



Turkey 2016 Crime & Safety Report: Adana

Travel Health and Safety; Transportation Security; Stolen items; Theft; Religious Terrorism; Separatist violence; Riots/Civil Unrest; Earthquakes; Employee Health Safety

Europe > Turkey; Europe > Turkey > Adana

2/22/2016

Overall Crime and Safety Situation

Adana is a large city with a population of 1.85 million.

Post Crime Rating: Low

Crime Threats

Prostitution, narcotics, muggings, and other petty crimes do occur. Crimes of opportunity (pickpocketing, purse snatching) may occur more frequently; however, random violent crime is rare.

Cybersecurity Issues

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While there is no specific cyber threat against Americans in Adana, visitors are cautioned to use good judgment when placing personal information on the Internet and to guard their electronic devices carefully.

Areas of Concern

Official Americans are restricted from the following neighborhoods in Adana: Sakirpasa, Gulbahcesi, Daglioglu, Barbaros, Anadolu, and Ondokuzmayis.

U.S. government employees are also subject to travel restrictions and require advance approval prior to official or unofficial travel to the southeast provinces of irnak, Diyarbakir, Van, Siirt, Mu, Mardin, Batman, Bingöl, Tunceli, Hakkari, Bitlis, Elazi, Gaziantep, Antakya, anliurfa, and Kilis. In particular and most recently, Diyarbakir, Mardin, irnak, and Hakkari have seen a spike in violence associated with the Turkish/Kurdish unrest. Violence in these areas have resulted in the deaths of many security, terrorist, and civilian personnel. U.S. military and Department of Defense civilians have additional restrictions and should consult their local area commander to obtain the latest travel guidance.

Mount Ararat, in Ar province, is a special military zone and permission for access must be obtained from the Turkish government through a Turkish Embassy or Consulate before coming to Turkey. U.S. citizens traveling in southeastern Turkey and to Mt. Ararat should exercise extreme caution.

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Transportation-Safety Situation

Road Safety and Road Conditions

Road safety and conditions are generally good, especially in major arteries and thoroughfares. However, smaller streets in neighborhoods and in rural areas can be neglected. Driving at night or in inclement weather can be particularly challenging.

Traffic and the threat of accidents provide a daily challenge for anyone living in or visiting Adana, and traffic fatalities are high nationwide. Drivers are aggressive and frequently ignore basic traffic regulations by driving through red lights and stop signs or by turning left from the far right lane.

Pedestrians also flaunt traffic rules by crossing against the light and walking in the street. Sidewalks and driveways are often blocked by parked vehicles. Pedestrians do not have the right-of-way, and extreme caution should be exercised when crossing all streets.

Public Transportation Conditions

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Adana's rail mass transit system is not extensive and not widely used by visitors.

Municipal buses and private "dolmu" minibuses cover most of the city, but they can be hard to navigate without some level of Turkish.

Taxis are plentiful, and the majority of drivers are honest. Only utilize taxis with meters, sit in the back seat, and utilize the seat belt when present. Do not accept food or drink from the driver and record the license or number of any taxi you enter.

Aviation/Airport Conditions

Security at Adana's international airport is satisfactory. Many airports in Turkey utilize private security firms to handle all person/luggage screening. The Turkish National Police Immigration Department process all passengers who enter/exit Turkey via international airports. In addition, the Customs Department randomly inspects luggage and other personal items.

Terrorism Threat

Post Terrorism Rating: High

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Local, Regional, and International Terrorism Threats/Concerns

While there has not been significant spillover of the war into southern Turkey, there have been several incidents of indirect fire (either intentional or not) and direct terrorist attacks. Dozens were killed in terrorist attacks during 2013, and after a lull in 2014, attacks claimed more lives during 2015. The most deadly incident in the southeast occurred when a suicide bomber killed 33 people in the small anlurfa province city of Suruç on July 20, 2015. Several other incidents throughout southeast Turkey, including law enforcement action against terrorist organizations in Diyarbakir and Gaziantep, have claimed the lives of dozens. Border towns are areas of concern, and cross-border indirect fire has been of particular concern recently in Kilis province, with one civilian killed and several injured. There have also been reports of small-arms fire across the border from Syria into Kilis and Gaziantep. Additionally, there have been reports of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other extremists using southeastern Turkey as a safe area to funnel recruits across the border and to bring wounded for medical treatment.

Political, Economic, Religious, and Ethnic Violence

Post Political Violence Rating: High

Civil Unrest

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Last year saw an increase in tensions between Kurdish demonstrators and Turkish security forces that led to several incidents of protests and violence throughout southeast Turkey. Regional events sparked protests that turned violent in the fall of 2015. The ceasefire between Turkish security forces and Kurdish supporters came into question following several attacks by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and government-imposed curfews in many Kurdish neighborhoods. The conflict continued to escalate during the waning months of 2015, resulting in deaths of security, terrorists, and civilian personnel in Diyarbakir, Mardin, irnak, and Hakkari. Tensions remain high, and security operations continue in a number of locations. Travelers to the southeast and border provinces of Turkey should remain vigilant and be aware that there are groups that could disrupt travel or take actions that unintentionally cause injury to innocent travelers.

Adana has also seen its share of incidents, including demonstrations that have resulted in conflicts between protestors and the Turkish National Police (TNP).

Post-specific Concerns

Environmental Hazards

Adana sits on the North Anatolian fault line and is very susceptible to earthquakes. Most buildings, particularly those built prior to the 1999 Izmit earthquake, do not comply with Western earthquake standards and would likely sustain heavy damage in a significant quake. Travelers are encouraged to consider this threat when identifying office/residential property. Earthquake preparedness should be incorporated into emergency planning.

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Personnel Background Concerns

In general, Turkish men are respectful toward women; however, physical assaults can occur. Foreign women may be verbally harassed, stared at, pinched, or followed. Often, a man's insistent advances are the result of cultural misinterpretations of behavior. Some Turkish men might interpret smiling or friendliness as an invitation, so it is best to keep interactions with unfamiliar men as formal as possible and avoid eye contact with men on the street.

Kidnapping Threat

In recent years, there have been kidnappings that are either politically or criminally motivated and involve Turkish politicians/citizens. While there has been no reported kidnapping of Westerners from Turkey, the presence of ISIL is always a concern.

Police Response

Turkish law dictates behavior toward Turkish political figures and institutions, particularly the founder of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. It is a crime to insult or to deface statues and images of Atatürk and the Turkish flag, including its use on clothing. Authorities enforce these laws vigorously. Citizens will quickly take offense at any perceived criticism or show of disrespect toward Atatürk. In addition, insults in social media or otherwise against

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political figures are increasingly prosecuted.

How to Handle Incidents of Police Detention or Harassment

If you are an American citizen and are detained or harassed by the police, contact American Citizen Services at +90(322)455-4100 or via email at acsadana@state.gov.

Crime Victim Assistance

The Turkish National Police (TNP) is a professional police force and is responsive to crimes committed against foreigners. If American citizen becomes the victim of a crime while in Adana, contact the local police (dial 155) and the U.S. Consulate (+90(322)455-4100). The Consulate can:

Replace a stolen passport;

Help you find appropriate medical care if you are the victim of violent crimes;

Put you in contact with the appropriate police authorities, contact family members/friends; and

Help you understand the local criminal justice process and direct you to local attorneys, although local authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting the crime.

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Police/Security Agencies

Employing almost 228,000 sworn police officers, the TNP is one of the largest public sector organizations in the country. The TNP is the leading law enforcement organization and prides itself on providing professional police and security services to the general public.

The Gendarme is a paramilitary police force that provides law enforcement services outside of major cities and in rural areas.

Medical Emergencies

In the event of a medical emergency, dial 112 for emergency medical ambulance service. Most emergency rooms in Adana have physicians who speak English.

Country-specific Vaccination and Health Guidance

The winter brings poor air quality to certain neighborhoods due to burning coal, wood, and other materials for home heating.

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For additional information on vaccines and health guidance, please visit the CDC at:
http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/turkey?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001.

OSAC Country Council Information

The U.S. Embassy in Ankara and Embassy Branch Office Gaziantep have recently formed OSAC Country Councils that are being integrated with Istanbul's longstanding Country Council to form a joint Country Council. To be added to the Council's electronic mailing list, contact Selin Obekci obekcis@state.gov. To reach OSAC's Europe team, please email OSACEUR@state.gov.

U.S. Consulate Location and Contact Information

Consulate Address and Hours of Operation

The U.S. Consulate in Adana

Girne Bulvari No:212 Guzelevler Mah.

Yuregir, Adana - Turkiye

Hours of operation: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri. The Consulate is closed for all U.S. federal

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holidays and select Turkish holidays.

Consulate Contact Numbers

Switchboard: +90 (322) 455-4100

Website: <http://adana.usconsulate.gov/>

Nearby Posts

Embassy Ankara: <http://turkey.usembassy.gov/>

Consulate General Istanbul: <http://istanbul.usconsulate.gov/>

Consulate Guidance

Americans are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's STEP travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in the case of an emergency. In addition, all travelers should read the Consular

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Information Sheet for the latest information pertaining to Turkey and the security environment.

Tips on How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

Situational Awareness Best Practices

The Regional Security Office reminds all visitors to follow basic personal security practices, including avoiding walking alone after sunset in unpopulated areas. It is recommended to travel with a companion during late night and early morning hours. Using good judgment and common sense will go a long way in helping ensure you do not become a victim of a crime. Always remain alert and aware of your surroundings.

Men should secure their wallets and carry only a limited amount of money placed in various locations on their person. Women should secure their purses close to their body while walking and when they put them down at restaurants and other venues. Carry only what cash and valuables are needed. Keep a photocopy of your passport with you; keep the original in your hotel, preferably in a safe deposit box.

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