The Ege Eye

Issue 237

JUNE 2024

"News for the Turkish coast since 2005"

Kuşadasi is preparing for the tourism season with fine touches

Kuşadasi Municipality has intensified its maintenance and repair work on the beaches with the start of the tourism season.
Kuşadasi Municipality teams carry out cleaning and organizing work on the beaches and parks, while adding aesthetics to the areas frequently visited by holidaymakers.
In this context, the teams completed the maintenance, repair and painting operations of the wooden fences on Kadinlar Denizi beach (Ladies Beach) which is flooded with local and foreign holidaymakers during the summer season.
The renewed appearance of the fences, which were worn out due to weather conditions and rains during the winter, was appreciated.

Citizens' demands are evaluated immediately in Kuşadası

Kuşadasi Mayor Ömer Günel continues his efforts to observe and resolve the demands of his citizens on site.
In this context, Mayor Ömer Günel, who met with the residents of the Beach-Tur Site and Bahçelievler Site, started working within a day to solve the problems conveyed to him by the residents of the site, which created satisfaction in the region.
Mayor Ömer Günel, who continues to meticulously evaluate the demands and suggestions from his fellow citizens, met with the residents of Plaj-Tur and Bahçelievler Site in Kadinlar Denizi District and gave information about the services planned in the region.
Following Mayor Ömer Günel's visit, Kuşadasi Municipality Directorate of Technical Affairs and Parks and Gardens Directorate teams started working in the region without wasting time in line with the requests from the residents of the site. As part of the work carried out in four branches, cleaning and road works are carried out in the region. Source:KusadasihaberAjans

KUSADASI PARKS ARE RENEWED

While Kuşadasi Municipality increases the number of parks and green areas throughout the city day by day, it also carries out maintenance and cleaning work in existing parks.
As the weather gets warmer, Kuşadasi Municipality carries out maintenance work in parks throughout the city so that children can have fun in the open air.
Teams affiliated with the Parks and Gardens Directorate are replacing old play sets in parks with new ones as part of the work.
The teams are also repairing the rubber floors in some parks that have been removed and damaged due to weather conditions and long-term use.
The teams make the wooden parts of the play sets colorful and aesthetic by painting them in rainbow colors. Ref:kusadasibelediye

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Carol F

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IN UK – CALL 0207 0787443

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FIRE	110
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HAPPY KURBAN BAYRAMI (Sacrifice Feast) TO ONE AND ALL

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, president of Turkiye announced after his Cabinet meeting 2 days ago confirmation of the upcoming holiday dates. The dates are, Saturday June 15th to Wednesday June 19th inclusive.
Mr. President has added Thursday and Friday - 20th and 21st for all government public sector employees giving them a 9 day holiday.

This means The Banks will re- open Thursday 20th.
Government offices will re- open on Monday 24th.
Traffic will be Chaotic especially on Sunday 23rd of June.

Both The Ege Eye & Foreign Citizens Advice Centre offices will be closed on Monday & Tuesday June 17th & 18th. There will be volunteers on call for emergency appointments.
Please call or WhatsApp +90 5066620185 or email support@adviceturkey.org to speak to someone.

MY PROPERTY TURKEY

My Property Turkey

The laws are changing constantly these times in Turkey around purchase and sales of properties and also in the area of long and short term rentals.

The Foreign Citizen advice centre through the Ege Eye Newspaper and Kusadasi News have been publishing articles in this regard.

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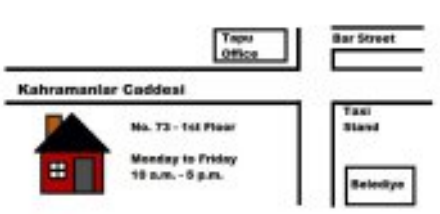

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Türkiye getting ready for Kurban Bayramı – let us celebrate with our neighbours

By: Klaus Jurgens

First-time visitors to this fascinating country may very well be surprised to come across a tradition which is deep-rooted in Türkiye's past and present and a non-negotiable fixture on the annual national holiday calendar. Then again even some members of our permanent expatriate resident's community may not necessarily have had an opportunity yet to fully appreciate and benefit from this so special time of year. Let us explain.

In a few weeks from today Türkiye will celebrate the Feast of Sacrifice, called Kurban Bayramı or Eid al-Adha. It is a highly significant four-day long event - plus a preceding night - which this year falls on the evening of 15 June, with the actual feast starting on the 16 June lasting until 19 June.

The religious relevance for Islam lies embedded in the willingness of the Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his own son to Allah out of obedience; yet Allah provided for a lamb so that Ibrahim could sacrifice the animal instead of his own son.

From eras long gone by to the present day and our modern times this so special practice has survived; it is part and parcel of our wonderful host nation's citizens approach to life. Which brings us to three intertwined observations. First, how do people actually go about this special holiday? Second, are there alternatives to sacrificing animals at home, think people in need elsewhere on our shared planet? And third, in case you wonder whether or not this should really be a recurring activity and festivity in the 21st Century we will consider Germany – although a different type of feast but in order to make my point - welcome to their highly cherished 'Slaughter Feasts or Festivals' – Schlachtfeste in the German language.

Sunday Best a must

Much has changed over time and yes and it is no secret - and the author of these lines can testify that even in the capital Ankara towards the end of the first decade of the New Millennium many an estate's backyards were used as basically non-licensed slaughter houses – that it was both the government, local authorities and the population themselves who asked for a more hygienic and proper way of going about the sacrificing business. In almost all cases this is by now done professionally, often with the support of the local town hall providing for grounds outside city centres to accommodate both buyers and animals.

You rarely eat meat from a sacrificed animal – think sheep, goat or lamb - in a restaurant; you stay at home and ideally divide whatever you have got into various portions. Of course, you will keep quite a bit of meat for later meals in your freezer. First, you know or find out about people in need in your neighbourhood or cooperate with a charity such as the Red Crescent. Then you share some of the meat with your closest neighbours and in particular the elderly, often living alone in case children have left for work elsewhere. An elderly single person would seldom sacrifice an entire animal, of course not. This gift and tradition are thus very welcome – in bigger apartment blocks those who sacrifice an animal will meet and discuss who gives what to which neighbour, a kind of social alert system my family witnessed many times over the years. And only then is it time to assemble for your own late lunch or early dinner and feed your very own (extended) family in a festive manner. It is suggested to let the meat rest for at least twelve hours before consumption.

This includes that all family members dress up for the occasion – no less than Sunday Best is accepted including the younger family members.

It is a special religious holiday but let us be honest – it has become one of the busiest traveling weekends as well. Which brings us to the next observation – if you cannot sacrifice an animal at home, or are not at home at all, you may think about donating one to people in need yet overseas.

Donations sent overseas welcome, too

Not because there is a wish amongst Turkish civil society to change how Kurban Bayramı is celebrated but as awareness is growing as everywhere else on our shared planet that not everyone is fortunate enough to slaughter ones' own animal, since the start of the past decade or so it is not uncommon to instead of sharing the sacrificed animal at home to donate monies so that an animal can be sacrificed in another country, of course developing country as it is. There are reputable charities and organisations that help interested individuals to arrange for a donation. It is a fascinating development and fully in line and in the spirit of the original Feast of Sacrifice – stipulations. After all what you donate in cash over here soon translates into feeding many hungry souls abroad.

'Schlachtfest' time it is indeed

To put matters into a wider perspective a virtual travel to Germany makes good commentator's sense. Those of our dear readers who follow this page regularly may be familiar with the fact that before settling in the United Kingdom having enrolled at university in the late-1980s I had been raised in what was then still West Germany. And one very special occasion on our autumn schedule was when in our small town a well-known restaurant, hotel, sports or shooting association invited for a slaughter festival usually based on the ensuing consumption of pig meat, accompanied by ample supplies of local drinks, music and dance. Granted, it is a different type of celebrating as and when compared with our Turkish Feast of Sacrifice which is much more family oriented instead of going out to dine including with non-family members.

St aying in the German picture, Schlachtfeste occur in many parts of the country until this very day, a good source albeit in German is a government sponsored tourism promotion website 'pfalz-info.com'.

To sum it up and my point is the following: should you at first think, slaughtering animals for a religious celebration is wrong, please think twice. Everywhere animals are raised to be consumed by mankind. Yet to add a very special dimension inherent in Islam to this absolutely normal procedure we realize that even in today's chaotic and hectic world we recall our traditions, our roots, our beliefs. Yes, we may eat meat every week or so but eating meat from animals specially chosen to be sacrificed once a year is a special treat in itself, and if you go about the holidays in the good company of friends and neighbours you will probably be included in their sharing the joy – efforts as after all and as mentioned above, first you give to the needy, then to the closest neighbours, and only then you feed your own extended family.

Enjoy Kurban Bayramı in our fine resort and have a great month of June.

ENVIRONMENT
The disaster at our door: Drought

In recent years, drought has become a serious problem in many parts of the world.

The effects of climate change, increasing population and misuse of water resources lead to further deepening of drought.

The drought, which will affect many regions this year, seems to negatively affect not only agricultural production but also the daily use of water resources.

One of the most important steps in combating drought is effective water management.
Using water resources sustainably, modernizing agricultural irrigation systems and preventing water waste are important steps in combating drought.
Additionally, increasing social awareness is also of great importance. People reviewing their water consumption habits and understanding the value and importance of water can play an important role in combating drought.

Serious steps should be taken to combat drought in our country. Updating water management policies, encouraging sustainable use of water and raising public awareness about water saving will be important steps in coping with drought.

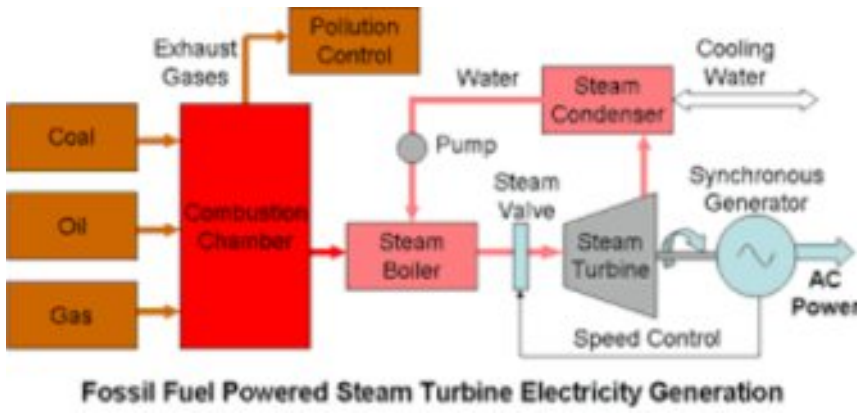
However, it should not be forgotten that combating drought is not only the responsibility of states and institutions. It is of great importance for every individual to use water efficiently and not waste it in daily life. We can fight drought together with conscious consumption habits.

Protecting water resources for the future is not only the right of the current generation, but also the right of future generations. The most important step that will ensure the sustainability of water resources is for everyone to fulfil their responsibilities in combating drought. Source https://www.sesgazetesi.com.tr/

42% of Turkey's electricity production comes from renewable sources.

In Turkey, 42% of electricity production comes from renewable sources.

Globally, the share of renewable energy sources in electricity production exceeded 30% for the first time in 2023.
By generating 42% of its electricity from these sources, Turkey surpassed the global average.



Fossil Fuel Powered Steam Turbine Electricity Generation

Ember, a London-based organization, released the "Global Electricity Outlook Report" concerning 80 countries that account for 92% of global electricity demand. According to the report, Turkey's electricity production from solar, water, and wind energy constitutes 42% of the total, surpassing the global average.

While 6% of electricity production comes from solar and 10% from wind energy, hydroelectric power continues to be the largest renewable energy source at 20%. Last year, 58% of electricity was generated from fossil fuels.

According to the report, Turkey aims to meet 47% of its electricity demand from renewable energy sources by 2030.

Dave Jones, Ember's Global Program Director, highlighted the rapid acceleration of solar energy, stating, "We already know what key facilitators can help countries harness the full potential of solar and wind. There is an unprecedented opportunity for countries that prioritize the forefront of clean energy."

Ufuk Alparslan from Ember Turkey evaluated the report, stating, "However, hydroelectric power is sensitive to drought.

Utilizing our other potentials, especially rooftop and floating solar power plants, will increase our energy security by protecting our country against the variability of hydroelectric production." Source BTT.com

Advice on carrying ID with you when in Turkiye.

Carrying photo ID at all times while in Turkey

All people, citizens and non-citizens, residents, holidaymakers and tourists alike, are required to carry some form of photo ID with them at all times while in Turkey. The police, the gendarmerie (a military body mainly responsible for policing small towns and rural areas), and night-time security known as “bekci” may carry out random spot checks, especially in crowded places such as shopping centres in Turkey and on the main highways and roads. There may be a penalty such as a fine for not having a photo ID with you so always carry your passport or residence permit and a printed copy of your visa just in case.

Carrying photo ID at all times while in Turkey

There is legal requirement to carry a photo ID at all times while in Turkey for all the people whether they are citizens and non-citizens, residents, holidaymakers and tourists. Those who don’t are taking the risk of being detained, taken to police or gendarmerie stations and fined, and have to wait for someone to bring their passport before they are released. Alternatively, holidaymakers are allowed to go home and get it, but they were warned next time they would face a fine.

Requirement

In Turkey, it is a common requirement to carry identification at all times. For foreign travellers, the idea that you would carry a passport while sightseeing in Turkey or when going to the beach seems absurd. It is illegal not to carry some form of photographic ID in Turkey. You should carry your passport or residence permit at all times. In some busy areas, especially at the entrances of airport passenger terminals, subways, shopping malls, crowded streets and venues and museum, the Turkish law enforcement authorities may stop members of the public to conduct ID checks. There’s also a number of police checkpoints on main roads across Turkey.

Checkpoints

Nowadays, there is a larger than usual number of police or gendarmerie checkpoints on main roads across Turkey. You should co-operate with officials conducting checks, and keep your passport and a printed copy of your e-visa or your residence permit with you at all times.

Traffic stops are usually set up for one of these reasons:

Routine license and registration checks,
to watch for certain individuals suspected of committing crime,
DUI, “Driving while Under the Influence” of alcohol or drugs, which are normally done late at night and on weekends in areas with restaurants and clubs.
In case you are stopped, be prepared to show your passport and driver’s license and vehicle registration or rental-car contract.

Involved in an accident

If you are involved in an accident – even when not found at fault- a Breathalyzer or blood test is almost always mandatory. If you are not considered responsible for the accident, positive test results will not be used against you by the police. However, they may be used by an insurance company as grounds to deny an accident claim.

If your vehicle has tinted glass, roll down the driver’s side window. This makes it easier for the police to safely identify and check the vehicle and its occupants. During this type of inspection, remain calm, do not make any quick movements and obey instructions.

The issue of identity checks is at the heart of the thorny debate on how to ensure better relations between the police and the public.

Judicial identity checks

Judicial identity checks, carried out on the basis of a suspicion of wrongdoing, are allowed. The police and gendarmerie are able to carry out checks either in the context of a preliminary investigation, or in the event of a person being caught in the act of committing an offence, provided they act “politely, and exhibit no behaviour that might be described as harassment or abuse of power”. The police can perform a judicial identity check on individuals on the basis of “evidence” suggesting they had committed an offence, had attempted to commit an offence or was about to commit an offence.

Judicial identity checks need to be carried out at the request of the public prosecutor, who simply had to define a scope of intervention, establish a time frame for the action in question, and specify the offences to be investigated. The police would then need no further justification for its operations as long as it complied with the public prosecutor’s instructions.

Administrative identity checks

Administrative identity checks are also allowed for maintaining public order whenever this might be considered to be threatened in the event of public gatherings, demonstrations, unrest on the streets, etc. Police, gendarmerie an Bekçi officers are permitted to carry out checks “to prevent breaches of public order, including breaches of safety of persons or property”. The concept of public order is defined on the basis of three elements: keeping the peace (resolving night-time disturbances, for example), salubrity (in particular issues of health, hygiene and pollution) and safety (accidents, etc.). (Contd. on Page 7)

Advice on carrying ID with you when in Turkiye – Contd…

Continued from Page 6..

Complaints
The current Turkish law allows identity verification procedures, consisting of taking the individual in question to the police station if he or she is unable to prove their civil status.

Such individuals may be detained for however long is necessary to establish their identity, up to a maximum of twentyfour hours.
It should be noted that identity should not be confused with the notion of civil status, which includes other elements than those necessary for identification.
Proof of identity may be achieved “by any means”. The possession of a national identity card and passport has always been an asset as far as the law is concerned.

Sample Advice statements from Embassy's re: Personal ID -

It is illegal not to carry some form of photographic ID in Turkey. Always carry your passport or residence permit.
In some busy areas, especially Istanbul,the authorities may stop people forIDchecks. There are also several police checkpoints on main roads across Turkey. Cooperate with officials conducting checks. **https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/turkey/safety-and-security**

Please carry ID / passport at all times, presenting to security officers if requested (and keep a copy to hand also).
https://www.ireland.ie/en/dfa/overseas-travel/advice/turkiye/

The U.S. Embassy is aware of increased immigration enforcement nationwide. According to Turkish law, all individuals in Turkiye are required to carry photo identification at all times and are obliged to show their documents to police whenever requested.
Turkish police routinely review identity and immigration documents, including residency permits and/or entry stamps.
Individuals who cannot immediately produce documentation of their identity, citizenship, and legal presence in Turkiye may be detained or transported to a deportation center.
Document checks may be performed at police checkpoints or by officials on the street or on any form of public transportation, including buses, trains, and ferries. Turkish authorities may be in plain clothes and not immediately identifiable as police.
U.S. citizens should carry government-issued photo identification, such as a Turkish residence permit, and your U.S. passport with Turkish entry stamp.
https://tr.usembassy.gov/message-for-u-s-citizens-immigration-document-checks/

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The Economy

Business circles welcome government's savings package

Business leaders have voiced support for the measures announced by the government aimed at reining in spending and boosting efficiency in the public sector, saying that the package will contribute to the fight against inflation.

The savings package was unveiled by Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz and Finance Minister Mehmet Şimşek on May 13.

Fighting inflation should be the priority and budget discipline should support this struggle, said Rifat Hisarciklıoğlu, the president of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB).
"We welcome the government's savings and efficiency package. It is a step taken in the right direction," added Hisarcıklıoğlu.

The principles of efficiency and prudent spending envisaged in the program will not be limited to a certain period but will probably become the part of the country's "culture," said Şekip Avdagiç, the president of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (İTO).
"We hope that this will contribute to our determination for disinflation," Avdagiç furthered.

The package is an important step in the fight against inflation, according to Mustafa Gültepe, the head of the Türkiye Exporters' Assembly (TİM).
He stressed that the program should be implemented in an uncompromised manner.

As part of the package, the government will limit recruitment and transport spending for public servants.

The purchase or lease of any new public service vehicle will be banned for three years, except for mandatory requirements concerning the health, security, and defence sectors.
The use of imported vehicles will also cease within the public service.

Other budget cuts are also planned, such as a 10 percent reduction in public budgets for the purchase of goods and services and a 15 percent cut in investments, with the exception of spending in regions affected by the 2023 earthquakes.
Source:hurriyetdailynews

Minister of Industry and Technology Mehmet Fatih Kacir discusses the public savings package, emphasizing the strategic allocation of resources to vital sectors such as technology, production and exports.
Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacir announced that resources saved by reducing non-priority expenditures would be redirected toward productive, value-added areas, including high technology, production, and exports. Ref: Turkıye Mustafa Çuhadar

Latest regulations may increase appetite for loans: Akbank CEO

Changes to regulations introduced earlier in February may increase banks' appetite for extending loans, says Kaan Gür, CEO of Akbank, one of Türkiye's largest private banks.
Those changes also eased cost pressures for banks, Gür told a press conference on Feb. 13.

On Feb. 5, the Central Bank announced that reserve requirements of eligible deposit banks maintained for their Turkish Lira deposit and FX-protected deposit accounts with a maturity longer than one month will be subject to remuneration every three months.

The bank added that this regulation aimed to strengthen the monetary transmission mechanism, increasing the share of Turkish lira deposits and supporting the transition from FX-protected deposits to lira deposits.
Gür also said that some portion of the loan requests started to switch from lira to foreign currency.

The bank executive added that non-performing loans may increase this year.
According to the latest data from the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency, the share of non-performing loans in total loans was only 1.6 percent as of the end of December 2023.

Akbank will invest a total of $ $200 million in technology in 2024, Gür also said.

The lender earmarked another $600 million for technology investments in the next three years, according to the bank's executive.

Akbank's consolidated net income increased by 11 percent in 2023 from the previous year to 66.5 billion liras. Its revenues rose from 103 billion liras to 141.5 billion liras.

The lenders' total assets grew 66 percent to reach 1.9 trillion liras, while deposits grew 79 percent to 1.3 trillion liras. Source: Hurriyet Daily News

Economy - Government unveils savings measures package.

The measures have three main pillars: Public savings, discipline in the budget spending and efficiency in public investments, Şimşek said at a press conference in Ankara.

“We will support disinflation through savings and spending control in the public sector,” Şimşek said, reiterating that the government’s priority is to lower inflation, bringing it to single digits.

Monetary policy, revenues policy and structural reforms are carried out in harmony in the fight against inflation and the Central Bank is taking all kinds of measures, including tightening monetary, to reduce inflation, the minister added.
“We will contribute to the disinflation process with the package we unveiled today and other measures we will announce soon,” Şimşek said.

The annual inflation rate quickened from 68.5 percent in March to 69.8 percent in April and just over 70% at May end according to the latest official data.
As part of the package announced on May 13, public institutions' new vehicle purchases and rentals have been paused for three years, except for defense and security needs.

The purchase and construction of new buildings will be stopped for three years, except for those at earthquake risk, and renting new buildings will not be allowed, according to the minister.

“For this year, we are cutting 10 percent in goods and service purchase allowances and 15 percent in investment allowances, excluding earthquake and compulsory expenditures,” Şimşek furthered.
There will be limits to payments made to state employees at the company boards, he said.

“In the public sector, we will recruit as many new personnel as retired ones for three years.
We aim to reduce the number of support staff over time. We will further develop flexible, remote working models in the public sector,” the minister said.

Energy efficiency in the public sector will be increased with new steps regarding the use of renewables, according to Şimşek.

Without any exception, all public institutions and personnel must comply with the savings measures, and a “very strong monitoring, supervision and sanctions model” will be implemented, he said.
Central administration, local administrations, state economic enterprises and all funds are within the scope of the public savings measure package, the minister added.

This was not the first nor the last package they will announce, as more measures will be taken, Şimşek vowed. Source: https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/

Menu
Sunday Dinner
Full English Breakfast
Steak
Chicken
Pizza
Seafood
egetarian
Traditional Turkish Kebabs
Traditional Fish & Chips

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Tourists visiting Turkey on holiday 'aren't happy' amid boycott calls

Thousands of people have threatened a boycott over claims prices in Turkey were increasing 'faster than inflation'

Locals and tourists in Turkey have called for a boycott of restaurants and cafes as a result of rising prices.

Turkey is known for being an affordable holiday destination, however photos have been circulating on social media and in Turkish newspapers showing inflated restaurant bills amid fears 'tourism will suffer'.

A Restaurant charges 275tl for a Belfast Beer in Kusadasi

Thousands of calls have been made nationwide to boycott restaurants accused of 'exploiting economic issues and inflation as an excuse' to set extortionate menu prices.

Reports also claimed that customers have been served smaller portion sizes and lower quality meals in some places despite rising prices.

Locally, in Kusadasi there have been many cases reported on social media. One bar in the centre, well known and supported by Tourists over the years is reported to have charged the equivalent of 4 euro for one slice of White pudding (A BREAKFAST İTEM). It was also reported that this same bar, when the tourist is getting a good daily exchange rate the owner allegedly "runs into the bar and increases the food and bar menu prices" and subsequently informs customers that additional government levys are the reason for the price increases.

Another well known Bar, catering to the younger age groups was reported to have allegedly charged 15euro for one import beer. Other establishments are now using european drink measures and charging approximatley the same if not more than the customer would pay in their own country. It is recognised that the majority of Turkish eateries/bars are providing the best value for money in Kusadasi and surrounding areas.(KusadasiNews)

One bakery in Istanbul sparked outrage for selling a single cookie for 110 Turkish Liras (the equivalent of £2.70). 'Boycott Overpriced Meals' became a trending social media hashtag, urging a weekend-long boycott of restaurants and cafes last month.

Economist İris Cibre, who initiated the original boycott calls, told the Turkish press price tags were increasing 'faster than inflation', but argued there was 'already so much outrage' on social media. Source Birmingham live

Price Tags increasing faster than Inflation in Turkey

Ramazan Bingöl, the head of the country's largest restaurant association told the Hurriyet that some business owners were guilty of being 'wrong and opportunistic', but emphasised rising energy and ingredient costs were also pushing restaurants to increase their prices. Meat, milk and energy prices in Turkey have risen, as has the minimum wage.

Trade Minister Ömer Bolat also announced plans to increase the fine for businesses caught charging exorbitant price hikes to 800,000 Liras (around £19,500).

Ramazan Bingöl, the head of the country's largest restaurant association, told Hurriyet Daily News that prices had even become expensive for foreign tourists. He said: "I know my industry will crucify me, but is the public justified in boycotting? Yes, they are. I agree, it's expensive. I was in Baku last week. I saw their prices. The same service in Turkey is more expensive.

"Tourists are also very unhappy with this situation. At this point, tourism might suffer."

He said a meeting would be held with ministers and members of parliament soon to find a solution.

Increased fines on the way

Trade Minister Ömer Bolat also announced plans to increase the fine for businesses caught charging exorbitant price hikes to 800,000 Liras (around £19,500). hurriyetDailyNews

Enforcement of the Law is now Happening

A Restaurant in Alanya was temporarily closed for overcharging Tourists.

The Alanya Municipality Police Department continues to conduct inspections following complaints from residents and foreign tourists visiting the district. Responding to a complaint from four British tourists who reported being charged 50,300 TL for a meal at a restaurant, the Municipality Police Department imposed a penalty on the establishment and temporarily closed it for five days

On Sunday, May 5, **officers inspected the restaurant following the complaint from the British tourists**. The tourists claimed they had been charged an exorbitant amount for their meal, which they found to be excessively high. When they protested, the restaurant staff allegedly threatened them and forced them to pay the bill.

Upon investigation, the police found that the restaurant had charged the tourists 50,300 TL for 25 cocktails, 20 various alcoholic drinks, 3 tomato soups, 2 döner kebabs, 2 bottles of water, and 1 portion of mushrooms. Payment was made in cash and through five different credit cards.

MUNICIPALITY FINES THE RESTAURANT TL32,000 AND CLOSES IT FOR 5 DAYS

Due to violations of the Municipal Police Regulations, the establishment was fined 32,900 TL. Consequently, the restaurant was closed and its operations suspended for five days.

Alanya Mayor Osman Tarık Özçelik said, “We will continue to work with all our teams our teams to ensure the financial and emotional security of all our residents and visitors to our city”. Source: BTT

HEARTY TURKISH RED LENTIL SOUP – KIRMIZI MERCIMEK CORBASI

Ozlem Warren

Serves 6
Preparation time: 15 minutes cooking time: 40 minutes

Ingredients

250gr/9oz/generous 1 cup red lentils, rinsed and drained.
15ml/1 tablespoon long grain rice, rinsed and drained.
1 medium onion finely chopped.
1 medium carrot cut in small cubes.
1 medium potato, peeled and cut in small cubes.
1.2lt/2 pints/5 cups hot water
15ml/ 1 tablespoon olive oil
15ml/1 tablespoon butter
10ml /2 teaspoon ground cumin
Juice of ½ lemon
Salt and pepper to taste

For the pul biber/red pepper flakes infused olive oil:

10ml/2tsp (or more) pul biber or red pepper flakes
30ml/2tbsp olive oil
Extra wedge of lemon (and if you'd like) croutons to serve.

Pour in the olive oil into a large heavy pan.
Stir in the onion, carrots, and potato and sauté for 2 minutes, over medium to high heat. Add the red lentils, rice, and hot water to the pan.
Bring to boil and skim off any froth. Over a medium heat, simmer for about 35 minutes or until the lentils, rice and the vegetables cooked.

Please stir occasionally to ensure the lentils don't stick to the bottom of the pan.

Add a little more water to the pan if the soup appears to be too thick to your liking.

Once cooked, add the lemon juice, butter, and cumin to the mixture. Check the seasoning and add salt and black pepper to your taste, combine well.
In a separate small pan, stir in the olive oil and Turkish pul biber or red pepper flakes. Combine well over a low to medium heat.

The pul biber will infuse to the olive oil and this will taste spectacular in the soup.
Serve the hot soup, with a drizzle of pul biber infused olive oil over the top and a wedge o lemon for extra zing by the side. Some nice crusty bread by the side or croutons over the soup would go very well.

You can cook this wonderful soup ahead of time and freeze some if you'd like. Enjoy
For more great recipes visit: https://ozlemsturkishtable.com/

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Sports News in Turkey

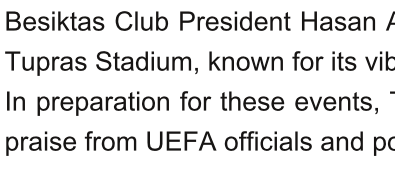
Bodrum FK has made history by advancing to the Super League for the first time after defeating Sakaryaspor 3-1 in the TFF 1. Lig Play-Off final.
This victory makes Bodrum FK the last team to join the “Süper Lig” this season.

In a match that went into extra time, Bodrum FK, coached by İsmet Taşdemir, took the lead in the 19th minute with a goal from Gökdeniz Bayrakdar. Sakaryaspor’s Rotman received a red card in the 45th minute, leaving his team to play with ten men.
Despite being down to ten players, Sakaryaspor equalized in the 72nd minute with a goal from Dimitrov, pushing the match into extra time.
Back-to-Back Goals from Bodrum FK

In extra time, Bodrum FK secured their victory with goals from Celutska in the 95th minute and Tunahan in the 103rd minute. Although Tunahan received a red card in the 110th minute, reducing Bodrum FK to ten men, they managed to maintain their lead and win the match.

Previous Season’s Setback
Bodrum FK, with no prior experience in the Süper Lig, narrowly missed promotion last season after losing to Pendikspor in the final. Overcoming the challenge posed by Sakaryaspor, the team from the Aegean region will now compete in the Süper Lig for the first time in their history.

Süper Lig Celebration in Bodrum



Fans in Bodrum celebrated their team’s historic achievement with great enthusiasm. Large screens were set up in Bodrum Belediye Meydanı and Turgutreis Meydanı for supporters to watch the match. Thousands of green-and-white-clad fans cheered throughout the game and erupted in joy at the final whistle, lighting flares and chanting to celebrate their team’s promotion to the Süper Lig. Source: https://businessturkeytoday.com/

Istanbul to host 2026, 2027 UEFA finals

Istanbul will host the 2026 UEFA Europa League Final and the 2027 UEFA Europa Conference League Final at Besiktas Inonu Tupras Stadium

Istanbul will host two major UEFA finals, the 2026 UEFA Europa League Final and the 2027 UEFA Europa Conference League Final.
Both events will take place at the Besiktas Inonu Tupras Stadium, as announced by the Turkish Football Federation (TFF).
TFF President Mehmet Buyukeksi expressed his pride, stating: "We have successfully secured the rights to host the 2026 UEFA Europa League Final and the 2027 UEFA Europa Conference League Final at Besiktas Park."
This achievement follows Türkiye's successful hosting of several significant football events, including the 2023 UEFA Champions League Final and the 2019 UEFA Super Cup.

When did the UEFA committee choose Istanbul?
The UEFA Executive Committee made the decision during a meeting in Dublin, confirming the stadium's position as a premier venue for international football.
Besiktas Inonu Tupras Stadium was selected because of its modern infrastructure, environmental sustainability and strategic location in Istanbul.
Buyukeksi discussed Türkiye's ongoing efforts to bring major football events to the country. "Our hard work has paid off," he said, adding: "We now have the honour of hosting two significant finals, demonstrating our capability to organize world-class football events."

Türkiye also eyes 2027 UEFA Europa Conference League Final
The TFF also announced plans to submit the new Ankara Stadium for consideration to host the 2027 UEFA Europa Conference League Final.
"If the construction of the new Ankara Stadium finishes on time, we will propose it to UEFA. If approved, it will be the first UEFA final hosted in Ankara," Buyukeksi added.
The 2026 UEFA Europa League Final and the 2027 UEFA Europa Conference League Final are significant additions to Türkiye's history of hosting major football events.

The country has previously hosted the 2005 UEFA Champions League Final, the 2009 UEFA Cup Final, the 2013 U20 World Cup, and the 2019 UEFA Super Cup. These events have solidified Türkiye's reputation as a reliable host for international football.

UEFA's selection process for finals location
The selection process for these finals began on May 17, 2023, when UEFA invited member associations to express their interest. The TFF submitted its candidacy for Besiktas Park, competing against other bids from Germany, Romania and Scotland for the 2026 UEFA Europa League Final and from Germany, Israel, Norway and Scotland for the 2027 UEFA Europa Conference League Final.
After a thorough evaluation, UEFA awarded both finals to Türkiye.
Besiktas Club President Hasan Arat also shared his enthusiasm, noting the stadium's previous success in hosting the 2019 UEFA Super Cup. "Besiktas Inonu Tupras Stadium, known for its vibrant atmosphere and cutting-edge facilities, is ready to welcome fans from across Europe," Arat said.
In preparation for these events, Türkiye has focused on improving its infrastructure, transportation, and accommodation facilities. This commitment has earned praise from UEFA officials and positioned Türkiye as a key player in international football hosting. https://www.turkiyenewspaper.com/

DID YOU KNOW

What are some funny facts about Turkey, Turkish people, and culture?

Turkey is a country with a rich history and a vibrant culture, and there are many interesting and humorous facts about Turkey, Turkish people, and their way of life. Here are some funny facts:

1.Turkish Hospitality: Turkish people are known for their warm hospitality. If you visit a Turkish home, you may find yourself being offered food and drinks multiple times, even if you insist that you are full.

2.Tea Obsession: Turks are big tea drinkers. Turkish tea, or çay, is a staple of Turkish culture and is consumed throughout the day. It's common to see people carrying small glasses of tea everywhere they go.

3.The Evil Eye: The "nazar boncuğu" or evil eye bead is a common sight in Turkey. It is believed to protect against the evil eye, a malevolent glare that can cause bad luck or misfortune. You'll find these beads everywhere from homes to cars to offices.

4.Turkish Sense of Humour: Turkish people have a great sense of humor and love to laugh. Turkish comedy films and TV shows are popular both within Turkey and in neighbouring countries.

5.Traffic and Driving: Traffic in Turkish cities can be chaotic, with drivers often displaying a unique set of skills when it comes to navigating the roads. It's not uncommon to see cars parked in unusual place driving manoeuvres that might seem daring to outsiders.

6.Karaköy Cats: Karaköy, a neighbourhood in Istanbul, is known for its large population of street cats. These cats have become somewhat of a local celebrity and are well-loved by residents and visitors alike.

7.Turkish Superstitions: Turkish culture is rich in superstitions. For example, it is considered bad luck to whistle indoors as it is believed to attract evil spirits.

8.Çarşi and Fenerbahçe Rivalry: The rivalry between the football clubs Beşiktaş (Çarşi) and Fenerbahçe is intense and passionate. Both sets of fans are known for their colourful chants and displays of support during matches.

9.Turkish Proverbs: Turkish culture is full of colourful proverbs and sayings that often have humorous or insightful meanings. For example, "Yavaş yapas dağlar aşar" translates to "Slowly, slowly, one crosses the mountains," emphasizing the importance of patience and perseverance.

These are just a few examples of the funny and interesting aspects of Turkish culture and daily life. Turkey is a diverse and vibrant country with much to offer in terms of history, culture, and humour.

Guardiola named Barclays Manager of the Season

Pep Guardiola has been named the 2023/24 Barclays Manager of the Season after an historic campaign with Manchester City.

Guardiola's Man City became the first side in history to win four consecutive Premier League titles.
Guardiola says he "will defend" his Manager of the Season award in 2024/25 but that he wants to share this season's trophy with his fellow nominees who pushed Man City to be their best.
"I want to share it, yes, oh yes! Especially with Mikel [Arteta] for the incredible job he has done until the last game, bringing us to our limits," said Guardiola.

"Of course, for Jurgen [Klopp], for the unforgettable battles for many, many years. And Unai Emery, making something unbelievable again to bring Aston Villa to the [UEFA] Champions League.
"And Andoni Iraola, with Bournemouth, being his first season in the Premier League, doing what he has done, coming back from the tough start of the season.
"It is an honour to be alongside all of them and to win this trophy.
We will defend this award as best as possible in the future."

Five-time winner

Guardiola wins the award for a fifth time, having also claimed it in four of his five previous title-winning campaigns, in 2017/18, 2018/19, 2020/21 and 2022/23.

Guardiola won after votes by the public were combined with those of a panel of football experts to decide who would top a five-man shortlist that also featured Arteta, Emery, Iraola and Klopp.

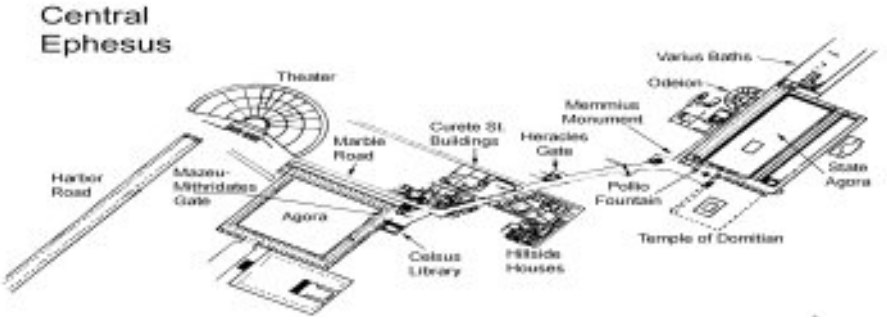
Türkiye introduces 'night archaeology' in city of Ephesus

In a historic gathering in the ancient theatre of Ephesus, a pioneering endeavour to introduce "night archaeology" was introduced, marking a significant departure from tradition, promising extended visiting hours and a unique exploration experience.

In his speech, governor Süleyman Elban emphasized the pressing need for such innovation, citing Ephesus' status as one of the world's most sought-after historical destinations.
Despite soaring demand, the city's limited capacity has long posed challenges for visitors. Extending hours into the night promises to alleviate this strain, offering enthusiasts a chance to immerse themselves in Ephesus' rich history after sundown.

Elban noted that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism had prepared and implemented a lighting project in the ancient city of Ephesus and announced that it would now remain open to visitors until midnight.
The implementation is part of the "Night Museums" concept that the minister announced in Feb., aiming to keep museums open and illuminated until late at night in tourist centres where temperatures are high during the summer, encouraging tourists to explore beyond their hotels and benefit other stakeholders in the city.

"With night archaeology, we have extended the visiting hours in Ephesus. This extension coincides with the summer season in the Aegean and Mediterranean regions, especially during six months of the year. Consequently, people face significant challenges in exploring these areas during the daytime in such hot periods.
To alleviate this difficulty and to provide visitors with more comfort, opening these areas for visits during the cooler nighttime hours offers convenience and comfort.
Additionally, we believe that experiencing these sites at night will evoke a different sensation. Thus, we hope that this nighttime experience will provide people with a distinct pleasure and enjoyment in historical sites," he stated.
Source: Daily Sabbah



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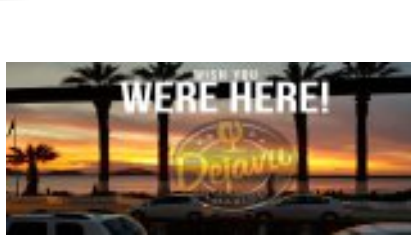

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Deepfake Impact on Society- PART 2 Continued from May

Deepfake technology, which uses artificial intelligence to create highly convincing fake audio and video content, indeed poses significant risks to society across various domains. As a cybersecurity specialist, I can analyse the areas that can be affected by Deepfake technology and its potential dangers:

1. Misinformation and Disinformation: Deepfakes can be used to create realistic-looking videos or audio recordings of public figures, politicians, or celebrities saying or doing things they never did. This can be weaponized to spread false information, manipulate public opinion, and disrupt elections.

2. Privacy Invasion: Individuals can become victims of deepfake technology, with their faces superimposed onto explicit or inappropriate content. This invasion of privacy can lead to reputational damage and emotional distress.

3. Cybersecurity Threats: Deepfake technology can be used for spear-phishing attacks. Cybercriminals can create convincing voice recordings or videos to trick individuals into revealing sensitive information, such as passwords or financial details.

4. Legal Implications: Deepfakes can be used to fabricate evidence in legal proceedings, making it difficult to establish the authenticity of videos or audio recordings as evidence. This can undermine the justice system.

5. Financial Fraud: Deepfakes can be used in financial fraud schemes. Criminals can impersonate executives or authorized personnel using AI-generated audio to manipulate employees or financial institutions into transferring funds.

6. National Security: Deepfakes can pose national security risks. For instance, adversaries could create fake videos or audio recordings of government officials or military leaders, leading to misinformation or instability.

7. Ethical Concerns: The creation and dissemination of deepfake content raise ethical questions about consent, identity theft, and the erosion of trust in media and technology.

8. Impacts on Journalism: Journalists may struggle to verify the authenticity of videos or audio recordings, potentially leading to the spread of unverified news stories.

9. Tech Support Scams: Deepfake audio can be used to impersonate customer service representatives, leading individuals to divulge personal or financial information to scammers.

10. Entertainment Industry: While deepfake technology has positive applications in entertainment, it can also lead to copyright infringement and the creation of fake celebrity endorsements.
To mitigate the potential dangers of Deepfake technology, several measures can be taken:

1.Education and Awareness: Raising public awareness about deepfakes and their potential risks can help individuals become more discerning consumers of digital content.

2. Media Literacy: Promoting media literacy can empower people to critically evaluate the authenticity of online content.

3. Detection and Verification Tools: Developing and deploying advanced AI tools for detecting and verifying deepfake content is crucial for identifying and combating its spread.

4. Legal Frameworks: Establishing legal frameworks to address deepfake-related crimes and define consequences for their misuse can act as a deterrent.

5. Regulation: Governments and tech companies should collaborate to develop regulations and standards for the responsible use of deepfake technology.

6. Transparency: Encouraging transparency in AI-generated content
by labelling it as such can help users differentiate between real and manipulated media.

Deepfake technology is a double-edged sword, with both positive and negative applications. Managing its risks and harnessing its potential responsibly will be an ongoing challenge for society, technology companies, and policymakers.

Ref & Source: https://lk.linkedin.com/in/kelum-wickramasinghe-b-sc-mba-cc-ccsp-

Can prices and rents decrease when housing supply increases in Turkey?

Recently, the economic management made following announcement:
“We will increase the housing supply and reduce prices and rents”.

Unfortunately, this proposition has no equivalent in practical life. The studies conducted on this issue say otherwise.

The assertion that increasing housing supply will lead to lower prices and rents does not hold true in practice.
Studies and real-world examples suggest otherwise.
For instance:

– Germany: Instead of increasing housing supply to curb rising rents, Germany focused on building targeted housing for those in need and implementing rental regulations. This has stabilized rents despite nominal economic growth.

– United Kingdom: Despite being an attractive market for real estate investors, the UK has seen only a modest increase in housing stock value, with rental increases remaining below 1%.

– United States: The housing market has grown rapidly, but lessons learned have led to efforts to keep nominal growth below 20%. Despite this, rents continue to rise significantly.

– Russia: The housing sector’s nominal growth is around 50%, yet rents have skyrocketed by 70% annually, with major cities like Moscow experiencing the highest increases.

In contrast, countries like Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, and former Eastern Bloc nations have kept housing sector growth modest (generally below 20%), resulting in more stable rental increases (around 3-3.5%).

The key issues in countries like Turkey and Russia are not merely about housing supply but involve broader economic factors such as high living costs, market instability, lack of structural reforms, and excessive market intervention.
Rapid construction sector growth often leads to delayed inflationary effects, contributing to higher overall living costs without resolving underlying issues.

In summary, increasing housing supply alone does not effectively control prices and rents.
Instead, addressing economic stability, market confidence, and targeted housing policies are crucial for achieving more stable and affordable housing markets. Source BTT

Hundreds of vehicles banned from traffic in Kuşadası were left to rot in the trustee parking lot.

Vehicles that are banned from traffic or towed to the parking lot due to any fine have been waiting in a state of decay for years.
Vehicles worth millions were literally abandoned to their fate in the trustee parking lot because their drivers did not pursue them.

FINANCIAL DIRECTORATE IS INSUFFICIENT

Stating that the District Governorship Property Directorate is insufficient in its work, Park owner Hakan Yıldırım emphasized that the problems of the parking lot he has been operating since 2015 are increasing day by day. Yıldırım said, “Vehicles have a waiting period of 6 months at the warehouse. In this process, it is transferred to the Property Directorate. Vehicles not purchased remain in the treasury. "There is an accumulation of vehicles because the work of the Directorate of Goods is insufficient," he said.

IT HAS BECOME A CAR CEMETERY

Underlining that the number of vehicles banned from traffic and tied to the parking lot is high, Yıldırım said, “There are approximately 250 vehicles in my parking lot. Vehicles are towed by the police and come here. Generally, there are vehicles that are impounded, seized, have no traffic insurance, and the driver does not have a driver's licence. The owners do not pursue it in any way. "This place has turned into a car graveyard," he said.

AUTHORITIES SHOULD PUT THEIR HANDS UNDER THE STONE

Yıldırım stated that the responsibility in the parking lot is great and that the authorities did not undertake their duty.
Lightening; “The authorized unit here is National Real Estate. The biggest task here falls to National Real Estate. If National Real Estate had done its part, the burden on us would be lighter and our earnings would increase. Because we are being billed for the extra damage of the vehicle here,” he said.

2024 TRUSTEE'S PARKING FEES

The daily trustee parking fee for vehicles withdrawn or banned from traffic is 150 TL for cars, 100 TL for motorcycles, 200 TL for pickup trucks, minibuses and off-road vehicles, and 250 TL for trucks, buses and construction equipment. https://www.kusadasihaber.com.tr/ images courtesy of kusadasihaber.com

Kuşadası's lush Parks will be immortalized with the names of Pioneer Women

Kuşadası Municipality will keep the names of Turkey's pioneer women alive in the new parks it has completed.

With the decision taken by Kuşadası Municipal Council, 14 parks in different neighborhoods will be named after Republican women who broke new ground in professional, academic and artistic terms.

Kuşadası Municipality, which has brought 340 thousand 706 square meters of new green space to the city with an investment of 400 million 296 thousand TL in the last 5 years and kept the names of important public figures alive in the parks, decided to give the names of Turkey's successful pioneer women to the 14 new parks it has completed.

According to the decision taken by the Kuşadası Municipal Council, the parks built in different neighborhoods were built by Satı Kadın, one of the first female MPs of the Republic of Turkey

Cahide Sonku, the first female director and actress of Turkish cinema

Dilhan Eryurt

Dilhan Eryurt, the first Turkish scientist to work at NASA and one of Turkey's most important astrophysicists

Nermin Abadan Unat, the first female political scientist of the Republic of Turkey; Afet İnan, the adopted daughter of Atatürk and the founding member of the Turkish Historical Society, who introduced Piri Reis to the world

Turkish film actress, theater artist and television presenter Adile Naşit

Bahriye Üçok, Turkey's first female theologian

Turkey's first female opera singer Semiha Berksoy

Turkey's first female ambassador Filiz Dinçmen

Feliz Dincem

Turkey's first female provincial mayor, Müfide İlhan

Refet Angın, one of the first female teachers of the Republic of Turkey

Women's rights advocate and writer Kerime Nadir

Kerime Nadir

The names of Afife Jale, the first Muslim Turkish female theater actress, and Yıldız Kenter, one of the most important female actors of Turkish theater, will be given.

Kuşadası Pet Rehabilitation Center, located on Kirazlı Road, will now bear the name of Sabire Aydemir, Turkey's first female veterinarian.
https://www.kusadasihaber.com.tr/

The new Visa Express Scheme agreement between Turkey and Greece

The visa program was announced during a historic meeting in Athens between Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan last year.

Greece announced at April end that its newly launched fast-track visa scheme which allows Turkish nationals to travel visa-free all year round had opened for five more islands on the list.
The program which initially opened for the Eastern Aegean Greek islands of Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos, and Rhodes, now also includes Kalymnos, Limnos, Leros, Symi, and Kastelorizo.

Visitors cannot leave Greece and travel to another destination without further official documentation.

The seven-day visa, which one applies for in turkey when booking your ticket and upon receipt of communication via Text will have the Visa issued on the spot.
İt is valid for a 12-month period, does not allow free travel to other European countries.

The cost is 60 euros and includes a passport check and fingerprints.

In efforts to facilitate the influx of travelers from Turkey, last month Greek authorities announced the opening of a visa station on Rhodes.

The agreement will revive a previous scheme called the special Schengen Express Visa program for Turkish citizens wishing to visit certain eastern Aegean islands.

Turkish Cuisine Promoted through the Exhibition “Meeting Point of Centuries-Old Flavors” in seven regions

Under the auspices of Emine Erdoğan, the wife of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the exhibition “Meeting Point of Centuries-Old Flavors: Turkish Cuisine in Seven Regions” showcases objects and handcrafted products from Turkey’s rich gastronomic culture.

As part of the “Turkish Cuisine Week” promotional events, the exhibition was inaugurated at the Presidential Complex Exhibition Hall by Emine Erdoğan and Minister of Culture and Tourism Mehmet Nuri Ersoy, on May 22. The exhibition, which is organized by the Presidential Directorate of Communications, aims to introduce Turkey’s rich culinary culture to the world.

Visitors are greeted in the foyer area of the exhibition with a video starting with the words, “Everything started with a single grain of wheat on this land.” Subsequently, they move on to rooms specially designed for the Mediterranean, Marmara, Aegean, Central Anatolia, Black Sea, Eastern Anatolia, and Southeastern Anatolia regions.

EACH ROOM FEATURES REGION SPECIFIC HANDCRAFTED ITEMS

Each room features region-specific handcrafted products, objects, geographical beauties, and model designs prepared by the Ankara Olgunlaşma (maturation) Institute. Additionally, each section highlights the culinary culture of the respective region through displayed videos of local dishes.
Prominent displays in the exhibition include a model orange tree in the Mediterranean section, a model of the Ancient City of Ephesus and an artichoke-themed dinner set in the Aegean section, a model of the dome of Topkapi Palace in the Marmara section, and models of fairy chimneys and hot air balloons in the Central Anatolia section.

EXHIBITION ALSO EMPHASIZES REFLECTIONS OF TURKISH HOSPITALITY IB CULINARY CULTURE

The exhibition also emphasizes the reflections of Turkish hospitality in culinary culture, featuring copper serving utensils unique to different cities, handcrafted motifs, and ceramic designs.
Furthermore, visitors have the opportunity to peruse the book “Turkish Cuisine with Centuries-Old Recipes,” prepared under the auspices of Emine Erdoğan with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The book contains detailed recipes of many local delicacies from the seven regions of Turkey. Source: BTT

How much Fish is consumed in Kusadasi

The 'Fisheries Consumption Survey' conducted by Kuşadasi District Directorate of Agriculture teams with citizens attracted great attention.

Within the scope of the survey planned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, in which Aydın was the pilot province, a 'Fisheries Consumption Survey' was applied to citizens in Kuşadasi.

Citizens showed great interest in the survey, which was held simultaneously throughout Turkey and started to be implemented in the tent set up in the Tuesday Market in Kuşadasi in the early hours of the morning.

The personnel of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Branch Directorate of the Aydın Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry and the District Directorate The application, carried out by its staff, aims to determine how much fish citizens consume, their preferences regarding fish consumption, and their thoughts on fish prices.

Answering our questions about the survey, Kuşadasi District Agriculture and Forestry Director Gürsel Doğan explained that they conducted a survey on fish consumption of citizens in Kuşadasi and said, 'We wanted to see with our survey what the citizens' consumption of fish is, as well as red meat and white meat.

We also talked about the benefits of fish to the human body.
"We are very happy with the participation since the early hours of the morning," he said. Source: kusadasiolay

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NEW HIGH SPEED TRAIN LINE IS COMPLETE

The Ankara–Sivas high-speed railway (Turkish: Ankara–Sivas yüksek hızlı demiryolu), is a 406 km (252 mi) long high-speed railway in Turkey and is the second longest high-speed railway in the country after the Ankara–Istanbul high-speed railway.

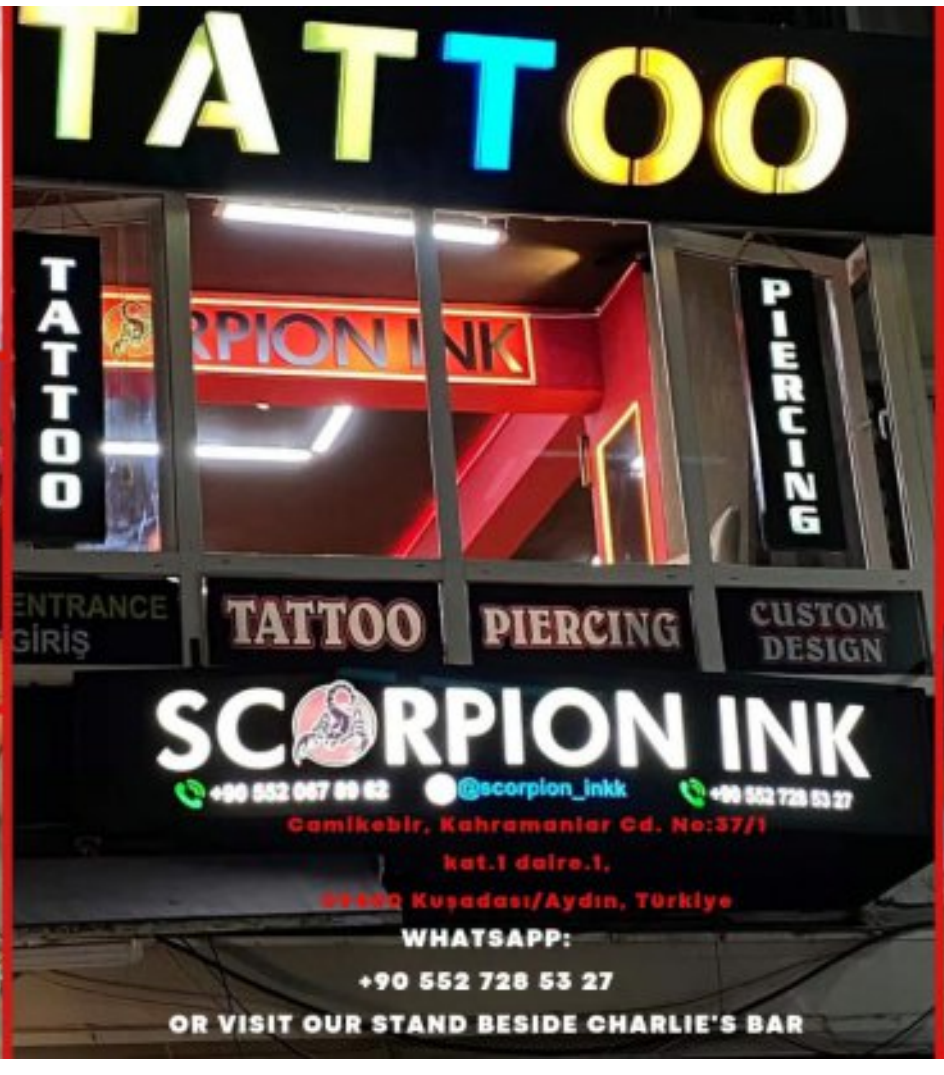
Travel time between Ankara and Sivas was reduced to 2 hours and 50 minutes,[2] from around 9 hours and 30 minutes with conventional trains.[3][4] The railway will also serve as an extension of the Ankara-Istanbul HSR with a total journey time from Istanbul to Sivas at around 7 hours. The line was opened on April 26, 2023.[5]

History and the project

In order to reduce travel time between Ankara and Sivas, TCDD undertook a survey for a new high-speed railway line in 2004. Construction began in 2008 with some pauses in 2010 due to changes in the project. When completed, the Ankara-Sivas journey time is expected to be reduced to 2 hours and 50 minutes compared with a previous travel time of 12 hours. Testing on the line began in March 2020. The line partially opened in February 2023, and other portions started service in the April of the same year.

Stations

There are a total of 11 stations on the railway, five of which are in operation. With the exception of Ankara, Kayaş and Sivas stations,[6] every station on the railway has been built exclusively for high-speed train use. When the railway first opened to revenue service, on 26 April 2023, only two new stations opened: Kırıkkale YHT and Yozgat YHT. The remaining stations (not counting the existing stations) will be opened within 2023.



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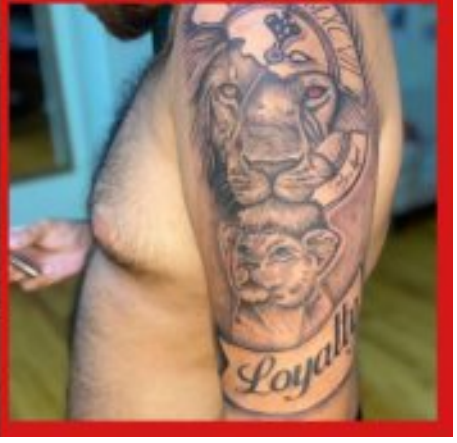

MUSIC CONCERTS AND LOCAL CHARITY EVENT

Concert Line-Up

Grammy-winning Gipsy Kings to enchant Istanbul, Ankara

Gipsy Kings, a Grammy-winning Latin music group, will perform in Istanbul and Ankara with founder Tonino Baliardo leading the way.

Gipsy Kings will give their first concert in Türkiye on July 26 at the Istanbul Cemil Topuzlu Open-Air Theater as part of their tour in the country, according to the official statement of the group.
The second concert will be held on July 27 at the Ankara Oran Open-Air Stage.

Concert tickets can be purchased through various online platforms.

Famed Italian tenor to give concert in Istanbul.

Andrea Bocelli set to perform classical arias from Italian and international operas as well as works from his internationally acclaimed albums.

Italian tenor, songwriter and composer Andrea Bocelli will take the stage at Istanbul's Besiktas Tupras Stadium on June 8.
Bocelli will perform classical arias from Italian and international operas as well as works from his internationally acclaimed albums.

The artist has recorded operas, popular Neapolitan songs and countless arias. He has also performed duets with big names such as Celine Dion and Sarah Brightman.
Bocelli has achieved great success by selling over 90 million records.

Nominated for a Grammy Award and the Latin Grammy Award six times each throughout his career, he also has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The concert is organized in cooperation with WO Entertainment, CEO Event and Dolmabahce AS.
by Serdar Dincel from Istanbul AndaluAgency

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Many of our readers are getting round to making their travel plans and it's a great time to explain how our Foreign Citizens Advice Centre can make the whole experience that much easier, and often cheaper.

Through our network of experienced volunteers and associates we can introduce you to a wide range of products and services, whatever your reason is for visiting Turkey.

For those just coming as visitors we can explain many travel & accommodation options that are often not easily available from your home country.

For example, did you know that by purchasing your travel insurance through a Turkish broker you will probably save money?

If you are travelling to stay in your home, we can ensure that your arrival is smooth and stress-free.

A lot of our readers now use local services to prepare their property for arrival e.g. cleaning.

In addition to looking after your needs whilst you are here our readers are increasingly choosing to have their important local bills monitored when they are away to avoid the various problems that can occur.
We can keep an eye on your electric, water, gas, estate management fees, insurances, council tax and many more besides.
Our bill monitoring and payment service is free and avoids the risk of being disconnected from important services.
If you pay by bank monthly, you will not always be made aware of outstanding bills and any bills that are unusually high could just be paid without your knowledge.

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To get the best out of your time in Turkey just email, call, or WhatsApp our volunteers at any time. They will be only too happy to help.

Sanliurfa – What to see and do. Part 1. By Lisa Morrow.

Sanliurfa (Şanliurfa in Turkish) in southeast Turkey is famous for three main things. Baliklı Göl, Urfa Kebab and Göbekli Tepe and I've been there four times. The first time I went to Sanliurfa in 2001, Göbekli Tepe wasn't a tourist site. I hung around Baliklı Göl, talked with Turkish school kids eager to practice their English, visited several local mosques and entered the cave said to be the birthplace of Abraham himself. The second time was on a trip with 52 Turkish university students in 2004. They were all beautiful girls in their late teens and early twenties who caused a stir everywhere we went. Lunch was urfa kebab in a tradesman's restaurant followed by servings of rich velvety künefe. Afterwards we bargained over the price of a small carpet I still possess.

On my third trip there 2007 I went back to the ponds again (they are extraordinarily mesmerising), ate cake with a policeman I met at a charity fund raiser and then spent too long deciding which tantalising sweet biscuits to buy from a shop where they were piled higher than my head. On my latest visit in 2022 I made it to Göbekli Tepe, a Neolithic archaeological site dated to the Pre-Pottery period. I revisited Ulu Camii, tried some local desserts, wandered around the markets, and went back to the patisserie to show the new young workers the photo of the previous owner.

SANLIURFA HISTORY

At first sight, when you approach Sanliurfa on the airport bus, the city resembles nothing more than a mess of high-rise apartments haphazardly sprawled across the rolling plains of southeastern Turkey. However, another world awaits in the old town centre. The name Urfa, as most people call it, is derived from the early Aramaic language when it was called Urhai. The Abgarid Dynasty ruled the region from the 2nd century BC, founding the Kingdom of Osroene/Orshone in 132BC. Around 150AD King Edessa V. Abgar Ukkama professed his belief in Christianity. The name Urfa was replaced with Edessa and the city became the seat of the most important Syrian bishopric. Even now it's often referred to as the City of Prophets due to its religious importance. The city had a mixed population including Greeks and Parthians but was fundamentally Syriac. When the Romans took over in the 3rd century AD, they also called the city Edessa, and this was the name used by successive rulers until sometime in the late 16th early 17th century when the Ottomans annexed the city from the Byzantines. From then on Urfa was a Turkish city, despite briefly being occupied by Muhammad Ali Paşa, the Ottoman governor of Egypt, in the late 1830s.

When French troops occupied Urfa in 1919 during the Turkish War of Independence, the locals bravely resisted. So much so that in 1984, the Turkish Grand National Assembly passed an act adding the prefix "şanlı" to the city's name. Plain Urfa became glorious Urfa, or Şanlıurfa, to give its full name.

WHAT TO SEE IN SANLIURFA

Baliklı Göl

The sacred turquoise fish ponds full of fat lazy carp in the Gölbasi area of Sanliurfa mark the spot where the Prophet Ibrahim/Abraham was transformed into ashes. According to legend, Assyrian King Nemrut (aka Nimrod) threw the prophet off nearby Damlacik Hill onto a fiery pyre. Witnessing this, God turned the flames into water and the burning wood into fish.

The pool and its surrounds are a popular spot for devout Muslims and Instagrammers alike. If you're into playing dress ups you can make like an Ottoman and rent regal robes for formal portraits, otherwise just drink in the scene. On one side of the pool the lyric arches of the 18th century Rizvaniye Mosque and its medresse (school) provide a picture perfect frame, while people stand along the edge on the other side, buying small bags of fish food to give to the carp, sometimes stirring up a frenzy.

Set behind Baliklı Göl is a smaller pool named for Nemrut/Nimrod's daughter Zeliha. She too was thrown to the fire after declaring herself in support of Ibrahim/Abraham. The first time I saw it in 2001 you could rent small boats and row around the pond among the fish. Given the holy nature of the site I thought it was a pretty odd thing to do so I didn't.

Entry to Ibrahim's cave in Sanliurfa

Despite not being a believer I did enter Abraham/Ibrahim's cave. Tucked away just off the highly polished marble courtyard of Mevlidi Halil Mosque, it's thought to be the birth place of Ibraham himself and is a magnet for those in search hope. There are two entrances side by side, one for women and one for men, and the lines move quickly. The women's cave was full of women praying, for a baby, a cure or something else and others filling their bottles with water from the holy spring. Do note the interior is quite plain and stuffy, especially in summer.

Even if you don't enter the cave allow time to stroll around the whole Dergah complex. As well as the mosques and lakes there's a pretty rose garden. The greenery is quite a contrast to the dry ochre coloured palette outside town and the people watching is definitely worth it as believers, both Muslim and Christian, visit from many different countries in the region. (Part 2 coming in the next issue)

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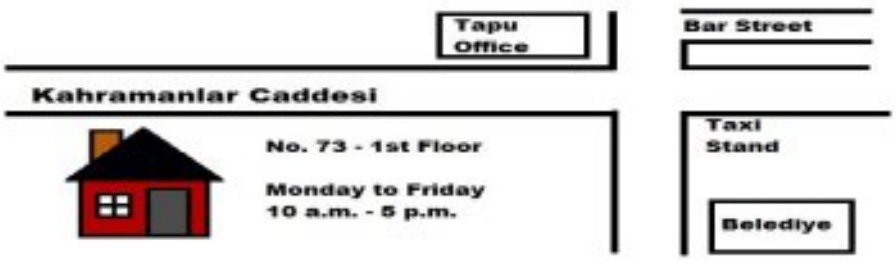

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