



## **Filming Permits in Turkey**

### **A Practical Guide for International Productions**

#### **Prepared by Turkish Film Commission**

#### **Why Film in Turkey?**

With its historical heritage, diverse geography and cost-effective production infrastructure, Turkey has become a natural open-air studio for international filmmakers. From the bustling streets of Istanbul to the surreal landscapes of Cappadocia, the country offers unmatched cinematic value.

#### **Who Issues Filming Permits?**

Filming permits in Turkey are issued by multiple government authorities depending on the type and location of the shoot:

- Ministry of Culture and Tourism (General permits and cultural/historical areas)
- Provincial Governorates (urban public areas and general city filming)
- Municipalities (parks, squares, neighborhoods)
- Museum Directorates (UNESCO and archaeological sites)
- Ministry of Interior / Police Departments (for traffic, security, and drone regulations)

#### **Step-by-Step Permit Process**

1. Project File Preparation (synopsis, crew & equipment list, shooting schedule)
2. Work with a Certified Local Fixer or Production Company (recommended by Turkish Film Commission)
3. Submit Application to Relevant Authority (Governorate, Municipality, Ministry, or Museum)
4. Drone Usage: Requires separate permit from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
5. Estimated Approval Time: 15–21 business days depending on location

## **Regional Permit Details**

### **Istanbul**

Managed by Istanbul Governorate and district municipalities. Sites like Hagia Sophia and Topkapi Palace require Ministry of Culture and National Palaces approval. Drone use is heavily restricted and permitted only to Turkish licensed operators.

### **Cappadocia**

Requires coordination with the Nevşehir Governorate and National Park Authority. Some valleys may also need environmental approvals.

### **Pamukkale, Ephesus, Göbeklitepe**

Governed by the Museum Directorates under the Ministry. Special approval required for sunrise or night shoots.

### **Bodrum, Antalya, Fethiye**

Municipality-level permits generally suffice. Marina and coastal areas may require Port Authority approval.

## **Drone Filming Regulations**

- Registration with the DGCA is mandatory.
- Drone operator must be a licensed Turkish citizen.
- Additional police clearance is required in cities like Istanbul and Ankara.
- Filming is prohibited in military zones, border areas, and national security sites.

## **Tips for a Smooth Process**

- Collaborate with a certified fixer or registered local production company
- Prepare documents in both English and Turkish
- Apply 3-4 weeks in advance
- Avoid public holidays and election periods
- Always carry printed permits on shoot days
- Some regions may require Area Directorate approval (e.g., Cappadocia)

## **Need Assistance?**

The Turkish Film Commission provides end-to-end support for international productions, including:

- Filming permit coordination
- Certified fixer and location manager network
- Full logistical support
- Drone compliance guidance

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