

Turkish Carpets



Turkish carpets, also known as Anatolian rugs, are among the most iconic and treasured textile arts in the world. With a history that dates back over 2,000 years, these carpets are celebrated for their intricate geometric patterns, rich symbolism, vibrant colors, and superb craftsmanship.



Woven by hand using time-honored techniques passed down through generations, Turkish carpets are deeply tied to the cultural and historical identity of the Anatolian region.

The tradition of carpet weaving in Turkey began with nomadic tribes who crafted rugs primarily for practical use—as floor coverings, wall hangings, and bedding to insulate their tents. Over time, especially during the Seljuk and Ottoman periods, carpet weaving transformed into a highly respected art form, supported by royal patronage and developed through specialized guilds. Turkish carpets became prized luxury items, traded across Europe and the Middle East.

One of the most unique features of Turkish carpets is the double-knot technique, known as the Ghiordes knot or Turkish knot. Unlike the Persian single-knot method, the Turkish knot provides a thicker, more durable pile, which contributes to the rug's strength and longevity. This technique also allows for the bold and well-defined geometric and floral patterns that distinguish Anatolian rugs from others.

Designs in Turkish carpets are deeply symbolic and often carry spiritual or cultural meanings. Medallions, stars, diamonds, and tree-of-life motifs are common, as well as stylized depictions of animals, birds, and flowers. Many of these motifs were believed to protect the home, bring good luck, or symbolize fertility and life. Unlike the more flowing patterns of Persian or Kashmiri carpets, Turkish designs tend to be more angular and structured.

Color is another defining characteristic of Turkish carpets. The use of natural dyes derived from plants, roots, and insects creates rich,

earthy hues—like crimson red from madder root, golden yellow from saffron, and deep blue from indigo. Over time, these colors age beautifully, giving older carpets a soft, antique patina that collectors especially prize.

Turkey is home to several carpet-weaving regions, each with its own signature style. Hereke carpets, made near Istanbul, are known for their ultra-fine silk and wool weaves, often commissioned for palaces. Kayseri carpets typically use wool or mercerized cotton and feature pastel color palettes. Oushak (Uşak) rugs, popular during the Renaissance, are known for their large-scale floral motifs and subtle coloring, making them especially desirable in Western interior design.



Even in today's fast-paced world, Turkish carpet-making remains a revered craft. Many communities in Anatolia still create carpets by hand, often taking months or even years to complete a single piece. These rugs are not only used domestically but are also highly sought after in international markets for their authenticity, elegance, and timeless appeal.

Turkish carpets are more than decorative elements—they are cultural artifacts that carry the soul of a region. Owning one means owning a piece of history, woven with care, tradition, and artistic vision. Whether displayed on the floor or hung on a wall, a Turkish carpet brings beauty, depth, and a story into any space.