

BIKING IN TURKEY: USEFULL TIPS FOR RIDING IN THE COUNTRY

September 2001 third edition by PAOLO VOLPARA (COPYRIGHT © 2001 OMM)



Riding in Turkey is one of the most exciting and interesting ways to visit this important center of Human Civilizations. Big spaces, ever-changing scenery, good roads, historical and cultural places and a friendly population make Turkey a real biker's Paradise. To better enjoy it, the riders have to be aware, as in any Country, of the local conditions and this note will try to provide few hints born out from OMM riding experiences in Turkey. **OMM assistance.** One More Mile Riders Group - Istanbul is not a Motorcycle Club in the traditional sense but

more a "Service Center" for bikers living in Turkey or travelling in this Country. The small group of OMM members provides information, assistance and welcome services to all riders visiting Turkey. We also provide the support to the [Horizons Unlimited Local Community](http://www.horizonsunlimited.com) and we invite all bikers planning to travel or to cross Turkey to get in contact with us via our web-site www.ommriders.com or via www.horizonsunlimited.com



OMM can help in planning your trip and in making your ride in Turkey safer. We also enjoy meeting bikers from around the world exchanging experiences and we will do our best to welcome you in Istanbul.

OMM Monthly Information Bulletin is an open forum for reporting your ride in Turkey and for learning from others. You can subscribe to it by sending an e-mail to volpara@homemil.com.

Log in at www.ommriders.com and check the two **OMM suggested rides** from 10 days ([Half Moon Ride](#)) to 20 days ([Full Moon Ride](#)) covering the most important sites of this historical Country and offering some of the best riding roads. In addition to these suggested routes you can always check on OMM web site ([Travels](#)) the latest itineraries covered by OMM riders: you will find here detailed descriptions of the routes to follow and an overall status of the roads. In June 2000 OMM riders completed the "**Four Corners of Turkey**" circumnavigating the entire Country along the sea and land borders: [this ride](#) can be used as a blue print for exploring (in two/three weeks) the multifaceted aspect of the Turkish heritage.

More information about Turkey can be found at these selected web sites:

<http://www.turkey.org> A complete Country's profile containing essential notes on government, education, tourism and consular services.

<http://www.kultur.gov.tr/english/main-e.html> This is the web site of the Turkish Ministry of Culture covering historical places, museums and events.

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/GRUP/gg/default.htm> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs offers a list of Embassies and Consulates of Turkey combined with useful information for border crossing.

http://www.focusmm.com/index_03.htm "Focus on Turkey" is one of the best sources of information for travelers in this country.

<http://www.thy.com.tr/en/index.htm> Turkish Airline web-site with all internal and international flights. You can also read on line the last issue of the on-flight magazine "[Skylife](#)" containing pictures and articles on Turkish itineraries.

<http://www.twarp.com/turkward.htm> A well informed site that offers a list of virtual travelling options. You may want to move in time to the prehistory of Anatolia for a walk into the land of the legends and a multitude of civilizations. Or you may want to visit the top 10 natural beauty of Turkey. Or you may explore the Jewels of Anatolian history.

http://www.csd.uu.se/~pierref/travel/turkey_guide.html Mr. Pierre Flener maintains a "travel guide to Turkey intended to show foreign would-be travelers and residents what Turkey is really like, unbiased by glossy brochures or homepages by Turkish authorities or individuals". This is essential reading for the preparation of a ride.

<http://www.hitit.co.uk> This is a good place for advises to independent travelers

<http://www.naturekey.com> The place for a valid list of outdoor places (and activities) in Turkey

<http://www.worldexecutive.com/cityguides/istanbul> A practical guide about Istanbul with city map, restaurants and hotels.

<http://www.osmanli700.gen.tr> A site dedicated to the Ottoman history.

<http://www.exploreturkey.com> A commercial site offering Hotel reservations, information about important tourist places and good pictures.

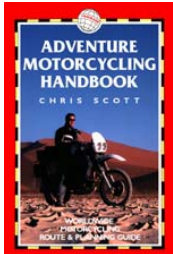
<http://www.beyogluweb.com/istanbulshit/core.htm> This is the site of the alternative magazine for Istanbul: Istanbulshit. Go there for something different.

<http://www.ptr.co.nz/turkey> A photographic essay about Turkey with hot spots map of Turkey.

<http://www.ideamerge.com/motoeuropa> This site offers a summary of information for road users in Turkey.

<http://www.great-adventures.com/destinationss/turkey/turkey.html> is the place of Adventures Great and Small offering a well prepared selection of activities in the Country and a large list of links.

Recommended Maps and Travel Books:



Always recommended by OMM is the “**Adventure Motorcycling Handbook**” with the indispensable check list and tips for bikers on the road. From Bike Magazine (200) “With this book you'd have all the information you'd ever wanted to hand and you'd know it was right because Chris Scott's a veteran of serious travel.” Order it at <http://www.adventure-motorcycling.com/cone.htm>

Turkey Blue Guide by Bernard Mc Donagh (2001 A&B Black London, WW Norton New York) is “unrivalled coverage of art, architecture and history.” Easy to use (although heavy to carry with 800 pages) this guide is a must for travelers interested in the real heritage of the Country. Hotels, restaurant and all transportation info are included with an useful reference index.

Lonely Planet: Turkey 2001 by Pat Yale and Richard Plunkett. Lonely Planet's guidebooks are packed with essential information and accurate maps and are written with enough character that they are also good reading for armchair travelers. For Turkey, this latest edition (March 2001) includes: 96 easy-to-read maps, plans of ancient sites and a full-color country map, detailed coverage of the whole country from west to the south east, the latest information on getting around by air, bus, train, boat and car, hundreds of accommodation and eating options for all budgets. “**Turkey Southern Shores**”, “**Turkey beyond the Meander**”, “**Lycian Turkey**” and “**Aegean Turkey**” by John Murray re-writing the original researches of Professor George Bean. These are very detailed guides to the best archeological sites of specific Turkish areas. Well written and full of details.



“**A Traveler's History of Turkey**” by Richard Stoneman John Hoste (Illustrator) (Interlink Publishing Group, April 1998). This is a simple but complete history of the Country from prehistorical times to modern Turkey narrated via the places you would like to visit. The best reference book for our riders.

Maps.

GeoCenter Euro Map Western and GeoCenter Euro Map Eastern Turkey 1:800 000 are the best map available for Turkey. You can select and order them at [GeoCenter web site](http://www.geocenter.com) or at www.maps.com. Also available from **Kartographischer Verlag** seven maps covering all Turkey 1: 500 000

Good reading about Turkey.

Julius Norwich “**Byzantium: A brief history**” is the reduction of the famous three volumes opus. The best on the ancient history of Turkey.

Andrew Mango “**Ataturk**” is the best biography on the Founder of Modern Turkey.

Erik Zurker: “**Turkey: a modern history**” is a well written summary of the post 1800 period

Neal Askerson “**Black Sea**” covers the areas around the Turkish north sea and it has an excellent meditation about the ethnological and cultural aspect of the Pontus.

Jason Goodwin “**Lord of the Horizons**” is a popular history of the Ottoman Empire to be “consumed” as a novel.



Background

Motorcycling, as known in the west, is a recent phenomenon in Turkey although the bike as transportation has been present in the Country for long time. The wave started at the beginning of the 90's with few personal imports of the most popular brands. Today these brands have Importers and Dealers while some (Honda and MZ) started local production. Motorcycle sports are present in Turkey with a growing number of participants and spectators: speed circuits are available in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. Istanbul has a permanent Cross circuit while similar tracks are organized regularly around the Country. The Turkish Motorcycle Federation organizes Speed, Cross, Enduro and acceleration championships. In the year 2001 [BMW](#) will open in Istanbul an off-road training facility with the possibility to rent GS 1150 and F650. [Suleyman Memnun](#), Turkish Champion for Sport-bikes and off-road is offering training courses in circuit and off road with the possibility of renting Yamaha bikes.

The Market

It is difficult to obtain reliable data on sales but in the year 2000 we estimated that the class above 500 cc. has a yearly sale of 1200 vehicles per year and the total active number of these bikes is below 5.000 units. This year sales have been severely effected by the "financial crisis of the Country" with the associated devaluation of the Turkish Liras: prices soared and financing was not available. A conservative forecast for the 2001 fixes the total sales (same categories as above) at 600/700 units.

Yamaha (<http://www.beldeyama.com.tr>) claims the leading market share position being the sole producer to cover all categories with Sport, Cross, Enduro, Touring, and Cruiser models.

BMW enjoy the reputation and prestige coming from the car market and it shares with Yamaha a leading position in sales. The same distributor, Borusan (<http://www.borusan.com.tr>) covers cars and bikes and it is in the process of opening in Istanbul a new, larger service center. Most of the police bikes in the Country come from BMW and the service, although streamlined, is present in Ankara and Istanbul.

The distribution of **KTM**, once controlled by BMW-Borusan, has now been taken over by DEMAKS **Kawasaki** was once the market leader but it has now lost several positions with a reduction of the models imported (primarily Sport and Cruiser). The same Importer of Kawasaki distributes for Turkey Aprilia (Pegaso and Scooters). Absent from the 2001 Bike show, the local importer Metro Motor suspended in the last quarters of the year any importation. News are that the business will tart as usual in 2002.

Honda and Suzuki, in the past sporadically present in the market are now increasing share in the Sport and Enduro segment. Suzuki took direct distribution of the bikes while Honda is reinforcing the marketing and sales structure. A very dedicated and specialized importer, **Demaks** (www.demaks.com.tr) deals with small quantities of exotica such as Ducati, Triumph, Moto Guzzi and Bimota. Finally, for the lovers of exotica and strong wallets **Titan** bikes are imported and serviced in Istanbul (www.customzone.com)

Harley Davidson is the ultimate brand for affluent bikers and some of the [HOG](http://www.hogtr.com) members (<http://www.hogtr.com>) clock serious mileage on their machine and sustain a rich calendar of events and rides. Good service for H-D in Istanbul (with Café) and in Ankara.

Servicing the Bike

The distribution network covers almost exclusively the main cities and the South Coast in summer period. Service and assistance, outside Istanbul and Ankara, are in the hands of generic mechanics. Widely available in the "Oto Sanayi" (Car Repair Center) of any small and big city they do not have a specific experience and training in motorcycle. You will get prompt, on the spot assistance, helping hands and a wide knowledge on "how to put a vehicle back on the road": do not expect state of the art maintenance and forget any intervention on the electronic area.

Spare parts are reserved to Istanbul (as some friend put it "We are the last chance between Athens and Singapore") but do not despair. The strong sense of hospitality, and a permanent solidarity between "people on the road", overcome in Turkey any obstacle: the large network of Busses covering all territory can deliver within 24 hours any spare part from Istanbul to a remote village. In case of need it is easy everywhere in Turkey to find a truck for the transport of the bike, to find a willing mechanic ready to share with you the experience of repairing a machine never seen before, to have a part shipped from Ankara or Istanbul. Patience, Spirit of Adventure, Friendship and Curiosity are the essential elements for getting out of any problem. The **recovery procedure** is simple: if your bike cannot run and you are stranded on the road, signal to stop to a Car/Bus/Truck. If space is available the bike will be loaded on the back if not you will get a lift to the nearest center where (normally around the Mosque) you can rent a Pick Up to transport your bike. The bike will be moved to the nearest Oto Sanayi a splendid invention of Turkey: in the same area of a city everybody involved in car/bike/truck repair has his own shop. Without spending time moving around you will find located here welders, mechanics, tire repairers, electricians, exhaust experts, etc. In the Sanayi you will get prompt attention and normally you will be able to find a temporary solution to finish your ride. If a spare part is needed from Istanbul take note of the addresses listed below: call "your man in Istanbul" and ask for the part to be shipped by bus. All this in real fast time, with sincere courtesy, infinite teas and low cost.

Tires are widely available in Istanbul and Ankara with Metzeler (<http://www.metzeler.com/html>) being the well represented brand. Dunlop, Pirelli, Bridgestone do not bring to the Turkish market the full range of products but some types and sizes are imported and distributed. A call in advance will clarify what is at disposal at any time.

The Dealer network in Istanbul.

OMM is in the process of preparing a "Yellow Pages" of repair centers for bikes in Turkey. The work has been dragging on for long time due to the limited resources of the group. We are listing here the most important centers in Istanbul and we will (it is a promise) insert soon a list for the entire Country.

BERKE MOTO

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Nispetiye Caddesi Cengiz Topel Duragi, Bebek Yolu Sokak. No: 5 Etiler
Tel: +90-212- 257 70 72 Fax: +90-212- 257 70 44 Web: <http://www.berkemoto.com>

To contact: Levent BAKI

BRANDS: APRILIA, BMW, KAWASAKI Bikes & Scooters, CABERG, MARUSHIN, SHOEI helmets, BERING, BUSE, IXS garments, GIVI, NONFANGO luggage, ACERBIS enduro accessories, METZELER tires. Second hand bike trade is available

SERVICE: Same as showroom. Tel: +90 212 257 70 37

TIPS: Showroom & service are located in the European side, nearby to the exit to Fatih Bridge and TEM highway. The owner of the shop is a well known bikers and a long distance tourer. Especially on BMW you may get more customized service.

BORUSAN

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Motosiklet Merkezi, Kurucesme Caddesi No 72 Kurucesme

Tel: +90-212- 287 72 50 Fax: +90-212- 287 72 54

To contact: Bylhan Ozturk

BRANDS: Importer of BMW bikes, accessories and Rider equipment in Turkey

SERVICE: Same as showroom

TIPS: Service & showroom are located in the European side's coastline, between two bridges. In the same location "Boxer Café" offers a meeting point for bikers. The helpful staff sometimes can be too busy for an attentive service.

DAYTONA

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Sahilyolu, Tranvay Caddesi No 60/A Kurucesme
Tel: +90-212- 287 17 87 Fax: +90-212- 263 47 25 Web: <http://www.daytonamotor.com>

To contact: Bulent MAMAY and Aleaddin BALTA

BRANDS: Main distributor of SPIDI garments, FM helmets, DAYTONA boots

Retailer of: YAMAHA bikes & scooters. Second hand trade is available.

SERVICE: Same as showroom

TIPS: Service & showroom are located in the European side's coastline, between two bridges, few meters from BMW show room. The owner of the shop has been in the bike's business for long time.

DEMAKS

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Bagdat Caddesi Cevre Yolu Cikisi Intas Bloklari C Blok No: 28
Kiziltoprak

Tel: +90 216 418 77 50 Fax : +90 216 418 77 51 Web: <http://www.demaks.com>

To contact: Selcuk BEKTAS

BRANDS: Importer of: DUCATI, TRIUMPH, KTM, HUSQVARNA, POLARIS, MOTOGUZZI, LEM
bikes, ITALJET scooters, ALPINESTAR, SPYKE garments, AGV, ROOF, LAZER helmets

Retailer of: K&N air filters, DYNOJET carburetors kits, RENTHAL enduro accessories., MICRON,
SUPERTRAPP exhausts, OHLIN suspensions, SCOTT glasses, DID chain. Second hand trade is available.

SERVICE: Bagdat Caddesi No: 12/0 Adatepe Maltepe

Tel: +90 216 442 15 80 Fax: +90 216 442 23 80

TIPS: The shop is located at the Asian side's Kiziltoprak exit to the first bridge with some other bike shops around. The service is also on the Asian side, away from the showroom.

EFSANE MOTOR

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Muallim Naci Caddesi No: 85 Ortakoy 80840

Tel: +90 212 261 62 65 Fax: +90 212 261 43 39

BRANDS: Importer of HARLEY DAVIDSON bikes and accessories, PIAGGIO Scooters

SERVICE; Same as showroom.

TIPS: The facility is located in the European side along the Bosphorus coastline road on the Bebek village just before where the First Bridge carriers stand. Full HOG atmosphere and assistance by friendly and courteous staff. HD Café.

FAN MOTO

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Ataturk Oto Sanayi Sitesi 2.Kisim 34. Sokak. No : 1404 Maslak

Tel: +90 212 285 08 88 Fax: +90 212 276 10 51

To contact : Suleyman MEMNUN, Koksal CERRAHOGLU k.cerrahoglu@superonline.com and s.memnun@superonline.com

BRANDS: Importer of: AXO, UFO garments, enduro accessories, boots and helmets.

Retailer of : YAMAHA bikes & scooters. Rental of off-road bikes. Second hand trade is available

SERVICE: Same as showroom.

TIPS: "The Point" for off road riders, this facility is located on the European side, within the industrial area of main automotive maintenance shops and spare part dealers. Therefore it is easier to obtain here spare parts and competent help. The owner, Suleyman MEMNUN is a well known figure in the motorcycle sport, several time champion off-road and on circuit. He conducts a very competent program of track and enduro training (Memnun Racing Team).

GENC MOTO

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Barbaros Bulvari, Hossopet Sokak. No: 1 Balmumcu

Tel: +90 212 274 27 27 Fax: +90 212 272 40 33

To contact: Omer DEMIREL

BRANDS: Retailer of: PIAGGIO scooters, SHOEI, UVEX, LAZER helmets, various garments and spare parts. Large selection of second hand bikes.

SERVICE: Same as showroom.

TIPS: The facility is located on the European side, in the middle of the town on the uphill way towards the business center Mecidiyekoy- Maslak. They provide small repair services in relatively short time, especially on scooters. The owner is a long distance traveler on bike.

GENC SEBAT

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Eski Duyunu Umumiye Sokak. No: 13 Sirkeci

Tel: +90 212 512 94 78 Fax: +90 212 514 01 29

To contact: Kenan DEMIREL

BRANDS: Retailer of: UVEX, LAZER, CABERG, YES, BEST, ABV helmets, various garments and spare parts available.

TIPS: The shop is located in the European side, within the old town, in the middle of the ancient trade area Sirkeci on the south side of Golden Horn.

KORLAS

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Bagdat No: 253/2 81060 Goztepe

Tel: +90 216 467 31 17 Fax: +90 216 467 31 16

To contact: Koray EYILIK

BRANDS: Importer of: PIRELLI tires, DEVIL exhausts, MOTOREX oils, FRANK THOMAS garments, FERODO brake pads, SUOMY helmets

Retailer of: SUZUKI bikes & scooters. Second hand trade is available.

TIPS: The showroom is located on Asian side's main shopping avenue.

MOTO LINE

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Sahil Yolu, Kennedy Caddesi No: 81 Bakirkoy

Tel: +90 212 542 24 73 Fax: +90 212 542 2473

To contact: Necmi EKERMAN

BRANDS: Retailer of: SUZUKI bikes, ARAI, NOLAN helmets, YOSHIMURA exhausts, various parts & accessories. Second hand trade is available.

SERVICE: Tel: +90 212 571 0397

TIPS: The showroom is located on European coastline towards the Ataturk airport.

MOTO RACING

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO:

Zuhtu Pasa Mahallesi, Bagdat , Cemal Bey apt. No: 22 Kiziltoprak

Tel: +90 216 449 34 20 Fax: +90 216 449 22 77

To contact: Levent CELASUN

BRANDS: Retailer of: KAWASAKI, APRILIA bikes & scooters, SHOEI helmets. Second hand trade is available.

TIPS: The showroom is located at the beginning of the Asian side's main shopping avenue. The owner has been long time in the business and he is also involved on track racing.

MOTORIUM

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Yali Mahallesi, Fevzi Cakmak Caddesi, NO: 26/1 Maltepe

Tel: +90 216 352 0978

To contact: Tolga BUYUKONER

BRANDS: Retailer of: SUZUKI bikes, PIRELLI tires. Second hand trade is available.

TIPS: The showroom is located on the Asian side.

MOTOSA

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Bagdag Caddesi, No: 5/22 Kiziltoprak

Tel: +90 216 449 12 05 Fax: +90 216 449 12 07 www.motosa.com.tr

To contact: Selcuk ARSLAN mrbike@motosa.com.tr

BRANDS: Importer of: HEIN GERICKE products and independent importer of various brands of bikes. Second hand trade is available.

Retailer of : SUOMI, SHOEI, CABERG, AGV, UVEX helmets, GIVI luggage.

TIPS: The shop is located at the Asian side's Kiziltoprak exit to the Bosphorus bridges with some other bike shops around.

MOTOTAS

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Intas Sitesi A Blok No:27 81030 Kiziltoprak

Tel: +90 216 347 61 71 Fax: +90 216 347 94 00 Web: <http://www.mototas.com.tr>

To contact: Sina AFYONERİ

SERVICE: Same as showroom.

BRANDS: Importer of: NOLAN, ARAI helmets, DAINESE garments, KRYPTONITE keys, HEPKCO DECKER luggage, YUASA batteries, YOSHIMURA exhausts.

Retailer of: BMW, HONDA bikes, PIAGGIO scooters, MOTOREX oils. Second hand trade is available.

TIPS: The shop is located at the Asian side's Kiziltoprak exit to the Bosphorus bridges with some other bike shops around. Sina Afyoneri is a well known figure in this industry with involvement in racing and clubs support. A traditional meeting place for sport bikes owners.

NINJA

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Kennedy Bulvari No: 79 Sahilyolu-Bakirkoy 34720

Tel: +90 212 542 99 23 Fax: +90 212 542 99 57

To contact: Cetin OKCU

BRANDS: Importer of: ARROW exhausts, NONFANGO luggage, BOXTER tank leathers, ERMAX screens, LIGHTTECH screws

Retailer of: YAMAHA bikes & scooters. Second hand trade is available.

TIPS: The showroom is located on European coastline towards the Ataturk airport.

PAZARBASI

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Köybası Caddesi No: 268/3 Yenikoy, 80870

Tel: +90 212 223 35 34 Fax: +90 212 223 35 53

To contact: Engin PAZARBASI pazarbasimot@superonline.com

BRANDS: Importer of: IXS garments, SCHUBERT helmets

Retailer of: HONDA bikes & scooters. Second hand trade is available.

TIPS: The showroom is located on European coastline after the Second Bosphorus bridges towards the Black Sea.

SAMURA MOTOR

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Bagdat , Cemal Bey apt. No: 22 Kiziltoprak 81030

Tel: +90 216 338 19 55 Fax: +90 216 348 46 59 www.samuramotor.com

To contact: Kemal KAYA info@samuramotor.com

BRANDS: Importer of: BRIDGESTONE tires, GIVI luggage & accessories, SIDI, BERING garments, CABERG helmets and RUKKA clothes

Independent importer of various brands of bikes. Second hand trade is available.

TIPS: The showroom is located at the beginning of the Asian side's main shopping avenue Bagdat . Kemal has been on this business for long time and he is a well known member of the biking community.

SKUTER SERVIS

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Tunel İlk Belediye Caddesi No:3 Beyoglu

Tel: +90 212 249 60 45 Fax: +90 212 251 04 29 To contact: Fuat KALAYCIOGLU

BRANDS: Retailer of PIAGGIO scooters & spare parts.

TIPS: The shop is located besides the ancient metro (Tunel)'s Beyoglu gate in the center of Istanbul European side. One of the oldest shops, in business since 1963.

TOYS FOR BIG BOYS

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Nispetiye , AKMERKEZ, Zemin Kat No: 188 Etiler

Tel: +90 212 282 05 97 Fax: +90 212 282 05 98

To contact: Burak BIROL burakbirol@t4bb.com

BRANDS: Retailer of: LAZER, AGV, BELL helmets, KTM bikes, TROY LEE DESIGNS garments, various camping accessories.

TIPS: The shop is located on the European side's biggest shopping mall. Offering a large range of camping, travelling and bike accessories, the shop is open till 22:00.

VILLA MOTOR

ADDRESS&CONTACT INFO: Nispetiye , No: 3 Levent

Tel: +90 212 269 02 09

To contact: Adnan TEKIN

BRANDS: Retailer of CABERG helmets, GIVI luggage. Independent bike importer. Second hand trade is available.

SERVICE: Tel: +90 212 283 35 08

To contact: Mr. Gurhan

TIPS: The showroom is located on the European side. The service is located on the main car maintenance site Ataturk Sanayi Sitesi. The shop also provides basic bike training.

Oil and Petrol are distributed by a vast network of Petrol Stations: intervals between stations are very shorts rarely exceeding 100 km.: unleaded petrol can be difficult to find outside of main areas. 80% of Stations accept Credit card (Visa and Master/Access being the most popular). Just keep a clear note of type and characteristic of viscosity requested by your bike in case you cannot find your favorite brand (Most popular BP, Mobil, Castrol, Shell, and Total). Petrol Stations offer Water and Air Service. Just be careful on motorways: the network being new it lacks of Service station and you can find yourself in trouble if you do not fill up before passing the gate.

Some contacts in Istanbul

The best thing to do is to send an e-mail to OMM group announcing your arrival date and your needs for service, route, assistance or hospitality. We will do our best to answer to your questions and to locate the parts you need. Mail on the web-site or directly to some riders of the group:

Paolo Volpara at volpara@homemail.com (bikes: Kawasaki, BMW, Ducati, Honda Gold Wing)

Selim Karadag at selim.karadag@teklan.com.tr (bikes: BMW and Ducati)

Murad Acar at muradacar@superonline.com (bikes: BMW)

Taner Celik at tanercelik@superonline.com (bikes: Harley Davidson)

If you cannot anticipate your coming and you are in trouble your men in Istanbul are:

Levent Baki the founder and owner of Berke Motor (Kawasaki, Aprilia, BMW) at Nispetiye Cad. Bebek Yolu Sok.5 80630 Istanbul Turkey), rock singer, U2 fan, gourmet and expert of Turkish cuisine. He has one of the largest networks of bikers' friends in Turkey (and abroad) and he will stop for nothing to help a biker in need. The shop is very near to the Bosphorus University and the Second Bridge Europe-Asia.

Phone: +90 (0) 212 257 70 72 Fax: (212) 257 70 4 E-mail: leventbaki@superonline.com

Sinan Afyoneri at Mototas (Suzuki, BMW and other important brands of accessories and gears).

Successful racers, master of drag sessions Sinan will always welcome you with gentleman elegance, competence and attention. Address: Intas Sitesi A Blok,30, Kiziltoprak, Istanbul, Turkey Phone: +90 (0) 216 3476171 Fax: (216) 3479400

Suleyman Memnun at Fan Motor sells Yamaha and a large range of off-road second hand bike. He is the current Sport/Circuit Balkan Champion and the list of his victory in circuit and of f-road is endless. In his shop, you can find the Yamaha range with plenty of off road accessories and gears. Fan Motor at Ataturk Oto Sanayi Sitesi 2 Kisim Ada 4023 N. 14-15 Maslak Istanbul Phone: +90 (0) 212 285 08 88 Fax: (212) 286 15 54

Bilhan Ozturk the Sales Manager at BMW Turkey. With perfect English and large experience not limited to Beemers is a sure address in case of need. Address: Kurucesme Cad. 72 Kurucesme Istanbul Phone: +90 (0) 212 2877250 Fax (212) 287 72 54.

Getting Around

GSM mobile telephones operate almost everywhere in the Country: the country international code is 90, the code for international outgoing calls is 00, the one for out of city code is 0. Istanbul, because of the large population has two codes (0)212 for the European side and (0) 216 for the Asian side. If you do not have a mobile phone almost everywhere you can buy Phone cards for National and International calls. Major operators provide "call home" and "collected call" services. (Check the number before you leave with the operator of your choice). Internet Cafe' are quite popular and Hotels/Pension can give you access to the net.

The roads.

A network of Motorway is now spreading trough the Country: normally you pick up the ticket at the entrance and pay (cash, no cards) at the exit. The toll is one third of the normal European fares. With few exceptions the roads in Turkey are a source of surprises and, for the unaware, of dangers. Roads marked red and yellow on international maps are paved but poorly maintained. Holes of relevant proportions can suddenly appear. Indications are casual and "sleeping soldiers" (concrete bumps across the road to reduce speed) are not indicated and sometime extremely dangerous for bikes (look for them at the entrance, along and at the exit of villages. The surface is generally slippery for the presence of diesel from trucks and in wet residual mud can make riding quite interesting. The driver behavior adds to the excitement: the venerable age of vehicles and the low level of experience of the majority of pilots constitute hazard for bikers. In Turkey, bikes are invisible to other vehicle and it is essential to maintain constantly a defensive, protective riding attention. At night trucks, tractors and cars can move without rear (and sometime frontal) lights. Pedestrian share roads with you so keep well out of the right margins and make good use of horn and deep beam.

In case of accident ask for help from truck drivers or minibus drivers: wait for the police who is never far away. If you can still ride after the accident, it is recommended to reach a Police or Gendarma post to report the accident without waiting on the spot. **Emergency Phone Numbers: Traffic Police 154, Gendarma 156, Police 155, Ambulance 112**

It may be useful to print and carry with you the following note explaining that you are a Biker without knowledge of the language, who had an accident, requesting in Turkish to call the Police or an Ambulance:

'Ülkenizde motorsiklet seyahati yapmakta olan yabancı uyruklu bir ziyaretçiyim. Türkçe bilmiyorum . Ciddi bir kaza geçirdim ve acil olarak yardıma ihtiyacım var. Lütfen polis ve ambulans çağrın :Polis acil çağrı: 155, ambulans acil çağrı:112"

Speed limits, once upon a time totally ignored, are now severely enforced on major roads: here the official limits.

Category	Urban Centers	National Roads	Motorways
Motorcycles	50 KH	70 KH	80KH
Cars	50 KH	90 KH	120 KH
Busses	50 KH	80 KH	100 KH
Trucks, Mini-busses, Pick-ups	50 KH	80 KH	90 KH

In practice a 10% of speed above the limits is accepted and most of the police patrols increase the bike limit to the same levels of Cars. This cannot be considered a general rule, being subjected to the decision of the officer in duty. Speed traps have been placed in operation and they are frequent on roads of major traffic and at the exit of motorways during the day. They consist of a plain car parked along your sense of direction monitoring your speed and radioing it to a roadblock few kilometers further down the road. If you are caught be gentle, be humble and have full documentation for you and bike. Fines are not exorbitant and, if you are riding on a foreign license you will not get any "point". Roadblocks managed by "Gendarma" (military police) or by the army are frequent at the entrance or exit of urban areas. In this blocks the control is on personal and vehicle documents. For foreigner riders is mandatory to have (always) Passport or Identity Car, Green Card Insurance and Carnet de Passage and Bikes Registration documents. You cannot leave the country if a vehicle has been registered on your passport unless you are ready to go trough the difficult procedure of bonding your bike in custom.



The Touring Club of Turkey - TTOK ([Türkiye Turing ve Otomobil Kurumu](#)) is a very efficient and well-respected organization. A visit to their Offices can solve many bureaucratic problems (Documents for the bike, International Driving License, Carnet de Passage, Insurance). Here you can also find maps and tourist information documents. The club owns and manages a list of Hotels in the Country and has a very interesting Library in Istanbul (Istanbul Kitaplığı Sogukçesme Sokagi, Sultanahmet Tel. 512 57 30) offering a wide range of books on history and travels.

TTOK Offices in major towns: Ankara - Maresal Fevzi Cakmak Cad., No: 43, Beevler, Tel: (0-312) 2228723 - 2139761, Fax: (0-312) 2228557. Antalya - Milli Egemenlik Cad, Dallar Yıldız Carsisi, No: 9, Tel: (0-242) 2470699. Gazi Antep - A. Fuat Cebesoy Cad., 5/A, Tel: (0-342) 2325224, 2342687. Iskenderun - Cumhuriyet Meydani, Besim Yucel Ishani, No: 4, Tel: (0-326) 6177462. Istanbul - Sisli Meydani, No: 364, Sisli, Tel: (0-212) 2314631 - 36, Fax: (0-212) 2489661. Izmir - Alsancak, Ataturk Bulvari, No: 370/A, Tel: (0-232) 4222621-4213514, Fax: (0-232) 4226387. Mersin - Mucahitler Cad., No :10, Tel: (0-324) 2320492. Tasucu - Abdi Ipekci Cad., No: 27/B, Tel: (0-324) 7411463 . Trabzon -

Iskenderpasa Mah., Cami Sok., 17/11, Tunelcikisi, Tel: (0-462) 3217156 **TTOK Offices at Border Crossings:** Cilvegozu -Turkish-Syrian frontier post, Tel: (0-326) 4323454 Gurbulak- Turkish-Iranian frontier post, Tel: (0-472) 3212036 Habur - Turkish-Iraqi frontier post, Tel: (0-486) 5287032 Ipsala - Turkish-Greek frontier post, Tel: (0-284) 6161574 Kapikule - Turkish-Bulgarian frontier post, Tel: (0-284) 2382034, Fax :(0-284) 2382034

Planning a Trip

Turkey is really at the doorstep of most European Countries: the entry road can follow two directions.

To Turkey from Europe by Road: Information on visa and other documents can be obtained at the [Minister of Tourism web site](#). Due to the problems in former Yugoslavia the road recommended today moves from Vienna to Budapest, Szeged, Arad, Sibiu, Pitesti, Bucarest, Ruise, Stara Zagora, Chaskovo, Edirne. From Edirne, a modern motorway (pay-toll) brings you to Istanbul in less than two hours. This road is around 1650 Km. and it can be covered in two/three days.



To Turkey from Europe by Sea: This road involves moving to the East Coast of Italy. Ferries are available at Trieste, Venezia, Ancona, Bari and Brindisi. The ferry destinations are Igoumenitza, Patras, Piraeus (Greece) or

Istanbul, Izmir, Cesme, Kusadasi (Turkey).The Greek Ferries association as a good web site at

<http://www.ferries.gr> For Ferries from Italy to Turkey you can log into

www.travelitaly.com/library/transportation/sea/other_destinations/turkey.html or into

www.motorhoming.c/Ferries

ViaMare offers services between Brindisi and Cesme at www.viamare.com/medtur99.html while the site www.goeurope.about.com/travel/goeurope/library/planner/blp_ferries_south_intl.htm has a complete list of European ferries. Roll-On/Roll-Off service for vehicles is available between the Port of Trieste and Istanbul combined with flight for pilots and passengers from Lubjana to Istanbul Check for this service at www.samer.com OMM riders prefer the fasted connection to Europe. This one is Brindisi to Igoumenitza in an 8 hours crossing (normally during the night). Check at the Superfast Ferries web site at www.superfast.com/english for timetable and reservations (From Ancona, Brindisi or Bari to Igoumenitza). Disembarking in Igoumenitza in the early hours of the morning it is possible for a dedicated rider to reach Istanbul (1,100 km away) by the late evening/early night. The first 300 Km to Trikala are spectacular and twisty mountain roads, from Trikala a good road mixed with motorway leads to Thessaloniki and from there, via Kavala, a good road brings the rider to Ipsala the border crossing to Turkey. The 250 km. separating the Border at Ipsala from Istanbul are a mix bag of "heavy traffic road". Attention should be placed on the portion Tekirdag-Kinali. From Kinali 80 km of modern motorway, make the final portion an easy going.

When in Turkey you may contact the following addresses for Ferries Services in the Country and abroad:

- Istanbul, Yenikapi - Bandirma(Local Speed Ferry Line across the Marmara Sea) Tel: 00 90 516 12 12
- Istanbul - Izmir - Brindisi / Turkish Maritimes Lines at www.tdi.com.tr Tel: 00 90 212 244 02 07
- Private Ferry-Boat for Gökçeada Island 00 90 286 8874159 / 8142453
- Turkish Maritimes Lines Ferry for Bozceada Island: 00 90 286 2171188
- Bodrum - Kos Ferry Tel. +90 252 316 08 82
- Ayvalik - Mitilini (Lesbos) Ferry Tel. +90 266 312 80 52
- Other services to Greek Islands. Cesme – Chios / Kusadasi – Samos / Marmaris – Rhodes / Datça – Symi are provided by Turkish Maritime Lines at Tel. +90 212 244 42 33
- Ferry-Boats Services across the Bosphorus Tel: 00 90 216 353 40 85

Finally, Turkish State Meteorological Service will keep you updated on the weather conditions at

http://www.meteor.gov.tr/index_eng.htm . Status of weather in Tourist Resorts, Satellite Images and Sea Temperatures.

Renting Bike or organizing a group tour

If renting a Bike in Turkey is your plan you may check at the places listed below: major tourist resorts offer during summer seasons motorcycles and scooters for rent. However, Turkey does not have a long tradition on this field and you better be sure of all terms and agreements.

Lotus Tour at www.lotustour.com was the first big operator for bikers to include Turkey in his offers. The first ride took place at the beginning of Summer 2002 and you can read a report from Court Fisher in

[OMM Bulletin August 01](#). [Kazim Uzunoglu](#), OMM Rider, was the guide and planner of this trip. Kazim is a superb travel organizer and rider. If you have a group with custom needs he can design it for you: Kazoom Moto Adventures, Belediye Sitesi D-1, Blok No.25, Ulus Mah, 80600 Istanbul, Turkey, Tel +90/532 284 2552, fax +90/212 241 2321, www.kazoom-moto-adventures.com Kazim can also be good “check point” for verifying your rental agreements in the Country.

Motorcycle Tours Turkey-Sardunya Travel, PK 82, Kusadasi/Aydin, Turkey, Tel +90/256 613 0230, fax +90/256 613 0233, www.motorcycleturkey.com , info@motorcycleturkey.com

Funduro at www.funduro.de organizes hard and soft enduro rides on the south coast and in Anatolia.

Turkegedem-Aktif Azimut Ltd, Degirmen Sokak No.2 TR, Iskele, Karaburun, Izmir, Tel +90/532 373 2423, fax +90/232 731 2463, offers bikes for rent and guides at <http://www3.ewebsite.com/turkegedem/>,

Motoport Kusadasi, Cumhuriyet Mah. Devrim Sok No.26, Kusadasi, Turkey, Tel +90/256 614 7030, fax +90/256 612 5113, www.kusadasi.net/motorport arranges BMW and Brand X bike rentals for all tour operators, and for independent riders.



Motorbikes Taurus organizes from the base in Antalya Enduro tours for individual and groups. Also for Enduro fans **Yoshi Moto** Turizm (Mekan Kent No 70 Armutalan 48700 Marmaris) conducts off-road expeditions and regular Tours. **Melitour** combines the pleasures of biking with Blue Cruises on the south coast. The tours were cancelled in 2001 but will resume next year.

From Australia **Ferris Wheels** (P O Box 743 Crows Nest 2065 Australia, Tel +61/2 9904 7419) at www.ferriswheels.com.au offers every year a guided tour across Turkey with the possibility to attend the Memorial Ceremony of the Gallipoli battle.

Turkish Web Sites for Bikers.



[Enduro Club of Turkey](#) is the largest virtual club in the Country. You can see their activities (quite impressive list of rides almost every week), members profiles and pictures, information on the country and on the club at

GoldWing Home Page The first motorcycle page of Turkey managed by Feza Haznedar. Feza is the Turkish Master in Gold Wing and the President of the local Wing Club: the site managed by him is dedicated to the Winger elite of the Country. If motorcycling is a new and limited sport Gold Wing ownership is really a "specialty": an estimated 60/80 Gold Wings form the totality of the market growing at a rate of 2/3 bikes per year. 30 Gold Wing are in Istanbul and the owners know each other's well. Honda Turkey provides a basic but poor assistance and a handful of mechanics can put hands to the Monster without causing damages. Still Feza managed to group around him few Wingers for regular outings and European Trips. The site has interesting points of reference for visitors to Turkey and good reports on rides and events.

The passionate of “Choppers” can contact Murat Ergul (murat.ergul@aquasun.com.tr) to discover the activities of the **Chopper Club** in Antalya.

Harley Davidson Owners Group at <http://www.hogtr.com> reports on the rich calendar of the Club with abundance of pictures and some suggestions for rides.

Reports on travelling through Turkey can be found at the International Motorcycle Adventurers www.rio.com/~tynda/index.html , on www.adventure-motorcycling.com/reports.htm and on the **essential Horizons Unlimited** pages at www.horizonsunlimited.com

Safety

Turkey is a quite safe Country: your person and your belongings will never come under risk as long as you behave correctly and kindly. The good rules of travelling mixing with the local culture and tradition will allow any rider to fully enjoy in complete safety the itinerary. Avoid any display of superiority and richness: consider the fact that your machine is worth sometime one year of earning in rural area. You will be frequently asked about the price of your bike: pretend ignorance in exchange and try to avoid the question. You will also be asked many personal questions at almost any stop. (Where do you come from? Are you married? What is your business?) This is not a sign of intrusion in your personal life and it should be accepted with good spirit. An opportunity to meet new friends and share, for a brief moment, the local life. With the exception of big cities, there is no need in Turkey to lock the bike: just take care of small personal item left in view: kids may be attracted and tempted. For the night, ask where you can leave the

bike: normally the vehicle will receive adequate accomodation (Local hotels or pension will invite you to take the bike in the lobby). In big cities just lock the bike around a pole and, again, take care of personal item left in view (GPS, Gloves, and small accessories removable). Do not offer rides on the bike: if something happens you will be liable for personal damages. Take with you just the indispensable (the part you need is always the one you did not carry). Based on collective experience we recommend setting up a small bag to take always with you when travelling on Turkey. This small list of items can save troubles to you personally while helping your friends to enjoy one more mile.



- Bike and insurance documents (make a copy to leave on the bike. Originals with you)
- Spare keys (it is recommended to carry the ignition and lock spare key around the neck or on your person. Do not leave it on the bike)
- Tool box and owner manual
- Lock (chain or disk lock)
- First aid kit (check expiring date and include personal medications)
- Tires repair kit (self-inflating can or tubeless repair kit)
- Set of light bulbs and fuses
- Spare cables for trottle and clutch (already mounted in place)
- Two meters of electric cable
- Fuel bag (pliable tank for 2/5 liters of fuel)
- Flexible pipe for fuel transfer (min 2 meters)
- Battery cables
- Torch (Spare Batteries), Knife (Multi-Blades type), Set Of Spare Gloves, Spare Visor or Goggles, Pen and Paper, Matches, Toilet paper, Towel
- Maps, Compass



Finally if your route takes you far away from home always carry with you a link to the best site for Motorcycle Travelers: Horizons Unlimited