

Turkey Experience in Developing Tourism

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Abstract:

This research paper aims to explain some elements related to the tourism sector and tourism culture by examining Turkey's experience in this sector and the good reception of its guests from tourists, focusing initially on sustainable tourism development that cannot succeed without individuals who contribute to advancing the wheel of development through planting a tourism culture that enables the creation of generations that knows the value and role of tourism in developing the economy and achieving sustainable development. Turkey is one of the countries that managed and succeeded in developing and making this sector successful because of its nature and breathtaking scenery, in addition to the ancient Ottoman history and castle on the one hand, and the strategic location that connects two continents and cultures Europe and Asia and attracting tourists in various ways in the other hand.

Keywords: Tourism, types of tourism, the importance of tourism, the Turkish economy, the tourism sector in Turkey.

JelClassificationCodes: F63, F69, O13, O40.

1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism is one of the largest growing industries in the world. Today, it has become one of the most important sectors in international trade, as it is a production sector that is of great importance in increasing national income, improving the balance of payments, a source of hard currencies, providing employment opportunities for labor, and a goal to achieve economic development programs. Its revenues amounted to hundreds of billions of dollars, and the number of tourists hundreds of millions, in addition to that it interests many parties including the private sector institutions and NGOs, the expansion of the sectors and services concerned with them, as well as the huge infrastructure required to support them (transport, bank, financial institutions Advertising, promotion and promotion institutions ... etc.).

In light of this, the following question may be asked:

What are the factors that helped Turkey to develop its tourism sector?

Therefore, this issue will be addressed through two axes, the first axis will address tourism in general, and the second axis will address Turkey's experience in order to support and develop the tourism sector.

2. Generalities of Tourism

This topic will be covered in:

2.1 Definition of tourism:

Tourism is a set of civilizational, cultural and economic activities carried out by an individual who moves from one country to another and continues to exist for more than at least a day, and there are multiple purposes for which he traveled, but it does not include work.

Tourism is an important activity that many individuals all over the world travel and move from one place to another in order to bring joy and enjoyment to themselves and feel comfortable and relaxed. It also helps them to relieve stress and psychological anxiety and obtain opportunities for recreation and recreation.

2.2 The importance of tourism

Tourism is an important sector in the industry: (Thakur, 2019)

- Tourism enhances the growth of the industries by welcoming foreign trade offers. (Information is the major source of development)
- Tourism helps the flourishing of all classes in society since direct and indirect business is conducted in terms of services (no/minimum investment required)
- Tourism ensures the proper working of the Government towards the development of the state since when tourists arrive, they are free marketing/advertising agents who are freelancing and providing revenue to the country/state/town/village.
- Tourism enhances the development of rural areas as per the requirement in terms of roads, connectivity, availability of services and emergency services, side by side generating revenue in multiple ways using the same of the above.
- Tourism helps the state in also incorporating international businesses enhancing the major industrial aspects, for ex. Jobs.

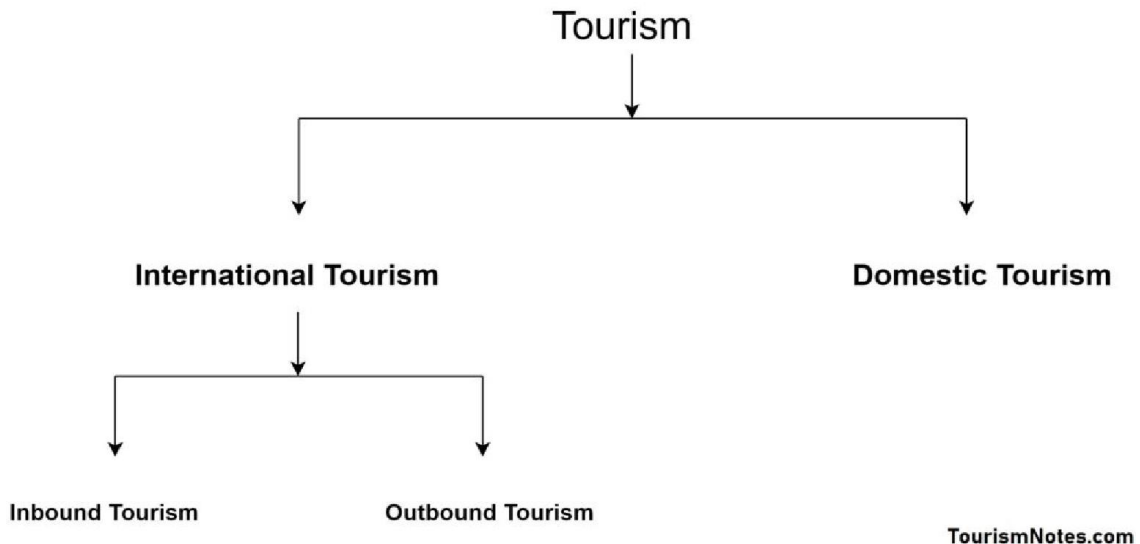
There are many more things that can actually be developed with the help of Tourism, some of which are already mentioned by my fellow friends below, but it surely is a part of the backbone

of any state/country serving its best purposes for the same.(Europa, 2021)

2.3 Types and forms of tourism

Tourism has two types: **international** and **domestic tourism**.

Fig.1. Types of Tourism



Source: TourismNotes.com on site web: <https://tourismnotes.com/travel-tourism/>

- International Tourism

International tourism comprises inbound tourism and outbound tourism. The activities of resident visitors outside the country of reference, either as part of domestic or outbound tourism trips and the activities of non-resident visitors within the country of reference on inbound tourism trips International tourism is divided into two; **Inbound Tourism & Outbound Tourism**.(Aksu, 2019)

a. Inbound Tourism

Means to visit a country by visitors who are not residents of that country.

b. Outbound Tourism

Means visiting a country by visitors who are residents of that country.

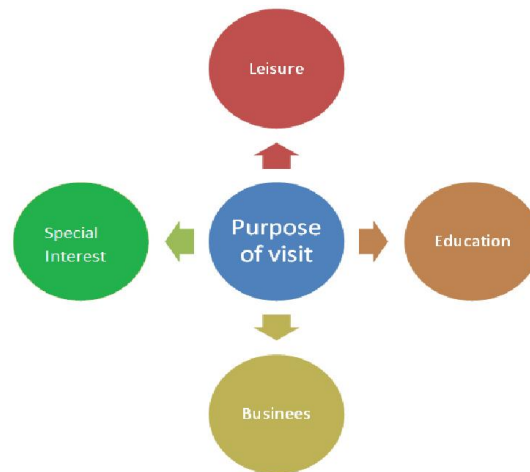
- Domestic Tourism

Domestic tourism is tourism involving residents of one country traveling only within that country. A playing holiday is a holiday spent in the same country; this class may overlap with staycation, a vacation spent in the same region. This is different from inbound tourism.

2.4 Forms of Tourism

There are different purposes of visits:

Fig.2. Tourism Forms



Source : http://oer.nios.ac.in/wiki/images/e/e3/Forms_of_tourism.png

3. Classification of Tourism

Tourism can be classified into **six distinct categories** according to the purpose of travel. These are following as:(Thakur, 2019)

- **Recreational**: Recreational or leisure tourism takes a person away from the humdrum of everyday life. In this case, people spend their leisure time at the hills, sea beaches etc.
- **Cultural**: Cultural tourism satisfies the cultural and intellectual curiosity and involves visits to ancient monuments, places of historical or religious importance, etc.
- **Sports/Adventure**: Trips have taken by people with a view to playing golf, skiing and hiking, fall within this category.
- **Health**: Under this category, people travel for medical, treatment or visit places where there are curative possibilities, for example, hot springs, spa yoga, etc.
- **Convention Tourism**: It is becoming an increasingly important component of travel. People travel within a country or overseas to attend conventions relating to their business, profession or interest.
- **Incentive Tourism**: Holiday trips are offered as incentives by major companies to dealers and salesmen who achieve high targets in sales. This is a new and expanding phenomenon in tourism, these are in lieu of cash incentives or gifts. Today incentive tourism is a 3-billion-dollar business in the USA alone.

4. Turkish experience in the tourism sector

Turkey is considered a point of cohesion between Asia and Europe, the largest part of which is located in Asia (called Anatolia), and the remaining part of Europe represented in Istanbul, the distinguished location of Turkey and its exploitation of all natural, cultural and historical potentials, making it an unparalleled tourist pole, through its diversity and containing several Tourist forms in addition to classical tourism (sea, nature ...)

Tourism in Turkey focuses to a large extent on a variety of historical sites and coastal resorts, and in recent years Turkey has become a destination for culture and health tourism, where in 2017 Turkey ranked eighth globally with approximately 37.6 million tourists after the United Kingdom.

4.1 The advantages of tourism in Turkey

Tourism in Turkey is characterized by diversity, and in the past few years it has become a global destination for tourism, thanks to the ingredients it has achieved.

- Mineral tourism (curative):

It is this tourism that aims to rest, recuperate or physiotherapy in spa, the latter has received attention from all segments, where Turkey is placed on an important belt of ground energy, and is considered one of the first seven countries in the world in terms of number and energy sources in it. In Turkey, there are more than 1,000 hot groundwater sources.

- Hunting tourism:

The geographic structure of Turkey, where vegetation and wildlife makes it susceptible to development in the field of hunting tourism, therefore hunting centers have been established taking into account the productive capacity of hunting animals under the supervision of the Ministry of Forestry and the General Directorate of Public Parks, Hunting and Wildlife.

-Winter tourism:

Perhaps one of the most important tourism centers in Turkey is the uninterrupted mountains of summer and winter and the tourist centers established above for skiing, and in the framework of the tourism strategy (2007-2013) the winter tourism corridor has been identified in the regions: Erzincan, Erzurum, Agri, Kars, Erzurum . Where winter sports are organized, as the tourism strategy aims to develop winter tourism centers with their portfolios.

-Ideological tourism:

The development of technology has linked people without any regard for international borders, and has generated a rapprochement between different religions, civilizations and cultures.

-Conference Tourism:

Turkey, with its cultural and historical treasury, serves as a gateway to the exciting world of potentials, and a great place for interesting meetings and conferences, where the Asian continent meets Europe. Turkey includes many luxury hotels, in addition to its remarkable richness in conference buildings, and is characterized by easy access to it, its picturesque scenery and unique artifacts. (Thakur, 2019)

- Golf tourism:

In recent years, Turkey has transformed into a golf center, gathering its high behavior, advantages, open facilities one after the other and with international specifications, bringing together golf lovers from all over the world.

- Youth Tourism:

Youth tourism is one of the effective means in developing their personalities, informing them of new places and lifestyles and intensifying their social relations.

- Yacht tourism:

The Mediterranean Sea, the Aegean Sea, the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara are surrounded by Turkey on three sides: North, West and South. Turkey is a paradise for the owners of yachts who throw their moorings on this coast and that gulf.

- Botanical Tourism:

The Anatolia Peninsula contains many rare species of plants due to its geographical nature, its different regions and its location as a natural bridge connecting three continents.

- Cave tourism:

Turkey is a cave paradise when compared to the rest of the world, as it contains about 40,000 caves, and the cave tourism is concentrated in the western mountains and the center of Taurus.

- Plains tourism:

The geography of Turkey and its climatic region give another advantage and beauty to Turkey. Rural living is important for these countries, making Turkey a destination for steppe tourism.

- The sport of mountain climbing:

There are mountains in Turkey with different heights and rich as well as technology next to these mountains there are forests with weeds and wildflowers, and these make Turkey the appropriate place to practice mountain climbing. (Aksu, 2019)

- Rowing

Turkey is one of the countries rich in water, springs and seas, and this feature increases its importance, especially in the field of tourism, as it is suitable for practicing various types of water activities, including rowing and boat racing.

- Underwater diving tourism:

Turkey is an important place for divers, because it contains caves and rocks that are located under the sea and is awaiting discovery.

- Bird watching tourism:

Bird watching is one of the hobbies in which nature can be recognized through bird watching, because birds are a sign of the healthy atmosphere and they are present in all areas of life, and birds can be seen inside the city, in the garden, in the forest, in the desert and throughout the region. (Thakur, 2019)

- Air sport tourism:

Turkey is an important place for paragliding, ballooning, so it is important for fans of these types of sports.

4.2 Characteristics of the Turkish tourism sector:

The following are some of the characteristics that characterize the tourism sector in Turkey:

- In 2016, Turkey was the tenth most popular tourist destination in the world according to the World Tourism Organization.

According to the information released by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the number of foreign travelers coming to Turkey in 2017 reached 38.6 million, while the total revenue for the tourism field in the same year was \$ 26 billion.

The rate of growth in the Turkish tourism field has been higher than the global average in recent years, and the direct contribution rate from this field to the current account deficit in 2017 was 36 percent.

- By the end of 2017, there were 12,856 registered hotel accommodations. There were 9,186 establishments licensed by its municipalities, while the remaining 3,670 establishments owned licenses to operate in the tourism field. The total combined capacity of these facilities exceeds 1,482,492 beds. (ICTA, 2019)

- There are currently 281 projects under construction that will add 74,130 beds that are highly required to bridge the deficit in this area in Turkey.

As for religious tourism, Turkey is among the few countries in the world that includes sites belonging to several major religions. With a total number of 316 sacred historical monuments, 167 of which belong to the Islamic religion, 129 are for the Christian religion, and 20 are for the Judaism.

- Antalya is the most preferred city in Turkey based on the number of foreign visitors coming to it. Its share of the total percentage of foreign visitors was 25 per cent in 2017, as Antalya has more than 500 hotels of 4 and 5 stars in the city center and surrounding towns such as Kemer, Belek and Cache. (ICTA, 2019)

- The number of hotel chains and groups in Turkey has more than doubled since 2001, reaching today to 165. The number of hotels in these 165 chains in Turkey is 824. In addition, 82 percent of hotel groups and chains are locally owned, while 15 percent of these, foreign owned, while 3% of these hotels are owned by local and foreign partners.

Turkey possesses an area of 7,200 km of coastline and ranks second in 38 countries thanks to its balance of 454 beaches with blue flag certification; Only Spain with the largest score of 579 blue flag certified beaches. There are also 22 blue anchorage ships with a blue flag in Turkey.

- In terms of the ingredients for the promotion of geothermal tourism, Turkey is among the seven major countries in the world and ranks first in Europe thanks to the presence of 1,500 hot springs. The capacity of the various thermal spas reached 55,140 in total.

- Belek also emerges as the most desirable place to enjoy golfing in Turkey and has been ranked among the most famous tourist centers in the world with 15 golf courses, and a capacity of 50,000 beds attracted two million tourists. Moreover, Belek was named the Best Golf Destination in Europe by the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) in 2008.

- Based on 2017 tourism figures, Forbes Travel ranked the top 10 most visited cities in the world, and Istanbul ranked sixth.

- The tourism sector has set annual targets to receive 50 million tourists and generate revenue of \$ 50 billion by 2023.

The Turkish government provides many incentives such as providing low interest rates and imposing low tax rates, while pursuing policies aimed at removing any bureaucratic barriers that may hinder growth in the tourism sector critically.

4.3 The reality of tourism in Turkey and its development:

Tourism in Turkey is in a development parallel to the positive economic course, and tourism income has contributed to the increase of the economy in recent years thanks to the increase in the number of tourists, in 2019, tourism achieved revenues estimated at about 30 billion dollars. Maritime tourism in Turkey attracts more attention due to its mild climate, and the Aegean coast, the White Sea and South Marmara are also important in marine tourism. This is in addition to the importance of winter tourism due to the increase in the average height, for example snow ski centers are available in the Uludag Mountains on the Bursa Argis in Kayseriobalandukan in the land of Romokartalkaya in Polo. (Thakur, 2019):

And the Turkish country attracts the attention of foreigners with its historical characteristics, it is Anatolia that embraced many civilizations from prehistoric times to our day such as the civilization of the Hittites, Assyrians, Sumerians, Babylonians and Persians, and the remains of the effects of those epochs contribute greatly to the development of tourism. In parallel, the

abundance of its modern and qualified facilities, large-scale shopping centers, specialized tourism agencies and airlines make Turkey a tourism center for them. Thanks to all these characteristics, Turkey has cut 2.7% of global tourism and 5.1% of the European tourism market, and thus ranked eighth in terms of tourism investment and ninth in terms of tourism income. Turkey has hosted 43 million tourists in 2019 and has become one of the ten countries the first for foreign tourism. The Turkish government expects that by 2023 (the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Turkish Republic) the number of foreign tourists will reach 50 million annually. (ICTA, 2019)

Turkish official statistical information indicated a significant increase in the volume of tourism revenues during the first quarter of 2019, which amounted to 4 billion and 629 million and 679 thousand dollars, and thus Turkey turned to the sixth destination in the world in attracting tourists. The data of the Turkish Statistics Agency revealed that the tourism sector achieved a 4.6% increase in revenues during the first quarter of 2019 compared to the same period of 2018. This is due to several internal and external factors, most notably the development of unconventional tourism patterns, the adoption of promotional policies for visitors, and faltering Tourism in neighboring countries. According to the Turkish Authority, 80.3 percent of tourism revenue came from foreign tourists, so that the average foreign tourist spending while in Turkey was \$ 678, and according to the Turkish Statistics Institute, the economic confidence index in Turkey increased by 3.4 percent during April 2019. The turmoil taking place in several countries in the region is a reason for increasing the targeting of tourists to Turkey, in line with indicators that spoke of a significant decline in the volume of tourist trips to Lebanon and Israel, as well as a significant decrease in tourism rates in both Syria and Egypt. (ICTA, 2019)

Government policies have contributed to pushing Turkey ahead to occupy the sixth position in the world to attract tourists, as its laws allow visitors from 17 nationalities to enter the country without a visa, and Ankara grants its visas on the gates of air, land and sea ports to the campaign of dozens of other nationalities, in addition to activating the electronic visa system for businessmen And tourists. The development of the services sector in the ports, trains, hotels and markets encouraged many visitors to prefer Turkey, as well as the privileges that the specialized services sector, such as hospitals and medical centers, offer to visitors for treatment seekers. (Thakur, 2019)

And the Arab face has become one of the most present in the Turkish tourist areas, after the German, Russian and British tourists, and among the reasons for increasing Arab tourism to Turkey: the means of propaganda and the spread of Turkish drama in the Arab media, what encouraged many Arab and Gulf families in particular to contact with Turkish culture through Tourist trips. The number of Arab tourists who visited Turkey in 2019 has risen as follows: (Trading Economics, 2019)

Table 1. The number of Arab tourists to Turkey in 2019

The number of Arab tourists to Turkey in 2019
1. Iraq: 545,905 tourists.
2. Saudi Arabia: 385,013 tourists.
3. Kuwait: 279,81 tourists.
4. Jordan 262,532 tourists.
5. Algeria 212,429 tourists.
6. Lebanon 199,277 tourists.
7. Libya 190,007 tourists.
8. Morocco 161,958 tourists.
9. Syria: 139,576 tourists.
10. Egypt: 125,360 tourists.
11. Tunisia 121,170 tourists.
12. Qatar 74,839 tourists.
13. Oman 62,189 tourists.
14. Bahrain 54,923 tourists.
15. Palestine: 45,614 tourists.
16. Yemen: 30,023 tourists.
17. The United Arab Emirates: 24,820 tourists.
18. Sudan 12,854 tourists.

Source: Turkey News Agency report on the site: <https://tr.agency/news-74859>

As for foreign tourists, they were as follows:

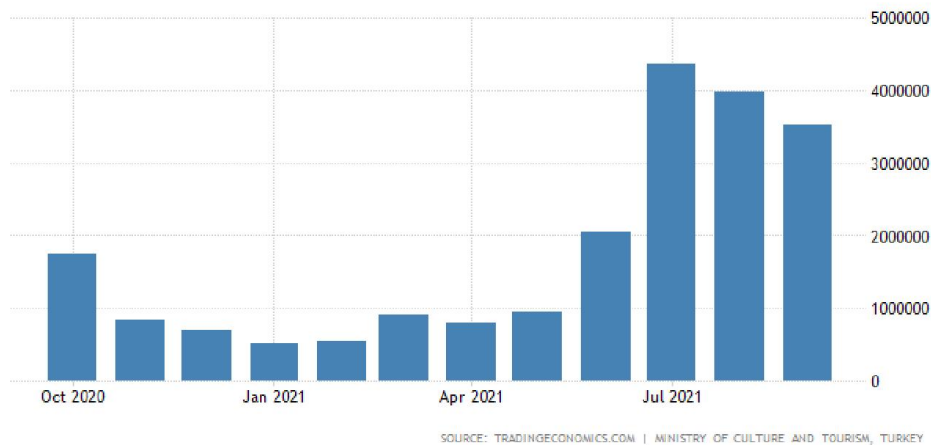
Table 2: The number of foreign tourists to Turkey in 2019

The number of foreign tourists to Turkey in 2019
1. Germany 858,128 tourists.
2. Iran 687,550 tourists.
3. Russia: 512,318 tourists.
4. France 387,763 tourists.
5. Britain: 367,096 tourists.

Source: Turkey News Agency report on the site: <https://tr.agency/news-74859>

The Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism confirmed that the number of tourists who visited Turkey during the first 11 months of 2019 reached 42 million, 910 thousand, and 408 tourists. The Directorate of Culture and Tourism in Istanbul that the city of Istanbul received about 6 million tourists from the beginning of this year (2021) until September of it. The directorate indicated in its figures that "5,829,920 foreign tourists visited Istanbul during the first nine months of this year (2021). She pointed out that "975,916 people visited Istanbul last September alone, an increase of 111% compared to the same month last year (2020)." (Trading Economics, 2021)

Fig.3. Turkey Tourist Arrivals in 2021



Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/turkey/tourist-arrivals>

4.4 Fields of tourism investment in Turkey:

The political and economic stability that Turkey gained during the past sixteen years from the ruling of the Justice and Development Party, made it a major center of attraction for foreign direct investment, and contributed to providing a stable investment environment, except for the huge leap achieved by its economy from 111 to 17th according to World Bank data. (ICTA, 2019)

The active and continuous growth of the Turkish tourism sector continues to advance, unaffected by the negative effects of the recent global economic crisis, and there is still an enormous amount of untapped potential in this sector. The picturesque coasts along the Aegean Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, long sandy beaches and pristine bays contribute greatly to this strongly growing sector. In addition to natural resources in Turkey, this country is considered the birthplace of many ancient civilizations that have left their mark on history. The large number of archeological sites that represent a borderline of Anatolia remind us of one of the many empires and diverse cultures, some of which date back thousands of years, wherever they settled. It is only natural that you find sacred places, temples and religious lands due to different cultures and beliefs, from Ephesus in the West to Mount Nimrod in the East and beyond. (Turkey News Agency, 2022)

Accordingly, the reality of encouraging tourism investment in Turkey is illustrated by:

✓ **Turkey's central and intermediate location for world continents:**

- Turkey is a land, sea and air bridge that connects the continents of Asia, Europe and Africa.
- Turkey's website provides easy access to 1.7 billion potential customers and merchandise consumer markets in: the European Union countries, East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.
- Turkey is an important passage to several markets around the world and for the transfer of energy to Europe.
- Turkey's position provides proximity to about 70% of the world's energy reserves, i.e. close to the Middle East, and on the other side, Turkey is the largest energy consumer, the European Union, which makes it an important link for energy transfer. (Width, 2022)

- Turkey's ports play a wide role in the transfer of energy. The Bosphorus Strait is of great importance in connecting the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara. The Dardanelles Strait also connects the Aegean and the Marmara Sea, all of which facilitates trade operations in Turkey, import, export, and transport of goods and transit.

✓ **Government Incentives:**

The Turkish government provides incentives and pursues policies that offer low interest rates and a low tax rate while resolutely eliminating any bureaucratic barriers that may hinder the growth of the sector. The combined efforts of the government and sector institutions have already enabled increased investment in new areas, such as building large conference and exhibition centers that contributed to the prosperity of the events sector, especially in the largest city in the country.

✓ **VAT exemption:**

The investor is exempted from paying the value-added tax for all supplies, equipment, technologies and non-material rights that he purchased or rented for the investment, if he obtained the investment promotion certificate.

✓ **Allocate a place for investment:**

The Turkish government allocates a place for investment within the framework of the assets and foundations specified by the Turkish Ministry of Finance, for the large investments and strategic investments that have been awarded a certificate to encourage investment.

✓ **Reducing the tax rate:**

The percentage of income tax or corporate tax is reduced (corporate income tax reduced from 30% to 20%) until the investment is able to achieve the planned contribution rate from it.

✓ **Exemption from customs duties:**

- The investor who holds the investment promotion certificate is exempted from paying the customs tax for all supplies, equipment and machinery that were imported from outside Turkey.
- In addition to benefiting from the customs exemption with the European Union, which was established since 1996, and the free trade agreements (FTA) with 20 countries.
- A law to support innovation, research and development.
- Tax incentives and benefits in technology development areas, industrial areas and free zones.

✓ **Qualified workforce:**

- More than 29.2 million young people are highly educated and motivated. (Estate, 2022)
- Increased worker productivity.
- Nearly 610,000 students graduate annually from more than 183 universities.

✓ **Reformed and liberalized investment climate:**

- Turkey is the second largest climate subject to reforms among OECD countries in terms of restrictions on foreign direct investment since 1997
- Very competitive investment conditions.
- Strong culture in the industry and services sectors.
- A business-friendly business environment with an average of 1 day to start a business.
- About 41,397 companies with foreign capital.
- **National or international arbitration:** Resorting to national or international arbitration or any other alternative method for settling investment disputes arising from concession contracts for

public utilities signed between the state and the foreign investor may be provided, if this is agreed upon between the parties and that some other conditions are met.

✓ **Freedom to transfer profits:**

The third idea of the same article allows foreign investors to transfer their profits completely freely abroad through banks or private financial institutions.(ICTA, 2019)

✓ **Museums and monuments:**

Turkey is the land of nature, heritage, ancient Greek, and Islamic monuments that characterize Turkish architecture, as Turkey is the center of great mosques, bridges and rare museums, in addition to statues and palaces dating back to ancient times.

✓ **Huge domestic market**

- 69 million broadband subscribers in 2017.
- 78 million mobile phone subscribers in 2017.
- 62.5 million credit card users in 2016.
- 193 million passengers on airlines in 2016.

✓ **Successful economy**

- Booming economy, GDP increased more than three times, to \$ 857 billion in 2016, from \$ 231 billion in 2002 (TurkStat)
- Stable economic growth through an annual real GDP growth rate of 5.6% between 2002 and 2016 (TurkStat).
- A promising economy with a brilliant future, as it is expected to become one of the fastest growing economies among members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) during the period 2017-2020, with an annual average real GDP growth of 5.4 % (OECD)
- The thirteenth largest economy in the world and the fifth largest economy in comparison with the European Union in 2016 (GDP according to the principle of purchasing power parity, International Monetary Fund - World Economic Outlook report)
- Enterprise-based economy, with support amounting to \$ 145 billion in foreign direct investment (CBRT) in the past ten years.(KTB, 2020)
- A vibrant and mature private sector with \$ 143 billion in exports and a 300 per cent increase between 2002 and 2016 (TurkStat).

✓ **Ottoman libraries, Arabic and Islamic manuscripts:**

Turkey abounds many of libraries that were established during the Ottoman era and remained open to this day, to provide researchers and writers with the information and resources necessary to continue their bid for future generations. The first library with religious schools was established in each of the cities of Bursa and Polo. The library established within the Dar Al-Hadith School is in Edirne is one of the first libraries in the Ottoman period. The Endowment of the Dar Al-Hadith School established by Sultan Murad II (the father of Sultan Muhammad al-Fatih) indicates the existence of seventy-one volumes of rare manuscripts.

There are other libraries in Istanbul that contain many Arabic manuscripts and others. Among the most important of these libraries is the Coprili Library. The number of manuscripts in this library is two thousand seven hundred and seventy-five (2775), as well as Atef Effendi Library and the number of manuscripts has three thousand two hundred and twenty-eight (3228), and a library Ragheb Pasha, the number of manuscripts is one thousand two hundred and seventy-five volumes,

and the library is Nur Ottoman, and the number of manuscripts is five thousand fifty two (5052) manuscripts, and the Hajj Selim Agha Library and the number of manuscripts two thousand nine hundred and fifty two (2952) manuscript. (Thakur, 2019)

4.5 Turkey's tourism revenue growth and high economic confidence index:

The features of the recovery started to reflect on the Turkish economy, and tourism came at the forefront of indicators of improvement, as Turkey's revenues from the tourism sector during the first quarter of this year reached 4 billion and 629 million and 679 thousand dollars.

The Turkish Statistics Authority revealed today that Turkey's revenues from the tourism sector during the first quarter of 2019 increased by 4.6 percent, compared to the same period in 2018.

According to the Turkish Commission, 80.3 per cent of the tourism revenue came from foreign tourists, so that the average foreign tourist spending during his stay in Turkey was 678 dollars, while the Turkish resident abroad spent 765 dollars.

Likewise, the volume of Turkish spending during their foreign trips decreased by 1.1 percent, compared to the first three months of last year. The size of the Turks spending on their foreign visits amounted to one billion and 66 million and 706 thousand dollars.

On the other hand, according to the Turkish Statistical Organization, Turkey's economic confidence index increased by 3.4 percent in April 2019 compared to March 2018.

According to the Turkish Foundation, thanks to the rise in indicators of consumer confidence, the real sector and the services sector, the economic confidence index rose from 81.9 per cent in March to 84.7 per cent in April, bringing the consumer confidence index to 63.5, the real sector to 100, and the services sector to 83.1. (ICTA, 2019)

Likewise, data from the Turkish Statistics Institute in 2019 showed that Turkey's foreign trade deficit shrank 63.7 percent year on year in March to \$ 2.137 billion. Turkish exports fell 0.4 percent and imports fell 17.8 percent compared to March 2018 levels, the institute said

While the Turkish lira continues to decline against the major currencies, to reach in March 2019, 5.96 pounds to the dollar, sources considered that strengthening the sovereign wealth fund in Turkey, the capital of five state-owned banks, by 3.3 billion euros (\$ 3.7 billion) would enhance Economic growth and improves the exchange rate of the lira.

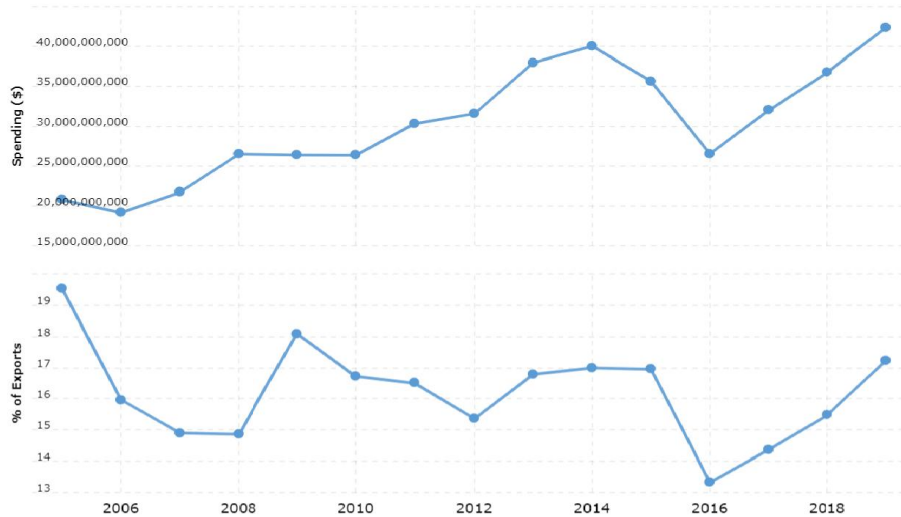
The sources considered that the stabilization of the interest rate as well as the continuing political turmoil, especially with the United States of America, due to Turkey's determination to import Russian "S 400 missiles", contributed to the decline in the price of the lira.

On Friday, the Turkish Central Bank's monetary policy committee decided to keep the main interest rate at 24 percent on repurchases for a week.

The Turkish Central Bank statement said that the data announced recently, shows that the balance in the Turkish economy continues, explaining that external demand has maintained its strength relatively, with the slowdown in economic activity due to the impact of the tightening in financial conditions.

The Turkish Central Bank expected the continuation of the improvement in the current account balance, while maintaining the tight financial position, until a significant improvement in inflation expectations is achieved. Stressing the continued use of all tools available to him in order to achieve price stability.

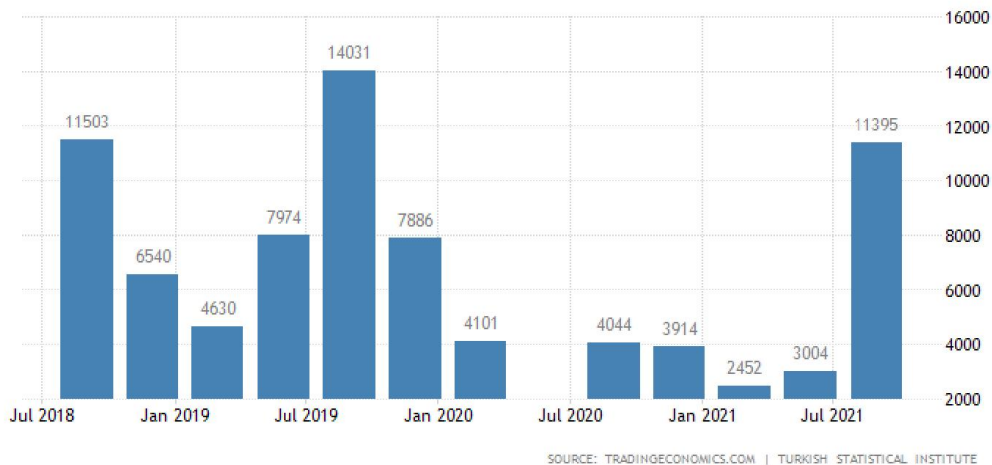
Fig.4. Tourism Expansion in Turkey



Source: World Bank, <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/TUR/turkey/tourism-statistics>

And tourism revenues in Turkey jumped 182 percent to \$11.4 billion in the third quarter of 2021, compared to a year ago, of which 78 percent came from foreign visitors and 22 percent from citizens resident abroad. The average expenditure per night was \$74 and visitors came to Turkey mostly for travel, entertainment, sports and cultural activities. In the previous quarter, the tourism revenue was \$3 billion.

Fig.5. Turkey Tourism Revenues



Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/turkey/tourism-revenues>

Conclusion

Turkey is one of the most beautiful, dynamic, energetic, and diversified countries in the world's natural systems and environments, and it is one of the countries that has a long history that spans many years. Turkey is also the center of the caliphate and scattered throughout the historical and archaeological castles dating back to the period of the caliphate, which made Turkey a tourist attraction nationwide, and this increased the beauty of its overwhelming nature, the large number of rivers and water bodies in it, in addition to the diversity of its climate, and tourism is considered It is the main tributary of the Turkish economy, as the number of tourists coming to it in one year reaches nearly thirty million tourists from all over the world. In recent years, Turkey has pursued an open policy to develop its tourism sector and attract tourists from around the world. Tourism in Turkey witnessed great progress during the 21st century and played a fundamental role in the growth of the country's economy, as it annually hosts millions of tourists from all over the world thanks to the promotion carried out by the Turkish Ministry of Tourism, because of the impact of tourism on all other sectors of the national economy, where it is carried out Benefiting from it directly, and this impact is reflected on the economic structure, social and environmental composition.

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