **Numbers** – 1Bir, 2iki, 3ooch, 4doort, 5besh, 6alti, 7yedi, 8sekiz, 9dokkuz, 10on, 11on bir, 12 on iki, etc. 20yirmi, 30otuz, 40kirk, 50ellee, 60altmish, 70yetmish, 80seksen, 90doksan, 100yoooz, 200 iki yoooz