

How to keep your Turkish phone alive.

1. Purchase two 100 unit cards before you leave.
2. When it is 3 months since you last added units. IF you have activated Roaming you should be able to add units in the normal way. Cost 6 units per minute from the UK.
3. If you do not have roaming then ring from your land phone 00902124440535 or I believe 00905324440535
4. As soon as the phone is answered hit 77
5. After they have given 3 options do nothing and you will be transferred to an English speaking agent. If nothing happens dial "0"
6. Explain that you wish to add units to your phone. He will say well add them so you have to explain that you are phoning from the UK and wish to add units. He may ask his supervisor but then will ask for the number on the card. He will confirm that units have been added.
7. BINGO your phone number is safe for another 3 months and I suspect it is actually 6 months but better safe than sorry.

How to keep your cost well down.

Turkcell have introduced a system to enable significant internet access at a fixed price. If you phone the turkcell help line (444 0 535 when in Turkey) they will register you for the "Internet Package". With that you pay 20 units per week and then have access to 50MB of data for the week. ie a cost of about £1.1 per week. When going over 50mb you revert to the normal limit of 750k which is easily exceeded.

Typical e-mail download data is about 15 units per time without this system. The system automatically starts again at the beginning of each week. When you leave Turkey just phone again and cancel. Might not be worth doing if only away for 8 weeks as it would also keep your phone open.

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