



## Special Travel Notice for Turkey

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In accordance with MS 220, 3.3.2, the Offices of Safety and Security and Global Operations **restrict Volunteer travel to Turkey until further notice.** Transit through the Istanbul Atatürk Airport and the Esenboğa International Airport in Ankara is permissible as long as Volunteers do not leave the airport. For additional information, please consult the Department of State Travel Warning for Turkey at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

### **Guidance regarding Volunteer and staff travel through Istanbul, Turkey:**

In light of the recent terrorist attack at the Ataturk Airport in Istanbul (IST) and the U.S. State Department's warning to travelers about increased terrorist threats throughout Turkey, international transit through Istanbul's Ataturk Airport (IST) will only be permitted for staff (official travel) or Volunteers (official and personal) provided that:

#### **For travelers who are planning future travel:**

- You remain inside of the secured section of the airport at all times. This means you cannot visit or access any area beyond passport, customs or security control checkpoints (e.g., baggage, ticket counter, lobby, or any other area outside of the secured section of the airport).
- You travel on one ticket, or if your airline is using codeshare partnerships with other airlines that your Istanbul connection arrives and departs from the same airport (IST), and that your baggage at your departure point will be checked through to your destination. Before purchasing your ticket you must verify with the airline or travel agent that you will not be required to collect your luggage at Istanbul and pass beyond passport, customs and security control checkpoints. You must either have boarding passes for your entire journey, or be able to get the boarding pass for the follow-on portion of your trip without leaving the international transit area.
- Do not use split tickets, where two or more separate tickets are issued to arrive and depart Istanbul. This sort of ticketing is common on travel sites i.e., Orbitz and Priceline, and almost always require you to leave the secured area of the airport and collect and re-check your luggage.

#### **For travelers who have already purchased a ticket prior to July 8, 2016:**

- Check with your airline or travel agent to see if you will be required to travel outside of the airport's secured area. If you are required to leave the secured area, inquire with the airline or your ticket agent about possible no-fee modifications to your itinerary that will prevent you from having to leave the secured area. If this is available then please modify your tickets accordingly.
- If you are unable to make a no-fee modification to your itinerary and you are required to leave the secure area of the airport, make every effort to collect your luggage, re-check your luggage, and re-enter the secured portion of the airport as soon as possible. At no point may you leave the airport.

#### **For all travelers:**

- Should a security incident occur while you are transiting through Istanbul, please be sure to notify your Peace Corps post or office as soon as possible.
- If you plan on transiting through Istanbul and you are assured of the process as outlined above, please be sure to notify Peace Corps Post or Office accordingly.