The Ege Eye

Issue 221

January 2023

"News for the Turkish coast since 2005"

HOŞGELDİN 2023

Like many places around the world, New Year's Eve in Kusadasi was full of colour, celebration and of course fireworks.

Even as a visitor, taking part in rituals and traditions at this time of year is all part of enjoying a culture.

Throughout December there were many events around the town, you only have to goggle 'Kusadasi Belediye' to find out what is happening throughout the year. Of course you can keep up-to-date by checking The Ege Eye facebook page.

In sports Turkey received many gold medals at different events around the world and Turkish Airlines keep going onwards and upwards (excuse the pun).

The top 5 Google searches in Turkey were:

1. Dolar/TL
2. Bayram tatili kaç gün (how many days is the holiday celebrated)
3. ÖBA
4. Bergen
5. Kedi (Cat)

The top 5 worldwide searches were:

1. Wordle
2. India vs England
3. Ukraine
4. Queen Elizabeth
5. Ind vs SA

Continued on page 11

Mr. MOON'S PLACE

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Many of these departments will now come under 112

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Kusadasi Life

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First unmanned surveillance system installed in Adana

The first of an unmanned surveillance tower system, nicknamed “Eyes of Forests,” has been installed in the southern province of Adana, daily Milliyet has reported.

The tower, which can monitor all activities within 5,000 hectares of forests and detect smoke within 30 kilometers, will inspect forests 24/7 and warn authorities of a fire at the beginning.

“Early detection is crucial to put out a fire,” İlhami Aydın, deputy head of the Forest Fire Control Department at the country’s General Directorate of Forestry, told the daily on Dec. 11.

“We detect forest fires with cameras, and with the help of artificial intelligence, we find out the exact coordinates, and we intervene,” he added. The general directorate aims to place three new towers, each 50-meter-tall, in [the northwestern province of] Çanakkale, [the southwestern province of] Muğla, and [the southern province of] Antalya, in 2023.
According to the officials, the “Eyes of Forests” will be the guardians of green lands as forest fires have become a threat occurring not only in summer but 12 months a year due to climate change. Source: Huriyet Daily News

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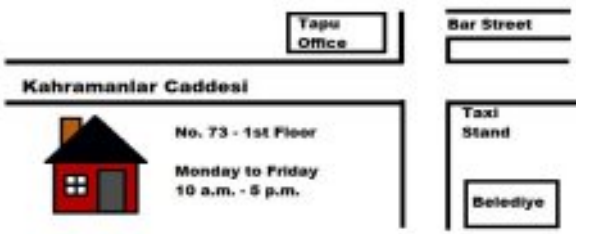

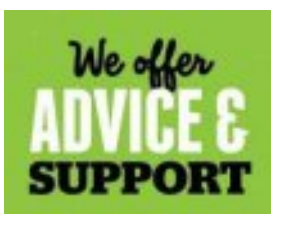

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Economic News

Hepsiburada's sale volume rose 66 percent

Hepsiburada, Türkiye's leading e-commerce platform, has reported a 66 percent increase in its gross merchandise value (GMV) in the third quarter from a year ago to 10.7 billion Turkish Liras.

Revenues of the company grew 6.9 percent on an annual basis in the July-September period compared with the same period of 2021 to reach 3.3 billion liras, while the number of orders rose by 26 percent year-on-year to 17.4 million, Hepsiburada said in a statement.

The e-commerce platform had a total of 11.8 million active customers as of the third quarter, up 11 percent from a year ago and frequency rose by 21.4 percent to 5.4.

The active merchant base grew 41.5 percent to reach 94,300 and the number of SKUs (stock keeping unit) increased from 76.9 million in September last year to 145 million, marking an 89 percent rise.

The statement added that the share of marketplace GMV improved from 69.7 percent in the third quarter of 2021 to 68.2 percent.

Hepsiburada reported a net loss of 571.5 million liras for the third quarter against a net loss of 1.5 billion in the same quarter of 2021 and its interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) improved to negative 638 million from negative 1.25 billion.

"We continued to make progress on our path to profitability despite the macroeconomic challenges during the third quarter," said Murat Emirdağ, CEO, commenting on the third quarter results.

He added that the company also made progress in its strategic fintech business.

"Hepsipay is focused on developing new features to enrich the shopping experience with improved customer verification and e-wallet capabilities. Having recorded 9.2 million wallet users by the end of the third quarter, Hepsipay Wallet marked the milestone of 10 million wallet users in November," Emirdağ said. Source Hurriyet Daily News

Türkiye's fruit, vegetables exports soar

The top exporters of the last three years have been awarded by the Istanbul Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Exporters' Association (IYMSİB) at an award ceremony over the weekend.

The exports of the sector increased by 24 percent in the 11 months covering the January-November period compared to the same period of the previous year and reached $2.28 billion, said Melisa Tokgöz Mutlu, chairman of the board of directors of İYMSİB, in her opening speech of the ceremony.

In the same period, exports from Istanbul reached $452 million, with an increase of 17 percent, Mutlu added.

She noted that despite the war, Russia and Ukraine were among the countries that exported the most fresh fruit and vegetables.

"Our total exports to these two warring countries, $168.3 million to Russia and $23.6 million to Ukraine, approached $200 million," Mutlu said.

"With the end of the war, our exports to both markets will increase even more. On the other hand, our exports to Qatar, where the World Cup was held, increased by nearly 100 percent in November and reached $2.1 million."

Noting that with the measures to be taken within the scope of the Green Agreement, there will be a transformation in many sectors, especially agriculture, in the EU, Mutlu said, "This concerns us very closely."

"We export most of our exports to EU countries. We, too, are working to do our best on production, traceability and transparency at international standards under the umbrella of sustainability." Source: Hurriyet Daily News

Health News

Ministry to increase drug production amid shortage

The Health Ministry has reached an agreement with drug manufacturers to increase the production of drugs that are difficult to supply, the minister has announced amid the shortage of drugs experienced by pharmacies across the country.

“The difficulty in supplying some drugs is due to the problem of raw materials originating from abroad. Our pharmaceutical companies are ready to take action to purchase raw materials,” Fahrettin Koca tweeted.
The ministry has reached an agreement with drug manufacturers to boost the production of the drugs that are difficult to obtain, he pointed out.

A shortage of drugs from December to February occurs every year due to numerous firms that stop supplying drugs in the market until the new prices are determined before the New Year.

Decreased drug production due to no more active ingredient coming from China, which meets 98 percent of the needs of the domestic pharmaceutical industry, the use of too many antibiotics during the pandemic and the drug needs of foreign nationals in the country are among the reasons behind the shortage, according to sector representatives.

The increase in many expenditures from the raw material to the bottle and packaging of the drug, as they are foreign exchange-based, also contribute to the problem, they say.

New exchange rate regulations for manufacturers, suspension of the export of rare drugs for a while and reliable conditions for the purchase of pharmaceutical raw materials were some of the solutions Koca listed to control the drug shortage.

He also noted the export of drugs that are rare in the market has been suspended until the problem is solved. Source: Hurriyet Daily News

Schools warn parents for children to wear face masks

As flu cases are spreading rapidly among children, many schools have begun to warn parents that children should come to school wearing face masks.

Messages sent to parents also warn not to send children who show symptoms to school, as experts emphasize that the precautions taken by schools for the “flu epidemic” are in place.

“With the effect of the closure during the pandemic, our social immunity has decreased against the influenza virus. Thus, over the normalization process, there has been a very rapid increase in cases,” said Eda Kepenekli, an associate professor from Marmara University.

Adenovirus, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are currently most common in children, the expert noted, warning parents to complete their kids’ childhood immunizations if any are missing.

All children over six months should also be vaccinated against the influenza, Kepenekli said.

If children have symptoms such as runny nose and cough, they should wear a face mask, and even should not go to school for the first three or four days after the symptoms begin, she added.

The measures taken by schools are appropriate, Ateş Kara, a professor from Hacettepe University, also said.

Thanks to the precautions taken by both children and adults during the pandemic, around two and a half years have passed without encountering infections affecting the upper respiratory tract, he said. “However, these seasonal viruses started to appear again, along with those that are quickly becoming commonplace, such as RSV and influenza, with people returning to the same social lives.”

The reason why there are so many sick children is that they did not learn about these diseases during the pandemic, Kara suggested.

Influenza and RSV cases may increase by the middle of this month, the expert warned and said, “The best thing we can do to protect children during this period is to follow the hygiene rules and wear face masks.”
Pupils must be taken outside between classes and the classrooms must be ventilated, Kara stressed.

“In the same way, if adults feel complaints such as mild sore throat, fever and cough, using masks in their social lives would allow us to spend this period more comfortably,” he added, urging to get influenza vaccine, and also COVID-19 booster shots. Source: Hurriyet Daily News

Why Bodrum is the best place to be in winter

Leyla Yvonne Ergil

The summer vacation hot spot of Bodrum also has a lot to offer for yearlong residents, especially with its opportunity for outdoor activities, restaurants that remain open year-round, social gatherings and holiday season events

The Mayor's Holiday party for expats, in Bodrum, Türkiye. (Photo courtesy of Leyla Yvonne Ergil)

Bodrum, which is Türkiye's top summer vacation destination for Turks and foreigners from all over the world, also has a thriving local expat community a significant portion of which choose to live there year-round. With the influx of a new wave of urban remote workers in recent years, the region, which mere decades ago was just a center and a series of small fishing villages, now is becoming somewhat of a metropolis with nearly a dozen adjacent regions almost as developed now as the historical city center, creating a lot of options for activities, dining and socializing available in winter. Coming from someone who has lived in nearly 10 different towns and villages along the coast, it is a comforting and exhilarating luxury to live in a region that is bustling with options of things to do in winter in what is normally a summer holiday spot. While it does get some rain, most days are sunny, the traffic is less heavy and you interact more with the locals in the offseason months. Many of its thriving local expat community will also concur that winter is in fact the best time of year to be in Bodrum

I recently paid a visit to Bodrum and had the opportunity to take part in the annual "Ladies Lunch" event in which dozens of mostly expats and repats gather every year to meet, mingle network and dine on a three-course meal, which is followed by an appealing raffle. This year's Ladies Lunch, which was the 20th such event, took place on Friday, Nov. 11, at the Bodrum Marina Yacht Club. This highly anticipated yearly event is a truly special one as the group of foreign ladies living in the region have actually been gathering for 22 years when including the pandemic two-year hiatus. It's a wonderful social event with a mingling session at the start followed by a lunch in a large spacious restaurant with banquet seating and so you sit at large tables to get the chance to meet new people.

The Ladies Lunch ends with a bang in the form of a lottery drawing of gifts and services donated by local vendors and hotels. Gifts included fun stuff such as free massages and beauty care treatments, and breakfast and pizza dinners. Here's what to look forward to in winter...

Holiday markets and parties

This is just one of a number of the unique annual events that are held in Bodrum. In December, we can expect the resurfacing of a number of annual holiday markets, the most notably held at the municipality's cultural center Trafo. Similarly, every year the Bodrum mayor holds a holiday party for the expats in the region. Having attended last years event, I can say it has become a true blowout event with hundreds of foreigners mingling and dining on appetizers and drinks, including freshly-squeezed orange juice from the grove's the region is known for, all the while dancing to a live pop band. While admittedly not always such a grandiose affair, this is a tradition that has been ongoing annually in Bodrum for at least a few decades now. Similarly, when Christmas season approaches, there will also be dinners and events organized on the day and in the week leading up to it.

Socializing in winter

The Bodrum Herodotus Third Age Academy is a wonderful organization that has been ongoing for over a decade in which regular special interest groups, exhibitions, tours, hikes and breakfasts and gatherings take place regularly in the offseason months. Inspired by the International Third Age Academy concept, members, many of which are retirees but certainly not limited to, share their expertise in arts, history, exercise and a wide range of topics in weekly meet-ups based from their center in Gürece.

The InterNations professional expat network operates two different groups and events that hold regular meetups in the winter months. There is the regular networking gathering that takes place monthly as well as a dining group that sits down at a shared table together to dine. There are regular English language trivia nights organized by the social handle Bodrum Pub Quiz and most recently held at Pi Café Bistro.

While there are a variety of dance and art courses that are offered in winter, the Bodrum Lindy Hoppers is a fun community offering regular dance workshops from two different locations, one being at the Seashine Dance Academy in Oasis and the other from their studio in Gümüşlük. Some neighborhood

organizations, such as The Herodot Culture Center hosts a number of seminars, exhibitions and performances as does the Bodrum Deniz Müzesi (Bodrum Maritime Museum), including children's workshops.

A getaway to Greece

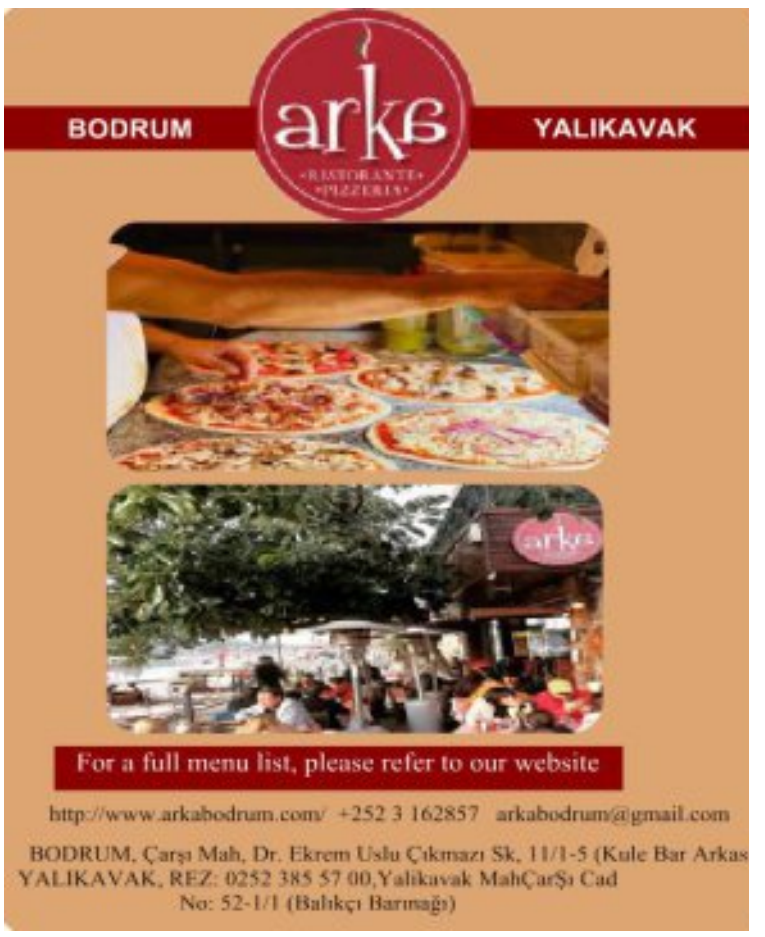
This winter the ferryboat services between Bodrum and Kos will continue albeit limited to from Bodrum center and only on specific days of the week. These boats set off in the morning and return in the afternoon serving as a fun daytrip or more.

Supporting a local football team is fun in Türkiye!

In many towns and cities in Türkiye, there is a steadfast tradition of going out to the bleachers to watch live matches in support of local football teams. The same interest has been shown by many an expat, which band together to be in the outdoors and to cheer their hearts out for their home teams playing football. With thanks to the Daily Sabah for allowing me to share this article.

Expats take part in the annual "Ladies Lunch" event at the Bodrum Marina Yacht Club, in Bodrum, Türkiye, Nov. 11, 2022.

(Photo courtesy of Leyla Yvonne Ergil)



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‘Invisible DNA’ to combat museum theft

A solution called “invisible DNA,” containing the digital identity of an artifact and making it traceable anywhere in the world, will be applied to artifacts against theft in museums, Culture and Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy has announced.

Responding to the question in the parliament regarding the historical artifacts stolen or lost from museums, Ersoy stated that his ministry is preparing to take measures against the theft of original works in museums and replace them with their imitations.

The laboratory examination of a digital barcode-based application, which is also used in some countries to reduce the smuggling of historical artifacts to a minimum, is about to be completed.

Being able to be applied to many materials such as wood, stone and textile does not harm the originality of the work, as it does not interact with the main materials and textures of the artifact.

The teams to be trained by the ministry on this subject will start the application of invisible DNA simultaneously in many museums, starting from January 2023.

“Starting from New Year’s, we will initiate to apply invisible DNA on all works exhibited in museums. The system will be able to detect a possible theft if these works are relocated,” Ersoy explained.

“This system is implemented in only a few countries at the moment. We have started a work identification project in cooperation with the Presidential Defense Industry Directorate and ASELSAN. We are carrying out the project with the latest technologies,” the minister added.

The “invisible DNA” consists of a solution that has no smell, cannot be noticed, cannot be modified and does not cause any damage to artifacts.

This solution will be also used as a kind of digital barcode comprising numbers and identification information of artifacts.

The solution will only be applied to a predetermined area of the artifact, museum officials will determine a different application area for each work.

When the invisible barcode in the solution is scanned, it will be revealed which museum the work belongs to and when it was registered.

With the use of this digital code, in case of replacing the artifact with its imitation, smuggling, or trading, the barcode will reveal to prove its origin.

Accordingly, invisible DNA will facilitate the verification that historical artifacts smuggled abroad after being stolen from the museums are works belonging to the museum in Türkiye through their barcodes, while it will pave the way for the acceleration of the return process of the smuggled artifacts to the country.

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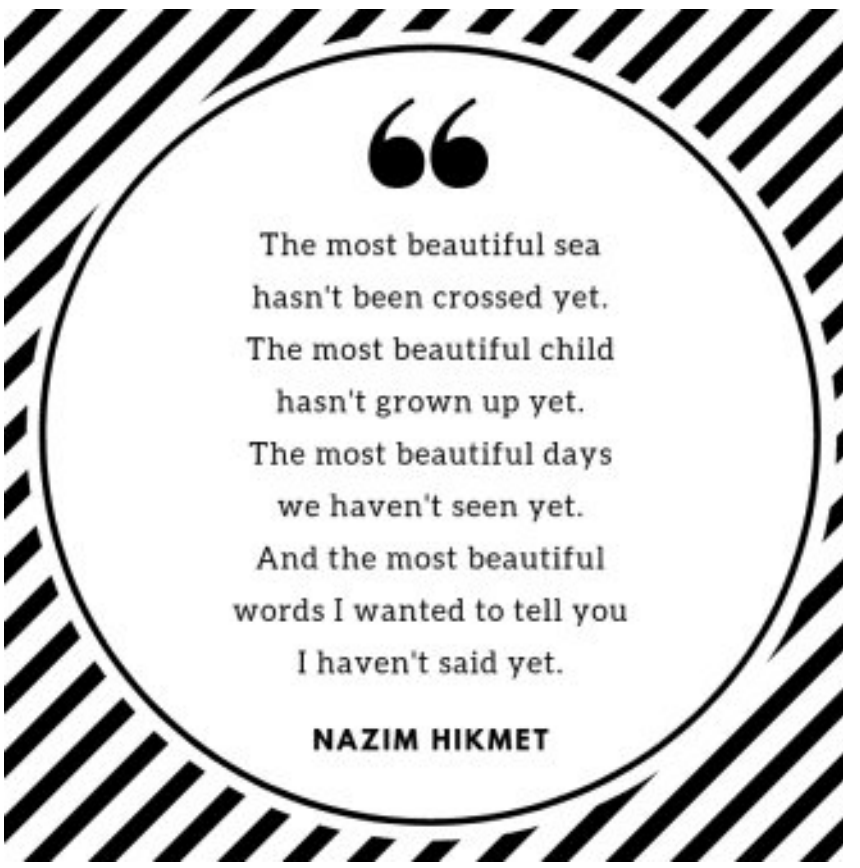
Turkish Literature 101: Nazım Hikmet Ran

Lisa Morrow



Born on the 15th of January 1902 in Thessaloniki, where his father was serving as an Ottoman government official; Nazım Hikmet Ran, commonly known as Nazım Hikmet, was a Turkish poet, playwright, novelist, screenwriter, director and memoirist. Best known for his intellectual pursuits and considered a romantic communist and revolutionary, he was very active throughout his life in pursuit of the values he held dear.

Had I been born much earlier, he might have been my komşu, that is, my neighbor, when he was a child. His first school was the Taşmektep Primary in the street of the same name in Göztepe, Istanbul, where I live. From there he went to the Galatasaray High School in Beyoğlu for a brief time where he began to learn French. However, he was transferred to the Numune Mektebi in the Nişantaşı district in 1913.

His school days coincided with a period of great political upheaval, during which the Ottoman government entered the First World War, allying itself with Germany. After Nazım graduated from the Ottoman Naval School on Heybeliada, one of the Princes' Islands located in the Sea of Marmara in 1918, he was assigned as a naval officer to the Ottoman cruiser Hamidiye. This career only lasted a short time because he became seriously ill and was permanently exempted from naval service in 1920.

Luckily for the world, illness didn't stop him for long. In 1921 he went to İnebolu in Anatolia with a group of friends including Vâlâ Nûreddin in order to join the Turkish War of Independence. From there he walked with Nûreddin to Ankara, where the Turkish liberation movement was headquartered, and was introduced to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. He requested that Nazım and Nûreddin write a poem to invite and inspire Turkish volunteers in Istanbul and elsewhere to join their struggle. This poem was much appreciated, and they were appointed as teachers to the Sultani college in Bolu, rather than being sent to the front as soldiers. Not surprisingly their communist views were not appreciated by the conservative officials in Bolu, and so the two decided to go to Batumi in the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic to witness the results of the Russian Revolution of 1917, arriving there on the 30th of September 1921. Then, in July 1922 the two friends went to Moscow, where Nazım studied Economics and Sociology at the Communist University of the Toilers of the East in the early 1920s.

There, he was influenced by the artistic experiments of Russian Futurists and Symbolists, as well as the ideological vision of Lenin.

On his return to Turkey, Nazım became the charismatic leader of the Turkish avant-garde, producing streams of innovative poems, plays and film scripts. Due to the political nature of his works he was repeatedly arrested for his political beliefs and spent much of his adult life in prison or in exile. In the 1940s he became a controversial case among intellectuals worldwide, so much so that in 1949, a committee that included Pablo Picasso, Paul Robeson, and Jean-Paul Sartre, campaigned for his release.

On the 8th of April 1950, Nazım began a hunger strike against the Turkish parliament's failure to include an amnesty law in its agenda before it closed for the upcoming general election. This caused a stir throughout the country. Petitions were signed and a magazine bearing his name was published. His mother Celile began a hunger strike on the 9th of May, joined by renowned Turkish poets Orhan Veli, Melih Cevdet and Oktay Rıfat the next day. In light of the new political situation after the 1950 Turkish general election, held on the 14th of May, the strike was called off five days later on the 19th of May, the Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day. Nazım was finally released through a general amnesty law enacted by the new government.

On the 22nd of November, 1950, the World Council of Peace announced that Nazım Hikmet Ran was among the recipients of the International Peace Prize, along with Pablo Picasso, Paul Robeson, Wanda Jakubowska and Pablo Neruda. Despite this honor, Nazım continued to be imprisoned for his beliefs until he moved to the USSR, first escaping from Turkey to Romania on a ship via the Black Sea. Sadly, Nazım died of a heart attack in Moscow on the 3rd of June, 1963, at 6.30 am while picking up a morning newspaper at the door of his summer house in Peredelkino, far away from his beloved homeland. He is buried in Moscow's famous Novodevichy Cemetery, where his imposing tombstone is still today a place of pilgrimage for Turks and many others from around the world. His final wish, never carried out, was to be buried under a plane-tree (çınar ağacı) in any village cemetery in Anatolia.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Health Minister Dr. Fahrettin Koca announced that due to 20% of appointments not being kept for Government hospitals & Doctors, a new rule will apply.

If you do not show up to your appointment and you don't cancel it in a timely manner prior, then no new appointment can be made for the following 15 days.
The hospitals are running at high volume and evidently there is a consistent no show problem.

Those who apply for a residence permit by renting a house must make the electricity or water bill in their name in order to register their address. (This is from Fethiye Immigration Office) We shall see if this will apply Aydin Province in the New Year.

The minimum wage increase rate was announced as 54.66 percent. President Erdoğan announced that the minimum wage to be applied in 2023 is 8 thousand 506 TL.

Hairdressers in Kusadasi will be closed on Sundays as of January 1. This decision was taken by the Ministry of Commerce regarding the closure of men's and women's hairdressers, which has been on the agenda for a long time, will be effective as of January 1, 2023.

Did you know that around 96% of the total population drinks at least 1 cup of tea per day? It's estimated that Turks consume 3 kilos of tea per person a year.

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Restaurant sealed 3 times before its pier collapsed

The restaurant where 14 people fell into the sea when its pier collapsed in Istanbul's Arnavutköy district was found to have been sealed by the municipality three times in the past.

The building, previously registered as a second group of cultural assets to be protected, served as a fish restaurant for years. After its closure, the venue was taken over by the operator Danış Ulaç in October 2021. During the renovation, an additional ledge was installed to the pier so that customers could smoke, which was the part that collapsed.

The building, which was sealed by the municipality after the incident, turned out that it had been sealed three times before on Nov. 10, 2005, Nov. 28, 2011, and May 25, 2022, after it was found that sections were added illegally during the renovation.

Though the municipal committee decided to demolish all the parts of the building which are against the license on Aug. 17, the teams that went to the building on Nov. 1 could not carry out the demolition because there were customers inside.

Four people with minor injuries taken to the hospital after the incident on Dec. 23 were discharged after their first treatment.

A diver brought by the owners of the venue on early Dec. 24 collected the belongings of the customers spilled into the sea. Searching for minutes, the diver took cell phones, cigarettes, lighters, make-up materials and clothes from the sea.

"We are deeply saddened that the sensitivity of our brand on human health, on which we attach so much importance, has been damaged by this incident. We will do our best to compensate for this unfortunate accident," the venue said in a statement. Source: Hurriyet Daily News

Continued from front page

Turkey will celebrate the centenary of its founding in 2023. "A pivotal year in the country's history" according to President Erdogan. It is also the year for the national elections.

Highlighting Türkiye's goals for 2023 and vision for 2053, President Erdoğan said: "We are preparing to welcome our Republic's centenary with the 'Century of Türkiye' initiative that will go far beyond an ordinary anniversary celebration."

Noting that the necessary infrastructure has been built over the past two decades in order to make Türkiye one of the top 20 countries in the world, President Erdoğan stated: "We have prepared Türkiye for the great transformation that will turn our Republic's second century into a 'Century of Türkiye' in every area from education, healthcare and transportation to energy, industry and agriculture."

In 2023, where tourism industry all around the world will aim to reach 2019 figures, Turkey will try to take this target to the next level, with an aim to reach 55 million tourists and 45 billion dollars in tourism income.

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Turkish woman becomes Kuwait's first female captain pilot

A Turkish woman who has been working for Kuwait-based Jazeera Airways for three years has become Kuwait's first female captain pilot after completing her training.

Graduating from the English Language and Literature Department, Elif Güveyler began to work at the airport.

Güveyler, who had the chance to observe people from several professions during her service at the airport, discovered that her dream job and passion was piloting.

After deciding to become a pilot in 2010, she quit her job and started to receive pilot training.

The 39-year-old woman obtained her pilot's license after a two-year training period.

With the completion of her training, Güveyler announced that she became the first female captain pilot of the airline company she worked for in Kuwait and the country.

"I have been wanting to tell you this news for a long time. I would like to share with you the pride of being the first female captain pilot of the company and the country [Kuwait] after many years of hard work, effort and proving myself," Güveyler stated while sharing her photos wearing a pilot uniform.

Perceived as a male-dominated profession, there has been an intense demand from women for piloting in recent years.

Accordingly, one out of every four pilots will be women in the future, stated Osman Koç, a faculty member from Turkish Aeronautical Association (THK) University.

The number of female students who chose the pilotage department of the university increased significantly over the last two to three years, he pointed out.

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Travel News

Eastern Express starts its first journey of winter season

The Eastern Express, the 30-hour train journey between the capital Ankara and the eastern province of Kars, has started its first journey of the 2022-2023 season.

Starting from Ankara, the Eastern Express visits five central Anatolian and eastern provinces - Kırıkkale, Kayseri, Sivas, Erzincan and Erzurum - before arriving at Kars, one of Türkiye's winter tourism hotspots.

The Eastern Express completes the 1,300-kilometer Ankara-Kars route in 30 hours, while it is expected that some 13,760 passengers will travel with the express in this winter season.

Traveling on the Eastern Express with her daughter and granddaughter, Şöhret Karakaya said, "I am glad that I will travel with my daughter and granddaughter. Three generations will travel together. It was a tour we were looking forward to."

"We came to Ankara from Istanbul to travel with the Eastern Express. I was born and raised in Kars, but my husband will see my hometown for the first time," said another passenger Merve Işılay Şiban.

Şiban and her husband will only sleep for seven hours in order to observe the scenery of the places where the train will pass through during the 30-hour journey, she added.

"I think that a 30-hour journey with my wife, with whom I will share a lifetime together, will not be difficult. It will be an enjoyable and pleasant trip. Everyone needs to experience this journey," said her husband Eray Şiban.

Another passenger, Derya Bayram, stated that she was excited about their visit to Kars as well as the touristic train journey.

"We are excited to be taking part in the first train journey of this season. We are looking forward to seeing a gorgeous snow landscape," Bayram explained.

"I felt the warmth of people in the region even when we were talking on the phone. We expect a nice welcome," she added.

With the Eastern Express, which made its first journey on May 29, 2019, some 13,544 passengers traveled on the total of 62 journeys last year.

According to ticket sale sites, the price of an economy class seat is 82.50 Turkish Liras ($4.40), while the price of a round trip ticket for traveling in a sleeping car starts from 2,000 liras ($107.40). Source: Hurriyet Daily News

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World Snow Motorcycle Championship to be held in Mt Erciyes

The World Snow Motorcycle Championship, one of the most prestigious contests by the International Motorcycle Federation (FIM), will be held at Mount Erciyes of the Central Anatolian province of Kayseri between March 10 and 12, 2023.

“The championship will be a milestone for Erciyes and will contribute a lot on the city’s promotion,” Kayseri governor Gökmen Çiçek said at the publicity meeting of the upcoming event.

The event, which will be held under the name “SNX Türkiye,” will be broadcast in nearly 100 countries. “With live broadcast, the city will be promoted around the world,” said Memduh Büyükkılıç, the mayor of the province, proudly.

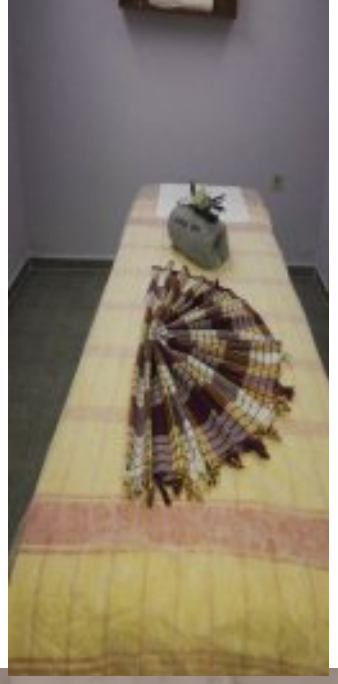
The broadcast license of the SNX races for the America continent is on CBS Sport. Sport TV Network and Eurosport air the championships in Europe and Fox Sport owns the legal rights of the broadcast for Asia.
SNX races are commonly conducted in the northern European countries, like Sweden, Finland and Norway.

For 2023 championship, a special racetrack, at a length of 1,350-meters, will be built inside the Erciyes Ski Center.

“World’s most popular snow motorcycle sportsmen will come to Kayseri and we will promote Erciyes to more than 1.2 billion motorcycle-lovers across the globe,” said Bekir Yunus Uçar, the head of the Turkish Motorcycle Federation.

The ski center at Mt Erciyes is located on the north to east side of the mountain with the same name. It is a 3,917 m (12,851 ft) high volcanic peak and provides impressive views from all around. The ski resort is based around 2,100 m (6,900 ft) and is just 40 minutes from Kayseri International Airport.

A Turkish bath is one of the things that you should not miss while traveling in Turkey. You can enjoy a relaxing bath, sauna, steam room and while you are there unwind by having a massage. Pick-up service (min 3 people).



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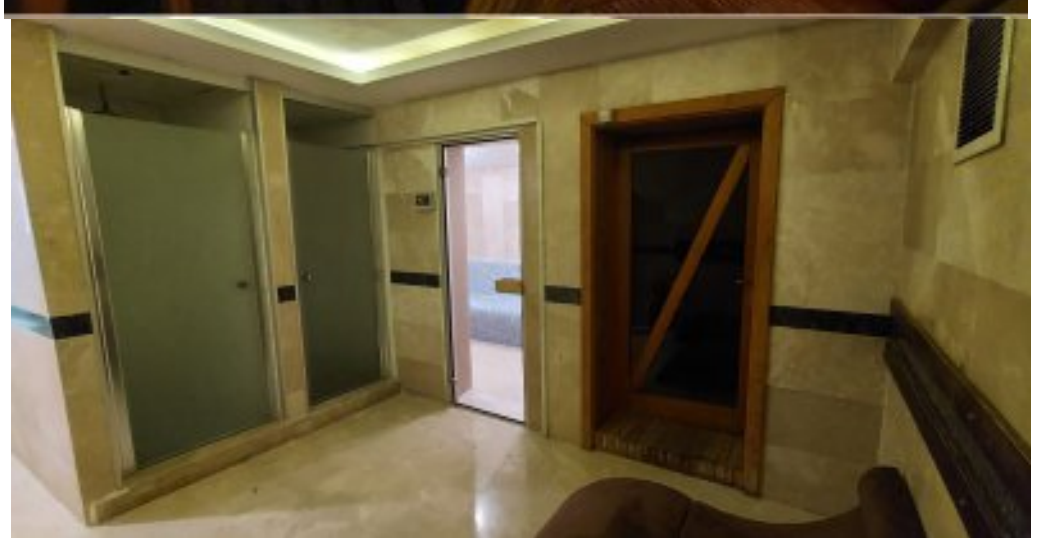

Warming Winter Drinks

Lyn Ward

Summer reminds us of long days and leisurely hours spent drinking cooling beverages; iced teas, tall glasses of cold, freshly made lemonade, smoothies and many more.

Winter paints a very different picture; warm fires, furry slippers, thick jumpers and hans wrapped around a hot warming drink.

The list of hot drinks available nowadays is endless so here are some warming drinks for you to try, some traditional and some you may not have tried yet.

Hot Chocolate
We all know that nothing cures the winter blues like a cup of hot chocolate. A piping hot mug of chocolate is one of the things that gets us through the coldest, darkest months of the year.

We all have a basic hot chocolate recipe that we love and there is a host of options that makes good hot chocolate great.

Luxury hot chocolate with a choice of toppings

How to make a perfect hot chocolate

Serves 2

450ml whole milk
70g 70% cocoa chocolate, finely chopped or grated
75ml single cream
¼ tsp ground cinnamon
Pinch of salt

Warm about 150ml milk in a pan over a medium heat and stir in the chocolate. Continue to stir until the chocolate has melted into the milk, then whisk in the remaining milk and the cream.
Continue to heat until the mixture is hot, but not boiling, then add the cinnamon and a pinch of salt. Taste, adjust if necessary, and serve. For a frothy finish, whisk vigorously just before pouring.
You can always upgrade your hot chocolate to a luxury version by adding flakes and marshmallows.

Salep
Salep is a traditional Turkish milky drink popular on cold, wintery days.

It is made from the tubers of wild orchids which are washed, boiled, dried and ground into flour. The flour is then mixed with cold milk or water and boiled until it thickens into a creamy consistency. Salep also contains glucomannan, which is good for coughs and bronchitis and eases sore throats.

It is even more pleasurable and healthy when mixed with ginger and/or cinnamon.

Salep sprinkled with cinnamon

You can buy ready-prepared salep powder. Here's how you make it.

In a deep saucepan add cold milk and salep powder into the pan. For each cup add 3tsp salap (10gr) into cold milk and stir until boiling. Salep should be thickening in a few minutes. Pour the hot drink into the cup. Do not add sugar, all prepared salap drinks contain sugar already. Sprinkle cinnamon on top before serving.

Wild orchids grow almost everywhere in Turkey, and there are lots of varieties. Yet some varieties are facing extinction. To get 1 kilo of salep flour, more than 1000 orchid tubers are pulled out of the soil. It takes up to 7 or 8 years for the orchid's tubers to grow sufficiently to use for salap production. Therefore, the export of salep is prohibited. However, instant versions with salep flavour are exported. – Source: The Istanbul Insider

Boza – porridge in a cup
Boza is a thick, nourishing drink made from fermented barley or mullet. It's a little like drinking tangy liquid porridge.

Turkish Boza sprinkled with cinnamon

A version of Boza was enjoyed by Central Asian nomads in the 4th century, making it one of the oldest Turkish surviving foods.

It is typically sold in winter although it's not a hot drink. It's associated with cold days and snow because it has a warming effect.

Boza is also rich in vitamin B and, if you're forced to skip a meal, it's a good way to keep going until dinner time. **Continued on page 18**

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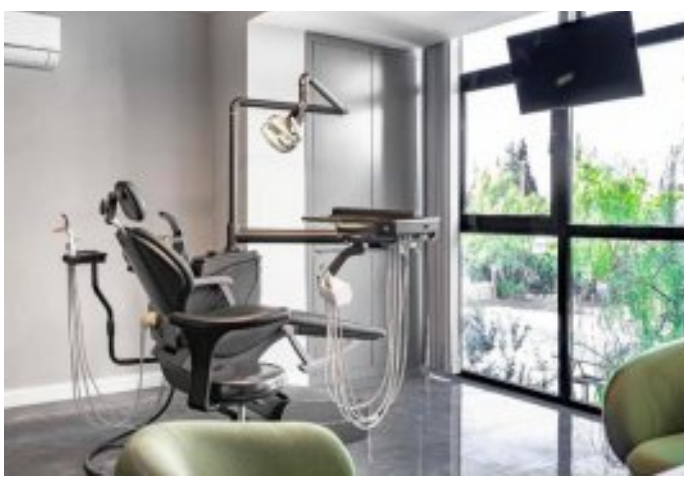

COOKING ON A BUDGET - Chick pea salad - ALIA EL-AMER

Hi there!
Welcome to My Seventh Recipe, For Gatherings!
A Sweeper Indeed.

Chick pea salad

Shopping Site: Migros (AVM) KUSADASI.
Cooking Time 1 hrs: 1 ½ hrs.
Total : 6 – 8 People.
Type: Warm Plate.
Follow me: @Budgeted_recipe

Kindly Note: Prices are last updated 18.12.2022

Ingredients:

1 Bag Of Tortilla Bread.	18.00tl
1 Pack = 18.00tl	
4 Cups Of Oil.	29.57tl
1 Tub = 154.00tl	
4 Cups Of Yoghurt.	19.27tl
1 Tub = 29.50tl	
2 Cloves Of Garlic (Large) - Crushed.	0.66tl
1 Bag = 19.50tl	
1 tbsp Of Tahini.	1.33tl
1 Tub = 44.45tl	
1 Cup of Chicked Peas.	6.13tl
1 Tub = 29.90tl	
1 tbsp Of Vegetable Salt	1.07tl
1 Pack = 15.75tl	
1 tbsp of Melted Butter.	2.04tl
1 Slab = 72.90tl	
1 1/2 Cup Of Chopped Parsley.	4.95tl
1 Bunch = 4.95tl	
1/4 Cup of Pine Nuts.	34.75tl
1 Bag = 34.75tl	

Total Recipe Cost= 124.78TL
Total Purchase Cost= 402.20TL

1- Cut the Tortilla Bread in Small Pieces (2 Cm, Height to Width).
2- Fry It till Golden.
3- Fry the Pine Nuts, with 2 tbsp of the Oil used For Frying Breac Golden).
4- Prepare Yoghurt, Tahini, Vegetable Salt and Crushed Garlic.
5- Chop the Parsley.
6- Set the Fried Bread in The Bottom of the Large Bowl.
7- Heat Mix of Yoghurt in Microwave for 2 Min, Then Stir it.
8- Add Melted Butter.
9- Garnish with Chopped Parsley and Fried Pine Nutts.

Turks flock to Georgia to buy smartphones

Turkish citizens seeking to buy more affordable smartphones or register their phones before the new year to take advantage before prices shoot up have been thronging Georgia.

While the number of domestic tourists passing through the Sarp Border Gate in November increased by 293 percent compared to last year and reached 94,047, experts expect the number of mobile phones brought by travellers to exceed 1.5 million this year.

This figure was only 23,927 last year, while an average of 60,000 domestic tourists visited the neighbouring country even before the pandemic.

The reason behind this explosion in the last two months of the year is those who want to buy more affordable high-end smartphones from abroad and register them as soon as possible before the registration fee hike at the beginning of the year.

The fact that iPhones sold in Georgia are on average 15,000 Turkish Liras ($800) cheaper than in Türkiye due to the tax advantage and that the registration fees will increase by 122.9 percent from 2,723 liras ($145) to 6,091 liras ($325) as of Jan. 1, 2023, sent Turks to Georgia.

An iPhone 14 Pro Max with 128 GB capacity can be purchased for 28,302 ($1,500) liras in Georgia, while one has to pay 43,999 liras ($2,350) for the same phone in Türkiye.

In Türkiye, high-end smartphones have a tax burden of 81 percent in total, including 50 percent special consumption tax (ÖTV), 18 percent value-added tax (KDV), 12 percent banderol fee and 1 percent share of the Culture and Tourism Ministry. When operational and employee expenses are added to this, the gap between the prices of high-end phones in other countries widens.

“The primary method is to eliminate the price difference with abroad by making tax reductions,” suggested Mustafa Kemal Turnacı, the head of the Association for Mobile Communication Devices and Information Technologies Businessmen (MOBİSAD). “In addition, the fees for devices brought from abroad should be regulated on the basis of tax rates as those with high income who buy expensive phones and those with low income preferring low segment phones pay the same fee in the current system,” he explained.

Continued from page 15

Spiced Tea

Ingredients
2 cups water
3 tea bags (unflavored black tea)
4-star anise
1 x 3-inch cinnamon stick
1 cup passion fruit nectar
3 tablespoons honey
2 tablespoons lemon juice

Spiced holiday tea

Directions

In a medium saucepan bring water to boiling. Add tea bags, anise and the cinnamon stick. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 3 to 5 minutes. Discard the tea bags and cinnamon stick. Stir in nectar, honey, and lemon juice. Heat through. Pour the tea mixture into four heat-proof cups, floating star anise on top of each.
Makes 4 servings

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Tack (thank you) from Ladies Beach street animals

The streets of Kusadasi are full of stray animals fending for themselves on a daily basis. From food to medical attention these animals need our help for many matters.

A massive thank you to the Björklund family from Sweden for their support which they give to Kusadasi street animals.

I first met 4 members of the family when they visited Kusadasi in March 2015. We talked for less than an hour and the one thing we had in common was the animals. We became facebook friends and I feel like I have known them all of my life.

Nearly every year they have sent a donation to help the animals. Depending on the need, the donation was split between various groups and individual people who I thought deserved a helping hand.

My friends from Sweden

The first year they sent a parcel which was full of medication, bandages, dog and cat treats, including pigs ears, a card with money and a special present for my own dog Ollie.

The first parcel that eventually arrived

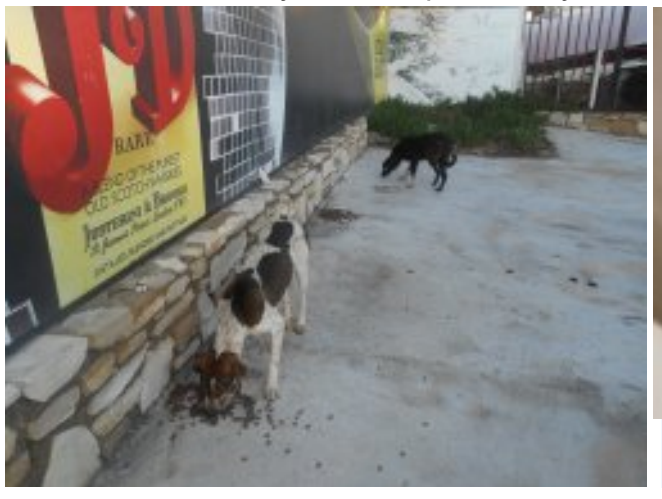
The postman came to my door and tried to explain to me that my parcel was stuck in Istanbul and that I would need a prescription to have it realised from customs. There was no way that I was going to provide that information and I felt terrible because to me, that was it, no parcel.

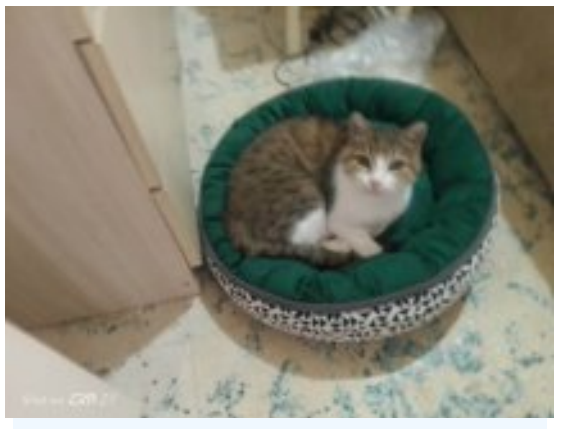
Lo and behold about 2 months later, the parcel landed at my door, pigs ears and all.

This year I am going to buy dog and cat food to share with individual people around Ladies Beach.

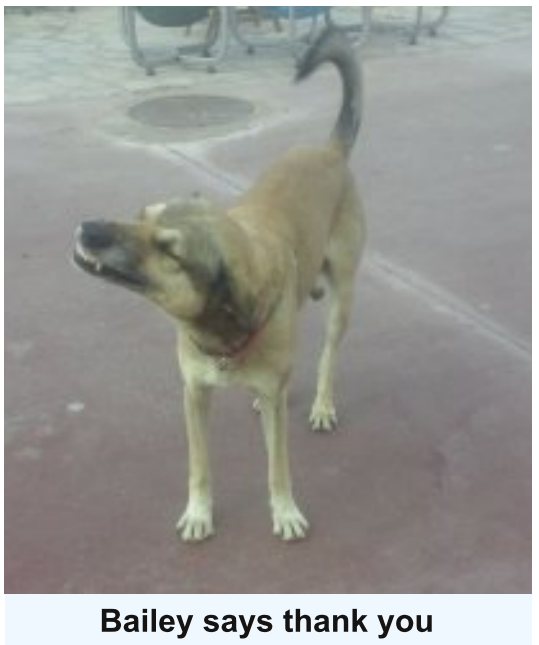
I really want to express my thanks to Maria, Christer, Rita, Thomas, Sten and Annika. They have had a few hard times themselves over the years and still they do not forget about Kusadasi street animals.
I have also posted some older pics to show some of the animals they have helped. Sadly, some of them are not with us anymore.

Image from 3 years ago

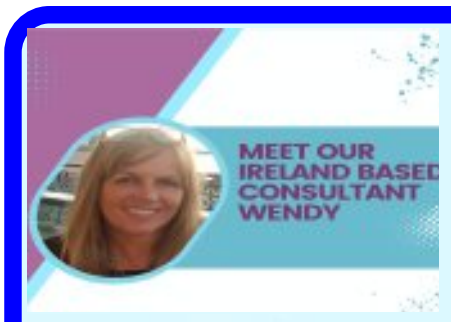




Sweet Mao



Bailey says thank you



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Turkish National public holidays 2023

2023 will be a big year for Turkey with national elections slated for June and Republic Day on October 29 marking 100 years since the founding of modern Turkey. At the moment only the one day in October is set to be a complete public holiday but I wouldn't be surprised if a longer break is declared closer to the time. Watch this space!

Whether you've lived in Turkey for ages or you're new in town, it will help to be aware when Turkish national public holidays fall in 2023 so you aren't caught out at the last minute. Banks, post offices, schools, government departments and many businesses are closed and at times it feels like the whole country is on the road and going somewhere.

During two of the longest breaks, Şeker and Kurban Bayram, thousands of people visit their families in their home towns or go on holiday. Although most government and many private museums are shut on public holidays, tourist centres such as Istanbul, Antalya, Izmir and Bodrum can be extremely busy. Intercity flights, buses and trains are always heavily booked at these times so it's a good idea to arrange your transport and accommodation well in advance if you're planning to travel around Turkey during these periods. If you're coming from overseas and need a tourist visa, click here to learn how to get one (my post includes a link to the official Turkish government e-visa website). Do note that you cannot get a visa at the airport on arrival anymore.

Please note mask wearing inside or out is no longer mandatory in Turkey however we're still doing our best to stop the spread of Covid (and other bugs and lurgies) so if you think you might be coming down with something, please mask up. Finally, if you do plan to drive while you're here take care, particularly during public holidays when they're busier (and crazier some might say) than usual. My 2023 Turkish national public holidays list includes all the important dates in the nation's history and major religious events (marked as R when not an official holiday). While it's mostly business as usual on many religious days in Turkey, during the holy month of Ramazan it can be difficult to find restaurants open for lunch in towns and villages outside major city centres.

1 January: New Year's Day
26 January: Regaip Kandili R
17 February: Miraç Kandili R
6 March: Berat Kandili R
22 March: Ramazan Arefe gunu – public service half day holiday
23 March: Holy month of Ramazan begins
17 April: Kadir Gecesi R
20 April: Şeker Bayram Arife Günü – Religious half day holiday before Şeker Bayramı. This is a gazetted half day off but most employees in private businesses work the full day.
21 April – 23 April: Şeker Bayramı (also known as Ramazan Bayramı) – a feast of chocolates and sweets.
23 April: National Sovereignty and Children's Day (Ulusal Egemenlik ve Çocuk Bayramı)
1 May: Labour and Solidarity Day1
19 May: Commemoration of Ataturk, Youth and Sports Day (Atatürk'ü Anma Gençlik ve Spor Bayramı)
27 June: Kurban Bayram Arife Günü – Religious half day holiday before Kurban Bayramı. This is a gazetted half day off but most employees in private businesses work the full day.
28 June – 1 July: Sacrifice (Kurban Bayramı) Feast
15 July: Democracy and National Solidarity Day2
8 July: Aşure Günü R ()
30 August: Victory Day (Zafer Bayramı)
26 September: Mevlid Kandili R ()
6 October: Liberation of Istanbul
28 October: Republic Day Arife. Half day holiday before Republic Day. This is a gazetted half day off but most employees in private businesses work the full day.
29 October: Republic Day
Source: Inside Out In Istanbul

Soup for breakfast? Absolutely - and that's only for starters in Türkiye!

Klaus Jurgens

Thinly sliced yellow cheese (three slices at the most) on somewhat desperate looking white or brown bread and if we are lucky, served with a pre-packaged miniature volume of butter? Alternatively, a single croissant nevertheless discreetly decorated with a modest helping of jam placed along-side? Or if food is not your cup of tea to stay in the breakfast picture, why not opt for nothing more than a 'coffee to go' - which by the way I never fully grasped the meaning off as not the coffee in question walks independently anywhere but you would hold it in your hands? Tastes differ, breakfast offers greatly vary across the continent as well as in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland – granted. But more often than not today's travellers in Europe feel somewhat short-changed, early morning nutrition-wise that is.

Fast forward to Türkiye… perhaps to a coffeeshop or a hotel located near you in town, or should you happen to read this column from afar, perhaps stirring up happy red eyed memories.

Choice matters

The inspiration for this first article penned for the Ege Eye ready to be published in what has by now become a new year, 2023 - which by the way your friendly columnist hopes you started in a relaxing, enjoyable, entertaining, and healthy and happy fashion - was based on my personal experiences with regards to how I discovered the splendour of having a breakfast in Türkiye. And that most definitely includes being treated to a 'kahvaltı' in the comforts of ones' own four walls by wonderful extended family members, over time learning how to return the favour inspired by copying the fine cooking as practised by the charming elderly generation.
On the one hand there is the choice – imagine different white cheeses, yellow cheeses young or more matured, eggs mixed with local sausage called 'sucuklu yumurta', cucumbers small or big, most definitely tomatoes, various jams, bread, yoghurt, and many further delicious items. On the other hand, you have hot beverages that might feature tea or coffee yet not normally the stronger variety of Türkiye Coffee which is mostly served during the afternoons or after even more elaborate suppers as it is indeed, a rather 'powerful' brew.
Fair enough, but where does the hot soup enter the breakfast stage?

The hot soup phenomenon

Now, and so to make my point, we are leaving the much cherished 'my home is my castle – image' behind for a short while and let us instead picture a tired journeyman or journeywoman who just realized it is 6 a.m. having gladly managed an overland coach trip without little sleep, little sleep by definition…; by the way, there is no big difference between being on the road from Edinburgh to Victoria Station or from Ankara to Izmir, overnight travelling is tiresome but a necessity as a), you save time, and b), of course you save money on hotel expenses.

Then let us consider another traveller changing planes or being delayed or what have you - being deposited at an almost empty airport lounge with few if any fellow passengers around may be a daunting experience anywhere in the world, especially before sunrise. Then all off a sudden you see that brightly lit counter, the restaurant, already open, friendly staff as if having landed or arrived on another much more welcoming planet or a part thereof. Which country are we talking about? Türkiye.

It may be 5.15 a.m. or 11.45 a.m., regardless of being in a busy intercity coach terminal or at an airport – chances are and without having compiled my own statistics yet approaching the 90 per cent probability, that one or more outlets will proudly promote their hot soup of the day, or two, or three, or more of them… Think lentil soup, tomato soup, mushroom soup, yoghurt soup as examples.

Which allows us for a perfect comparison, of sorts. Where many of our dear readers originally hail from a cooked breakfast was the (first) order of the day. Certainly, changes in how we go about our professions mostly cancelled that square meal eventually being replaced by the infamous 'cuppa'. But still, is it not correct to say that a warming up of our stomach, hence a hot meal somehow makes good sense early in the day?

Thus written – many living with us in this fascinating country we all call home, Türkiye, have adapted themselves and declared a hot soup as their equivalent mornings comfort food item should they really not have time for other items on the regular 'hot' breakfast meal menu. I tried it at 7 a.m. in Izmir's Basmane district where all the coach company's shuttle services drop you off, or at 1 a.m. at Ankara's overland coach station before boarding another comfortable bus, or equally at 10 a.m. waiting for a flight at Istanbul's brand-new airport – a hot soup served with some condiments of your choice plus some warm bread simply makes waiting, travelling so much more enjoyable.

And thus many restaurants even far away from any transport hub, and many families without any intent on going anywhere, took this custom on board and prepare a hot soup for or with breakfast, respectively (I know I keep on repeating the word 'hot'; as in some countries many soups are served cold, think equally delicious Gazpacho in Spain).

Needless to say, that soup can be had at any other time of the day, too, but similar to what one would refer to as a breakfast steak I came across in many North American hotels enjoying a soup before the day really commences in earnest seems to be unique to Türkiye.

Give it a try if you like – and have a great morning wherever you peruse this article. And finally, let me wish you a nice first month of the new year 2023.

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