

ANKARA AIR STATION, TURKEY

ANKARA ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL

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GRADES: K-12 200 STUDENTS

Ankara, the capital of Turkey, has a population of approximately 5,000,000. It is located near the center of the Anatolian Plateau at an altitude of 2,600 feet. It lies about 250 miles southeast of Istanbul and 380 miles east of Izmir.

Ankara school is three miles from the center of Ankara, in a section of the city called Balgat. It is located on a portion of a former U.S. Air Force installation, the Ankara Air Station. The Turkish government has moved into 82% of the base, while the Americans retained the other 18% to house the school and its facilities and a few other buildings. The elementary and high school are housed in separate wings of the same structure, with the media center, administrative offices, supply, counseling center, and multi-purpose room located in between them. There are classrooms, a nurse's office, a speech room and a learning disabilities room in the elementary wing. The high school wing houses general classrooms, science labs, a computer room, a business lab, an art room, and an industrial technology room. A gymnasium is in a separate building next to the school. The school has a new track and soccer field. About one-third of the student body are not U.S. citizens, with students coming from many different nations.

As the school is not part of an active military base, there are no university educational facilities. There is no commissary or BX available. However, a very small CX (combining a limited list of commissary and BX items) is built into the school. Items can be ordered from the Incirlik Air Base commissary and BX. Limited services are available from the American Embassy located in downtown Ankara, such as a personal check cashing service, a video club, and gasoline sales. In addition, gasoline coupons can be used at a few Petrol Ofisi stations in Ankara. Individuals locate their own Turkish doctors, dentists, and hospitals to get medical treatment. The U.S. Embassy provides a list of medical specialists who speak English. A U.S. Air Force hospital with Air Force doctors is available at the Incirlik Air Base near Adana, 250 miles southeast of Ankara. There is limited U.S. postal window service, but mail is sent out and received daily.

The Turkish government requires all Defense Department personnel to have a beyanname, which is a Turkish customs form that lists the possessions that were imported into Turkey. When departing the country -- whether it be two years or twenty years later--this beyanname will be checked to see that the items on that list are being taken back out of Turkey. Stiff fines are imposed for items that are not accounted for. Automobiles and electronic appliances are beyanname items that are strictly monitored.

Privately owned vehicles should be shipped to Izmir. Turkish registration is required. An American driver's license, along with a valid international license, needs to be obtained before arrival in Turkey. Leaded gas and diesel fuel are readily available on the economy, with

unleaded gas found at a limited, but growing, number of gas stations. Many persons remove their catalytic converter before shipping their vehicle in order to use leaded gas. However, an adapter must be obtained in order to pour in the leaded gas because the nozzle is larger than the one used for the non-leaded gas. With the increased availability of unleaded gas this is becoming less necessary. Gasoline is expensive, but discount priced coupons are available from the U.S. Embassy. Easily maintained cars are highly recommended. Getting American car parts is difficult and expensive. Only one tax free car per family may enter Turkey. In general, parts are most readily available for common European cars. Some individuals choose to purchase their one tax-free car within Turkey, getting either a European or Turkish vehicle. However, due to bureaucratic problems, this can be frustrating and time consuming.

Ankara is a large, bustling city with many modern stores. The famed Ulus area offers the old style shops, which sell everything from basic tools and foods to antiques and carpets. There is a diverse selection of restaurants, running the gamut from the very luxurious to inexpensive corner establishments. The National Ballet and Opera offers excellent performances at bargain prices, and the State Orchestra presents many fine concerts. There are several museums, and current movies can be seen in English. Membership is available at the Turkish American Association, where one can learn about the language and culture of Turkey, and in ARIT, an organization which supports archaeological projects in Turkey and provides archaeological lectures, along with trips to important sites.

Government quarters are not available, and local hotels are used as temporary living facilities. Americans usually rent apartments in the residential neighborhoods of Cankaya and Gazi Osman Pasa, and some locate in a suburban area where villas with yards can be rented. There are no furniture loaner kits available for recent arrivals. There is no housing office to help persons to locate and visit apartments, although a small listing can be provided to apartment hunters.

American television sets do not pick up the Turkish television signals, and most Americans use dual system television to receive the European signals and to play American videos. All television stations are broadcast in Turkish only. Many apartment buildings, however, are wired to provide cable TV, which includes the following English speaking stations: CNN, World Wide NBC, and BBC. The cable TV also has Turkish, German, French, Italian, and Spanish speaking stations. The electrical current is 220 volts, with transformers necessary to run American electrical appliances.

There is a foreign post differential allowance of 10%

An updated vaccination card for pets is required. Incoming personnel need to check with the Turkish consulate or embassy in their current country of residence to find out which forms and procedures are required to bring a pet into Turkey. Currently there is no quarantine period. However, there have been instances in which pets have been placed on the beyanname, meaning that the pet must be taken out of the country at the end of the owner's tour of duty.

The climate is dry, with pleasant, sunny summers and a long, chilly winter. School is canceled once a year, on average, due to snow days. The snows are not frequent, and, generally, not heavy. Winter pollution in Ankara is extensive, and many persons purchase air cleaning

appliances. Persons with respiratory problems may experience difficulty. Traffic congestion is a growing problem in Ankara. Apart from this, living conditions are quite good, except for the occasional electricity and water outages.

A family of three or four should have approximately \$5000 in cash or traveler's checks to cover settling in, hotel, living, and new apartment rental expenses. A single person should have about \$3,500 readily available.