THE EGE EYE

ISSUE 227

JULY 2023

"News for the Turkish coast since 2005"

Thousands arrive in Kusadasi for the holiday

More than 40 thousand vehicles entered Kusadasi in one day making it over 120 thousand in the past four days.

Aydın's Kuşadası district was flooded by holidaymakers due to the Eid al-Adha. There was a long queue of vehicles at the entrance of the city in the direction of Selçuk

On the eve of Eid al-Adha , holidaymakers showed great interest in Kusadasi , one of Turkey's tourism paradises. Citizens who came to Kuşadası with their vehicles to spend their holidays from nearby cities such as Manisa and Denizli, especially İzmir, formed long queues at the entrance of the city in the direction of Selçuk.

According to PTS records, more than 40 thousand vehicles entered the famous holiday resort in the last 24 hours. Holidaymakers, who came to Kuşadası for the holiday, preferred hotels to stay. The occupancy rate of the hotels in the city reached up to 90 percent. During the Eid al-Adha, which will last for four days, the population of Kuşadası is expected to reach at least 2 million.

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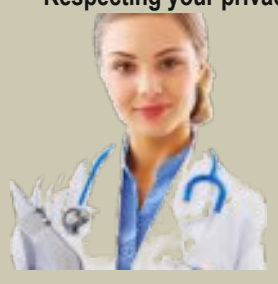

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First flamingos hatched in Salt Lake

The first flamingo chicks of the year have hatched in Salt Lake, the country's second-largest lake and self-proclaimed "flamingo paradise," while teams are patrolling the lake to keep an eye on the birds.

Located within the borders of Central Anatolian provinces of Aksaray, Ankara and Konya, Salt Lake, which meets most of Türkiye's salt needs, is home to flamingos in spring and summer seasons and thousands of flamingos incubate in the lake every year.

Flamingos prefer the south of the lake, especially in the borders of Aksaray's Eskil district, for breeding. Recently, thousands of flamingo chicks have hatched in the Salt Lake, whose water level rose with the rainfalls.

While the teams of Aksaray Branch Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks patrol the lake and follow the development of flamingos, the gendarmerie teams conduct surveillance for security.

Aksaray Mayor Evren Dinçer stated that they observed an increase in the number of baby flamingos due to the high amount of rainfall in the Salt Lake basin this year.

"We welcome all nature and bird lovers to Aksaray for the flamingo feast. We continue to take measures together with local administrations and other institutions of our state for the protection of flamingos. We are trying to fulfill this important task properly in order to keep the birds alive and carry them to future generations. Hopefully, with the measures we take, we will observe that their number will increase every year." Source Hurriyet Daily News

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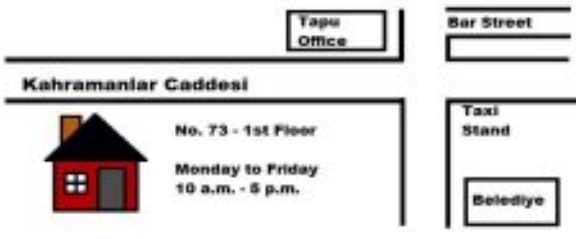

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Goreme Turkey: If You Look You'll Find Yourself

Lisa Morrow

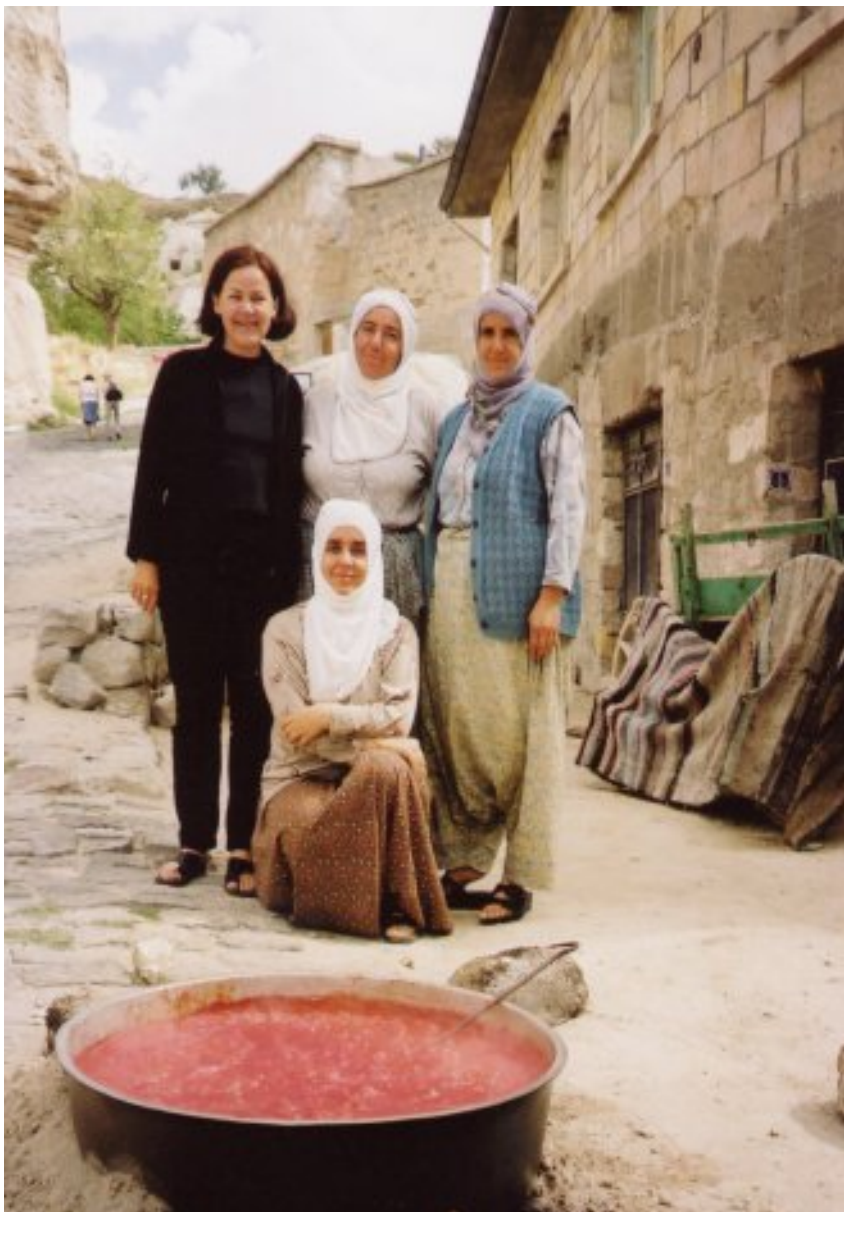
When I arrived in Goreme, for the first time, it was high summer.

Nestled in the Anatolian heartland, Goreme was a traditional farming community like any other in Turkey except for its spectacular landscape. The arid countryside, already aged and yellowed over thousands of years, glared harshly under the heat of the day. My head spun with the swirls of red, orange and ochre reflected off the surreal cone shaped peribaca. These spiky pinnacles looked like carefully thought out sculptures but were actually the result of volcanic activity and time. The cooled molten lava had eroded under the weight of fierce winter snows and wind. What was left was softer stone called tufa, which has been painstakingly carved away by the villagers for centuries. They used the peribaca as homes, stables, churches and depots right up until the last quarter of the 20th century. Now thousands of visitors are drawn to the region of Cappadocia every year, fascinated by the seeming impossibility of this imposing and solid geological reality, whimsically known in English as 'fairy chimneys'.

That first time, I lived in a small pension, helping out in exchange for room and board. It was the season of the Gulf War, and while tourists were scarce I was rarely alone. I spent my mornings visiting with the women and my afternoons visiting with the men. The rest of the time I stayed in the courtyard and learnt Turkish from the pension owner's daughter.

When I visited with the women I sat inside their homes and knitted. I was a good village girl, learning the arts of the hearth. Sitting cross-legged on the floor I listened to my elders and helped out with the children who often solemnly circled us while chanting a simple Turkish song. The women didn't judge me on my clothes or my job, but on how well I listened and how well I shared. We only had a mutual vocabulary of about thirty words, but with mime and hand gestures we managed to convey enough to decide we were friends. They liked to dress me up to look like them, in baggy legged şalvar pants, a saggy homemade cardigan and hand edged scarf over my hair. In turn I put their hair up in high ponytails and we often laughed until we fell over when we saw the results. Then everyone would pick up a spoon and eat from the same plate until we were full.

When I visited with the men we went riding. On horseback I was fierce and wild, galloping along narrow winding paths beside tilled fields and cantering back up through the twisting valleys to hunt for young apples and green walnuts. The mottled canopy of shade provided by the trees was a cool relief from the unremitting dry heat of the day, and I felt exhilarated. We'd always stop in a particular gorge, dismount and race to a wall of sheer white rock at the narrowest point. Then it was a battle to collect as many stones as possible and throw them at the walnuts hiding in the branches above. When I learnt to open the walnuts by cracking two of them in my hand I felt invincible. I was city born and bred, and it was such a joy to throw, stoop and slowly eat my fill. The men were more impatient and someone, usually one the youngest, would always jump up into the branches of the tree and sing and dance along their lengths to shake free more of the tasty harvest.



Back then I was a fairly solitary person, often shy and confused about who I was, so at times the constant company could be wearing. If I wasn't with the men or with the women, and could shake free from the pension owner' daughter, my favourite place to go was a ridge up behind the main street of the village. At certain times there was an absolute silence and a stillness to the landscape that stretched above the village paths and floated out to the horizon and beyond. This echoed inside me and I felt calm and safe.

Far away I could just make out a local woman, her donkey loaded with kindling, following a track down to her home. Behind her, in the glittering rolling hills and smudges of purple in the valleys I could see that autumn had come. The leaves shimmered barely red, barely silver. For me though, it was like spring because at that moment I realised I had a peace of mind and happiness I had never experienced before. I was free of self doubt and questioning and was just enjoying the moment. It was Göreme,Turkey, with its unique land and people that let me understand I could be that good girl and that risk taker and still be at one with myself. I had found freedom.

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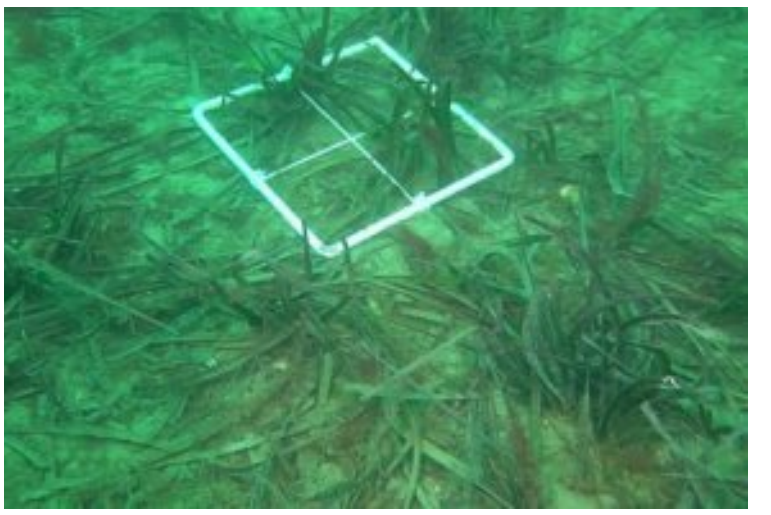
Environmental News

‘Decline of seagrass in Dardanelles a threat to biodiversity’



The alarming loss of seagrass meadows in the Dardanelles poses a significant threat to marine biodiversity, warns an expert.

Within the scope of the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Türkiye’s (TÜBİTAK) study, the effects of mucilage on seagrass meadows, which have an important place in marine biodiversity, were investigated by a team of 12 people in the Dardanos region.

Stating that marine organisms are crucial for the Dardanelles, Prof. Dr. İlknur Ak said that they carried out the studies to determine the status of seagrass meadows in the region, which create breeding, shelter and feeding areas for other living things distributed in the Dardanelles and increase the oxygen of the environment through photosynthesis.

The study revealed that the lower limit of the meadow distribution area has decreased from 16-17 meters to 14-15 meters in the last eight years.

“This is a bad situation for us because it is an indicator that Posidonia meadows are receding. Within the scope of this study, we have also started to carry out restoration works. We will get the results of this in the future, but the existence of these meadows is very important for us as it affects the biodiversity of marine organisms and their presence in this region,” Ak said.

The professor stated that one of the main reasons for the decrease in seagrass meadows in the region is the formation of mucilage in the Marmara Sea since 2021.

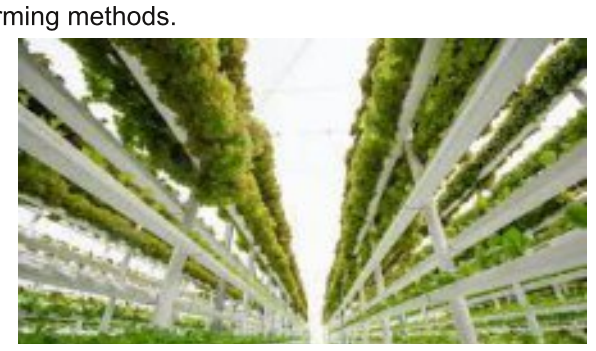
“In addition, we see that some human activities also negatively affect the condition of Posidonia meadows. And since mucilage reduces light transmission in seawater, we think that Posidonia meadows are negatively affected by this situation. Our studies are continuing, and our work on restoring and improving the condition of these meadows continues with the help of our faculty members,” Ak added. Source: Hurriyet Daily News

Ministry to expand vertical farming

Vertical farming is exactly what it sounds like: farming on vertical surfaces rather than traditional, horizontal agriculture. By using vertically stacked layers, farmers can produce much more food on the same amount of land (or even less). This type of farming has the ability to produce up to 40 times more produce than conventional farming techniques, is currently seeing a rapid expansion under the leadership of the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry.

Following the decreasing availability of agricultural lands all over the world and the climate crisis, the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry aims to accelerate the vertical farming practice which will change the view of agriculture.

With the vertical farming application only using LED lights, tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelons, watermelons, peppers, eggplants, zucchini, melons and strawberries can be easily grown underground (in the basements of apartment buildings or ship hangars) without the need for daylight. With this system, water savings of up to 95 percent can be achieved and up to 40 times more crops can be obtained anywhere compared to traditional farming methods.



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Take a day or take a week out on a Bodrum gulet

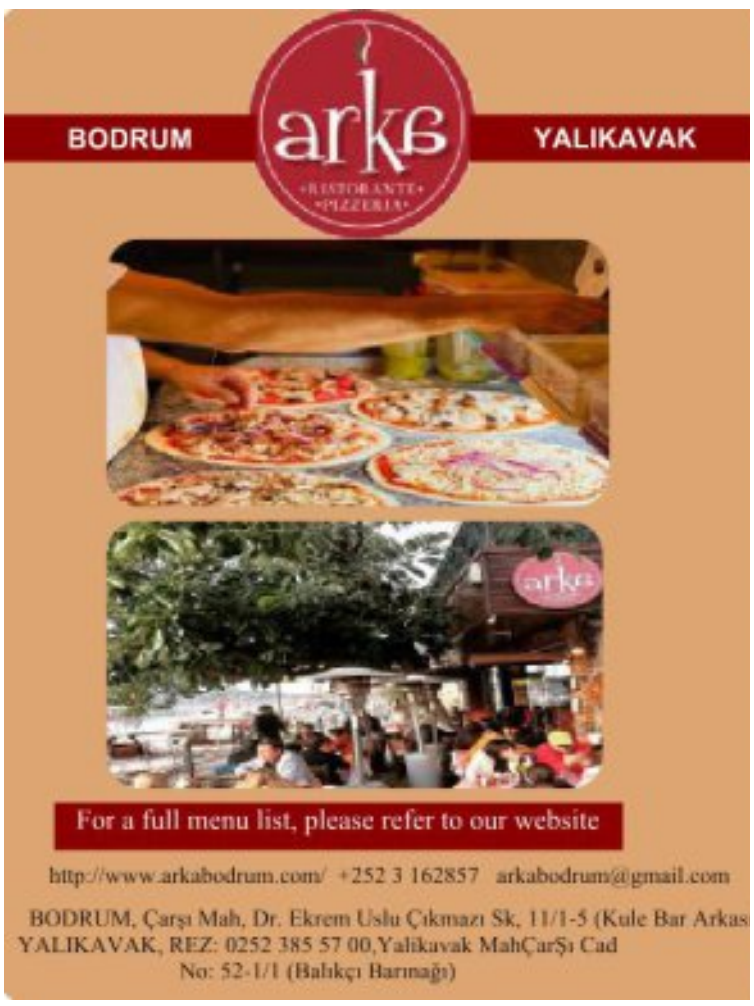
Chris Drum Berkaya

When you come to Bodrum, the first thing you must do is walk along the Bodrum harbour. The inner harbour is a picturesque sight dominated by the medieval Bodrum Castle, but equally embellished by the unique magnificent Bodrum gulets, the wooden cruising boats largely built in Bodrum shipyards. They come in all sizes, from 50m down to 5m long, with a large proportion of deck space and in all versions of the classic rounded 'gulet hull'. You will still hear that only the round stern type used to be called gulet in the past, but today the popular square stern is included when both types are described as gulets.

Technical details aside, what many first-time visitors and strollers don't realise is that these are not private boats, they are for hire! You can book yourself onto a day cruise, or even a week long cruise- with more advance preparations!

Yes, the ordinary holiday maker can embark on these yachts with their family, friends or a bunch of strangers and take off on the day version or the weekly version of the 'Blue Cruise" and be cooked for and waited on by the crew as if you were Jeff Bezos. But you'll have more fun and laughs, and more time in the crystal-clear aquamarine waters of the Aegean.

You can choose to go out in parties of up to 10 passengers on the 'day boats', any one of the small gulets along the harbour. They will usually have a captain, and a crewman, and one of them will also be your chef too. How does it work? First make a booking- it might be the night before at one of the boat shaped desks on the harbour, though they are usually taking bookings for the cheaper 'omnibus' double decker boats, where you still get a sunbed, access to the bar, and a full lunch, plus the route of 3 or 4 stops to swim from the boat.



Or you can walk along the harbour and talk to the boat captains or helpers aboard, and even look the boat over and make your reservation. Of course, local online agencies and yacht charter agency can make reservations for you too, especially recommended if you have particular dietary or group requirements for a more luxurious lunch.

The day begins, arrive at the harbour or jetty, and board. Shoes off! After introductions by the captain to the boat, put down your beach bag, get your towels and swimming gear out ready for the day. The ropes are let loose, and you make sure you're sitting in the shade or in the sun at the front to take in the views as you pull away from the harbourside. The unoccupied nature reserve of Black Island opposite Bodrum is a favourite first stop for the boats, either pulling into the 'warm springs', into the 'Meteor Hole' cove, or other sheltered coves around on the south side. When the captain is satisfied the engine stops, the ladder goes over the side, and you can all jump or descend gracefully into the refreshing water.

Repeat! The bar is open, and the program can be interrupted with a light lunch, of salads, even mezes and grilled chicken or fish if ordered, and in midafternoon siesta – fruit maybe served!

The attraction of daily motoring by boat from Bodrum, Bitez, and Gumbet bays, is the variety of safe anchorages, where guests aboard can relax and enjoy a very relaxing day out, and it suits all ages and most degrees of mobility.

The large cruise ships coming into Bodrum's Cruise Port, offer a half day gulet trips to passengers so they can get up and personal with the sparkling waters of the Aegean. It's a 'must do' experience in Bodrum!

Credit: to Chris Drum Berkaya (You can sign up for her newsletter from her Facebook page "The Bodrum Echo"

Sports around Turkey

Visually impaired sisters' eye national team in swimming

Two 90 percent visually impaired sisters hailing from the Central Anatolian province of Kayseri, are gearing up for national team selections following their impressive achievements in swimming, including their triumphs in Turkish championships.

Melise Akyol, 14, was born with a 90 percent visual impairment caused by weak eye vessels, while her 12-year-old sister Selime developed a similar impairment at the age of 3 due to a cross-eyed disorder.

In 2016, with the unwavering support of their family, the sisters embarked on swimming lessons, resulting in a remarkable collection of 36 medals in various competitions, with 24 first-place finishes.

Motivated by their outstanding performance in the Turkish Championship held in Istanbul two years ago, the sisters are now diligently preparing for the national team selections, eager to attain new heights in their careers.

Reflecting on her previous accomplishments, Melise stated, "In the Türkiye-wide swimming race held in Istanbul in 2021, I secured three first-place and three second-place finishes. My ultimate goal is to join the national team and represent Türkiye as a world champion."

While also preparing for the High School Entrance Exam (LGS), Melise revealed that they devote six days a week to their training regimen, exemplifying their commitment to excelling both academically and athletically.
Selime, for her part, expressed her aspirations, saying, "I want to join the national team, participate in the Olympics and proudly represent Türkiye by raising our flag high."

Their trainer, Esra Bilgin, has been with Melise and Selime since the inception of their swimming journey in 2016. Elaborating on their progress, Bilgin remarked, "When they first arrived, they were very young and had no prior experience. However, within three months, they were ready to compete."

Bilgin conveyed optimism for their future, stating, "I have great hopes for them. Our ambitions are lofty, and we are steadfastly moving toward that goal."

Urfa Aslanı wins 97th Gazi Race

The racehorse called Urfa Aslanı, steered by jockey Mehmet Kaya, has claimed victory in this year's historic 97th edition of the Gazi Race, a celebration of the famous leader Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

After the historic win, jockey Mehmet Kaya stated that he is "in indescribable happiness" as their racing strategy worked and helped them win the cup."God did not embarrass us. Thank God. I present this win to my family, I thank them very much," Kaya added.

Urfa Aslanı, who won the Gazi Race, bagged prize money of approximately 10 million Turkish Liras for its owner Selim Kaya.

On the 2,400 meters grass track, the first prize was 5 million liras. In the Gazi Run dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic, the stakeholders of the winning horse together with the registrations and premiums earned approximately

Meanwhile, Valley Of Flowers, bred and owned by Vefa İbrahim Aracı and trained by Caner Akgül, won the G2 Zübeyde Hanım Race with jockey Akın Sözen.

The G1 Anafartalar Race was won by Jefe De Jefes, owned by Zafer Gezici and trained by Güven Gökçe, with Tolga Yıldız as the jockey.

Yıldız, who won the race by photo-finish, succeeded in winning the Anafartalar Race for the third time.

The Economy

Families spend most on food, shows survey

Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) has shown that the share of food and non-alcoholic beverages in households' general spending was 22.8 percent, followed by housing and rent at 22.4 percent last year.

According to TÜİK's Household Budget Survey transport expenditure was the third largest expenditure item, with a share of 21.3 percent.

Education and health services captured the lowest shares at 1.4 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively, while households allocated only 2.5 percent of their budget to entertainment and culture-related expenditure.

Communication's share was 3.1 percent of total expenditure. Households spent some 4.9 percent of their budget on clothing and 3.2 percent on alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.

The monthly household consumption expenditure on average was 12,159 Turkish Liras, while it was 6,259 liras on average per person, TÜİK calculated. Spending patterns change according to the source of income, the survey found.

"While households whose main source of income was wages and salaries allocated a 22.5 percent share for transportation, 21 percent for food and non-alcoholic beverages and 20.8 percent for housing and rent, households whose main source of income was entrepreneurial income allocated 27.2 percent share for transportation, 22.9 percent for food and non-alcoholic beverages and 18.5 percent for housing and rent," TUİK said.

The survey also found that the share of food expenditures of low-income households was two times higher than those of high-income households.

The lowest income group allocated nearly 36 percent of their budget to food and 29.3 percent to housing and rent, while the corresponding rates for the highest income group were 16.6 percent and 19.3 percent, respectively.

The share of transport in the highest income group's total expenditure was 28.5 percent last year, whereas this was 8.3 percent for the lowest income group.

One-person households allocated 27.7 percent of their budgets to housing and rent expenditures, 20.4 percent to transportation expenditures, and 16.8 percent to food and non-alcoholic beverage, according to the survey.

The share of food expenditure of households with seven or more people was 35.9 percent, while housing, rent and transport accounted for another 18.8 percent and 14.4 percent, respectively.

Did You KNOW ?

Turkey's landmass is 95% in Asia and 5% in Europe.

TRAVEL NEWS

Over 14 million foreign tourists visited Türkiye in 5 months

Foreign tourist arrivals in Türkiye increased nearly 24 percent in January-May from a year ago to more than 14 million, the Tourism and Culture Ministry has said.

Including Turkish citizens residing abroad, the number of tourists visiting Türkiye stood at 15.6 million.

Russians constituted the largest group of foreign tourists, showed the data the ministry released on June 23.

In the first five months of 2023, nearly 1.8 million Russians vacationed in Türkiye, up from 854,000 in the same period of last year.

Some 1.6 million German holidaymakers visited the country, accounting for 11.3 percent of all foreign tourists, followed by Bulgarians at 1.06 million or 7.5 percent. In January-May last year, 1.3 million Germans vacationed in Türkiye. Bulgarians mostly travel to Türkiye's border provinces for shopping purposes.

Tourist arrivals from the U.K. increased from 810,000 people in the first five months of last year to more than 1 million this year. Iranians claimed the fifth spot in the foreign visitors' list at 794,000.
The number of Ukrainian tourists declined nearly 43 percent year-on-year in the January-May period to around 251,000, data also showed.

Istanbul was the favorite destination of foreign travelers. In the first five months of 2023, the mega city welcomed a total of 6.3 million foreigners. Antalya, on the Mediterranean coast, received 3.14 million foreign holidaymakers. In the same period, the northwestern province of Edirne hosted 1.5 million visitors.

In May alone, foreign tourist arrivals increased by 16 percent on an annual basis to 4.5 million. The year-on-year pace of growth in foreign tourist visits, however, slowed from 29 percent in April, according to the data.
Meanwhile, Culture and Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy said despite the February earthquakes and the elections held in May, the targets of welcoming 60 million visitors and generating $56 billion in tourism revenues set for 2023 will not be changed.

He added that Türkiye aims to attract 90 million tourists and earn $100 billion from tourism in 2028, recalling that tourist arrivals reached 51.4 million and tourism revenues amounted to $46.3 billion in 2022.

On the other hand, the nine-day Eid al-Adha holiday will give a boost to domestic tourism activity. Some 2 million people are expected to go on a holiday during Eid, according to people from the tourism industry.
In the popular tourist destination Antalya alone, around 585,000 reservations were made for the Eid holiday, they said.

In Istanbul, tens of thousands of people already rushed to the intercity bus station. In the face of the strong demand, coach companies put more buses on the service. Source Hurriyet Daily News

ONLY N TURKEY

Deniz Çifci Valente

Totally random story I wanted to share for fun.

I asked my partner Malcolm to drop in at the pharmacy and pick up some medication and wrote down the names of the meds on the shopping list and gave it to him. He gets to the pharmacy and hands it over and whilethe pharmacist is preparing the stuff he calls to his assistant to run to the corner store for toast bread and lemons; as they're on the list too Only in Turkey

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Not sure how true this is, but I thought I would share

Nasreddin Hodja was on his deathbed. He called his wife and told her to dress up nicely and wear makeup. She was confused about why he wanted that, so she asked him why.

"Well, when the reaper comes he might like you more and take you with him instead of me."

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Well what can I say..... Absolutely Fantastic Evening was had by all in support of Paws and Claws

Yet another amazing event hosted by Ricks Place 2 kuşadası to support our street animals of kusadasi.

I want to thank everyone involved for their hard work, support and donations, from the preparation to the tidying up.

Mirella Kwaijtaal, Aziz Şahin, and their team we thank you for the excellent service, food and entertainment which you provided. The food was delicious with plates piled high and the Belly Dancer had us all completely enchanted.

We received amazing compliments from all who attended, for hosting an amazing evening. As requested we will do everything we can to continue making these hosted events enjoyable with fun games and entertainment for you all to enjoy, and a huge Congratulations to all of our indoor beach party winners.

Thank you to our expat, social media groups and foreign citizens advice bureau, The Ege Eye here in kusadasi who kindly allow us to share these events on their pages. We thank both your members who attended, and also those who sent their kind words of support if they could not make it.

Both Mirrella and Aziz host these events to support our street animals of kusadasi and they have kindly chosen to donate the proceeds of these events to a local animal charity here in kusadasi called.
Kusadasi paws and claws.

Their Summer Indoor Beach Party raised an amazing 5500.00tl which they have now kindly donated to kusadasi Paws and claws. These donations will be used to go towards veterinary care, feeding programs and to support the vulnerable and weak animals out on the streets and in the surrounding areas of kusadasi.

Without your support, donations and amazing local business owners like Mirrella and Aziz at Ricks Place 2 Kusadasi we could not make this happen. So again on behalf of our street animals of kusadasi we thank you one and all.

Watch this space for further hosted events to support our street animals of kusadasi.... Another one will be coming soon.

If you would like to support Kusadasi Paws and Claws or their supporters page where you can donate and sell items to turn them into cash donations to be made and received in your name, Kusadasi Paws & Claws on line auction please click on the links here or you can search for them on Facebook you can also invite friends to join to.

By joining you can be kept up to date with the achievements of Kusadasi Paws and Claws while out on the streets of kusadasi and see just how your donations have helped to achieve this.

You can also click on the link on The Ege Eye's monthly newsletter which will take you directly to Paw's and Claw's Gofund me page.

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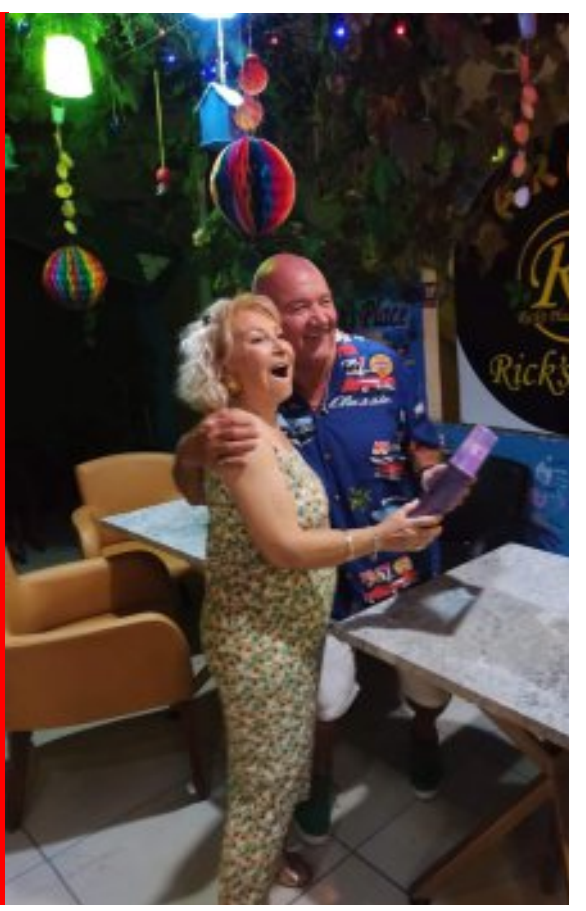

Shopping in Türkiye

Lyn Ward

Even if you're not a shopper by nature, the varied and unusual selection of gifts found in Türkiye's bazaars and markets will easily tempt you.

Nothing can compare with Istanbul's bustling bazaars, markets, shops and stalls however, in contrast, rural markets have an unhurried feel and can be the best places to find unique product and handmade items.

Here are some of the items that reflect the true spirit of Türkiye

Ceramics

Turkish ceramics, renowned for their rich colors and elaborate designs, are an important artistic tradition combining geometric patterns with carnations, roses, hyacinths and tulips. The style varies according to the area of origin. Iznik, Kütahya and Çanakkale are famous for ceramic production, but Avanos is also known for hand-painted pottery and porcelain.

Jewellery

Türkiye produces stunning gold jewellery in original designs. Silver is also popular, and rings and necklaces are often set with precious stones. A simple blue glass eye (boncuk) is said to ward off evil. Locally produced jewelry, inspired by authentic Ottoman pieces, can make a truly unique gift.

Water Pipes

Classic, beautifully crafted nargiles (water pipes) are still widely used in special cafes. They make very beautiful decorative pieces. The glass bottles are colorful and the attached metal pipe, along with the hose, create an interesting shape, rather symbolic of the Middle East.

Inlaid Wood

Jewellery boxes crafted from wood or bone, and then inlaid or painted, make unusual souvenirs. Backgammon players will be delighted at the delicate, inlaid rosewood backgammon (tavla) sets available in markets and shops around Türkiye.

Copperware

Antique copperware can be very expensive. Newer items, however, are also available at more affordable prices.

Glassware

There are many fine examples of the blue and white striped glassware called çeşimbülbül, which is made in the famous Paşabahçe works. The firm makes many utilitarian designs as well as an up-market range in fine lead crystal. Paşabahçe glassware makes a wonderful gift.

Textiles

Hand-woven cloths, including ikat work (where the cotton is dyed as it is woven), and fine embroidery are just some of the range of textiles that can be bought. Türkiye is also a leading producer of top-quality garments and knitwear. Bathrobes and towels are of high quality. Look for the Altınyıldız label for the finest woollens and fabrics.

Local Delicacies

Delicious sweets such as halva, Turkish Delight (lokum) and baklava are always popular. There are many varieties of Turkish delight and an advantage of buying it in Türkiye is that you can sample all the different kinds before you buy.

Many fragrant spices, as well as dried fruit and nuts, are sold loose by weight in most markets and tourist shops.

Source: Fethiye Times. For more great articles from Lyn, copy and paste the following link into your search engine. https://fethiyetimes.com

Supreme court upholds decision to ban Uber

The 11th Civil Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals has ruled to uphold the decision to block access to Uber, a popular internet-based private transportation service, and ban the company from operating in Türkiye.

The court affirmed the decision made by the local court, stating that the appeal petitions submitted by the defendants' lawyers in the original and consolidated case did not present sufficient grounds to reverse the initial ruling.

Uber, which has been operational in Istanbul since 2014 and has served approximately 5 million users in the country, faced legal action from the United Taxi Drivers Association (BTD) and officials representing the Istanbul Automobile Tradesmen Chamber (ITEO).

The organizations filed lawsuits in Istanbul courts, seeking to block access to Uber and ban the company on the grounds of "unfair competition."

The plaintiffs also requested the cessation of Uber Technologies Inc.'s operations in Türkiye, claiming that the U.S.-based company engaged in illegal transportation services over the internet and lacked tax records within the country. They argued that blocking Uber was necessary to prevent irreparable damage to taxi drivers, safeguard fair competition and trade, prevent tax losses and restore order to commercial activities.

After considering expert reports and engaging in deliberations, an Istanbul court reached a final decision to block access to Uber and ban the company from Türkiye in October 2019.

The court board determined that Uber's services amounted to unfair competition, which is prohibited by law, and consequently ordered to block websites and mobile applications offering Uber services.

As a result of this decision, Uber's operations in Türkiye came to a halt. Subsequently, an appeal was filed in an attempt to overturn the ruling. Source: Hurriyet Daily News

Minister says approximately 457,000 houses to be built in quake zone

Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change Minister Mehmet Özhaseki has said that approximately 457,000 permanent homes will be built in 11 cities affected by the Feb. 6th earthquakes, with the construction of about 300,000 of them to conclude in a year.

The newly appointed minister said in a social media post on June 11th that “our permanent houses are rising rapidly in 11 provinces jolted by the quake disaster (and that) the ministry will offer new formulas regarding these residences to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the next cabinet meeting. When those formulas come into play, we will finish the houses in a much shorter time.”

Stating that approximately 300,000 out of the planned 457,000 housing units will be completed within a year, Özhaseki emphasized that Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya, and Adıyaman will be the provinces with the highest number of housing constructions. These four provinces were the most severely affected by the earthquakes on Feb. 6th.

Özhaseki also stressed that the construction of village houses for quake survivors in rural areas is progressing rapidly.

“Fourteen million people have been affected by this disaster. Around 100 districts and nearly 1,000 villages received severe destruction, according to the latest figure. Some 680,000 houses have been demolished. Additionally, 170,000 workplaces, warehouses, barns, and single-story village houses have been destroyed. The total financial loss amounts to approximately $100 billion,” he explained.

He also said that his ministry is working for the resettlement of quake survivors currently living in tent and container cities into their new houses as soon as possible.

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The Only Yabanci in the Village Part 1 – Time for a Change (David Gilford)

A few years ago, I did a series of articles by my good friend David Gilford. Many of you will have read them, though I am sure many have not. Anyway, I thought I would republish his often very funny stories over the next few months.

I'd been coming to Kuşadası for years, I'd spent many happy times there and made some friends who would be dear to me for life but……I got itchy feet!

When I first came to live here in Turkey I had great plans – learning a new language, experiencing a new culture, learning all the new customs and traditions of the people. Somehow, however, I rapidly lapsed into full English breakfasts, coffee on the prom and chatting (in very good English!) to friends.

Now, don't knock it. My life was relaxed and happy but I was beginning to realise I wanted more. It was definitely Time for a Change!

I phoned a couple of acquaintances in Kırklareli Province (in the far North West of Turkey) and explained that I wanted a move. "No problems", they said, "We'll find you somewhere to live here" and so the decision was made. A close friend agreed to rent my apartment and in the blink of an eye, surrounded by boxes, a confused adopted street cat, and an aquarium full of fish, the moving day arrived.

Have you ever moved house in Turkey? It's…….. an experience! All my worldly goods disappeared over the balcony and down a temporary travelator whilst the boss scratched his head and eyed the aquarium. "It will be ok if we can take the water out," he said. Having explained that the fish really needed the water he finally agreed to 10% being left in so with jugs and containers we set to emptying the aquarium. It was then loaded on the travelator and my guppies became the first flying fish in Ladies Beach!

Off went the van with me home packed in it and I hurtled down to the Bus Station to get my coach to Istanbul followed by a connecting coach to Pinarhisar and the local dolmuş to Kaynarca village where, hopefully, I would meet my new home and the van.

Good to their word my friends had found a bungalow with a small garden to rent. Situated right on the edge of the village, it overlooked fields and farmland….. it also overlooked a working kitchen, a working boiler and connected electricity, but, confident in my limited Turkish I booked into the hotel in town and gave myself a week to get everything sorted and move in.

The next day my mate came over and suggested I would need some help with the cleaning then disappeared down to the village only to re-appear half an hour later with one of the village ladies who set to with mop, bucket and broom while I went in to town to get the electric turned on.

Dealing with officialdom can be trying at times but doing it in a language you don't really understand adds exponentially to the problem! Eventually he confirmed I would have electric the next day and I set off back to my now spotless little house.

The farmer who worked in the field next door turned up with 2 ice cold beers and suddenly all seemed well and my new life had started. Engin the farmer said to me that he could help with anything I needed and he ended up being a valued friend but I also realised that it wasn't all plain sailing being the only yabanci in the village but that's another story……

Venomous spider seen in Kusadasi

Stating that the ladybug spider, known to be venomous, has been seen in the Kuşadası district of Aydın, EKODOSD President Bahattin Driver pointed out that every living thing has a duty in the ecosystem and said, "In such cases, we should carefully move away from their habitats and be sensitive."

He detected a spider species known as ladybug spider by a family picnicking in the Kuşadası district of Aydın. Thinking that it would harm her children, she reported the situation to Kuşadası Municipality. The members of the Ecosystem Conservation and Nature Lovers Association (EKODOSD), who went to the region upon the notification of the municipality teams, examined the areas where the ladybug spider was seen.

This spider species attracts attention with its red color with four black dots. Expressing that no other ladybug spiders were found, EKODOSD President BahattinDrive; “Spider-related Entomologist Dr. By interviewing Aylin Tüven, it was determined that the spider the family encountered was a species known as ladybug or velvet spider, which is seen in various regions of our country. Information about the species was given by interviewing the family.

Reminding that with the onset of heat, many reptiles, especially snakes and insect species, have begun to be seen in nature; “From time to time, people may enter their habitats and encounter such creatures. In such cases, care should be taken, away from the environment and such creatures should not be harmed. These creatures have important functions in the ecosystem. Caution and sensitivity will prevent both parties from being harmed.

“The venom of this species can affect humans.”

The venom of this species can affect humans. It can cause partial pain at the sting, increased fever, increased heart rate and headache. No deaths have been reported for this species so far. However, the effect is not known for allergy sufferers, children and people with weakened immunity. Many venomous or non-venomous species encountered in nature may look like other species. However, any species should not be touched or killed with bare hands without taking any precautions, and it should be removed from the environment with an appropriate method, so that it will go away due to mobility.

If it is a species that is thought to be venomous, if it is possible to photograph it from a distance without touching it, you should photograph it and get help from experts. Recently, there have been reports that the species has been seen in natural areas where people are concentrated and it has been killed because it is venomous, and the duties of this species in the ecosystem cycle should be taken into consideration.

It is important for the regulation of centipede and insect populations in nature. For this reason, especially our children should be informed about the fact that the species should not be touched and killed in order not to disturb both our own health and the natural balance, even if it is rare. This species is among the endangered species in Germany and Great Britain on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.

It is being tried to spread again in Dorset County, England," he said. Source: Aydin Post (abridged)

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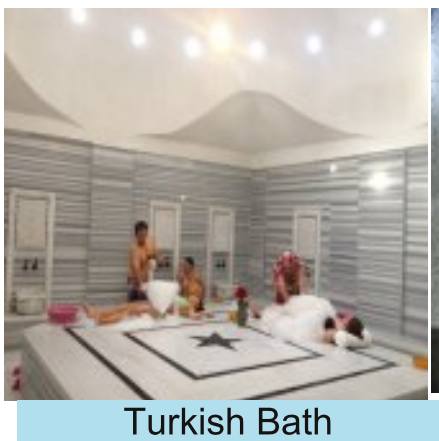
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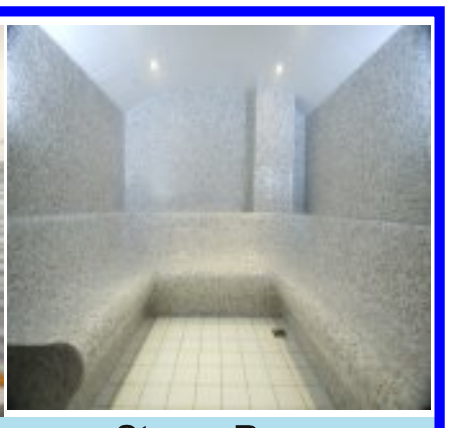
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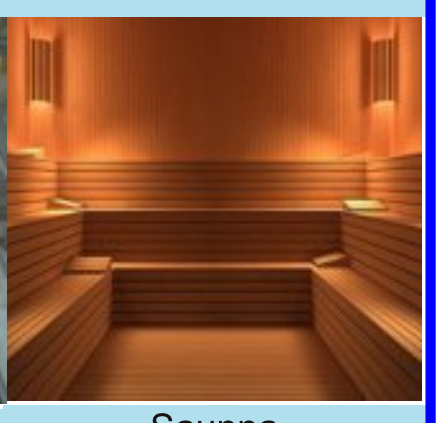
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Ladybird Spider

Domestic tourists turn to caravan camping

With the cost of hotel accommodations going sky-high, more and more people are turning to hiring caravans, but a family of four has to spend at least 1,000 Turkish Liras per night in a caravan camping site in the new season.

The demand for caravans, which have become quite popular in recent years as a cheaper way of holidaying, continues to soar. Local tourists, who cannot buy a summer house due to high prices and do not want to allocate large budgets to hotels, are the primary cause of the increasing demand, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before the summer season, the demand for caravans doubled compared to last year. However, since most of the equipment used in caravans come from European countries, caravan production and sales costs have increased to the same extent depending on the exchange rate.

In 2022, a mid-level towing caravan in accordance with the quality standards could be purchased for 100,000-150,000 Turkish liras, while this year, prices have risen to around 300,000, and motorhomes can even go up to a whopping 1 million liras.

Despite the increasing cost of owning a caravan, holidaying in caravans has a price advantage compared to hotel and cruise holidays.

Sabahattin Ergin, honorary president of the Camping and Caravan Association of Türkiye, told local media that this season, the average cost of caravan camping sites is 300 liras per person per night, and for a family of four, the nightly average is 1,000 liras.

In addition, caravan manufacturers warn citizens to prefer companies that produce caravans in accordance with quality standards.

Erkan Erol, the owner of Akdeniz Caravan, stated that currently, a towed caravan can be found for around 150,000 liras but that these are “caravans from the hands of manufacturers who do not comply with the standards.”

“Our advice to citizens is not to buy a caravan without proper research.” Source: Hurriyet Daily News

Many historical artifacts were seized in the operations in Aydın in June.

Aydın Provincial Gendarmerie Command continued its activities within the scope of combating Smuggling and Organized Crime across the province in June.

2 of the 14 suspects caught in the 5 operations were arrested, and 1 suspect was released with a judicial control decision.

During the operations, 54 bronze coins, 5 bracelets/rings, 13 objects, 1 gold detector, 7 title deeds/promissory notes, 326 other electronic goods, 210 electronic cigarettes, 1100 electronic cigarette liquids, 840 miscellaneous spares piece was seized. Sourced: Aydin Post

High demand for rental housing

The number of people looking for a rental house surpassed those who look for a house to buy, according to recently published data.

Figures provided by the real estate platform Emlakjet showed that in May 52 percent of those out in the real estate market are looking for a house to rent. In April, this was 50 percent.

The survey conducted by the online platform found that 87.4 percent of landlords do not consider renting out their properties.

Their main concern is tenants failing to pay their rent on time.

Those who look for a rental house cited prices as one of the biggest problems they face. Some 28.4 percent of the respondents said they were looking for a new apartment because their current landlords demand a huge rent hike.

Meanwhile, many landlords have taken their properties off the market after the government decided to extend the 25 percent rent hike cap for another year until July 2024.

The government introduced the cap last year to prevent exorbitant rent increases.

The regulation applies to the contracts valid between July 2 this year and July 2, 2024.

If a contract is signed on July 3 this year, the landlord will be able to demand a hike of more than 25 percent when the lease agreement is renewed in July next year.

The cap is not resolving the problems in the housing market but only amplifying them, said Hakan Akdoğan, a real estate expert.

“Many landlords have removed the classified ads for house rentals. They will wait until after July 2. Landlords exert big pressure on current tenants to evacuate their properties,” he said.

In practice, the 25 percent hike rule is not observed, the landlords and tenants work out a midway solution, according to Gökhan Taş from MasterTürk Group.

“They agree to a minimum 50 percent increase in rents.” Source: Hurriyet Daily News

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Turkish rug sector eyes market leadership

Türkiye aims to take over the market leadership in the carpet industry from India in handmade rugs, which was once one of the most purchased Turkish products by tourists, a sector representative has stated.

India has been maintaining its market leadership in the handmade carpet industry, which has reached a total export value of $1.17 billion worldwide. However, the Turkish market aims to regain its leadership position with world-renowned authentic Anatolian rugs.

Ahmet Hayri Diler, the head of the Istanbul Carpet Exporters' Association (İHİB), stated that they intend to launch a project to revive handmade carpet production.

By selecting pilot areas in regions where carpet weaving is still alive, they aim to create teams consisting of designers, marketers, and experts in materials, yarns, and dyes, Diler said.

Production should meet the expectations of current decoration trends worldwide through the touches made by these local teams, he noted.

This can also contribute significantly to rural development and female employment."

"We need to transition to a workshop system with this recipe because the world no longer expects only traditional weavings. It desires creative, design-oriented products," Diler noted.

Despite the closure of borders and the halt in international trade during the COVID pandemic, people turned to decoration while staying in their homes, leading to increased interest in carpets.

"We had a good year in 2021, but in 2022, we experienced a 13-percent decline in exports. This was due to the decrease in machine carpet exports, while handmade carpet exports were on the rise. In 2022, handmade carpet exports increased by 8 percent to $47 million. However, we do not consider this export volume sufficient," he explained.

"Our carpets are displayed in the most prestigious museums in the world, at the forefront of their special sections, and our carpets are sold at very high prices in international auctions. Anatolia is the cradle of weaving. Wherever you dig in Anatolia, you will find a weaving tool. There are even examples of weaving from the Neolithic period. It is saddening that our country, with such a cultural richness, lags behind in handmade

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Cooking on a Budget – Handy Tips (Alia El-Amer)

Hi there,

This is Something, I Have Created, Handy to Enjoy Types Of Fruit Per Season.
Happy Summer Holidays.

Seasonal Fruits (Turkey)

Pearl mullet poachers fined 1.2 mln liras

A total of 170 people have received administrative fines totaling 1.2 million Turkish Liras for disobeying the restrictions on hunting pearl mullet, an indigenous fish species thriving in Lake Van's waters.

As the hunting ban for pearl mullet from Apr. 15 to Jul. 15 is still in effect, protection activities for the species also continue at full speed.

Within this framework, a total of 55 tons of pearl mullet, 15 tons of which are alive, have been seized so far in the fight against poachers.

While the captured live fish were returned to the water, the dead fish were disposed of.

On the other hand, an administrative fine of 1.2 million liras was imposed on 170 poachers.

Provincial Director of Agriculture and Forestry İbrahim Görentaş stated that the gendarmerie, police and other relevant units carried out an intensive struggle during the hunting ban, and two boats and 8,000 meters of extension nets were also seized.

Görentaş reminded that pearl mullets had some problems with the decrease in the flow rate in the water resources due to drought and noted that they made a great effort to minimize the problems caused by drought.

Last stop on the Ladies Beach minibus – what makes Kuşadası unique

Klaus Jurgens

A short while before this year's Feast of the Sacrifice, Eid al-Adha (Kurban Bayramı), it was time to return to an all-time favourite seaside spot located a short stroll away from the last stop (son durak) of the Ladies Beach minibus. You know that this section of our newspaper seldom gives away or promotes individual hospitality businesses out of fairness to the entire trade - so let us just assume should you follow along the same route you may find a fine, neither too long, nor too wide beach hence never overly crowded either. The views out to the sea and onto Samos as well as the Dilek Peninsula are breathtaking indeed.

As one entrepreneur along that stretch of coastline – Mustafa Bey - is more than just an acquaintance it allows for that perfect blend of watching the waves coming in, going out and when the time has come engage in fine conversation about whatever topics spring to mind. And conversations here in Türkiye very quickly include matters of concern to ones' family - not in a nosy manner but out of real interest.

Visiting places like these lets us forget about time as coming over for just five minutes would not make sense. First, you need to figure out where you wish to sit or lay down as there is plenty of choice. On the pristine sand? On a sunbed? On the lawn above? Or at a table in the restaurant? Or my advice, do it all in turns!

Then we might close our eyes and let us be carried away, proverbially speaking of course. Listening to the waves and its rhythm is as good a relaxation method as it gets and then there is something else – the never-ending light breeze even during peak (sunshine) daytime. This is enhanced by the way the restaurant is constructed – in a positive meaning of the word 'traditional'. It has a roof of course but at three sides allows for that very light breeze to surround us without barriers or doors. There is no need for air-conditioning, not even fans unless you so demand which, figuratively speaking, and at least with regards to your friendly columnist's eyes and neck is not necessarily his cooling down - cup of tea.

Should you feel peckish there is a small but absolutely more than adequate food and beverage menu, too.

Which brings us to the gist of this month's contribution – the certain uniqueness of our shared resort. Last month we discussed the price-quality ratio and why both resort and Türkiye as such remain not only a world-class holiday destination but one of the most affordable as well.

Today's subject is much more about and regardless of monetary affairs what actually brings us here in the first place. Mustafa's place is a great starting point, please let me explain. When I was younger the saying went if you stay in a certain hotel chain no matter where in the world you know what you would obtain in return: same room size, same room décor, same type of bedding, same breakfast… some of us travellers quite liked that approach as no matter in which city or country we were setting foot onto that very premises made you feel at home, it took away the stress of having arrived in unknown territory. Then after a few hours we were ready to explore in the clear knowledge of that a small piece of home away from home – aka our cosy hotel room – eagerly awaits our return.

Over the years we started being more adventurous and going and staying local became the order of the day, or shall we say of the holiday. Boutique hotels sprung up everywhere, mingling with the

Last stop on the Ladies Beach minibus – what makes Kuşadası unique

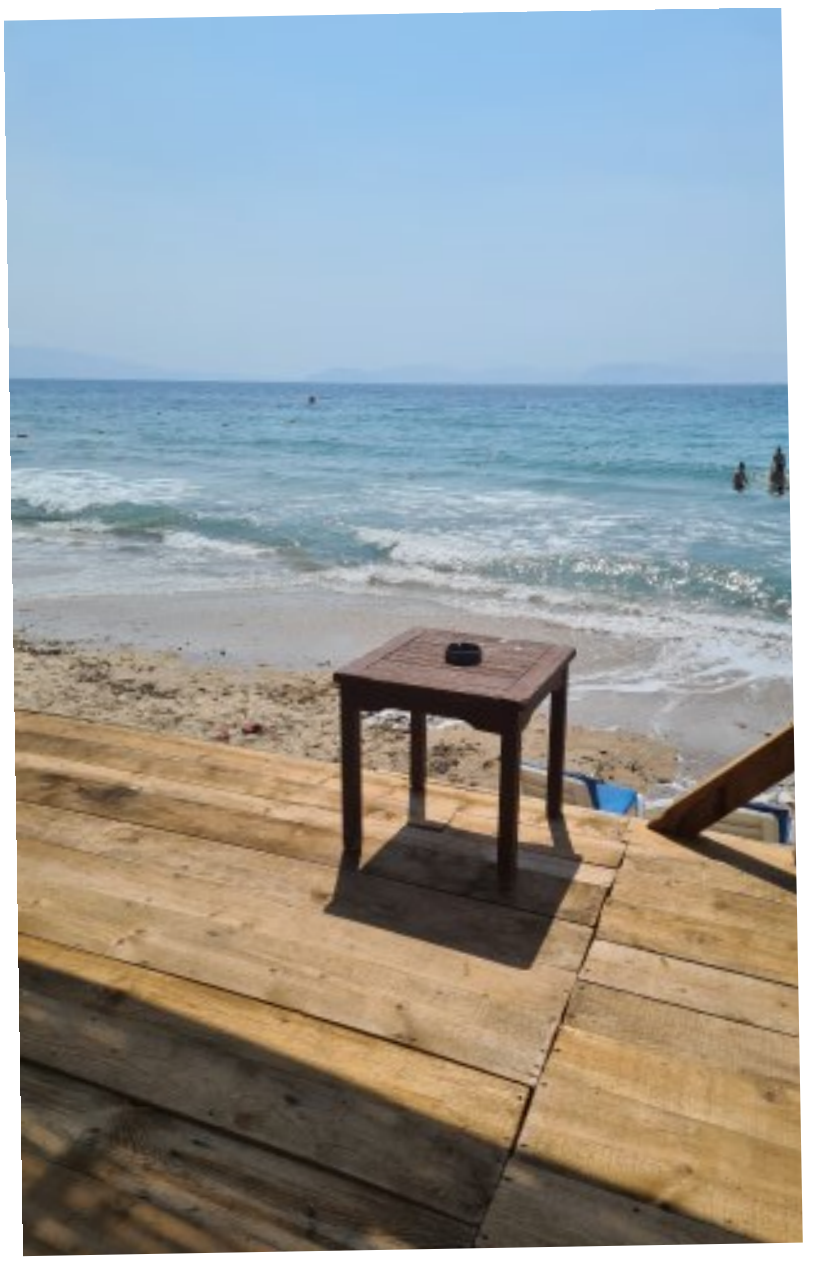
Klaus Jurgens

locals became a must instead of watching international television channels in the comforts of an international chain hotel.

Tourism on a grand scale here in Türkiye kicked in from early in the 1980's with the first milestone reaching the one million visitor's mark soon thereafter. Logically, and in order to absorb an ever-increasing number of foreign guests' hotels had to be big and along the coast or in the famous metropolises. But on the one hand and over the past four decades Türkiye managed to stick to the 'mass' tourism dimension whilst on the other hand completely diversifying its vacationing formula. In today's Türkiye we can go swimming or skiing alike, visit historical sites or go mountaineering. We have cultural, educational, health tourism to name but a few of so many great alternatives.

Back to our resort there is no better place than to witness this transformation although granted, we are basically a seaside and archeologic destination and what a success story it has become.

And that is exactly my point: it may take a little while and perhaps at least one return visit before we understand and appreciate that life as a tourist, or resident respectively, offers much more than enjoying a fortnight's vacation which of course in itself is good enough a reason to pack our toothbrush and come over here. Our town and with just that little bit of exploring allows for fascinating insights into the social fabric of our host nation Türkiye. There is international cuisine galore, but we can go for a meal the way our Turkish neighbours would. There are five-star hotels but then there are family-oriented pensions in lush green locations just a short ride away from the centre as well. There are branded coffee house chains and there are small tea gardens tucked away just around the corner. It is a world-famous resort for sure, yet it is a 'living city' at the same moment and it is this rare combination of existing not just side by side but as a matter of fact existing with each other and benefitting from each other which makes it tick.



And then there are our hard-working neighbours who day in, day out want their guests and residents to see the best of the city. Without the people, no resort. To me that people factor is most likely the key ingredient to having chosen Kuşadası. True, chosen over time as there were other fine places to be taken into account but eventually there was only one winner, on a personal note.

Back to the beach – on that last visit before the holidays I bid farewell to Mustafa Bey in the clear knowledge of that we shall meet again soon and similarly in the clear knowledge of that he enjoys his profession. You will find your very own spot somewhere on our coastline, that I am sure of. Look here, go there. It is well worth it – happy summertime!

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Are you looking for unique gift ideas that can offer an unforgettable experience? Deniz has an amazing selection of quality gifts for you when you are visiting Turkey. Along with the gifts you will find Turkish tea, herbs, spices, chocolate, and of course a great selection of Turkish delight.

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Mehmet Alan email: 09denizambalaj@gmail.com

Directions: If you are a first-time visitor to Kusadasi you would go under the arch towards the seafront. Ask anyone and they will tell you where the arch is. Walk until you come to Turk Telekom on the right side. Take the next right into the old town and the shop is about 10 metres on the right.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Would you be kind enough to leave our services a Google review

It only takes a few minutes and we'd be eternally grateful! Just copy the link below to go to our Google Business page and leave us some feedback.

https://tinyurl.com/4u5pvhjt

Collecting Google reviews helps us gain insight from feedback and understand how to improve our services.

Below are the relevant details to contact for assistance

Long-term rental enquires, client account balance, bills and other payments etc.; call, SMS or WhatsApp – 05419 010 682 or e-mail info@mypropertyturkey.co.uk

Ege Eye newspaper, residence applications or questions regarding residency; call, SMS or WhatsApp – 05358 546 547 or e-mail info@theegeeye.com

Power of Attorney, inheritance information, property management and general living enquires; call, SMS or WhatsApp – 05419 010 682 or e-mail info@mypropertyturkey.co.uk

Legal enquiries, insurance and any other general enquiry; call, SMS or WhatsApp – 05318 560 546 or e-mail admin@adviceturkey.org

Buying and selling property; call, SMS or WhatsApp – 05395 819 386 or e-mail info@kusadasipropertydirect.com

If you need advice or assistance on any of the above in:

Turkish; call, SMS or WhatsApp – 05318 560 546
Arabic; call, SMS or WhatsApp – 05345 112 339

If you are calling, texting or WhatsApping any of the above Turkish numbers from outside Turkey please add 009 to the beginning of the number.

You can contact our volunteers any time from Monday to Friday between 10 am and 5 pm (Turkish time)

For out-of-hours emergencies call 0256 612 3207, or our UK number 0207 078 7443 or our Ireland number 01 657 1475 or call, SMS or WhatsApp 05066 620 185 – 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

We also would appreciate if you could do the same for our Ege Eye Facebook group.
https://tinyurl.com/5n6vrjd2

One last request, The Ege Eye is a public group. You do not have to join to view our articles. I would be grateful if you would join and pm me your email address so that you can receive our mid-regular newsletter. Send your email to lucy@theegeeye.com or inbox me on messenger.

Regards Lucy

THE EGE EYE
"News for the Turkish coast since 2005"

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Please do not leave it until the last minute to make your application for Turkish residency

E-mail the advice centre at support@adviceturkey.org or telephone on 05318 560 546 - all queries will be answered confidentially by our friendly team the same day, so don't hesitate to ask