

AZURA NEWS

ISSUE
02

March - April 2015

A new breath to middle eastern life



Launch of
Qatar Turkey 2015

Expo in Qatar-Dubai -Turkey
March-April 2015

Experience the world of
luxury and style.



280 stores, 46 restaurants, a boutique square, a giant dome and an authentic Turkish food bazaar.
...and many Turkish and international brands.

World-renowned Luxury Brands
at İstanbul's Favorite **IstinyePark**



The top choice of both local and foreign visitors as one of the most popular locations in İstanbul, IstinyePark continues to expand its brand portfolio that already includes nearly 300 local and foreign brands also including the world's most famous luxury brands.

Now in its 7th year, IstinyePark continues to shape the future of the industry with the world-renowned brands it introduces to Turkey while boosting the number of its visitors with each passing day. Having become the stronghold of premium brands with the inclusion in its portfolio of **Chanel, Hermes, Christian Louboutin, Moncler, Micheal Kors, Marc by Marc Jacobs**, and **Eres** over the last 2-3 years, IstinyePark continued to introduce world-renowned premium brands for the first time to Turkey in 2013, bringing the first stores in Turkey of world-renowned brands **Kate Spade, Brunello Cucinelli, Karen Millen, Folli Follie, Hublot**, and **Shake Shack**. With more famous brands such as **Crate&Barrel, Ted Baker, Swarovski**, and **Cartier** already scheduled for launch until the end of 2014, IstinyePark is the top shopping and entertainment venue preferred by those visiting İstanbul.

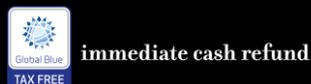
Select Flavors from World Cuisines

IstinyePark continues to add new brands to its existing portfolio of nearly 300 local and foreign brands on its 270,000 square meters of area, including 87,000 square meters of store area, addressing a wide variety of tastes and needs with its indoor and outdoor shopping locations. In addition to the 147 clothing stores and 41 new brands that were launched in Turkey for the first time, it continue to be the only shopping center that hosts all alternatives with its restaurants offering multiple options from world cuisines.

Enjoy Every Moment of the Day at IstinyePark!

IstinyePark ensures that you enjoy every moment of the day even when indoors thanks to its glass dome and open green areas, offering the comfort of indoors as well as the spaciousness of outdoors. IstinyePark's architecture, which is based on offering entirely different experiences in all areas of the center, promises a lifestyle that brings together blissful hours spent in the venues in the afforested outdoors, feeling at home through the friendships established with the shopkeepers at the neighborhood, being able to watch films in halls equipped with state-of-the-art technology, sport and entertainment. And the Brands Street, which allows visitors to experience the luxury outdoors with restaurants catering to a diverse set of palates as well as the stores of world-renowned brands, offers its guests an entirely different experience every hour of the day. IstinyePark boasts a total of 12 movie theaters including one featuring IMAX technology that can offer 3D viewing as well as a residence section with a total area of 190,000 square meters.

IstinyePark also addresses gourmet tastes with the 20 small stores at the Market Place while the 3,500-square meter sport and life center run by the Hillside City Club offers top-quality service for those who will not give up on healthy living. IstinyePark's 3,600-vehicle capacity parking lot offers comfortable and problem free parking by providing a solution to the parking problem generally experienced at shopping centers.



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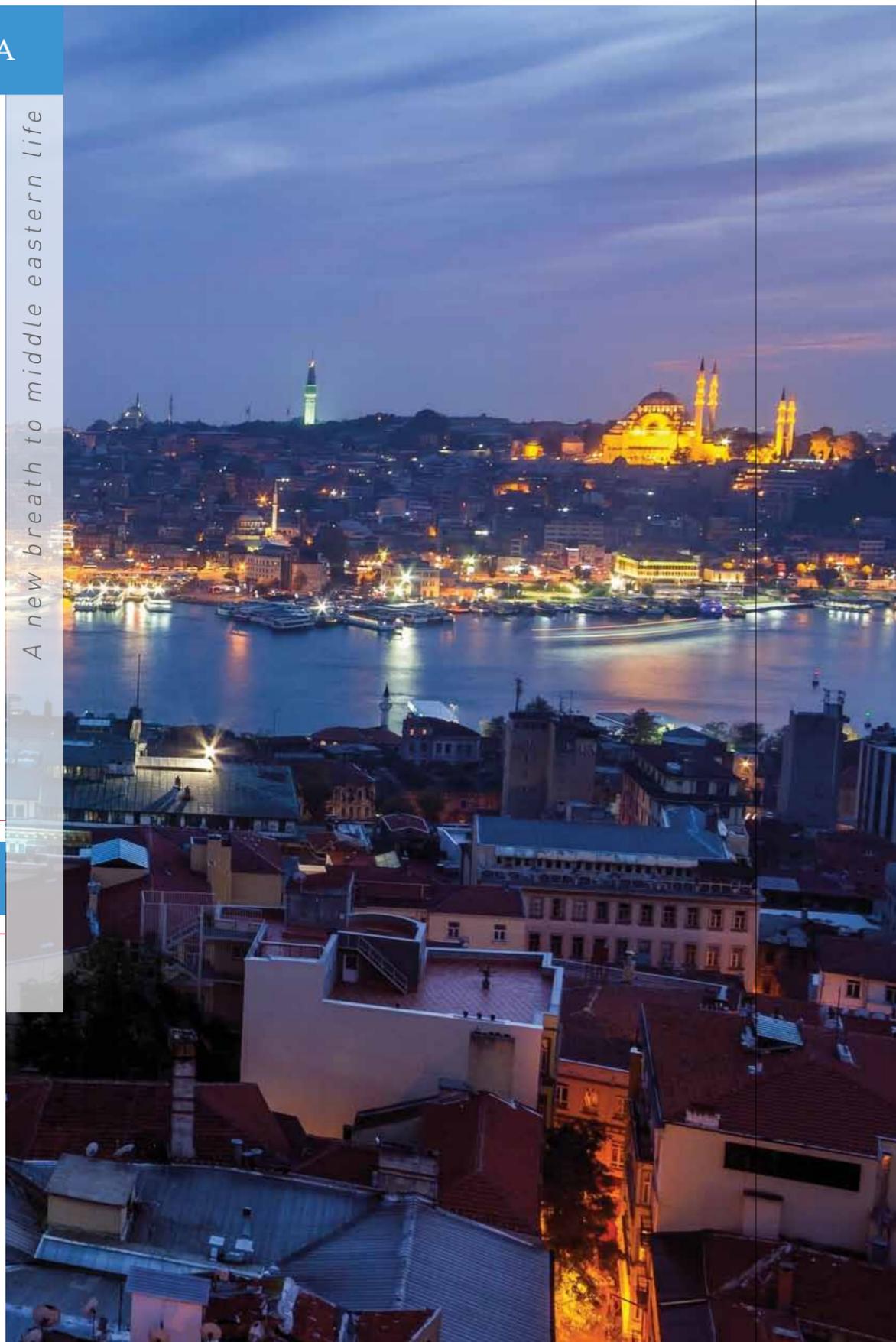
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A new breath to middle eastern life



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Qatar News

Kids Arts in the Park



Every Saturday till March 21, 2015

The new season for Kids Art in The Park will kick off on Saturday, 10th of January, 2015 and run through every Saturday till March 21st, 2015. A fun, educational and creative artistic activities where children can try different art projects under the art tent, at Aspire Park, behind the main playground. Every Saturday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Recycling Art Workshop:



Acrylic & Collage - Earth Day April 22, 2014

On Tuesday, 22 of April (5-8 pm), in occasion of the Earth Day 2014, Youth Hub Qatar is launching its first Recycling Art Workshop: "Acrylic & Collage" with Leila Elhaj. Sign Up @ <http://bit.ly/youthhubart>

When: 22 April, Tuesday, 5-8pm
Where: Youth Hub Qatar For Whom: 13-29 years old

Participants must buy their own materials or pay 30 QAR

to use materials at our place.

Korean Kite Flying



At MIA & Katara April 18 & 19, 2014

"The Embassy of the Republic of Korea, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the State of Qatar, is organizing several cultural events including cultural performance from the visiting music and dance teams on Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 7:30 pm at the Qatar National Convention Center, as well as Korean Kite Flying events on Friday, April 18 at Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) Park, and Saturday, April 19 at KATARA, the Cultural Village Foundation." by Korean Embassy Website.

International Food Festival



MIA Park March 24- 28

Now in its sixth year, the Qatar International Food Festival will be hosted by Qatar Tourism Authority in the Museum of Islamic Art Park over 5 days of gastronomic. From 24th - 28th March 2015, internationally renowned chefs will join many of Doha's top restaurants to celebrate fine dining with the freshest ingredients and latest food trends and tastes, as well as healthy eating options in the capital.

The main themes running through the festival this year are healthy food, traditional Qatari dishes and the celebration of the Qatar Turkey 2015 Year of Culture with original blends of Qatari and Turkish cuisine. Visitors can explore the Qatar Turkey Zone, where they can indulge in a number of delicious Turkish dishes including kebabs, pastries, salads, ice cream, or even a traditional Turkish performance.

International New York Times Conference: Art for Tomorrow



W Hotel March 13 - April 13

Due to be opened by one of the world's strongest arts & culture advocates, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the inaugural Art for Tomorrow conference will focus on the role of art and architecture in building communities, developing commerce and enriching lives across the world. Complimenting this conference, Qatar Museums will showcase the work of Hessa Al-Ali a Qatari graphic designer and the person behind the Qatar Turkey 2015 logo and brand. Hessa collaborated with Aziza Iqbal to present the Qatari Card Series as part of this exhibition.

A Turkish Arabic Music Concert



Roman arena in Katara 14 March 2015

Taksim Trio in collaboration with the Siwar Choir will be performing Arabic and Turkish songs. The Taksim Trio, who are an instrumental band made up of 3 artists: Hüsnü Şenlendirici, İsmail Tunçbilek and Aytaç Doğan, are the guest artists at the Jeem Children's Siwar Choir. This event is part of the Qatar Turkey 2015 Year of Culture.

ROTA Empower 2015 Youth Conference

<http://www.reachouttoasia.org/en/event-details/empower-2015>

Qatar Turkey 2015 will be inviting 5 Turkish students to take part in the conference.

Qatar & Turkey

YEAR OF CULTURE ANNOUNCED

Happy Qatar Turkey 2015 Year of Culture...

After a long wait, it was officially announced that the year 2015 will be comprehended as Qatar Turkey Culture Year. Previously, the year 2012 was celebrated as Qatar Japan, 2013 as Qatar UK, and 2014 as Qatar Brazil Culture Years. We are happy that we will be able to explore Turkish culture, products, and motives in the activities during 2015.

We hope 2015 to shed light to the relations of both brother countries on every field and both publics to reach closer and warmer tomorrows.

Qatar Turkey 2015 Year of Culture opens

Date: Monday 05-01-2015
Views by: 165

Qatar Museums yesterday announced the official launch of the Qatar Turkey 2015 Year of Culture, following the success of Qatar Brazil 2014, Qatar UK 2013 and Qatar Japan 2012. Qatar Museums yesterday announced the official launch of the Qatar Turkey 2015 Year of Culture, following the success of Qatar Brazil 2014, Qatar UK 2013 and Qatar Japan 2012.

The Qatar Turkey 2015 Year of Culture celebrates the relations between both countries through cultural partnerships involving organisations, institutions and individuals. A rich programme will explore the contemporary and traditional cultures of both countries. World class exhibitions, festivals, performances, educational programmes and cultural exchanges are to be held across Qatar and Turkey.

"Under the guidance and leadership of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad al-Thani, chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Qatar Museums, we are proud to announce that the Republic of Turkey will be our partner country for 2015," said Safiya Saif al-Hajari,



director of Strategic Cultural Relations. The programmes in the Qatar Turkey 2015 Year of Culture will be grouped under four main categories: Art & Culture, Community & Education, Sport, and Business and Trade.

Among the highlights are major exhibitions in both countries and a Turkish Festival and Bazaar in Qatar. Exhibitions in Qatar will include a new show of modern and contemporary Qatari and Arab art from the collection of Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art and a new exhibition curated by MIA called 'The Hunt', which will explore images from Qatari and Ottoman Royal collections.

Exhibitions in Turkey will include a new edition of the acclaimed Pearls exhibition, now seen by over 250,000 visitors in Japan, UK and Brazil. Musical performances in both countries will feature classical, Turkish and Arab music, and festivals will include a Turkish film week in collaboration with Doha Film Institute and an open air Turkish Festival and Bazaar at the Museum of Islamic Art Park.

Turkish Ambassador to Qatar, Ahmet Demirok, pointed out that Turkey and Qatar have excellent brotherly relations based on common culture and centuries-old history.

Inspired by Qatar's National Vision for 2030, the Years of Culture initiative is a key part of Qatar Museums' vision in establishing cultural ties between Qatar and countries around the world.

Qatar turkey 2015 year of culture launched

With a VIP reception held at Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar-Turkey 2015 Year of Culture was officially launched by Qatar Museums (QM) on Tuesday evening January 28.

Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage HE Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz al Kuwari, Turkish Undersecretary of Ministry of Culture and Tourism Professor Ahmet Haluk Dursun, Qatari Ambassador in Turkey HE Salem al Shafi and Ambassador of Turkey to Qatar HE Ahmet Demirok were among the speakers and attendees.

Following Qatar-Japan 2012, Qatar-UK 2013 and Qatar-Brazil 2014, Qatar-Turkey 2015 will be the fourth consecutive Year of Culture which is to be held under the patronage of Qatar Museums' Chairperson HE Sheikha al Mayasa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani. The relations between Qatar and Turkey will be celebrated within the frame of cultural partnerships between two countries' organizations, institutions and individuals; and events will be grouped under four main categories: Art & Culture; Community & Education; Sports; and Business & Trade.

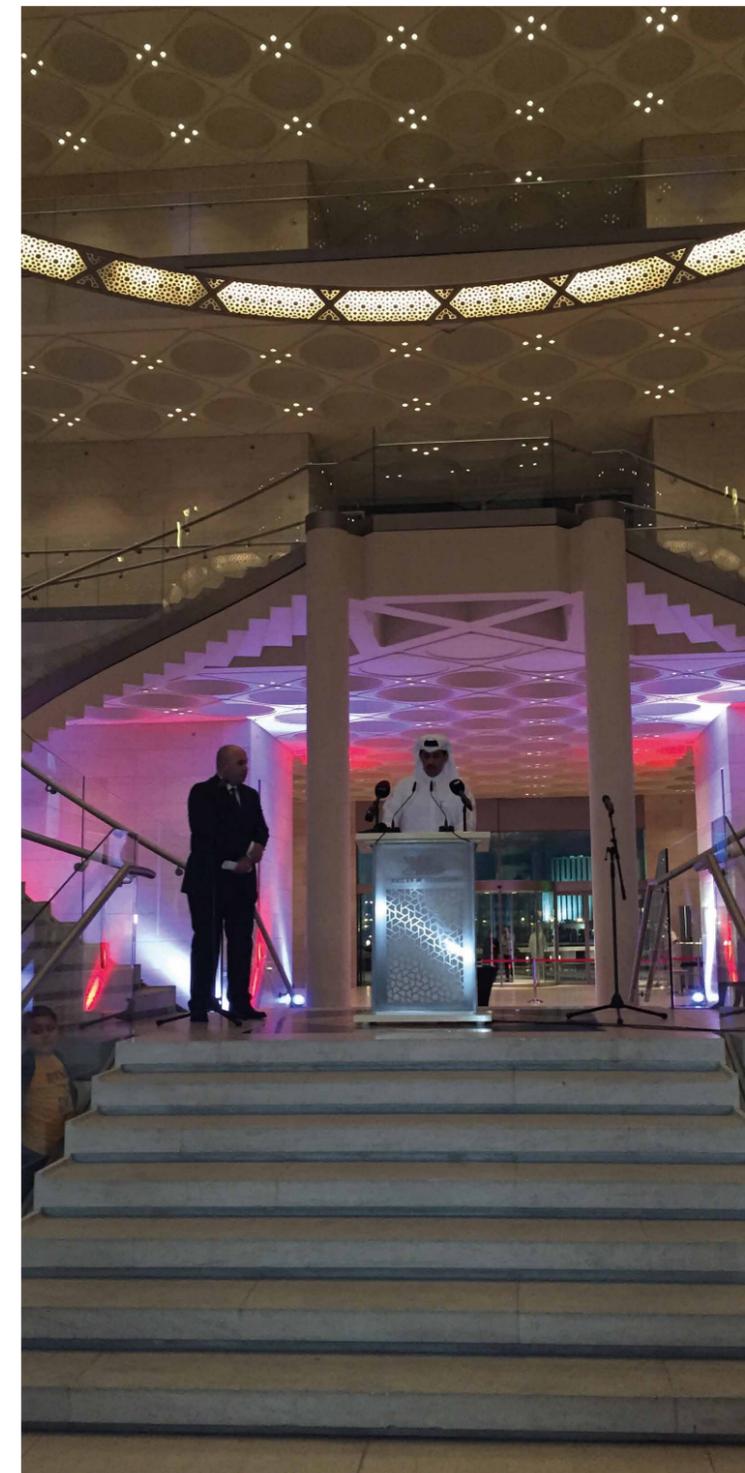
A traditional Turkish ensemble composed of Tambur, Ney and violin delightfully echoed around the museum captivating and entertaining the VIP guests from both Turkey and Qatar. Commenting on the event, HE Sheikha al Mayassa said "Culture and art support the realisation of our National Vision. The success of Qatar-Brazil 2014 demonstrated just how important art and culture is in bridging nations, connecting people and further encouraging cultural exchange. I'm excited and proud to celebrate the strong artistic heritage and links between Qatar and Turkey this year."

HE Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz al Kuwari said they look forward to this Year of Culture based on the success of previous years that will future cultural events between Qatari and Turkish people. And he added this platform of communication opens many doors in the cultural, sports and business arenas, which will in turn open up long-term relations between institutions and individuals in both countries.

Describing Doha as the glittering pearl of the Gulf, Professor Ahmet Haluk Dursun added that it was a great pleasure for him to be here on the occasion of the opening ceremony of 2015 Turkey-Qatar Year of Culture.

Qatari Ambassador to Turkey HE Salem al Shafi stated that they hope the Qatar-Turkey 2015 Year of Culture will highlight that the strategic nature of cultural activities between the two nations is not limited to a specific timeframe, but has a continuous legacy that will feed into the framework of strategic cooperation between the two countries.

We as "Azuranews" hope Qatar-Turkey 2015 Year of Culture to fundamentally expand brotherhood, respect, cultural-bilateral exchange and international understanding between both countries.





Turkish Airlines



Turkish Airlines supports Qatari Businesswomen Association's annual event

Doha, Qatar; January xx, 2015: Turkish Airlines, the national carrier of Turkey and Europe's best airline, supported the Qatari Businesswomen Association's (QBWA) annual networking dinner that was hosted on the first day of the 5th Qatar International Businesswomen Forum last month.

The gala event that included a celebration of the Qatar National Day was held under the auspices of H.E Sheikha Al Anood Bint Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, Chairwoman of Qatari Businesswomen Association. Mehmed Kursad Caymaz, General Manager of Turkish Airlines, Qatar, said: "We're honored to partner with the Qatari Businesswomen Association and this strategic forum that highlighted the important contribution of women to the nation's all-round development. Turkish Airlines is all about experiences that are unique and strongly engaging.

"The sponsorship of QBWA's annual event led to stronger business and cultural relations between the two organizations and also promoted healthy dialogue among the participants that aimed at fostering growth of business relations between Qatar, Turkey and the world." Turkish Airlines has recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Qatari Businesswomen Association (QBWA) to support the strategies of QBWA goal to boost women's economic participation and build a network of relationships and partnerships with major companies and organisations around the world.

Turkish Airlines aims to support projects that ensure more effective participation of women across all economic and commercial sectors. Through QBWA's network, Turkish Airlines will also launch special flight offers for women and families and promote Turkish tourism and commercial sectors to the Qatari business community.

About Turkish Airlines:

Established in 1933 with a fleet of five aircraft, Star Alliance member Turkish Airlines is a 4-star airline today with a fleet of 262 (passenger and cargo) aircraft flying to 264 destinations worldwide with 219 international and 45 domestic. According to Skytrax survey of 2014, Turkish Airlines was chosen "Europe's Best Airline" for the fourth and "Best Airline in Southern Europe" for the sixth consecutive time. Having won in 2010 the world's "Best Economy Catering Service" and in 2013 the world's "Best Business Catering Service" awards, Turkish Airlines was this year awarded the world's "Best Business Catering Service" and "Best Business Class Lounge Dining" prizes in the Skytrax survey. More information about Turkish Airlines can be found on the following website; www.turkishairlines.com.

About Star Alliance:

The Star Alliance network was established in 1997 as the first truly global airline alliance to offer worldwide reach, recognition and seamless service to the international traveller.

Its acceptance by the market has been recognized by numerous awards, including the Air Transport World Market Leadership Award and Best Airline Alliance by both Business Traveller Magazine and Skytrax.

The member airlines are: Adria Airways, Aegean Airlines, Air Canada, Air China, Air India, Air New Zealand, ANA, Asiana Airlines, Austrian, Avianca, Brussels Airlines, Copa Airlines, Croatia Airlines, EGYPTAIR, Ethiopian Airlines, EVA Air, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Shenzhen Airlines, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, SWISS, TAP Portugal, Turkish Airlines, THAI and United. The integration of Avianca Brasil is currently in progress. Overall, the Star Alliance network currently offers more than 18,500 daily flights to 1,316 airports in 192 countries.

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WE FLY TO MORE
FLAVOURS THAN
ANY OTHER AIRLINE

Qatar International Food Festival

KICKS-OFF ON 24th MARCH



Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) and Qatar Airways have announced that the sixth edition of the highly popular Qatar International Food Festival (QIFF) will be held at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) Park from 24 to 28 March 2015. Attracting visitors from all across the region, the annual event consists of gastronomic alfresco eating, drinking and cooking, as well as family fun and entertainment. The festival will host internationally renowned chefs who will join Doha's top restaurant chefs to celebrate fine dining with the freshest ingredients and latest food trends and tastes, including healthy eating options.

Last year's Qatar International Food Festival, which lasted for four days, was hugely successful and attracted more than 120,000 visitors, media and dignitaries. QIFF launched social media contests on multiple platforms including Instagram and Twitter, which allowed users to compete for prizes such as free flights to Brazil, tickets to "Dinner in the Sky," The Diplomatic Club BBQ Donut, and Qatar Airways Cooking Theatre. Overall, QIFF 2014 featured 55 food kiosks, 11 general zones and all the five-star hotels in Qatar.

Speaking about the event of this year, Rashed Al Quresse, Chief Marketing Officer at QTA, said: "This year's edition of Qatar International Food Festival will build on the success of the previous editions of the festival and will reflect the growing culinary sector in Qatar as a destination". "By hosting the Qatar International Food Festival, along with Qatar Airways, QTA provides a platform for its hospitality partners to showcase their latest offering in a fun and family focused environment. QTA is really proud to continue organizing the only food festival in Qatar, as it contributes to its mission to develop and promote a sustainable and mature tourism sector in Qatar." Al Quresse, added.

"Qatar Airways, the award-winning national carrier of the State of Qatar, aims to promote Qatar as a destination of choice through co-hosting world-class annual events like the Qatar International Food Festival and through promotional deals to fly more people to the country to attend similar spectacular festivals," said, Ms. Salam Al Shawa, Qatar Airways Senior Vice President Marketing and Corporate Communications. "Qatar Airways is proud to be co-hosting this festival, featuring international foods from a large number of countries, as well as great family fun and entertainment."

For the sixth edition of QIFF, the festival has been extended to fill five full days of different activities. It is expected that this will increase the number of visitors, food kiosks, live cooking shows, participants, social media events, engagements, surprises, featured celebrity chefs, and new media partners.

The Qatar Turkey "Year of Culture" will be the central feature for this year's festival.



Pera Palace Hotel - Jumeirah

The room is decorated in brown and burgundy, furnished with old wooden desk and chairs. Bathed in the soft glow of Chandelier, a woman seems to be sitting elegantly at the desk, tapping on a typewriter. The clatter of the typewriter lingers in ears; you may be totally lost in time...

Travel in Time

Have a Dialogue with **AGATHA CHRISTIE**





The Author of
Murder on the Orient Express:

Agatha Christie

Travel in Time

Stop 1: Room 411

Have a Dialogue with Agatha Christie

Every one of Agatha Christie's book is a labyrinth. Once entering her world, you cannot help being attracted by her overwhelming and mysterious charisma. You will indulge yourself in thousands of hide-and-seek games, forgetting to leave.

- San Mao (a Chinese writer and traveler) The old-fashioned lift rises slowly upward... Standing in this Turkey's first elevator, everyone seems to be dreaming a dream, because it is the same place where Agatha Christie stayed 80 years ago. The room is decorated in an Agatha Christie's style, featuring red and brown. On the desk is a typewriter which Agatha used to write Murder on the Orient Express. The bookshelf is filled with her works, while newspaper about her is still hanging on the wall.

Open the windows and take a deep breath, you will be intoxicated with the panorama of Istanbul, the most beautiful city in the world. Not far away from the hotel is the Bosphorus Strait. In the whisper of the wind, bathed in the sunlight, the tiny waves gently tap the seashore. It is on this sea that Mr. Poirot (detective in Murder on the Orient Express) started his journey...

In room 411 in Pera Palace Hotel Jumeirah, Istanbul, Turkey, a smell of secret and intrigue blurs the boundaries between past and present, between story and reality.

Time ceases its pace in this room... In 1934, Agatha Christie completed Murder on the Orient Express, her most famous work familiar with generation of readers.



Stop 2: The Orient Bar

Have a taste of cuisine on the Orient Express

In Orient Bar, unique flavors are offered for you with a tailor made Orient Express Menu. You may savor on the dishes of Paris, Venice and Istanbul style – these cities used to be the stations of the Orient Express. You will also be welcomed with cocktails created in dedication to the hotel's famous guests.



Stop 3: Sirkeci Railway Station

The Destination of the Orient Express Orient Express

Between Paris and Istanbul, a luxury train once shuttled across Europe and Asia, carrying nobilities, spies and businessmen from all the countries, as well as romantic and gripping stories of all sorts.

Sirkeci Railway Station is one of the top 10 most beautiful railway stations in the world. The red ceramic tiles and colourful glass add the charisma of the art nouveau building. The arrival of Orient Express also brings a sense of romantic. 80 years before, Agatha Christie got off the Orient Express here, and reached Pera Palace Hotel by ship across the Golden Horn.



Seeking for Literature Masters in Pera Palace Hotel, Jumeirah

Recently, Pera Palace Hotel, Jumeirah has been listed as one of "The 8 Best Hotels of the World" for booklovers. Besides Agatha Christie, many well-known writers such as Hemingway and Pierre Loti, have been guests of Pera Palace.

The world-known American writer Hemingway has been a war reporter when he was young. In 1922, Hemingway stayed in Pera Palace while he was reporting on the Greek-Turkish war.

Loti, a popular 19th century French novelist captured the exoticism of his travels to the East as a young naval officer and was a vocal supporter of the Turkish War of Independence, staying regularly at Pera Palace Hotel.





Celebrity List of Pera Palace Hotel, Jumeirah

Besides literature masters, there are numerous household names on the Celebrity List of Pera Palace Hotel, Jumeirah, Alfred Hitchcock, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, King Edward VIII, Greta Garbo, Sarah Bernhardt, Mata Hari, Zsa Zsa Gabor to name a few.

Atatürk Museum-Room

The great leader and founder of modern-day Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk stayed at the Pera Palace in 1917 for the first time and from then on Room 101 was his preferred choice. On his 100th birthday the bedroom was converted into a museum and from 1st September 2010 onwards, guests will be welcome to visit. (Source: Rooms & Suites)

Greta Garbo Corner Rooms

The six corner rooms are named after the legendary Swedish actress, Greta Garbo, who stayed at Pera Palace for 21 days in 1924. (Source: Rooms & Suites)

King Edward VIII Presidential Suite & Emperor Franz Joseph Presidential Suite

These royal suites bear the names of King Edward VIII and the Emperor of Austria-Hungary (Franz Joseph), both guests of Pera Palace. (Source: Rooms & Suites)





9 things to know about Pera Palace Hotel, Jumeirah

1. When the hotel first opened in 1892, all the champagne served in the hotel as well as the Christofle silverware used by the guests were imported on the Orient Express train from France to Istanbul.
2. Pera Palace Hotel was the first hotel in Turkey to include curry dishes on its menu. The chef had received the curry powder through an Indian princess who was staying at Pera Palace in the 1910s.
3. Pera Palace Hotel, Jumeirah was and still is the traditional venue for hosting the Republic Ball, a celebration of the anniversary of the Turkish Republic on October 29th.
4. The Piano Suite features a century-old concert piano. Pera Palace Hotel, Jumeirah is actually the only hotel in Istanbul with a piano in a suite.
5. The hotel was the first public building in Istanbul to offer an electric lift to its guests – it was actually the first public building in the city to have electricity.
6. Pera Palace Hotel, Jumeirah welcomed five kings in its history since its opening in 1892. At least six presidents, 11 kings and 39 well-known writers have stayed in Pera Palace Hotel, Jumeirah.
7. Pera Palace Hotel, Jumeirah hosted at least three famous spies: Elyesa Bazna (Cicero), Mata Hari and Kim Philby.
8. The first fashion show in Istanbul was held at Pera Palace Hotel in 1926.
9. Founded in 1892, the building housing Pera Palace Hotel, Jumeirah was the first modern building in Istanbul built with iron and steel. It was also constructed according to wind patterns in order to create natural air conditioning; the stained glass domes above the Kubbeli (domed) Lounge could even be opened like flower petals to allow fresh air circulation. Obviously, the hotel has “real” air conditioning now, but even today when a guest opens the front door, a gust of fresh air blows in, even in the heat of summer.



About Pera Palace Hotel Jumeirah

Jumeirah Group, the global luxury hotel company and a member of Dubai Holding, operates a world-class portfolio of hotels and resorts.

First opened in 1892 to serve guests from the Orient Express on their journey from Europe to Asia, Pera Palace Hotel, Jumeirah has since become an enduring symbol of urban culture in Istanbul and a pioneer in modern luxury. Located in the cosmopolitan Tepebaği district of Pera, the hotel overlooks the magnificent Golden Horn.

With its 115 rooms, including 16 suites, retaining the characteristics of its 19th century heritage through historical furniture, the hotel combines refined elegance with state-of-the-art technology to fulfil the needs of the 21st century travellers.

Fully refurbished Pera Palace Hotel Jumeirah offers a range of revitalized restaurant and bar choices, including the Agatha Restaurant with its show kitchen and wine cellar, the Kubbeli (domed) Saloon/Tea Lounge famous for its afternoon tea, or the French-style Patisserie de Pera and the legendary Orient Bar & Terrace.

The hotel also has various meeting facilities as well as the a 380-sqm Pera Spa with traditional bath (hamam), steam bath, Jacuzzi, indoor pool, sauna, three treatment rooms and a fully-equipped fitness centre.

Message from the Representative of the Turkish Republic Of Northern Cyprus In Doha, Aytug Fazil Plumer



I have been serving as TRNC Representative in Doha since 2012 and I am delighted by the support and interest from every circle of Qatari society, with which we share cultural, religious and social ties and values. I am thankful to the esteemed leadership and the government of the State of Qatar for the warm hospitality accorded to us here in Doha since the inception of our Office in 2007.

During the last 10 years, relations between the TRNC and Gulf states have shown steady progress, especially in the fields of trade and cultural exchanges. **TRNC has opened Representative Offices in the UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, in addition to Qatar.** These offices have been instrumental in further expanding the relations in areas of trade, tourism, higher education, culture, sports and other areas of mutual interest. Here in Doha, our office is working diligently to diversify and expand the existing relations between our two friendly countries, Qatar and Northern Cyprus.

TRNC is an observer member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and eagerly participates in all its meetings, including Summit meetings. In recent years, our country has hosted important OIC meetings concerning education, investment and water related issues. All of these meetings have been attended by delegations from many OIC members. In 2013, the OIC signed a framework agreement with the TRNC Foreign Ministry which envisage regular dialogue on international issues, export promotion and investments and other areas of mutual interest.

The question of Cyprus is consistently on the agenda of the OIC. Resolutions are adopted annually by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers which call upon member states to strengthen ties with the Turkish Cypriot people. Most recently, in June 2014, a resolution on the situation in Cyprus was adopted by the OIC meeting held in Jeddah, which among many other important things, called upon the international community 'to take concrete steps to end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people' and invited the member states 'to exchange business delegations with the Turkish Cypriot side; to develop cultural relations and sports contacts; and to encourage cooperation with Turkish Cypriot universities. The resolution also underlines the political equality of the two parties in Cyprus and expresses appreciation for the constructive efforts of the Turkish Cypriot side to attain a settlement through the process of negotiations.

On the political front, the Turkish Cypriot side is fully committed to the process of negotiations towards reaching a settlement on the basis of the Joint Declaration which was issued by the two leaders on 11 February 2014 under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General's good offices mission in Cyprus. We expect the Greek Cypriot side to return to the negotiating table without further delay so that the talks can move forward to a new and decisive phase.

On the economic front, Northern Cyprus is emerging as an important center for education, tourism and investments in the Eastern Mediterranean. There are 7 internationally recognized Universities in North Cyprus which provide high standard education in English to a total of 70,000 students from all around the world. North Cyprus is now being preferred as an education center

due mainly to its proximity to the GCC and Middle East countries, its tranquil and safe environment, and also the affordable fees applicable for international students. Some universities in the TRNC are also offering summer school programs and activities for international students of different age groups. These programs are designed as a multicultural experience, helping with language skills development as well as providing a flavor of history and culture. Qatar has also invested heavily on education and is now a leading education center in the region which attaches great importance to academic research, development and cooperation. Therefore, there exist immense possibilities of cooperation in the field of education between Qatar and North Cyprus. We expect that the number of students from the GCC countries enrolling in our Universities this coming academic year will increase.

We are calling upon potential

investors and businessmen in Qatar to visit our country to explore areas of possible investments, venues of cooperation in different fields and the incentives offered by the government. This would indeed be consistent with the mutual desire to increase the volume of trade between Qatar and the TRNC.

Among the European countries, the TRNC has one of the lowest tax rates for companies. Low property and communication costs, low labor costs are notable advantages for the investors. Furthermore, exemption from custom duties, funds for investment allowances, zero rate VAT on machinery and equipment, favorable lease terms on state-owned land and unlimited transfer of proceeds are additional elements which make the incentive scheme truly attractive.

Against this background, the Turkish Cyprus Investment



Agency (YAGA) is ready to assist and to guide all businessmen in their area of interest. For the first time, Turkish Cypriot companies have participated in the Cityscape Qatar 2014 and the Ibhar View Real Estate Exhibition held in June and November 2014, respectively. The interest shown by potential buyers towards owning property in Northern Cyprus was reported to be very high, given the attractive low prices and the natural beauties of the country, not to mention the comfortable weather conditions and the hospitality of the people.

There is an ongoing project to bring fresh water through a pipeline from Turkey. The project is well underway as the dams, distribution lines, supply stations and other infrastructure on both sides, namely Turkey and Northern Cyprus, has been completed. Almost half of the pipeline through the sea has been laid already. It is expected that the project will be completed in 2015, by which time North Cyprus will have access to 75 million cubic meters of water annually which will fundamentally transform the agricultural sector of the country.

Cultural exchanges between Qatar and North Cyprus is another important area which can be expanded further. In the past several consecutive years, we have participated in different cultural events where our world-famous handicraft, silk and lacework which reflect our rich Turkish Cypriot and Islamic traditional and cultural heritage were displayed. The interest shown by the Qatari society has been testimony to the fact that the two peoples are bound by cultural, religious and social ties.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish continued success, prosperity and happiness to the friendly people and government of the State of Qatar, in their pursuit of excellence and advancement in accordance with their Qatar National Vision 2030.



Best Places to see

- Girne:** Girne Castle and Museums, Bellapais Monastery, St. Hillarion Castle
- Lefkosa:** Mevlevi Tekke Museum, Selimiye Mosque, Bedesten, Covered Bazaar, The Grand Inn
- Magusa:** Salamis Ruins, Othello Castle, St. Barnabas Museum
- Guzelyurt:** Soli Ruins, Icon Museum
- Iskele:** Kantara Castle

HOW TO GET TO TRNC:

Visitors can fly from Doha to Ercan Airport (Northern Cyprus) via convenient connecting flights from Istanbul, Turkey. There are scheduled daily flights (Turkish Airlines and other private airlines) from Istanbul to Ercan, which takes only about an hour.

Best Places to eat

A large selection of restaurants are available, ranging from traditional cuisine to fashionable French, Chinese and Indian cuisine restaurants.

- Girne:** Niazi` s Restaurant, Ambiance, Lagoon Sea, Ezic Peanuts
- Lefkosa:** Mirage, Sabor, Omerli Meyhane, Anibal, Cagdas
- Magusa:** Kemal` in Yeri, Kiyi, Cennet Taverna
- Guzelyurt:** Aspava, Vouni, Mardinli

TURKISH CYPRIOT CUISINE:

North Cyprus cuisine is similar to the Mediterranean cuisine with many local and oriental specialities. Some of the main local specialities are meze (appetizer served on a collection of saucers), hellim (traditional cheese), dolma (stuffed vine leaves), sheftali kebab, bulgur kofte, borek, pirohu, moulihiya, kolokas. Traditional Turkish coffee is served after every meal.

Sweet dishes: Katmer, kadayif and macun (fruits preserved in syrup)

FOR INFORMATION:

TRNC Representative Office in Doha **Tel: 44837693**



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A warm interview with Qatari Photographer; Khalifa Al Obaidly

ISLAMIC MUSEUM OF ARTS



Mr. Khalifa, first of all, could you please introduce yourself?

Thank you very much; I am a Qatari artist using photography as media to express myself. I was born in Doha in 1969, and I have 5 children. I work for Msheireb Properties as the manager of Msheireb Art Center.

**When did you first meet photography?
And what does photography mean
to you in short?**

I remember that my first camera was a present from my father when I passed to 5th grade at school. From then, I felt that photography had a place in my life which came out when I joined to Qatar Photographic Society in 1988 on the first year of my education at the University of Qatar. Photography is my passion with which I live every day. It became a part of my life that I practice every day even without camera since the eyes are the greatest cameras.





Do you make any preparation before taking a photograph? Or do you just capture and take the moment?

I usually take the photographs of the things interesting me and catching my eyes. However, I do not call every photograph I took as an artwork. I usually develop the idea of the artwork; it sometimes takes a few minutes in the location and sometimes weeks or months. But in general, I have to prepare and motivate myself because each photograph carries my soul.

What branch of photography are you interested in more, and what kind of photographs do you like to take? Do you like black-white or color photographs?

I have done almost all types of photography including underwater photography, which was necessary to do during my last 20 years to find what I like more in photography. In fact, I focused on the art projects in my habitat and cases around me more, which I believe that artists have to involve in social problems and issues; express these subjects through the artworks; and find solutions. I like to do both color and black-white photography; but the subject and the type of the project lead me to prefer color and black-white.



SOUK WAKIF EARLY MORNING





KHALIFA INTERNATIONAL STADIUM
During Asian Games Opening Ceremony

How do eyes and brain link in perception when taking a photograph?

Photography needs talent and skills to be developed in order to be able to bring out the best images. Also experience, which is gained by years of practices, contacts with the other photographs, and attending exhibitions, is very important in this field.

Do you have photographs you call as your pupils throughout your profession?

I have published many photographs in media and magazines in Qatar and international art magazines but the photograph published in National Geographic Magazine on March 2003 issue made me so proud and took me to international level. This photograph was taken for National Geographic photographer Robb Kendrick during his assignment in Qatar.

Are there amateur or professional photographers you like or like their style?

There are many amateur photographers in Qatar and other GCC countries; but serious photographers we can name as are hand countable. The new and digital generation take photographs only for fun and some of them do documentary and touristic photography. Professionally thinking, I like Brazilian photographer Sebastiao Salgado, who touches the human feeling with his photography.



Are there any websites you exhibit your photographs? Do you share your photographs on social media?

Well, I used to have a website, but since I was lazy to update it I closed it; so I am presenting my artworks and activities on the social networks such as Instagram and Facebook. All my friends and fans follow me there and they get all the information and activities about me from there.

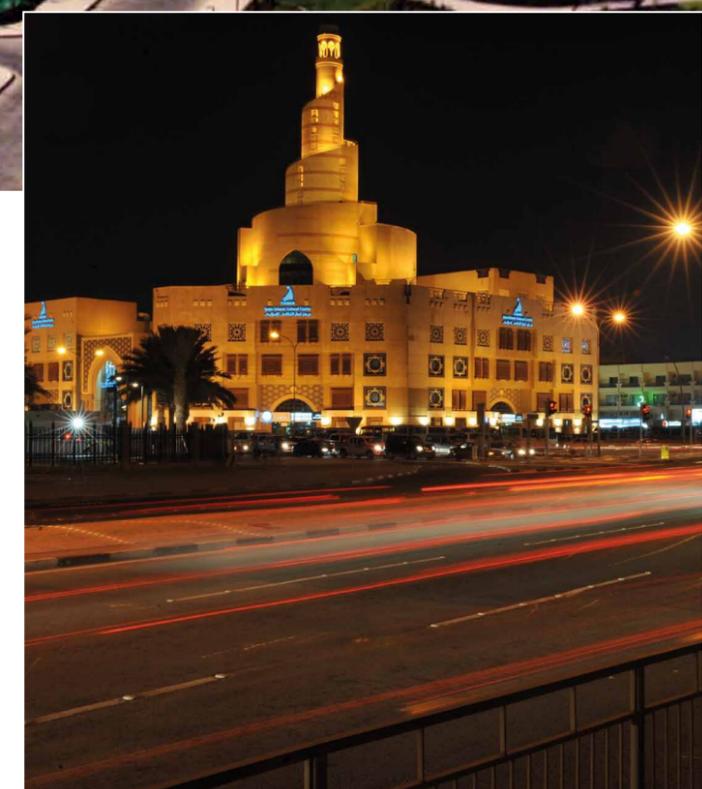
Have you ever been to Turkey for photography? If yes, where was the most fascinating place for you?

I have been to Istanbul many times. It is full of beautiful places for photography, but I mostly like Grand Bazaar and the Blue Mosque.

As a last word, what kind of changes in cameras and lenses are being expected in the coming years?

The technology of photography is developing very fast and it is available for all photographers; so what makes you a different photographer from the others is what you have to ask yourself if you want to do serious photography.

Thank You Mr. Khalifa for Interview





A worldwide construction company

Promer Qatar

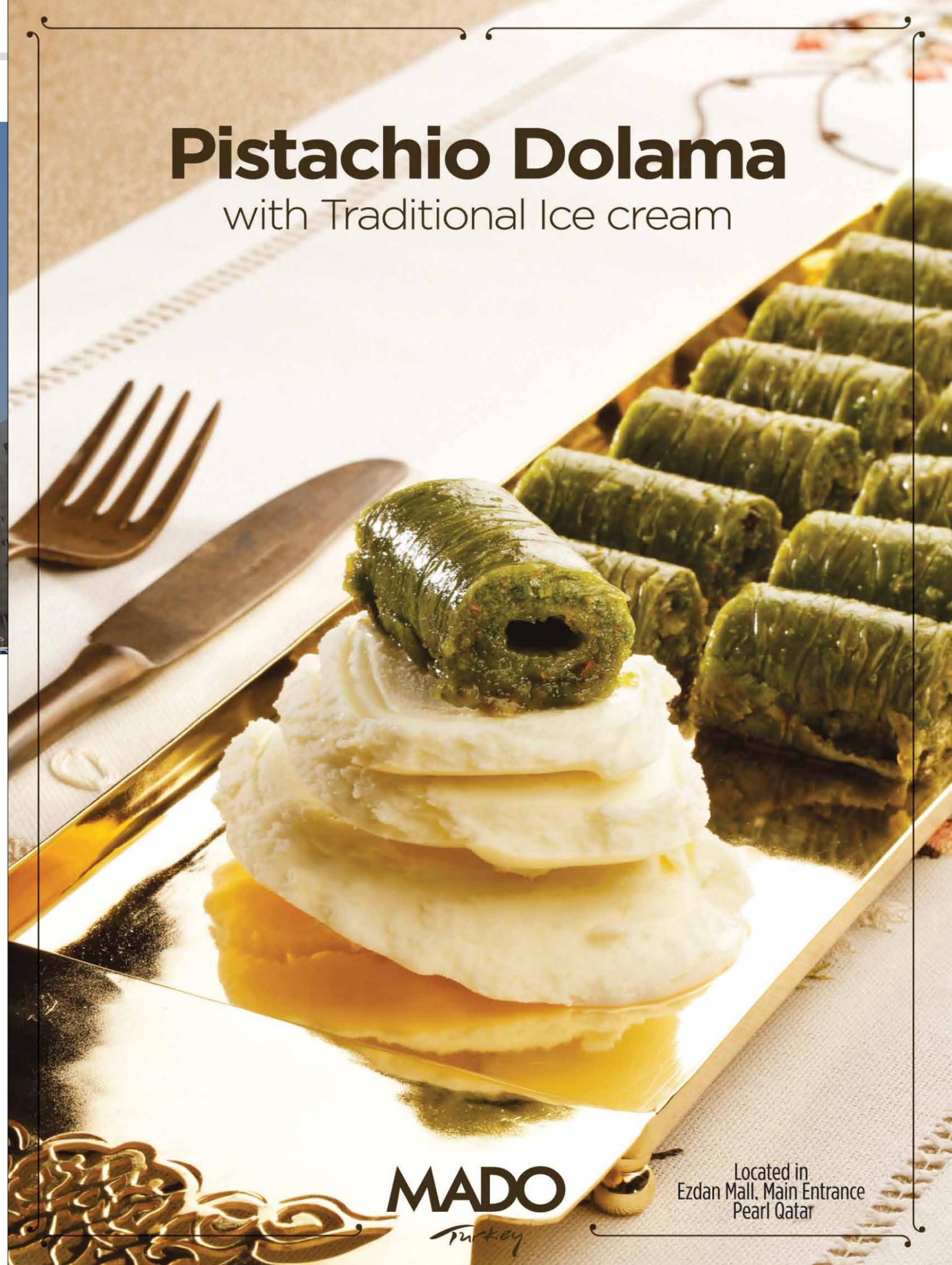
Promer Qatar Contracting Co.

By Erkan Ekerman, CEO

Promer group is an international company performing construction and real estate projects in Turkey, Georgia, Cyprus, Russia, Ukraine and Middle East. Promer Qatar, founded in Doha in 2006, is a turnkey contractor specialized in residential and commercial buildings, government buildings, schools, hotels, shopping centers and as well as infrastructure. With its worldwide experience, Promer has successfully handed over projects to valuable employers such as Qatar Petroleum, Barwa, Ministry of Transportation and Asghal (PWA) up to the present.

Qatar is playing a very important and dominant role in the development of the region with the high vision of the Emir H.H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. With vision of 2022 and 2030, Qatar construction market is booming and realizing the structural art. As in the other booming and developing markets of the world, Qatar is also facing problems of procurement and logistics, especially in the basic construction materials.

In my opinion, Turkish Construction Companies do not take enough part they deserve in Qatar. Provided that they have the capability of international completion and standards, there should be more Turkish Companies taking role in the development of Qatar.



Pistachio Dolama

with Traditional Ice cream

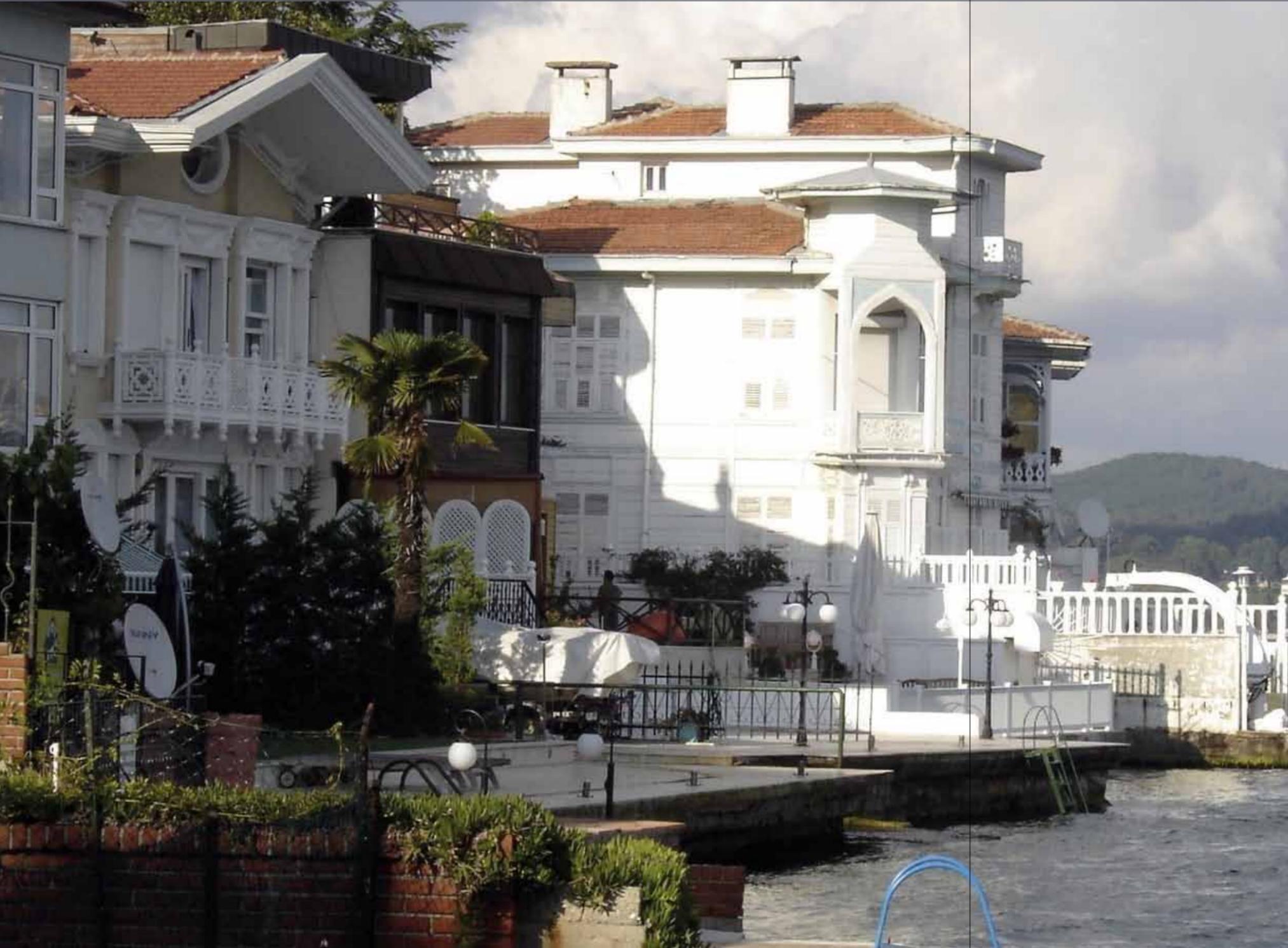
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Located in
Ezdan Mall, Main Entrance
Pearl Qatar

Qatar and Turkey under the same roof,

By Zeynel Oktener



THE FIRST TURKISH REAL ESTATE COMPANY BASED IN QATAR HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

The first Turkish real estate company that will operate in the State of Qatar by Zeynel Öktener, the businessman from Istanbul, has completed the company establishment process.

It has been declared that the aim of the company, named as **ANATOLIAN REAL ESTATE WLL**, is to have a cooperation with the Qatari investors interested in Turkish real estate on a professional, legal and reliable ground; and create synergy within this sector.

It is known that the existence of a serious demand originated from the state of Qatar and other GCC countries in Turkey is becoming subject day after day. It is also known in this context that the company, which is the candidate to protect the investors from incompetent agencies' oppression and risks, has a rich portfolio including especially Istanbul, near vicinity Yalova, Sapanca, and Turkey's favorite geographies such as Izmir, Antalya and Trabzon, etc.

Company officials state that besides economic and investment value real estate products, ultra-luxury residences hosting every kind of comfort and opportunities, the kiosks in private gardens/groves especially in the different regions of Istanbul and the pupil of the city, Bosphorus, are present in their portfolio.

In addition, while providing communication between project owner companies and financial institutions in the scope of finance, the company also plans to actualize the projects oriented to GCC market itself and make sales from these special projects.

The State of Qatar Tax Legislation

By Hasan Basri Coskun



The Tax Legislation of Qatar was prepared to be so plain, clear, and uncomplicated. For the sake of same plainness, I intend to inform you about the taxation principles in effect in the State of Qatar without spoiling the coherence and comprehensibility.

What is the scope of income subject to taxation?

Relevant to the facility or not any income generated in Qatar; every kind of income commissions, etc. collected in or abroad Qatar; service incomes such as consultancy, arbitration, appraisal fees; rental income; moral rights income such as know-how and copyright; debt collections of previous; liquidation decision; profits of interests and banking transactions (including abroad interest, etc. of incomes earned in Qatar) are subject to taxation in Qatar.

Incomes generated abroad does not mean being tax free. In other words, it is compulsory to add the incomes generated abroad by the subsidiaries of

Qatar-based companies to gross profit; and rate the tax assessment by this way.

On the other hand, it is crucial to be taken into consideration that taxation is assessed corresponding to our (Turkish) corporate tax. However, it also should not be forgotten that personal incomes' being tax free is due to trading without establishing a company and generating an income is banned, and personal income is limited.

To whom and what rate is taxation applied?

The State of Qatar and GCC Countries citizens are tax-exempt whereas citizens who are not Qatar and GCC nationals are subject to %10 rate of tax per share of their incomes stated in 1st article. In other saying, %10 tax is applied to gross profit of foreign companies' per share in Qatar.

However, incomes of oil and natural gas sector, and related facilities are subject to tax at a rate of %35; not %10.

While dividend income is tax-exempt, capital gains are obliged to be added to the tax assessment. Likewise, Qatar-based companies' incomes of share sales are another must to be added to the gross profit as an income composing the tax assessment.

Besides, expenses reducing the tax assessment must be in compatible with company operations; and the content and qualification of expenses that can be added is stated in the related legislation.

Are there any taxes subject to the profits of company incomes, or another form of tax?

In general VAT, SCT (Special Consumption Tax), Property Tax, Inheritance and Transfer Tax are not currently applied in Qatar excluding some implementations in some exceptional cases and sectorial basis considering the ownership.

Is stoppage (deduction) applied in the State of Qatar?

With the new taxation law, stoppage has started being applied in Qatar. Within this frame, gross royalty and technical support services fees given in Qatar by a company based abroad are subject to %5; commissions interest, brokerage, contribution fees (excluding some exceptions) are subject to %7,5 stoppage. From the point of stoppage, the taxpayer is the person and/or company making the payment of tax.

What are the prominent issues to be paid attention and known about taxation?

In 4 months after the end of the financial year, it is compulsory to fill out the tax statement and submit it to the Ministry of Finance and Economy tax department. On condition of receiving approval, the deadline of submitting the tax statement may be postponed for extra 8 months.

Companies having more than 100.000 Qatari Riyals profit for a financial year have to submit financial report prepared by an auditor who is authorized by the State of Qatar enclosed with the tax statement.

In the case of statement is not submitted, ministries and public institutions stop payments to taxpayers. Also, the institution may deduct the tax from taxpayer receivables if the tax has not been paid yet; and levy the taxpayers assets.

Subcontractors cannot receive final payments from the prime contractors or institutions unless they bring receipt of discharge from the income tax department. The same condition is valid for the contractors as well. Prime contractor companies have to submit the list of subcontractors, the contracts signed; and price changes of current agreements to the related department.

In addition, prime contractors, in order to make the last payment to the subcontractors, have to submit the

receipt of discharge for the sake of getting certificate of release and proving that necessary controls have been done to the tax office.

Companies have to apply and have their companies registered to the Ministry of Finance and get their companies' tax id number card.

Delay fine is monthly; %2 of the tax or 10.000 Qatari Riyals are to be paid.

The mentioned fine is calculated daily; and whichever is more is collected from the taxpayer in practice. However, the fine cannot be more than %24 of the tax. Irregularity fine starts from 5.000 Qatari Riyals.

Accounting records have to be in Qatari Riyals unless getting permission previously, whereas records are not obliged to be written in Arabic. Accounting records, deeds,



Out And About In Istanbul

If you have just a few days off and feel like travelling somewhere not so far away from Qatar and enjoy few days away from the hustle, Istanbul is really the right place.



Article by : Tuba Mahe
Photograph : Ministry of culture & tourism archive / Turkey

Istanbul, with its spectacular location and history, has always been a very popular destination for many travelers. Depending on how long you wish to stay, this beautiful city offers countless alternatives for everyone to enjoy a fabulous holiday and makes it a perfect getaway for curious visitors. One foot in Asia, one foot in Europe, you need weeks to fully discover this city of immense culture and heritage. However, if you have just a few days off and feel like travelling somewhere not so far away from Qatar and enjoy a few days away from the hustle, Istanbul is really the right place.

While planning your trip to Turkey, do not forget to check your passport if it is valid for at least 60 days. For tourist visas for many countries, there is no need to apply in advance however the best is to check out online (www.mfa.gov.tr) and apply for an e-visa if you need to do so. Regarding the flights, there are three companies which operate from Doha, one of which is a low-cost company. Choosing a suitable hotel in Istanbul is also very important. In a huge city with a population of more than 17 million, travelling from one place to another can be pretty frustrating as traffic jams are inevitable throughout the day. For this reason, booking a hotel around Sultanahmet area or Taksim can make you save time and money.





Once you get your ticket and book the hotel, you can start planning your daily visit program. On a first time visit, you should really spare time and discover the historic center, **Sultanahmet**, first. Most of the Ottoman and Byzantine heritage remains as well as the **Grand Bazaar and the Spice Market** are located in this part of the city. The Grand Bazaar, built in the 15th century, is a shoppers' paradise mainly for gold, silver, handmade carpets and leather. With more than 4000 shops, entering this maze might be a perfect occasion to put your bargaining skills on the test.

Another must to see is **Taksim/Beyoglu** which is the heart of modern Istanbul. It is famous for its cafes, restaurants, nightlife, shops and hotels. "**Istiklal Street**", a long pedestrian shopping street starts here and a nostalgic tram along the avenue ending near the tunnel (tünel) which is the world's second oldest subway line after London's underground. Before the tunnel, just a few minutes walk down the street "**The Galata Tower**" is situated. It is the most recognizable landmark of the **Golden Horn**, and it provides a magnificent 360 degree view of Istanbul.

No Istanbul experience is complete without a cruise on the Bosphorus up to the Black Sea. There are

two ways to take a tour. You can either take a private tour boat or take a ticket for one of the ferries (vapur) which are operated by IDO (Istanbul's Fast Ferry and Sea Bus Company) in **Eminönü**. Short cruises take 90 minutes or you can go for the full cruise depending on how much time you have.

Another interesting place to visit is **Ortaköy**. Once a small village by the Bosphorus, it is now a chic suburb with narrow cobbled streets where young and pretty head to hang out at the many bars, restaurants and cafes. Each Sunday, a large open air arts and crafts market takes place right beside the Ortaköy Mosque which is one of the most iconic landmarks of Istanbul.

A nice contrast to Old Istanbul is the **Nisantasi** neighborhood which is the most western face of the city. Filled with restaurants, cafes and chic boutiques it is another great place to visit especially if you are not short on budget. This nice area is perfect for the ones who are looking for high fashion and quality products with very expensive tags.

If you can finally make it and get a chance to travel to Istanbul for a few days you will definitely wish to return. There are so many things to do and so many places to visit. It is just a matter of time .

Have a nice stay and "iyi yolculuklar"





The Gourmet Bazaar

An exciting market place is opening in the impressive entrance hall of The Village Souq Waqif, where a selection of the very best Mediterranean food products, starting with Greek products, will be available.

The Gourmet Bazaar is the new venture of young couple Mr. Gregory Kourkoulas and his wife, Mrs. Alexia Dilaveri-Kourkoula who live and work here in Doha.

"When we were offered this beautiful space, we knew we were being given an amazing opportunity and an exciting challenge," said Gregory.

"Souq Waqif is a vibrant hub in Doha and an important venue for different nationalities and cultures to meet. The Village offers the very best in fine dining and Mediterranean, Turkish, Iranian and Indian cuisine of an exceptionally high standard. It is a privilege to be part of this exciting culinary journey." Turkey and Greece sit side by side as countries in the Mediterranean and have common historical links. Along with Arabia to the east, these areas were once joined under the Ottomans which left a cultural heritage with many similarities.

Alexia believes that, interestingly, in coming to live here in Doha, she has become even more aware of just how similar she is, as a Greek, with people from The Middle East and Turkey especially when it comes to food which is an expression of a culture and its people. Offering and sharing food is such a big part of hospitality and is a way to share our emotions, show respect and give our love.

A love of food and a strong, proud belief in the quality of Mediterranean products led Gregory and Alexia's wish to bring certain products that they felt were missing in the Qatari market but which would find an eager and appreciative market.

Their aim is to be very selective and careful in introducing their chosen products. With a strong emphasis on natural, organic products, Gregory and

Alexia personally sourced items and visited companies to make their selection. They visited producers, assessing their production methods and discovered firsthand the passion and love that small companies have for their goods. And these are the details that set their products apart from the rest, even though it means smaller production levels.

Around 60 different products will be available initially, ranging from olive oils and related products such as olives and olive paste, exquisite honeys, herbs, dried goods, biscuits, rusks, marmalades and bottled vegetables and fruits.

The famous Mediterranean salad, known and enjoyed by so many people, is made special by the superior taste of oils and herbs whose flavors reflect the warm sunshine, the mountains and the flora of the islands and mainland of the region.

Although the cultivation of olive trees started in Anatolia, in Turkey, olive trees now clothe the Greek country side and produce Extra Virgin Olive Oil of superb quality and taste. Taste is, of course, always subjective but a good quality oil should have a low acidity which actually burns the throat very slightly on tasting. Depending on the area of growth, one can expect earthy, lemony, strong or lighter flavors, in fact, tastes as varied as the climatic and geographical regions.

But, whatever the taste, the addition of a good quality oil will enhance all cooked dishes and salads or can simply be enjoyed with a good chunk of crusty bread.

Apiculture, the keeping of bees for honey, is very important in the Mediterranean. From the pine, fir clad mountains to the thyme covered dry, dusty islands, there is varied flora from which the bees collect their nectar to produce unbelievably delicious honey.

Nine different flavored types of honey will be found in the Gourmet Bazaar of a brand which is sold in Gallerie LaFayette in Paris, selected stores in New York and one very special edition of honey with flecks of real gold as sold exclusively in Harrods, London. Now these are available in Doha because Qatar deserves the best!

As connoisseurs of fine goods, Qatar residents enjoy a high standard of living. Recently there has been a trend towards a more active and healthy lifestyle and an interest in organic foodstuffs. Organic products are cultivated with careful and monitored farming

methods which do not allow for the use of pesticides or other chemicals. Not only is this better for the environment but it is proven to yield a higher number of nutrients beneficial to health and ultimately give a superior natural taste. "Achieving our goals has been very challenging but also very positive and rewarding" say Gregory and Alexia. In Greece, we succeeded in finding people who were passionate about their products with standards high and consistent enough for our requirements."

"We have managed to bring premium products of premium quality by paying meticulous attention to every aspect of the process. The strict quality control in Qatar ensures that only the best, fully certified products reach to the consumer here in Doha. And we wouldn't want it any other way!" added the couple.

For them, it has been a hard, exciting and new experience so far and they hope to continue to bring other tastes from Mediterranean countries, especially Turkey, and Italy, Spain and France.

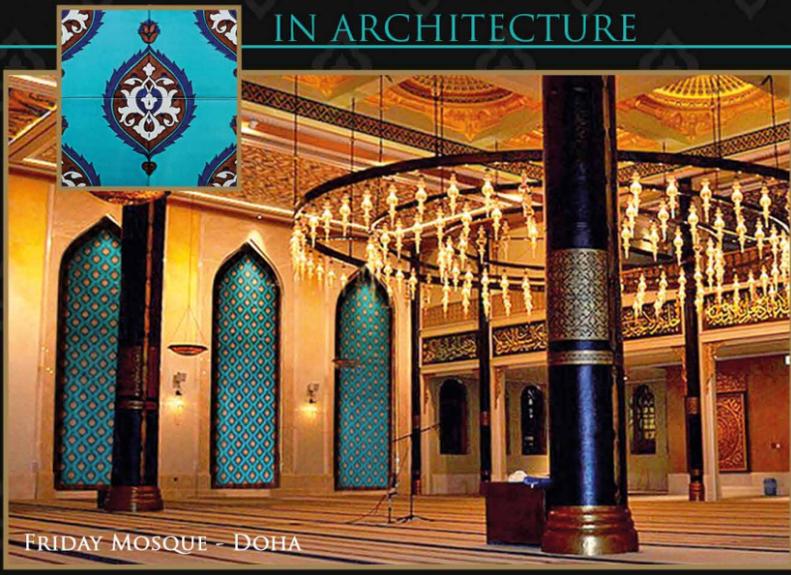
You will be made very welcome at The Village Souq Waqif.



ANIKYA İZNIK ÇİNİ KEEPS THE ART OF İZNIK QUARTS TILE ALIVE...



IN ARCHITECTURE



FRIDAY MOSQUE - DOHA



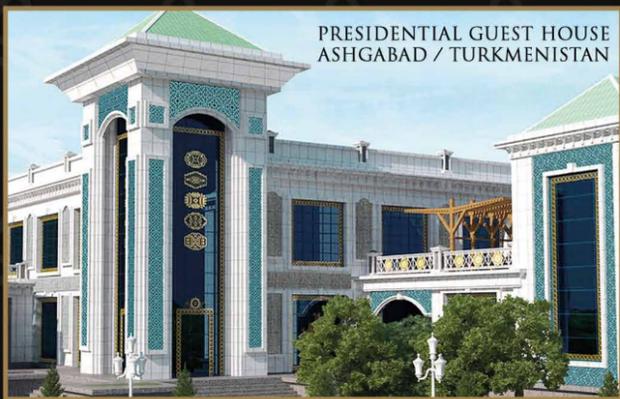
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Expo (March-April) in Qatar-Dubai -Turkey

Expo Qatar

Iwed 2015

**Qatar National Convention Center
29 April - 02 May**

IWED is a world-class wedding exhibition that will feature trend-setting facets to deliver a unique and superficial experience in planning an exquisite day of perfection. The International Wedding Exhibition and Fashion Show Doha bring the fabulous wedding trends and opportunity of connecting the services providers to set up for the big occasion.



Qatar International Medical Devices & Healthcare Exhibition and Conference



**Qatar National Convention Centre - Doha, Qatar
09 - 11 Mar 2015**

Qatar International Medical Devices & Healthcare Exhibition and Conference is a 3 day event being held from 9th March to the 11th March 2015 at the Qatar National Convention Center in Doha, Qatar. This event showcases products like various products and services, latest technologies, equipments related to Medical and Health industry etc. in the Medical & Pharmaceutical industry.

Gulf Expo-Qatar

09 Mar 2015

Gulf Expo-Qatar is one of the leading exhibition for education and training industry in the region and the trade meeting point for education and training professionals, where the educational and training institutions can display and present latest programs with trends and network. The exhibition will be take place on dated 9th March 2015.

Gulf Expo

International Exhibition for Pool and Spa



**Doha Exhibition Center - Doha, Qatar
26-29 Mar 2015**

International Exhibition for Pool and Spa will include large number of exhibitors from the world of spa as well as pool sector and the participating companies will get a wonderful opportunity to showcase all their products and services under one roof. This event will provide the exhibitors a center stage with the help of which the companies can promote their goods and services and it is expected that the exhibitors will definitely reach out to new buyers as well as customers from all over the region.

International Education Middle East Expo Doha

**Doha, Qatar
04 Apr 2015**

International Education Middle East Expo Doha is a 1 day event being held on 4th April 2015 in Doha, Qatar. This event showcases products like boarding schools, private schools, holiday and summer camps, internships and language teaching associated with this field etc. in the Education & Training industry.

Trans Middle East



**Doha Intercontinental Hotel- Doha, Qatar
29-30 Apr 2015**

10th Trans Middle East 2015 will be held in Doha, Qatar for two consecutive days. This show will provide opportunity to the attendees to showcase their latest products and services associated with logistic and shipping industry. More than 500 senior executives from shipping and logistic industry will share the same platform with the cargo owners, freight forwarders and equipment suppliers and will share their views about various business strategies associated with this industry.

Expo UAE

Paperworld Middle East



**Dubai International Convention & Exhibition - Dubai, UAE
02-04 Mar 2015**

The Paperworld Middle East with its massive collection of office supplies, gift articles, household paper and transparency paper, school articles, wrapping and greeting cards, printers, computers and multimedia is the largest international trade exhibition for the stationery, paper and office supplies industry and is conducted in the Middle East.

Al-Ain Jewelry & Watches Exhibition

**Wedding Hall - Al Khubaisi - Al-Ayn, UAE
02-07 Mar 2015**

The Al-Ain Jewelry & Watches Exhibition provides an awesome platform to watches, jewelries, exquisite watches, luxurious jewelries, jewelry gifts, jewelry accessories and much more. It is quite an exciting event that witnesses the ideal buyer and seller partnership.

Dubai International Boat Show

**Dubai International Marina Club - Dubai, UAE
3-07 Mar 2015**



Dubai International Boat Show will be having an astonishing selection of the newest boat models, supercar promenade and the related accessories. A mass of professionals come from across the world will visit this exhibition and will get an opportunity to interact with their customers and suppliers. Dubai International Boat Show will be displaying super yachts of 25 meters and above, supercar promenade, luxurious boats and many more exciting things.

Womens Luxury Fashion Designers & Brands Suppliers Delegations Conference & Exhibition

Burj Al Arab Hotel | Dubai, UAE | 08-09 Mar 2015

Womens Luxury Fashion Designers & Brands Suppliers Delegations Conference & Exhibition is a 2 day event being held from 8th March to the 9th March 2015 at the Burj Al Arab Hotel in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This event showcases products like casual line of clothing, street wear, sports wear and beach wear, along with cosmetics, watches, bags associated with this field etc. in the Apparel & Clothing, Cosmetics and Beauty Products, Gems & Jewelry, Leather & Leather Products, Lifestyle & Fashion industries.

Agribusiness Middle East Exhibition

**Dubai International Convention & Exhibition - Dubai, UAE
16-18 Mar 2015**



A professionally organized exhibition of International standards that will showcase all related products from around the world and will be instrumental in procuring trade from Levant Arab Countries, Iran and Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka, GCC and other Gulf Countries.

Design Days Dubai

**Mohammed Bin Rashid Establishment Deira - Dubai, UAE
16-20 Mar 2015**

Design Days Dubai is proposed to make a display of collectible as well as limited edition design objects and furniture. To be held in Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktom, United Arab Emirates Dubai for five consecutive days. This fair aims to bring to focus wonderful design that is going to attract collectors as well as wide audience including design enthusiasts. It will provide a platform so as to engage international and regional design initiatives. It will also promote upcoming local talent. Moreover this fair will feature diverse educational programme to encourage the audience.

The Art Dubai

**Jumeirah Madinat Hotel - Dubai, UAE
18-21 Mar 2015**



The Art Dubai is one of the top notch events to be held in the industry related to the art. The event will be scheduled on 18 to 21 March, 2015. The event will last for four days. The event will display everything from painting to sculpture. One will able to learn expert strategies for pulling profits from the market. Art Dubai provides the overall information of the art in the broader perspective. Every year thousands of artist visit this expo to enhance their business and to get an idea and knowledge of the leading trends in the painting from all over r the world.

Dubai International Horse Fair

**Dubai World Trade Centre - Dubai, UAE
19-21 Mar 2015**



Entering the ninth edition, this event namely Dubai International Horse Fair already established as the finest equestrian business event in the Middle East. The time of this event is for three days and the venue is in Dubai. There are 200 exhibitors who are invited to gather here and deal with various products and services like artistic products and services, Horses Accessories, Sculptor, Equine Dentistry, photography, Equine Hospital, Municipality, racing channels, Nutrition, equine products, Equi products, Animal Food Trading and more.

Sour Oil Gas Advanced Technology

**TBA - Abu Dhabi, UAE
22-26 Mar 2015**



The event named as Sour Oil & Gas Advanced Technology will be organized for the business promotion of companies which deal in the trade of petroleum oil & gas. Sour Oil & Gas Advanced Technology will be a place for the organizations to find out new innovative ideas about the industry. The event will be a place where many workshops & conferences are to be organized in the concerned field.

Middle East and Turkey Tour Dubai

Venue to be announced - Dubai, UAE
25 Mar 2015

Middle East and Turkey Tour Dubai is a 1 day event being held on 25th March 2015 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This event showcases products and services like various recruitment touring services and consulting services, educational services and many more related services etc. in the Education & Training industry.

The Bride Show-Dubai

Dubai International Convention & Exhibition - Dubai, UAE
25-28 Mar 2015

The Bride Show-Dubai is home to wedding products and all that amounts for a bride to be on her wedding day that includes hair styling, makeup, wedding gowns, accessories as well as jewelries and all others that makes a complete wedding. The show marks the presence of fashion icons, celebrity makeup and hair artists as well as renowned people from fashion industry. The show also conducts beauty and lifestyle demonstrations and also portrays the latest trends and developments in fashion.

Annual Investment Meeting

Dubai International Convention & Exhibition - Dubai, UAE
30 Mar-01 Apr 2015



Annual Investment Meeting is a three day event that shall render the attention of the industry professionals on the issues that have cropped up in terms of investment in trade of a country. This event throws considerable lights on the development of the individual countries of the world in respect to economy and profits and hence is a globally renowned event. Annual Investment Meeting will also attain a place of importance for provide unmatched networking opportunities and also enabling discussions over the stratagems of investments, financial aids, utilization of technology, creation of business atmosphere globally, following the updated modern business trends by the use of the investments and indulge in investment planning.

International Education Middle East Expo Dubai

Venue to be announced - Dubai, UAE
06 Apr 2015

International Education Middle East Expo Dubai is a 1 day event being held on 6th April 2015 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This event showcases products like boarding schools, private schools, holiday and summer camps, internships and language teaching associated with this field etc. in the Education & Training industry.

Outdoor Design and Build Show

Dubai World Trade Centre - Dubai, UAE
13-15 Apr 2015

Outdoor Design and Build Show is a 3 day event being held from 13th April to the 15th April 2015 at the Dubai World Trade Centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This event showcases products like Sports equipment for outdoor and indoor activities, sports seating, auditorium and lecture hall seating, Natural stones, turf, green walls and roofs, Building Materials; Wood Decking, Composite Decking & Yacht Decking among other products etc. in the Building Construction, Architecture & Designing industries.

Aluminium Middle East

Dubai International Convention & Exhibition - Dubai, UAE
14-16 Apr 2015

Launched in 2009, ALUMINIUM MIDDLE EAST is being held every two years. ALUMINIUM MIDDLE EAST will feature the Middle East and North African region's fast growing role in the global aluminium industry as its highlights investment plans of new smelters and expansions of existing regional market players from the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries. ALUMINIUM MIDDLE EAST will also gather decision makers from companies operating in the GCC and MENA region that are involved in industries like manufacturing and processing, building and construction, packaging, hardware, automotive and transport, power transmission, factory and machinery production and metal & commodity markets.

Arab Oil and Gas Show

Dubai International Convention & Exhibition - Dubai, UAE
21-23 Apr 2015

The International Trade Exhibition for onshore and offshore oil, gas and petrochemical industries serving the Middle East and beyond. A comprehensive display of Energy related technology will be showcased at the Arab Oil & Gas show from 21st - 23rd April 2015. Over the last 18 editions, since its inception in 1984, the Arab Oil & Gas Show has a proven record of creating business opportunities for technology suppliers and manufacturers. The exhibition will host cutting-edge technology and products and will serve as an information source for over 7,500 trade visitors from across the Middle East and beyond, who regularly network at Arab Oil & Gas. The show will be conducted in conjunction with WETEX 2015.



Water Energy Technology & Environment Exhibition

Dubai International Convention & Exhibition - Dubai, UAE
21-23 Apr 2015

Water Energy Technology & Environment Exhibition (WETEX) is a wonderful opportunity to network with government decision makers and country delegation from around the world. A perfect place to meet members of the various internationally acclaimed supporting bodies and organizations. It is cost effective and targeted medium to meet senior level decision makers. The high-level delegations will provide you unrivalled access to promote your products and services to key environmental professionals. It is an opportunity to renew and reaffirm contacts within a large conference and exhibition environment.

Gulf Information Security Expo& Conference

Dubai World Trade Centre - Dubai, UAE
26-28 Apr 2015

GISEC- Gulf Information Security Expo& Conference will going to held at Dubai. World's reputed visionaries, thought-leaders, practitioners and innovators who are performing in the field of information security are connected together at one meeting place with highly targeted attendees such as developers, security solution providers, Police Force, manufacturers, CEOs, CIOs and IT Directors. Oil & Gas, banking, Finance, Government, Legal, Telecoms and other key industries of the world will take part in the exhibition and showcase their technologically sound products, equipments and services.

International Textile Fair

Dubai World Trade Centre - Dubai, UAE
26-27 Apr 2015

International Textile Fair is a 2 day event being held from 26th April to the 27th April 2015 at the Dubai World Trade Centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This event showcases products like Fabric for fashion, home and industrial textiles Textile raw materials: Natural fibers, synthetic fibers, plant fibers, and assistants Design and production systems: Computer aided design and production systems, textile/clothes color cards, samples, CDs, professional publications etc. in the Textile, Fabrics & Yarns industry.



International Textile Fair

Dubai World Trade Centre - Dubai, UAE
26-27 Apr 2015

International Textile Fair is a 2 day event being held from 26th April to the 27th April 2015 at the Dubai World Trade Centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This event showcases products like Fabric for fashion, home and industrial textiles Textile raw materials: Natural fibers, synthetic fibers, plant fibers, and assistants Design and production systems: Computer aided design and production systems, textile/clothes color cards, samples, CDs, professional publications etc. in the Textile, Fabrics & Yarns industry.

Careers UAE

Dubai World Trade Centre - Dubai, UAE
28-30 Apr 2015

The Careers UAE is an event dedicated to career opportunities and possibilities and emphasizes on the presence of job opportunities, study options and opportunities, training opportunities, higher studies opportunities and all services related to building and advancing career. It is an excellent platform where one is exposed to the emerging career and job prospects and can get informed about the latest. The event is also well known for providing training and advance study opportunities by which one can start a venture of his own.



Expo Turkey

IFSEC Istanbul

Lutfi Kirdar Convention & Exhibition - Istanbul, Turkey
05-07 Mar 2015

IFSEC Istanbul is a 3 day event being held from 5th March to the 7th March 2015 at the Lutfi Kirdar Convention & Exhibition Center in Istanbul, Turkey. This event showcases products like Safety, Security, Operations, Facilities And It In Commercial Sectors Such As Construction, Hospitality, Health And Education, Petrochemicals, Finance And The Media etc. in the Business Services industry.

Edufairs International Education Fairs



Venue to be announced - Istanbul, Turkey
19 Mar 2015

Edufairs International Education Fairs is the largest and most important educational fair and career event organised for Edufairs, in Turkey. For years now, it has constantly kept up to date with the needs of students and other young people of Turkey, offering them indispensable information on education, career opportunities, and quality leisure time possibilities.

Turkish Arab Economic Forum

The Four Seasons Bosphorus Hotel /Istanbul
1-2 April 2015

The Turkish Arab connections have always been a vital element in the region's stability, needless to say that these connections are even more crucial for the region's future.

TAF 2015 will discuss come important topics, some of which are:

- Regional challenges Facing Arab & Turkey Economies
- The Economic Outlook of turkey
- Banking & Financial markets
- Tourism & Real Estate
- Oil & Gas
- Investing in Turkey
- Investing in Arab countries

Petroleum Istanbul

Tuyap Fair Convention & Congress Center | Istanbul, Turkey | 02-05 Apr 2015

Petroleum Istanbul, the largest trade fair for Petroleum Upstream and Downstream Equipment, Technology and Services in the Eurasia Region produced extremely positive results: products and services from 81 exhibitors were on display on more than 4,800 square metres of net exhibition space.

Ideal Home Fair

Tuyap Fair Convention & Congress Center - Istanbul, Turkey
02-05 Apr 2015



IDEAL HOME FAIR - Ideal Home Homestyle & Housewares Fair is acknowledged as the largest trade event which bridges buyers, suppliers, specialty stores, chain stores, wholesaler, retailers and importers, exporters, manufacturers and distributors in around the world. Held at Tuyap Fair, Convention and Congress Center, the show proves to be a high point in exhibiting kitchenware, lighting, decorative furniture, electronic households, home textile, cookwares etc.

Solar Energy & Technologies Fair

Istanbul Fair Center(CNR Expo) - Istanbul, Turkey
09-11 Apr 2015



Solar Energy & Technologies Fair will be a great opportunity for the domestic and international customers to get to know about the new technologies which are being used in the field of solar energy. Solar Energy & Technologies Fair will witness participation of thousands of visitors and exhibitors from different corners of the globe as well as from Turkish market. The participants will be from the field of renewable energy, solar energy, waste management system, environment monitoring and many more. There will be very large product line of products and services related to solar energy, petro chemical and electrical engineering and many more.

IFINTEC Finance Technologies Conference and Exhibition

Istanbul Congress Center (ICC) - Istanbul, Turkey
14-16 Apr 2015

IFINTEC Finance Technologies Conference and Exhibition will be held on April 14-16, 2015 in Istanbul - Turkey. IFINTEC is a dedicated conference focusing on technology solutions developed for finance industry. IFINTEC Conference serves a perfect platform to introduce and demonstrate system, hardware, software, consultancy, training and service solutions developed for financial institutions. Banking technology, mobile banking, core banking, payment, mobile payment, fraud prevention, compliance, risk management, financial services, insurance technology, IT security are main topics of the conference. IFINTEC is an unmissable event.

The International Istanbul Lighting Technologies Fair and Congress

Istanbul Expo Center - Istanbul, Turkey
16-19 Apr 2015

The International Istanbul Lighting Technologies Fair and Congress is a four day event that will be held in Istanbul in Turkey. This show concentrates on the development and advancement of the lighting industries and will showcase a wide range of latest technologies and products of the industry. It is a great platform for all the exhibitors to present their product in front of a large number of audiences and interact with them in order to make prospective customers for their companies. This show will also help all the exhibiting companies to access the decision makers and get an opportunity to interact with them directly. Above 7,764 people will visit the show where more than 150 leading companies will showcase their products from 11 different countries.

Yapi - Turkeybuild Istanbul

Tuyap Fair Convention & Congress Center - Istanbul, Turkey
21-25 Apr 2015



YAPI - TURKEYBUILD Istanbul benefits from the economic growth and the inflow of foreign capital and is regarded as a very promising market. It is growing rapidly, and numerous projects in the field of road construction, house building and the construction of office premises are planned. YAPI - TURKEYBUILD Istanbul will be tapping those opportunities.

Turkish Oil & Gas showcase & Conference

Ankara Sheraton Hotel - Ankara, Turkey
22-23 Apr 2015



Turkish Oil & Gas Showcase & Conference will be one of the biggest exhibitions organized worldwide related to oil and gas industry. The event will provide information about development scenarios for energy markets; exploration & production development in the black and Mediterranean Sea; turkey shale gas potential and international energy security & supply. Last year lots of lecturers were delivered by 39 speakers in the show to more than 900 trade visitors. Turkish Oil & Gas showcase & Conference will provide golden opportunity to meet fellow energy consultation, share ideas and learn more efficient techniques to help improve their work place. The event will focus on adapting the best technology to produce the high quality products with extra facility pertaining to oil and gas industry.





Sevil Dolmaci

A CONSULTANT AND A LECTURER



Sevil Dolmaci is a young art professional following the agenda closely inside and outside Turkey in the rising art market in recent years, and providing consultancy services to institutive collections in Turkey. While visiting art workshops, not missing fairs, biennials, museum retrospectives, and stating to be refreshing herself with the relations abroad, Sevil Dolmaci gives lectures on contemporary art and art market at Yeditepe University and Kültür University in Istanbul. After the book ,she contributed, named as "101 Portraits to See in Turkey before You Die" was published last October, she has been studying on a book project about the subject how art market direct art history writings nowadays. Besides these, she participates to a parallel exhibition activity as a curator in every biennial period since 2009. And she is continuing her works with Demsa Group at present.

Considering the increased centers of economic and political strategies, what would you say about the intensive relations in the Istanbul-Dubai-Qatar line?

In the world art market, the art progressed on Islamic culture and tradition has regained its importance in recent years. Middle East has made a quick entrance to the art market; and Cairo, Damascus, Istanbul, Tehran, Lahore, Dubai, Qatar, Abu Dhabi has been added to these centers. So the relations between Istanbul-Dubai-Qatar has been

stronger. Turkish artists entered to prominent collections in Dubai and Qatar with Dubai Art Fair, and artists exchange has started. Turkish artists Haluk Akakçe, Irfan Önürmen, Canan Dagdelen held exhibitions at Katara Art Center. In order to enhance relations, contemporary Istanbul hosted parties in Dubai as well as Anima Gallery in Qatar hosted dinner in Istanbul. Turkish consultants and architects work for the museums which are planned to be opened in Qatar. All these intensive relations have tied Turkish and Arabic art world with better cooperation. The Zeid Room at Mathaf Museum in Qatar has remarked once more that Turkish and Arabic collectors have similar pleasures. So on behalf of artist exchanges and exhibition plans, we can give good news about the bilateral relations to be warmer.

What would you like to say about Art Consultancy?

I can state that investors are willing to behave more professionally today. In Turkey, there are interesting investor groups intending to work with professionals. For instance, 6-7 young businessmen intend for an art purchasing in cooperation and prefer professionals to direct them. These are just a start; there are similar interesting investment strategies and cooperation names. Intentions to open museums, art centers,,, Galleries demands consultants,,, Artists demand representatives,,,

As a last word,,,

Istanbul art world is in the period of changing shell with the quick change/metamorphosis it has, and the growth of the sector in recent years. Istanbul ,gaining an international identity with its exhibitions,

panels organized, galleries opening one by one, increasing art dealers, young artist burst and prices, full page interviews of art economy of the economic pages of the newspapers, openings where politicians are seen, increasing art sales prices, auction news, news on foreign press, art fans and professionals living in Turkey, art tours that tickets cannot be found, races of institutions about art, international fairs such as Contemporary Istanbul, Art Istanbul and museums panned to be opened, will witness challenging surprises in the near future.

The biennial in September, next season, will jazz up Istanbul,,,





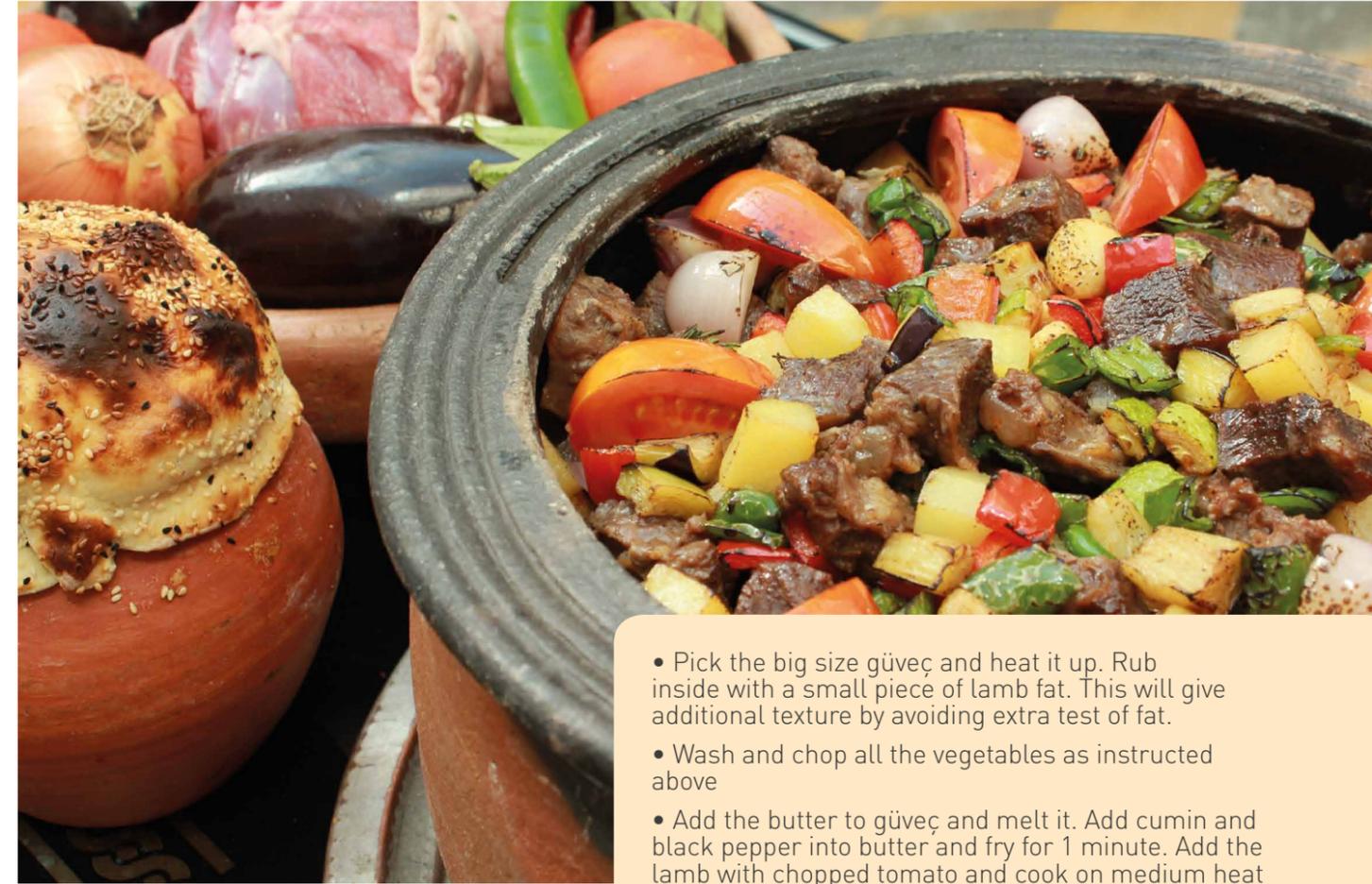
Spirit of Anatolia "Güveç"

Güveç, a Turkish dish made of usually lamb meat and vegetables and slowly cooked in a clay pot, is one of the many traditional way of cooking in Turkish cuisine. **The word "güveç" (read Ghuvech) is referred to a clay cooking pot.** There are various güveç types depending on the main ingredients that you use. For instance "kuzu güveç" means "lamb cooked in clay pot". Of course, the taste always depends on experienced hands and correct ingredients. This delicious dish must be cooked in clay or earthenware pots because earthy aroma infuses to the stew. To make the güveç pots; sand, grog, colorants; usually metal oxides, carbonates and

water are added to clay singly or in combination to achieve a desired color and quality. It is then kneaded until there are no air bubbles left in it. Then, it is shaped by hand or on a potter's wheel and left to partially dry. While still partially wet, it is scraped to smooth the pores of the pot, thus ensuring that it is impermeable. It is covered and left to dry completely; and then glazed and finalized in a kiln (clay oven). The secret of preparing güveç is the slow cooking in the closed pot, which brings out the flavors of all the ingredients. The row meat, vegetables and spices are mixed together and placed in the pot, which is then covered with a

pottery lid. Sealing the edges of pottery lid with a stripe of dough gives better result as it keeps all flavors inside the pot. Traditionally güveç is baked in a pit oven, but a regular, modern oven works just as well for home cooking. The following recipes can be altered to personal taste, and vegetarian versions can be made by not using the meat. This is a great way to fix a great meal without actually having to spend too much time with preparation. Once mixed together, just place in the oven and relax.

By Baran Yucel



Kuzu Güveç

2 kg of boneless lamb chunks
3-4 cloves of garlic
1 big onion, chopped
1 eggplant peeled in striped pattern and diced
1 zucchini, remove the seeds and cut in half round
1 potato, diced
10 pc green beans, cut into 3 or 4 pieces
3 pc ripe tomato, diced
2 pc green sweet chili or green pepper, cut into hazelnut size
2 table spoon butter
1 tablespoon red pepper paste
Salt & black pepper
1 tea spoon crushed red pepper (pul biber)
1½ teaspoon fresh grounded cumin
1 teaspoon oregano
Small piece of lamb fat (to rub güveç)
1¼ bunch parsley, fine chopped
1 water glass hot water

- Pick the big size güveç and heat it up. Rub inside with a small piece of lamb fat. This will give additional texture by avoiding extra test of fat.
 - Wash and chop all the vegetables as instructed above
 - Add the butter to güveç and melt it. Add cumin and black pepper into butter and fry for 1 minute. Add the lamb with chopped tomato and cook on medium heat to release water. Cook until water is (almost) soaked
 - Add red pepper paste, crushed red pepper and oregano; then stir for another 3-4 minutes
 - Fry potato and keep on the side. Add salt, onion, garlic, pepper, green beans, eggplant and zucchini. Mix one time gently
 - -On top of everything add hot water.
 - -Bring to a boil and then turn it down to low.
 - Cover and seal the top of the pot with pottery lid or aluminum foil good and tight.
 - Place the güveç in oven with low heat for at least 2, at most 3 hours. You don't need to stir or check on it during those long 3 hours.
 - Take out from oven, add fried potato on top and keep 15 minutes for rest.
 - After 15 minutes, sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve.
- I personally prefer bulgur pilaf and cacik as accompaniment for güveç, If you want this to be a vegetarian stew, all you need to do is to skip the meat and lamb fat part.

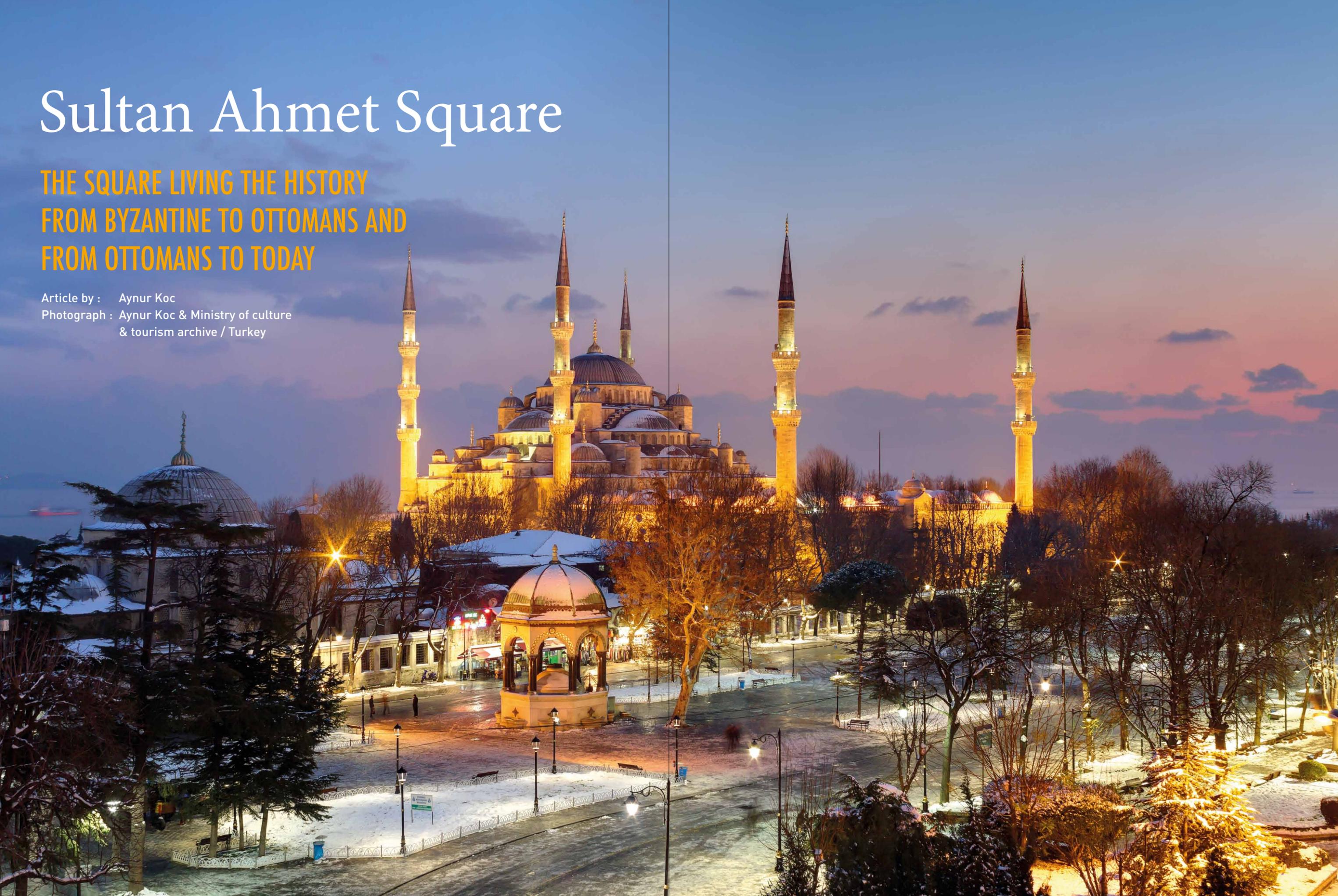
Afiyet olsun.

Sultan Ahmet Square

THE SQUARE LIVING THE HISTORY
FROM BYZANTINE TO OTTOMANS AND
FROM OTTOMANS TO TODAY

Article by : Aynur Koc

Photograph : Aynur Koc & Ministry of culture
& tourism archive / Turkey



Sultan Ahmet Square is undoubtedly “a must to see” of Istanbul both for foreign and domestic tourists.

The historical artifacts particularly the Serpent Column, Egyptian Obelisk, the Bathhouse (Hamam) of Haseki Hürrem Sultan, the German Fountain; Sultan Ahmet Mosque (The Blue Mosque) so named for its interior blue tile decoration and the significant Byzantine structure Hagia Sophia on the sides enamor the tourists.

Ramadan entertainments, food and souvenir stands set up throughout Ramadan month, visual demonstrations accompanied by light shows in different languages in summer jazz up the Sultan Ahmet Square.

Stylish apart-hotels built in recent years and Ottoman and Turkish cuisine served in the restaurants under these hotels have made this region a gourmet center. Most of the shopkeepers and children selling postcards, books, small souvenirs, etc. are capable of making sales in a few languages including Arabic.

Sultan Ahmet Mosque giving the name to the square was built for Sultan Ahmet I. It is the first mosque having six minarets; the exquisite 22.000 tiles decorating the interior of the mosque were produced in Iznik where was the center of Ottoman tile production. A chain was put in the upper part of the court entrance so that people including Sultan (Padishah) coming to the mosque for praying had to lower their heads in order not to get hit. It is a symbolic gesture ensuring the humility of the sultan, the equality of everyone coming to the mosque and the presence of God being above the sultan. In addition, praying is allowed in the mosque; Muslim tourists and shopkeepers in the vicinity can pray at praying times.

Next to the Sultan Ahmet Mosque there is a tomb where Sultan Ahmet is buried with his wife Kösem and his sons Sultan Osman II and Sultan Murat IV. To see the finest graceful hand-carved





examples of Iznik tiles and wood workmanship, the tomb should absolutely be visited. Just behind, there are souvenir shops and The Great Palace Mosaic Museum where the finest mosaics of the palace are exhibited.

Byzantine cisterns in the shops such as Nakka and Minor carpet can be sightseen with the special permission of the shop owners. It is a great pleasure to spectate the square while drinking coffee and tea, and smoking water pipe. The Sultan Ahmet Square is also called as Hippodrome which means square for horses. The Hippodrome was built towards the end of the 2nd century; and it had an important place as the city's meeting, entertainment, sport center in Roman and Byzantine times

until the 10th century. Besides the two or four-horse chariot races, there were performances of acrobats, dancers, musicians, and fights with wild animals. The most violent riot (Nika Riot) of Byzantine history also took place here; and the celebrations of the circumcision of princes including Mehmed (the son of Sultan Murad III), which lasted over fifty days, were done here in the Sultan Ahmet Square.

There is an octagonal, domed fountain at the entrance of the street called as the German Fountain. It was a present from the German Emperor Kaiser Willem II to Sultan Abdulhamid II during his visit. The ceiling of the dome is decorated with golden mosaics and Sultan Abdulhamid's tughra and Kaiser Willhem II's

symbol can be seen.

The two oldest monuments the **Egyptian Obelisk and the Serpent Column** (Snake Column) attract everyone's attention with their glorious view.

The **Egyptian Obelisk** also called as Theodosius Obelisk was one of two obelisks erected in commemoration of Pharaoh Thutmose III in Luxor in 1450 BC and made of rare pink granite. An unknown Roma Emperor brought it to Istanbul (Constantinople); after left lying in the corner of the Hippodrome, it was erected during the reign of Theodosius I in 390. Hieroglyphics and reliefs decorated Roman base make the obelisk more interesting and magical. On the other hand, the **Serpent Column** was erected in



479 BC in front of the Temple of Apollo in Delphi in honor of Greek Cities defeating the Persians together. It was brought to Istanbul in 324 by Constantine.

The heads of the serpents were missing, however one was later found and it is now being exhibited at Istanbul Archeological Museum.

One of the most prominent structures at the square is also the palace of the Grand Vizier Ibrahim Pasha who was appointed by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. It is used as the **Turkish and Islamic art Museum** today; the carpet collection of the museum is acknowledged to be one of the bests of the world. In addition to the exquisite manuscripts of the Quran, Ottoman miniatures, specific items such as candlesticks decorated with valuable gems, bejeweled objects, funeral belts and pearl reading desks are on display here in the museum.

If you prefer sitting at the café of the museum yard, you may have the opportunity of sighting all the historical artifacts including the mosque while sipping your delicious coffee and resting. Across from Sultan Ahmet Mosque, **Hagia Sophia Museum** is located with its glory.

The stately stance saluting the square attracts thousands of tourist like a magnet. Following the conquest of Istanbul by Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror, the church was converted to a mosque; and it has been used as a museum since 1934. Hagia Sophia is one of the most tourists attracting artifacts with the Topkapı Palace. Inside the museum, various names of Allah and the names of four Prophets are written on 8 leather covered wooden seals.





Sultan Ahmet Mosque



There is an impressive and mystic aura of the museum that Muslims, Christians and Jews visit this holy museum awe-inspiring. The Sultan tombs, fountains, reservoirs are also major architectural standpoints. Moreover, there is a baptistry of Hagia Sophia constructed in Byzantine times; inside it houses the tombs. One empire used the structure for "birth" and the other used for "death": who would have thought it could happen? Just in front of Hagia Sophia the Bath-house (Hamam) of Haseki **Hürrem Sultan** was constructed in 1556, which is one of the "must dos" of Istanbul. Women and men parts are separated and the entry fee is 100 euros.

Another place to sightsee is the Basilica Cistern which was built during the reign of Justinian I (527-565) to supply water in the vicinity. With its 336 columns arranged in 12 rows of 28 each, it is again a magnificent museum. There is a corner where you can have your photograph taken with authentic clothes; sit at the café in the cistern and enjoy the shadows of the columns under orange-colored lights reflecting on the water.

Do not skip the Million Stone above the Basilica Cistern, which is a mile-marker monument. It was a starting-place for measurement of distances of world cities for all the Antique Roman roads to Istanbul. The distances to various cities are also written on the signboards at present.

You have sightseen the square, and are hungry; it is hard to decide what to eat since there are many options: Besides the famous Sultan Ahmet meatballs, the most delicious Ottoman cuisine, döner (shawarma), fish, dürüm (roll), delicious desserts are only a few of what you can prefer. Just choose one at heart...

Bon Appetite...

A last note: Hop-On, Hop-Off Sightseeing buses start their trip from the Sultan Ahmet Square and tour both Anatolian and European side of Istanbul. Istanbul is guided in English, Arabic, German, French, Italian, Spanish, and Russian on the buses; Hope you a pleasant time in Istanbul...



interior designer **AYCAN ATEŞ**

TRANSFORMING SPACES. TRANSFORMING LIVES.



What is different in your designs in Qatar compared to Turkey?

Places in Qatar are very large and interior details are accustomed. In details there may be traditional motifs hitting the eye however Qataris are very open minded and they prefer modern interior designs in their new homes. Turkey by location is very influenced by the western culture. Turkish people are very open minded so architecture and interior architecture can be brave and there can be a lot of modern details appearing.

Mrs. Aycan Ateş, could you tell us a bit about yourself?

For more than 25 years, we have been putting our signature to beautiful detailed projects with pleasure, by our company which gives service in artistic consultancy and interior architectural design applications with our team of architects in Turkey.



What are the innovations in interior architectural design in recent years?

Generally, in interior, Scandinavian styled interior architecture and designs which are easy on the eye are preferred.

Thank you very much Mrs. Ates for all the information you have provided to the magazine Azura News.



What is important for you in designing and how do you develop them?

We take into account the countries our customers live in, conditions of life there and their lifestyles. We design places so that they will live happily and comfortably within.



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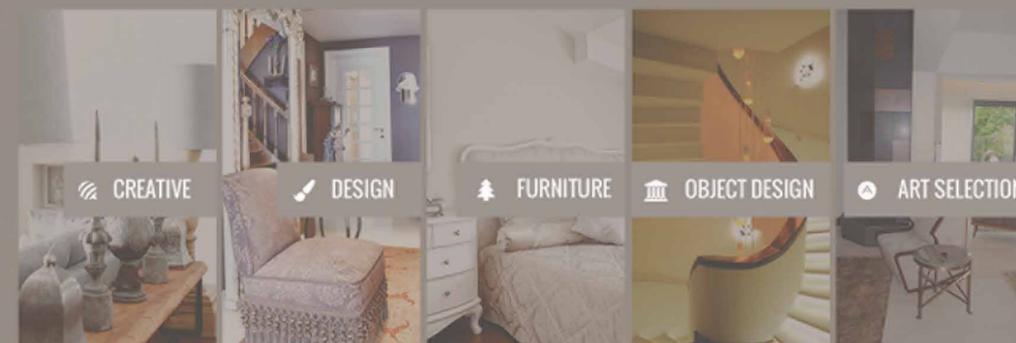


What design has affected you most in your visit to Qatar? Why?

Thanks to my close friends living there, in a business trip we have explored everywhere. Especially Mohammed Bin Abdulwahhab Mosque has made an impression on me. I loved the simple architecture. Also, the structure in district Katara is one of the places that pleases me.



PROJECTS AND CONSULTANCY



The only Permanent solution for Baldness; Hair Transplantation



Welcome **Dr. Tamer Sakrak**

Dr. Tamer Sakrak, could you please introduce yourself?

I was born in Nuremberg/Germany in 1977. I completed my primary and high school education in izmir (a city in the Aegean Region); and faculty of medicine and post-graduate education of plastic surgery at Osmangazi University in Eskisehir. I worked as a plastic surgeon at the Plastic Surgery Clinic of Erzurum (a city in the Eastern Anatolia Region) Regional Training and Research Hospital for two years. Following the four-year of work at the international establishments such as Acibadem Hospital and Esteworld, I gave professional private practice as an Aesthetic and Plastic Surgeon since 2011. Then, I founded my clinic "RegenPlast Aesthetic and Plastic Surgery Clinic", where I have been continuing to give service on the subjects of aesthetic surgery, bariatric and post bariatric surgery, and hair transplantation.

Let's talk about hair transplantation: Could you inform us about hair loss and transplantation?

Certainly; we name the situation of partial or total baldness after hair loss as "alopecia". Still the most prominent reason of hair loss and baldness is "androgenic alopecia" due to hormones and "androgenetic alopecia" due to the susceptibility genes supporting current hormonal situation. To explain more clearly, there are androgens (testosterone, dihydrotestosteron) both in male and female gender. These androgens being higher than normal cause hair to be thinner firstly then to be lost by affecting hair follicles. Also mostly, hormone level may be normal however hair loss occurs due to underlying susceptibility of hair follicles. Since the most important reason of baldness is genetic susceptibility, the hair follicles where the hair loss is seen are considered to be unhealthy and vice versa. Especially, approximately 30 percent of men at their 30ies and 50 percent of men at their 50ies are affected by this hormonal hair loss.

Hair transplantation, which is the only permanent solution for baldness, is in fact an act of interchanging in which healthy hair follicles genetically not affected by hormones are removed from the donor area and then transplanted to thinning (recipient) area. So, the amount of your hair does not decrease;

for instance if you have 1000 hairs before the transplantation, you will also have 1000 hairs after the transplantation procedure. The number of hair does not change whereas the distribution of hair changes. From this point of view, in order the hair transplantation to be performed to the patient having hair loss and baldness problem, there should be enough healthy hair follicles.

To whom and how is hair transplantation performed?

On condition of having enough healthy hair follicles reserve, hair transplantation may be performed to all women and men suffering from androgenic or androgenetic baldness. People having any of

the following are not suitable for hair transplantation: blood thinners, heart and lung abnormalities, blood-borne diseases.

How long does a hair transplantation procedure and recovery take?

The procedure is performed under local anesthesia while the patient is awake. Hence they feel no pain or discomfort during the surgery. It is a three-step procedure: donor removing; incision; and placing. In the first step healthy hair follicles are removed via special equipment one by one; the incisions are done on the recipient area in the second step; and finally the removed hair follicles are placed into the incisions. The procedure period takes 6-8 hours; bandage or medical dressing are not needed. Patients can wash their hair on day 2; and recovery completes in a week or ten days. Approximately 3 weeks after the hair transplantation slight hair loss may be seen, however good growth starts by 3 months, and the final look can be noticed after one year.

Lastly, what would you like to tell our readers?

First of all, it shouldn't be forgotten in order not to be aggrieved that hair transplantation is a medical surgery procedure, and should only



be performed by a competent person. Medically qualified health centers and artistically talented surgeons should be preferred. We as **Regenplast Aesthetic and Plastic Surgery Clinic** would like to inform that we would be pleased to host your readers and perform their all kinds of aesthetic needs.

Thank you very much indeed for giving us the chance of interviewing.

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Bursa

Known as “Green Bursa”, the city stands on the lower slopes of Uludag (Mount Olympus of Mysia, 2543 m) in the Marmara region of Anatolia. The title “Green” of Bursa comes from its gardens and parks, and of course from its being in the middle of an important fruit growing region.

In Bursa there are things you should not miss. First of all you are in the homeland of the delicious “Iskender Kebab”, one of the best dishes of world - famous Turkish Cuisine. The candied chestnuts (Kestane Sekeri) are a specialty of desserts and have an unforgettable taste. The peaches of Bursa are unique. As for shopping; Bursa is a center of the silk trade (since first silk cocoons were brought here with the caravans of the Silk Road) and towel manufacturing. It is also the homeland of the very famous Turkish folklore figures, Karagöz and Hacivat shadow puppets.

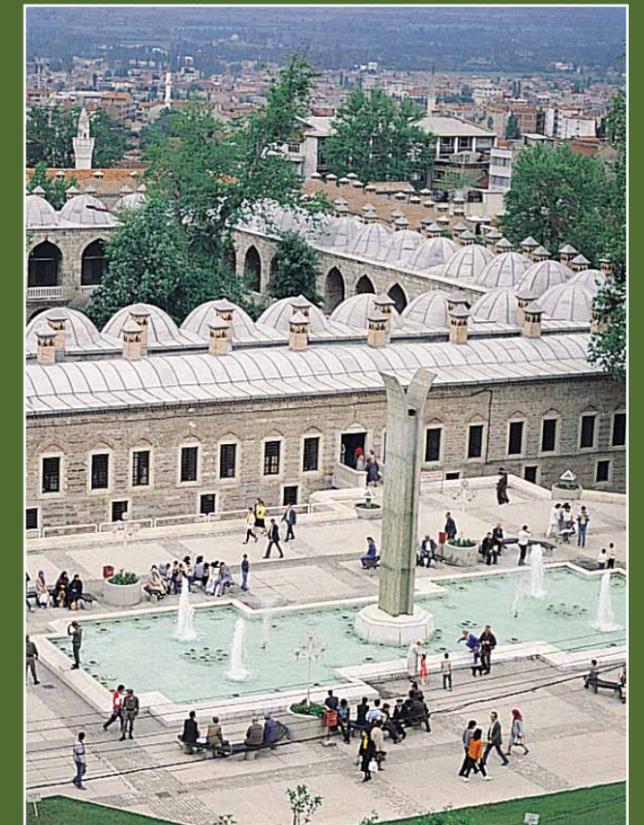
Being the first Ottoman capital, Bursa is very rich in religious monuments, mosques, tombs (Turbe) and baths. One of the places to be seen in Bursa is the Yesil Cami (Green Mosque), with its carved marble doorway which is one of the best in Anatolia. It is an elaborate and significant building in the new Turkish style. Just opposite to the mosque you will see Yesil Türbe (Green Tomb), set in a green garden with an enchanting exterior decorated with turquoise tiles. Near the tomb, there is Medrese complex (old theological school) now accommodate Ethnographical Museum which certainly deserves visiting.

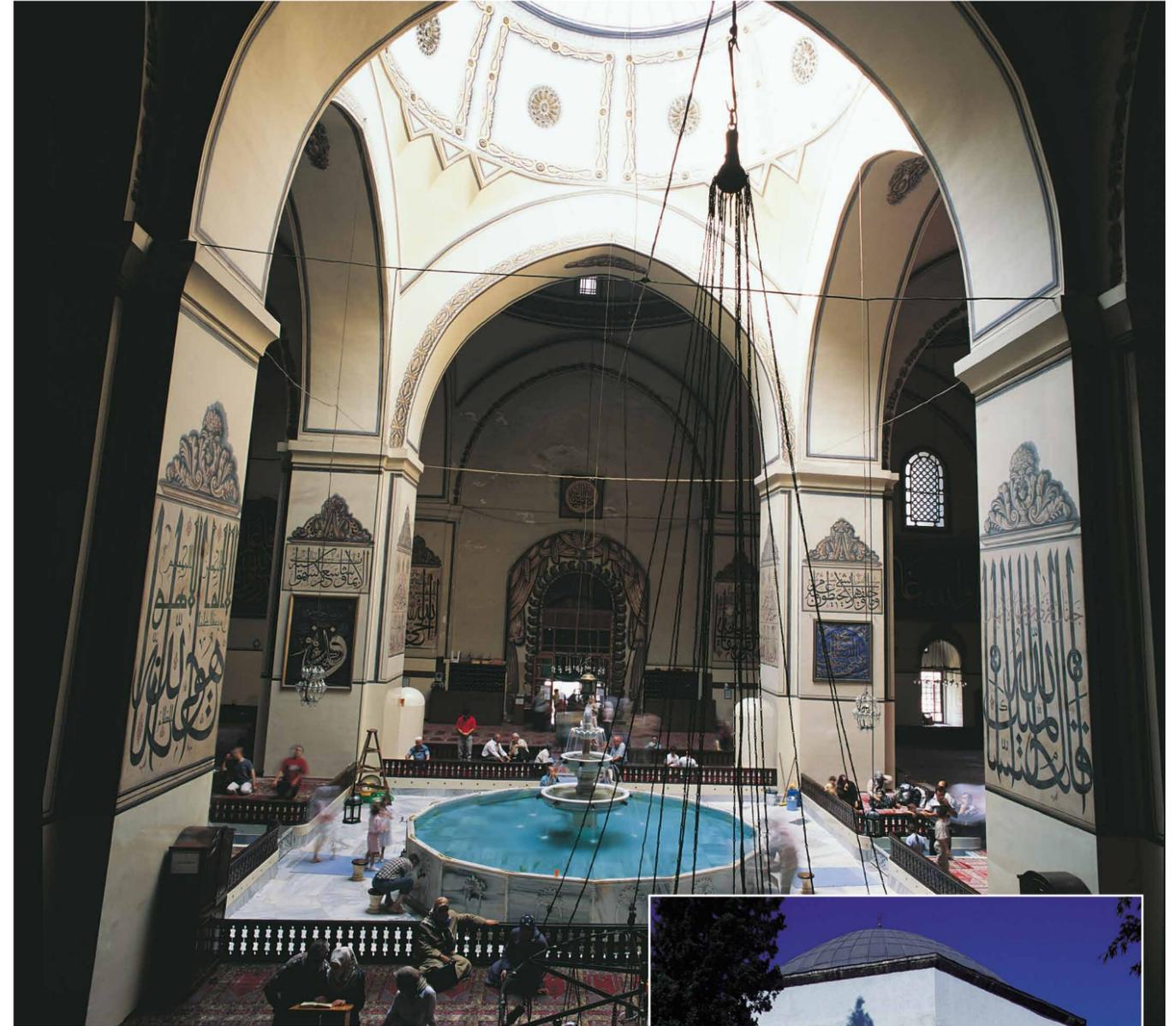


The gateway of the Green colour

Yildirim Beyazit Mosque is also an important building erected in the new Ottoman style and is accompanied by the Emir Sultan Mosque which lies in a peaceful setting. Each one of them is a masterpiece. Others are Ulu Cami (Grand Mosque) built in the Seljuk style, with impressive calligraphic wall decorations; Orhan Gazi Mosque; the "Hisar"; Mausoleum of Osman, the founder of the Ottoman Empire, and his son Orhan Gazi; Muradiye Complex which has got a delightful view with its mosque and tombs of important characters from the Ottoman era, their tiles and charming decorations appeal to the sightseers. The Ottoman Museum offers a lively exhibit of the traditional life style of the Ottomans. In Bursa there are several warm, mineral-rich springs; indeed most of the hotels has got their own thermal baths. The Turkish baths (hamams) are also great places to visit while in Bursa. Eski Kaplica (Old Spring) of Çekirge is the oldest; Karamustafa Pasa Baths are also famous for their hot, mineral-rich waters.

As for souvenirs, you should visit the Covered Bazaar, "Bedesten", or the Koza Han, an attractive Ottoman building with its architectural style and also a center of silk trade.

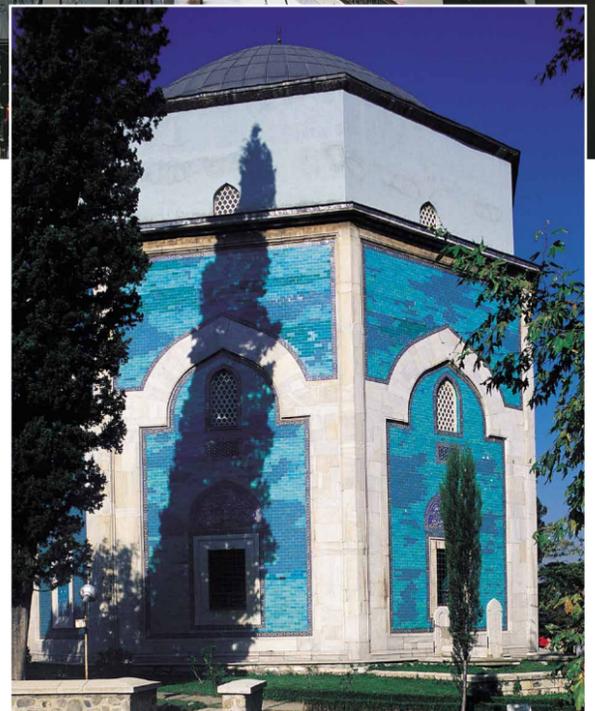




Uludag is the largest and most celebrated winter-sports and skiing center in Turkey. It is 36 kilometers from Bursa and easily accessible by car or cable-car (Teleferik in Turkish). The area is also a national park and is worth a visit at any time of the year. The accommodation is high quality offering the opportunity to enjoy the mountain, with a variety of entertainment and sport activities. On the way up don't miss the 600-year old plain tree.

Mudanya is a seaside resort town with fine fish restaurants and night-clubs, so you can have a pleasant vacation there. The old train station and the old ferryboat now serve as charming hotels.

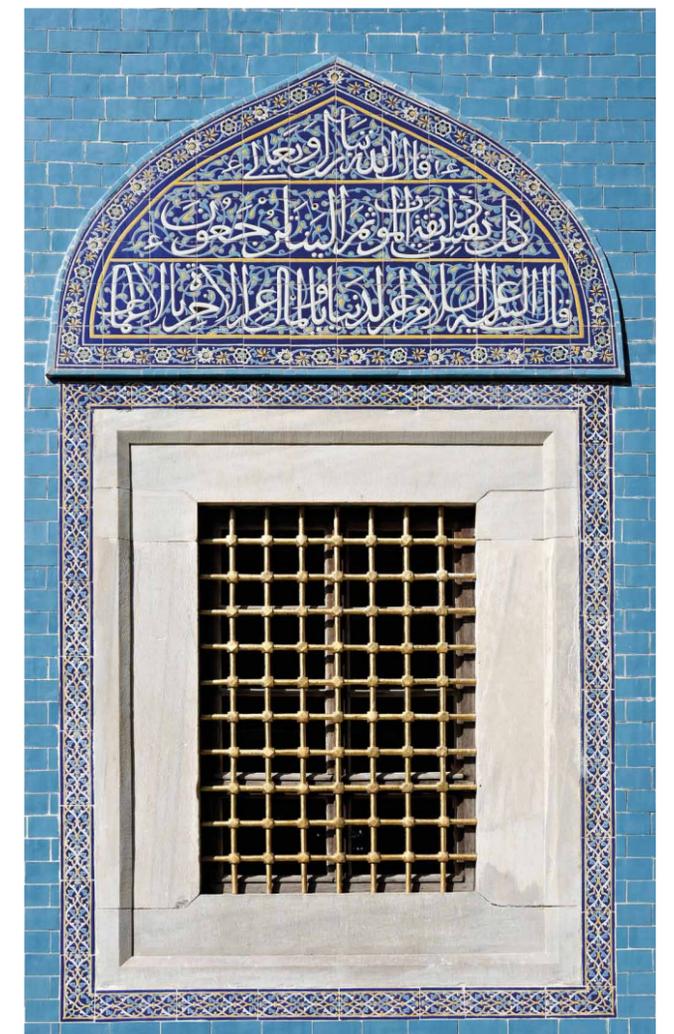
Zeytinbagi (Trilye) is a town of typical Turkish architecture and lay-out. There are sea bus and ferry connections with Istanbul.





Gemlik (27 km north), is another seaside resort with a wide, sandy beach. One of the best olive oils of Turkey comes from this town.

Iznik (Nicaea) lies 85 km northeast of Bursa, at the eastern tip of Lake Iznik. The town had a great importance for Christians because of the Ecumenic Councils, and witnessed many civilizations which have left their marks all over the land. This town is famous for its unique tiles and has been the center of tile production in the 16th century. Iznik tiles were the basic decorative element of Seljuk and Ottoman architecture. The turquoise-tiled Yesil Mosque and Nilüfer Hatun Imareti are among the historical buildings in the town.





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A weaving story
from past to present:

Pestemal

Pestemal (Peshtemal) is a kind of handicraft fabric 1,5 square meters full length known to be used before the Turks in Anatolia, and its history dating back to Ancient Rome. The word pestemal being loaned from Persian, is also called as “kesan”; and kikoy, sarong, fouta in the geographies apart from Anatolia. However, it acquired fame with the Bath (Hamam) Culture brought along when the Turks conquered Anatolia and it has continued to be used from Ottomans to present.



The Turkish bath style “hamam”, where people ablute and socialize, had great importance both for men and women during Ottoman time. Socializations such as mothers seeking brides for their sons, entertainments (bride bath) of girls before getting married, baby bath on the 40th day after the birth, soldier bath after military service, groom bath are the brief indications of how hamams take an important place in the life of the Turks. Moreover, hamam rituals having a prominent place also in Ottoman Harem were the source of inspiration for the artists of the era. There are numerous hamams mostly built in the names of the wives of the Sultans during Ottoman times and still being used in Istanbul.

Peshtemal, the primary accessory used in hamams, is used to cover and dry bodies; women wrap from the armpit whereas men wrap from the waist. It was produced by weaving on hand looms by only women in Anatolia’s Black Sea and Aegean regions, and made of cotton and cannabis throughout the history. Since it has a durable fabric, it was not only used at hamams but also by women for clothing in old days such as headscarf sides being inlaced, skirt and shawl. With its rich color harmony, patterns and weaving, one could understand the age and inhabited region of a person who is wearing it.

Nowadays, peshtemals being produced using all silk, cotton, linen, and bamboo in different colors and patterns, are modernized in order to meet the needs of our era; and it is also great at spas, beaches, pools and sports besides bathrooms. In comparison to towel, peshtemal is lighter, high absorbent, fast drying; and takes up little place. Owing to being produced of natural materials, it is additionally eco-friendly.



As well as peshtemals woven on advanced looms, hand woven peshtemals by craftsmen are still possible to be found. For instance, traditionally hand woven peshtemals produced of Buldan bezi (Buldan cloth) under the name of locality Buldan, which is the county of Denizli/Turkey, are so precious. Again, peshtemals colored by a special dyeing technique which is called as ikat (ikkat) used to pattern textiles in Giresun ,a city of the Black Sea Region, are still used by the women in the region as a headscarf. After Turkey/Buldan or Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, the bests and most exquisite multifunctional, traditional and storied from past to present Turkish peshtemals can be provided henceforth from April Textile at Souq Waqif in Qatar.

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About Art Of Iznik Quarts Tile

Çini (glazed tile) is an Ottoman-Farsi word means “come from China”. Çini denotes a certain ceramic type among glazed ceramic family. Art of glazed tile can be investigated under four eras; early period, classical era, late period and modern times.

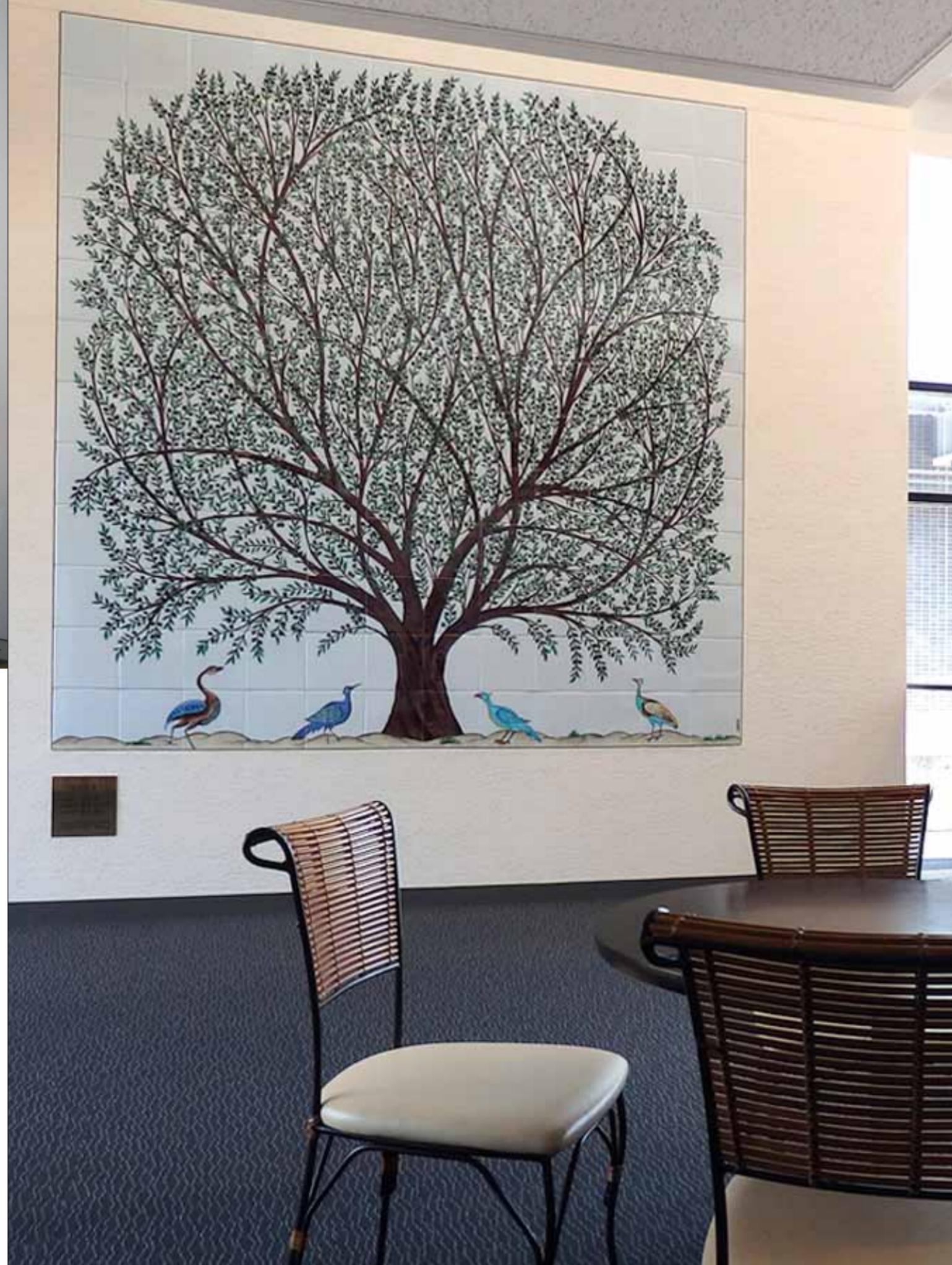


EARLY PERIOD

There were thirteen different manufacturing techniques during early period from 9th century to 13th century. These techniques are glazed and non-glazed tiles, embossed (in relief), barbotine (appliqué) technique, open work (mesh), kasitras (glaze scratching), lacvardina, monochrome glazed, mosaic technique, colored glazing technique, minai (a combine process of under glazing and over glazing techniques), luster technique, sgraffito technique and slip technique. With the Islamic tiles glazing techniques differs according where they were produced such as Rakka, Esfahan, Curcan, Kasan, etc. The only manuscript on early period tiles is "cevahir-ül feraiz atacih'ün nefais (nice scents and valuable essences)" by Ebul Kasım of Kasan which also called "guide for glazed tile production". The book explains the techniques used in the production of glazed tile in verses.

Classical period of glazed tile art began with the coming of Seljuk to Anatolia, carrying all ceramic production techniques of the Great Seljuk era. In the era following the period of Beyliks which had been experienced after the downfall of Great Seljuk and Anatolian Seljuk, Ottomans carried those production techniques on and also they started to imitate China porcelain by using under glazing technique.

Consequently, glazed ceramic culture in Anatolia emerged as a synthesis of ceramic cultures of near east, far east and other civilizations who once reigned over Anatolia. Manufacturing then turned completely to under glazing motifs during



Ottoman era due to easy application and aesthetic appearance. With under glazing technique, the motif is applied to the baked dough by using coal dust. After the countoured motifs were painted with under glazing paints the surface are covered with colorless glaze.

With the increase in monumental structures in architecture and due to Architect Sinan's choosing glazed tiles in his works led to serial production of tiles and with the support of the Palace increased the production of glazed tiles in Iznik which is the home of glazed tile since prehistoric eras.

LATE PERIOD

Iznik production center stopped its operation by the late of 17th century and Kutahya was left as the only production center in which only daily use ceramics were produced. In the era called Tulip Era there were efforts to revive the art of glazed tiles in Istanbul which led to the production of wall tiles as well as tiles with Kabaa motif for Tekfur Palace by the artisans brought from Iznik and Kutahya.

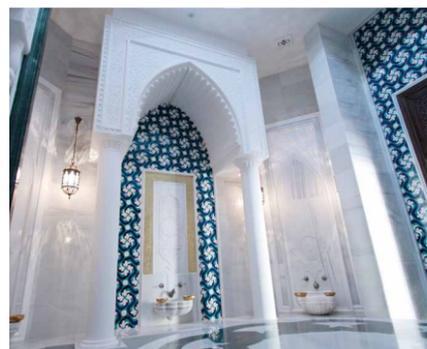
Although the factory established with the machines brought from Germany, during reign of II. Abdülhamit porcelains as well as wall tiles for repair purposes were produced in Yıldız Palace, the announcement of second constitutional period in 1908 and then deposition of the sultan and the following wars brought the production to an end and only in 1950s the factory has finally began to production again under the management of Sumerbank.

MODERN PERIOD (PRESENT)

Reviving efforts of Iznik glazed tile has begun with the Faik Kirimli coming to Iznik to establish a glazed tile furnace in 1980. Faik Kirimli has never received any support in his efforts to restart the glazed tile production in Iznik so he had to move his efforts to Kutahya. Thanks to invitation of Esref Eroglu, second greatest glazed tile artisan of Iznik, Faik Kirimli who signed his work as "Work of Faik" had visited Iznik for the second time.

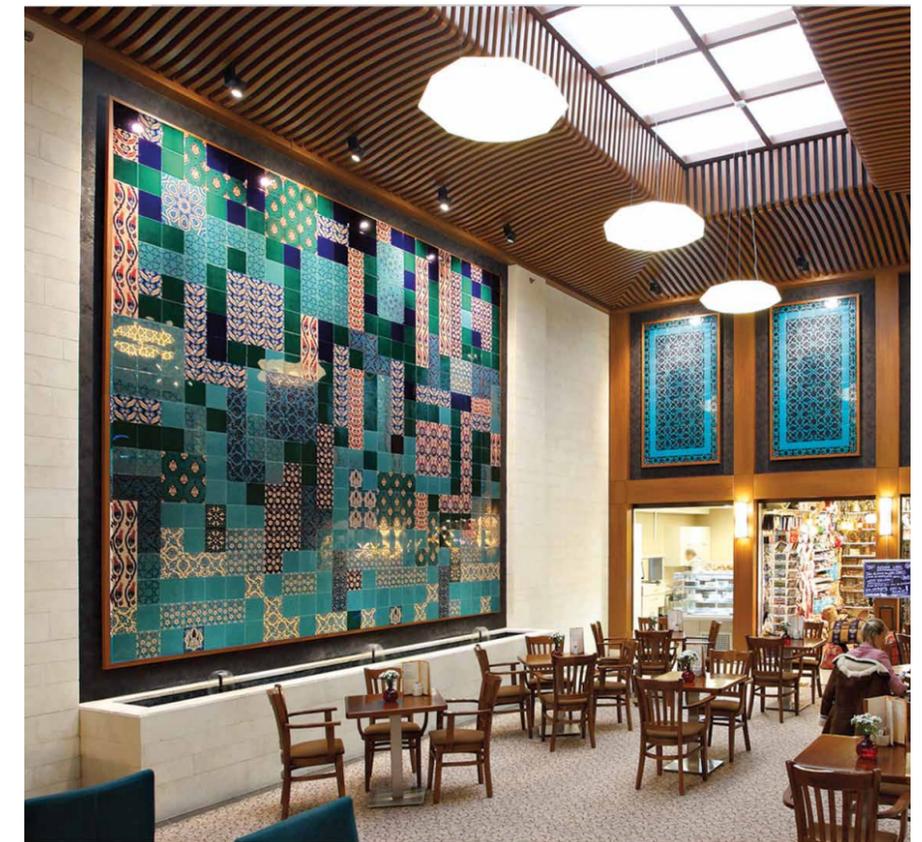
The date of first ignition of the furnace with the Faik Kirimli's glazed tile motifs in the garden of Esref Master is 1985.

The glazed tiles produced by Faik Kirimli were proved as "authentic tiles" by the test report of Material Lab of Civil Engineering Faculty, Istanbul Technical University, dated 20/12/1974-354 which was run for the tile samples to be used in Ankara Kocatepe Mosque. To the fire ignited by Faik Kirimli-Esref Eroglu for reviving the glazed tile in Iznik was joined by Rasih Kocamanoglu who entered the glazed tile world in 1985 in Avanos. In summary, the first generation of new glazed tile



era in Iznik constituted of works of Faik Kirimli-Esref Eroglu and Rasih Kocamanoglu.

Anikya Iznik Çini, in order to maintain the fire ignited by the said three artisans and to convey the art to the next generations, continues to production of Iznik glazed tiles in traditional techniques and leading the efforts to revive the art by opening new usage fields for Iznik glazed tile with modern designs.



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Fıstık Oda (Peanut Room) : In the 40 sqm guest room and a terrace is a place to enjoy comfort, herbal beauty products, internet access, LCD TV set, housekeeping service, in-room kitchenettes, room is equipped with a king size bed.

YILDIRIM MAYRUK

The first name coming to mind in Turkey when Haute Couture is mentioned



Yildirim Mayruk. Could you please introduce yourself?

I started my profession in Bursa near my sister who was a tailor; I used to sew hats and help her in stitching. My first step to sew dresses was for my mother and I went to cinema with that money. One day in later years, I noticed a loft for rent on istiklal Street and I rent it right after. A lady had already left her fabric to be sewed just before my fixtures and goods arrived to my loft. We grew to 3 storeys; and theatres, cinemas, stages all became my customers as the time went by. This led me to be the first creator chosen by the votes of public in Turkey; and besides the first transparent clothes, the first exclusive TV interview was made with me. Then ili and Tevikiye

workshops were opened and we have been operating in Taksim for 10 years.

When did you come to Qatar?

I came to Qatar 3 years ago; and met to Hessa Al Hamdan under favor of a Dubaiian friend resulting in a partnership named Myra & Mayruk. Our fashion show has seen a considerable interest, and our travels and visits to Qatar has gone on.

Why did you decide to carry your designs to Qatar?

I think Qatar is an advancing and altering country with its exotic and attractive aura. That's why, we have imagined presenting a different fashion understanding to Qatar and other GCC countries.



What are the DOs and DON'Ts of choosing a wedding dress?

A wedding dress symbolizes purity and innocence. Excessive décolleté may not be welcomed so cultural values should always be taken into consideration. Muslim women have somehow developed a passion for the long veiled and trained wedding dresses worn at church weddings in recent years. Bouquet, lace and silk are the musts of a wedding dress whereas stony and ornate dresses are inappropriate.

How do you find Qatar?

Qatar has an economy capable of meeting the needs both for the present and the future. Sheikha Mozah's modern face has attracted us much; also hotels, malls are different and mysterious.

How do you think world fashion has changed in the last 10 years?

World fashion is in the period of ending; the remarkable fashion houses such as YSL, Dior may be considered to have become boutiques. Every country has a unique architecture, social life and culture; discrepancy and diversity should occur via comment. However fashion sector has started making everyone same.

Could you give wedding dresses tips for our readers?

First of all, bride and families should never be in a competition at weddings. While avoiding from decollated wedding dresses, easy to dance and walk dresses should be preferred; and the emphasis should be put on quality and model.

What do you think 2014-2015 autumn-winter fashion trends are?

Wool, silk, velvet are favored this winter whereas lace, satin, muslin fabrics are attracting attention. In addition, waists slim fit to bodies and paddings are not seen on shoulders besides water drops effects with floral structures' being favorite. The length of the skirts are longer; pantaloons are rarely preferred; fur and feather are experiencing perhaps their most glorious year. While black is diminishing, brown, orange, blue and green are prominent colors.

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