The Ege Eye

Issue 240

SEPTEMBER

2024

"News for the Turkish coast since 2005"

The penalty for having a house party was announced

The Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Murat Kurum, pictured, has introduced a new regulation to reduce noise pollution in apartment buildings throughout Turkey, including Alanya.

According to the decision published in the Official Gazette, apartment residents, especially in touristic areas such as Antalya and Alanya, should be careful.

Fines for actions that create noise, such as listening to loud music or organizing house parties, were increased to 7,667 TL in 2024.

Citizens in Alanya will be able to submit noise complaints via the Alo 181 hotline and a fine may be imposed on a single complaint.

This regulation aims to increase the quality of life and improve neighbourly relations in popular tourist areas such as Alanya. Source: https://www.buyukalanya.com/

Kusadasi Municipality continues to support with nutrition packages for children in need

Kuşadasi Municipality will continue the nutrition support it started last year in the 2024-2025 academic year.

The nutrition packages, which benefit 1,600 children per month, will include foods such as raw nuts, seasonal fruits, fruit juice, water,
milk and sandwich bread, which students should definitely have in their school lunch bags this year.

The food packages will be delivered to families at designated distribution points in return for signature.

Kuşadasi Mayor Ömer Günel said, “Healthy development is only possible with proper and balanced nutrition.

We will prepare and deliver the food packages to our students in need.” https://www.birgun.net/

We used them (ABS) for a move from UK to Kusadasi in February 2021.

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Carol F

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

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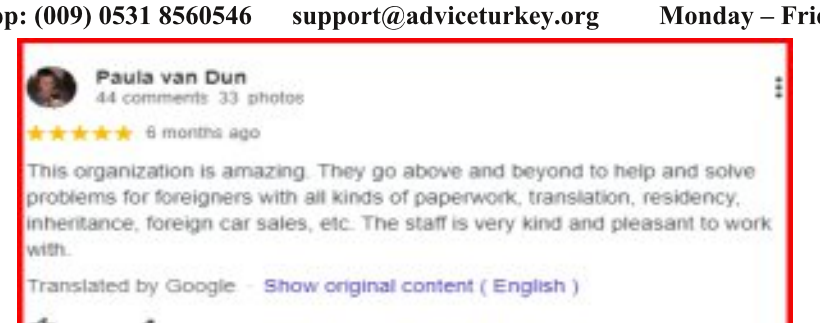
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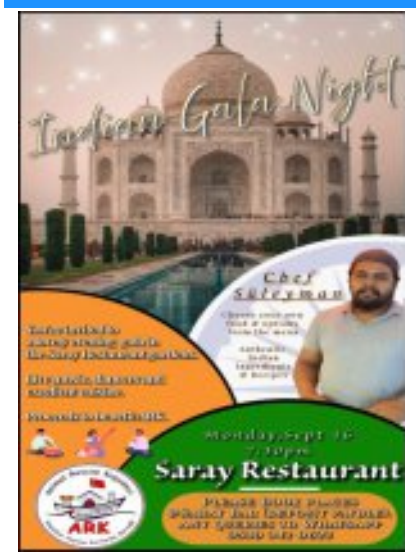

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Samos: September perfect month for Greek island break

By: Klaus Jurgens

Looking for something different, a picturesque yacht harbour town on a world-famous mountainous island? Interested in a short break away from our resort? And ready to visit another country? Think Greece, consider Samos. And most importantly – if your family budget allows plan to stay at least two or three nights, a day trip gives you only limited time in Pythagoreio or Vathy, respectively. Worried about that there is nothing to do for more than six hours? Rest assured, there is!

On the one hand and in case you have been there already your friendly columnist hopes you had enjoyed your trip complete with happy memories; however - and on the other hand - if up until today you only looked at Samos from afar as you will see the island in the distance from Kuşadasi, why not start planning your next mini-vacation right now?

September is the perfect end of summer season month to indulge in a little Greek fantasy before Samos prepares for the quieter winter as by mid-to-end of October our very own three ferry connections no longer operate and reaching Samos is reserved for those who accept traveling by plane with a stop-over in Athens.

Having said that Samos is a preferred getaway for our Greek neighbours originally hailing from the capital anyways as a short hop with a duration of just over 60 minutes links Athens with Samos airport – indeed, the island has its proper airport including offering direct European flights in summer.

There is choice with regards to where to set foot onto Samos – Vathy in the north-east, or Pythagoreio in the south-east and our ferry operators serve both.

If Kokkari in the north is your final destination Vathy should be your port, if Pythagoreio or other coastal locations go straight to Pythagoreio as that town has its own harbour, too.

My family did the latter once more this August and decided it is nicer to opt for the open deck ferry instead of the inside cabin only Hydrofoil, truly a matter of personal like or dislike (we went with Meander Travel).

All ferries would depart and return to and from our Ege Port early mornings. As there are at least two, sometimes three sailings almost simultaneously passengers are advised to collect their boarding passes from their chosen ferry boat operator 90 minutes before scheduled departure, ours at 0900 hours.

We did so at around 0730 hours and were safely on board by 0815 hours including a speedy ID check; remember to carry your passport and/or residency card if applicable as you are leaving Türkiye, and later on coming back into Türkiye as well; best quickly check your status with your Consulate before traveling.

The return ticket set us back a very reasonable 56 Euros per person; we had availed ourselves of an easy-to-use online ticket purchase website even before my family had wheels down in Türkiye. Of course, tickets can be bought here in Kuşadasi on the spot but during peak season most seats are sold well ahead of travel.

After a splendid 75 minutes or so open deck crossing, we arrived in Pythagoreio and benefited from one of the most-speedy ID checks my family had ever come across in international travel.

As Greece is part of the European Union a separate immigration counter for EU nationals plus a number of other countries citizens operates. If it took us longer than ten minutes, I would disseminate fake news… As this was not a first visit to Samos restaurant and hotel owners and their friendly staff of course remembered us as staff fluctuation is not as paramount as it is in other holiday destinations. Welcome drink at Gregory's Bar ticked off, wife and daughter on a first souvenir shopping spree by 1330 hours we took a cab to our hotel overlooking the bay.

Taxi fares are between ten and twelve Euros anywhere in town so family budgets can be made accordingly. All are air-conditioned, drivers are licensed and extremely polite and helpful. Please be advised that whilst card payments are often accepted many do indeed prefer the real thing. If you need to withdraw Euros use the official banks ATM (main street) and never the Tourist Information ATM opposite as their bank charges mount up fast.

Check-in done at Doryssa Lithos Hotel which can be reached by a less than five-minute-long taxi ride from the port and adjacent main street, which is advisable if you have luggage, a hotel with breathtaking views across the Aegean Seas from atop their small hill along the coastal road; short-break luggage unpacked, another welcome drink this time courtesy of our hotel and it was time for a dip into the pool.

Then we hit town again, this time however walking down that same little hill and adjacent stairs – 20 to 30 minutes depending on speed - in order to go for a fantastic Greek dinner at Apollonia Restaurant, one of my three favourites on the island. As we were more than one in our party, we decided to share various delicacies including lamb and fish. Girls explored some more top-quality shops (here no fake items!).

Breakfast poolside, then off to Asteria's Beach Club, cab the almost standard ten Euros one way. If you desire a Hollywood, or shall we say Miami – style beach club look no further. It is owned by the same successful Greek entrepreneurs who manage quite a number of local hotels including our Lithos hence reservations on a busy day were no problem at all; a full day sunbed use will set you back ten Euros per head, and drinks are brought to your sunbed once you press a button, amazing service.

Dinner at another all-time favourite, Polykratis Restaurant. This is a more traditional Greek restaurant complete with tables decked out in white and blue which is so customary here in this country.

The next morning, we decided to do another long stroll through down and side alleyways before it was time to try hand-held Gyros in a local taverna type eatery called Robinson.

Contd. from Page 4 - Samos: September perfect month for Greek island break

By Klaus Jurgens

So: our Greek fantasy came to its end, we bid farewell in the clear knowledge of that we shall return in 2025, perhaps even for longer adding a few more island onto our journey's schedule mix.

Evening ferry saying bye-bye to people we know by now, wishing everyone a fine end of season and relaxing winter.

Oh, I forgot to mention – temperatures in September are just perfect including the (sea-)water. Yet it is an island after all, so the ocean is never boiling.

Quality – price ratio: 10 out of 10.
Friendly shop owners, no rip-offs. Clean neighbourhoods including centre of town.

After 1500 hours in the main shopping and restaurant area no private cars, only cabs to and from specifically designed entry points. No annoying young lads on their 24/7 Vespa or motorbike rides without any clear destination.

A family can eat a full meal for 15 or 115 Euros, respectively. A hotel can set you back 40 or 240 Euros, respectively.

It is all about choice and most definitely, family budgets. And to debunk a common myth – Samos wines can be sweet but do not have to be, quality is outstanding either way.
A half-litre of good open local house red sets you back 8.50 Euros.

There are museums and excursions to the hill-top, there are historical houses and sites for those who want to explore further.

Important disclaimer: the trip was not a media undertaking hence all establishments mentioned here did not provide any financial assistance whatsoever. Yet without giving away names of establishments the added value to our dear readers would not yield the expected results. They are however purely personal reflections. Enjoy!

Samos: Among Europe's Premier Destinations for 2024

Highlighting its historical significance as the birthplace of Pythagoras, the island is hailed as a gem of the Aegean.

Samos in the eastern Aegean Sea has secured a spot among the 15 most enchanting islands of Greece for 2024, as revealed by the esteemed professional association of Germany, ADAC, boasting a membership in the millions.

Local products, interesting museums, exciting alternative activities, historic monasteries, and the picturesque villages create a true sanctuary for nature lovers, hikers, and water sports enthusiasts, according to a German website.

"Samos asserts its position on the global tourism stage," declares Paris Papageorgiou, Mayor of Eastern Samos, emphasizing the destination's rich historical, cultural, gastronomic, and thematic tourism offerings.

With its incomparable natural beauty, Samos is presented as an ideal locale for immersive experiences and lasting memories.

Simultaneously, Samos finds itself among Europe's top 12 standout destinations set to define this summer, as per travel blog Solosophie. Highlighting its historical significance as the birthplace of Pythagoras, the island is hailed as a gem of the Aegean, offering lush landscapes embraced by pristine turquoise waters—a haven for travellers seeking unparalleled beauty and historical resonance.

Apart from Greece, the list features regions from France, Italy, Great Britain, Romania, Switzerland, and Luxembourg.

Accommodation occupancy has reached 95%-100% and Deputy Mayor of Tourism, Evangelos Marnezos, emphasized that "the combination of religious devotion, tradition, and the lively atmosphere makes the mid-August holiday on Samos a unique experience.

Tourist flows to the island will be satisfactory throughout the month, as well as for September, whose dynamic is growing each year.
We've begun targeted promotion of the destination in selected markets in this direction.

Accommodation occupancy has reached 95%-100%, with high demand. The main markets visiting the destination during this period include Greece, Turkey, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden.
It's encouraging to see visitors from a variety of markets choosing the destination. Source: https://www.tovima.com/travel/samos

Doner diplomacy!

When German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who recently visited Turkey, arrived with frozen döner, all hell broke loose both here and in Germany.

The döner kebab, which was said to be presented as an indicator of the close ties between Germany and Turkey, suddenly turned into a debate between Germans and Turks.

For the Germans, döner has become a kind of national dish and a fundamental part of their food culture, while the Turkish side has embraced döner as a rare part of traditional Turkish cuisine.

When we look at the discussions created over döner, we see that eating and drinking activities are not only a gastronomic activity but also a national value for societies.

Having been introduced to Europe since the 1970s, döner easily adapts to the characteristics and habits of each country.
As the addition of local Flavors creates differences in taste according to the palate of the country, it is quickly adopted and spreading around the world.
Thus, it becomes a concept that can eliminate social and cultural differences.

German sociologist Eberhard Seidel-Pielen, who conducted a study titled 'How Did Döner Come to Germans?', evaluated the results for the New York Times newspaper as follows.

'For many Germans, döner is the first contact with a foreign culture. Thanks to the döner they sell, Turks have ceased to be foreign refugees or asylum seekers in Germany.'

'Until a few years ago, there were racist attacks all over Germany, especially on the East German side. After the döner shops opened one after another, attacks against Turks and foreigners are no longer encountered.'

'The revolving door changed the face of a nation and created a bond between communities. It helped calm Germany,' says the German sociologist.

In his book titled History in the Kitchen; 'The Political Adventures of Food', Prof. Dr. Burak Onaran reveals his perspective on integration policies in Britain by writing the story of how Robin Cook, then British foreign minister, declared chicken tikka masala the number one national dish in the early 2000s.

Professor Burak Onaran divides the issue into three reasons: semi-technical, semi-political and purely political.

The first reason was that although chicken tikka masala is a dish of Indian origin, it was invented in Britain.
Secondly, 'tikka masala' is by far the most consumed dish in the country. Since it brought the British together on a common cultural ground, there was no need to look back to the roots of such a widely consumed dish.
The third reason was related to the minister's political preference. Minister Robin Cook wanted to create an integration policy by defining British culture and national identity in a way that would include various ethnic communities, rather than making a racist definition.

As can be seen, foods that contain local cultures, such as Italian pizza, Japanese sushi, Mexican tacos and Indian tikka masala, have become universal and are symbols of integration in the global world, just like döner.

Gastronomy, which emerged by combining the words "stomach" and "rule" in ancient Greek, is not just an eating and drinking activity, as can be seen in the examples.

Gastronomy, as much as it is a physiological need, covers a wide area including the political, economic and social structures of countries with its impact on societies.

Gastronomy, which includes all the elements that make up the lifestyle of the society, from the region's history to its culture, from its nature to its environment, emerges as an important method for those who want to interact with different cultures.

That being the case, we can make some of our other gastronomic products universal by highlighting them, such as döner, which has reached a mouthwatering market of 7 billion Euros throughout Germany today. We can use gastronomic tourism in our country for this purpose.

Turkish cuisine, which is at the forefront of world cuisine in terms of its flavour and diversity, has many dishes that are at least as delicious as döner kebab, and gastronomy is waiting to be discovered by travellers.

We must create new travel routes to showcase and introduce the most exquisite dishes of Turkish cuisine, presented by our talented chefs, to travellers who set out to enjoy eating and drinking activities and create resources for this purpose.

Ultimately, we have many more gastronomic values, each of which can be seen as a national value and even integrated into the global world.
By using this wealth, we can highlight the image of being a strong and inclusive society and show it to the whole world.
The doner diplomacy model should be evaluated in this way! Source: https://www.turizmajansi.com/ Hamit Kuk

UN urges global action on AI's potential and risks

Amid the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence, a U.N. spokesperson underscored the urgent need for responsible governance to steer its course toward collective prosperity

Humanity is in a race against time to harness the colossal emerging power of artificial intelligence for the good of all, while averting dire risks, a top U.N. official said.

"We've let the genie out of the bottle," said Doreen Bogdan-Martin, head of the United Nations' International Telecommunications Union (ITU).
"We are in a race against time," she told the opening of a two-day AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva.

"Recent developments in AI have been nothing short of extraordinary."

The thousands gathered at the conference heard how advances in generative AI are already speeding up efforts to solve some of the world's most pressing problems, such as climate change, hunger and social care.
"I believe we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to guide AI to benefit all the world's people," Bogdan-Martin told Agence France-Presse (AFP) ahead of the summit.
But she lamented Thursday that one-third of humanity still remains completely offline and is "excluded from the AI revolution without a voice."

"This digital and technological divide is no longer acceptable."

Bogdan-Martin highlighted that AI holds "immense potential for both good and bad," stressing that it was vital to "make AI systems safe."

Concentrated power

She said that was especially important given that "2024 is the biggest election year in history," with votes in dozens of countries, including the United States.
She flagged the "rise of sophisticated deep fakes disinformation campaigns" and warned that the "misuse of AI threatens democracy (and) also endangers young people's mental health and compromises cybersecurity."

Other experts at Thursday's conference agreed.

"We have to understand what we're steering toward," said Tristan Harris, a technology ethicist who co-founded the Center for Humane Technology.
He pointed to lessons from social media – initially touted as a way to connect people and give everyone a voice, but which also brought addiction, viral misinformation, online harassment and ballooning mental health issues.
Harris warned the incentive driving the companies rolling out the technology risked dramatically swelling such negative impacts.
"The number one thing that is driving Open AI or Google behavior is the race to actually achieve market dominance," he said.
In such a world, he said, "governance that moves at the speed of technology" is vital.

Changing social contract

OpenAI chief Sam Altman, who rose to global prominence after OpenAI released ChatGPT in 2022, acknowledged the dangers.

Speaking via video link, he told the gathering that "cybersecurity" was currently the biggest concern when it came to negative impacts of the technology.
Further down the road, he said there would likely "be some change required to the social contract, given how powerful we expect this technology to be".
"I'm not a believer that there won't be any jobs. But I do think the whole structure of society itself will be (open to) some degree of debate and reconfiguration."
Overall though, he insisted that from the perspective of how new technologies evolve historically, the AI systems were "generally considered safe and robust."

While welcoming discussions around regulations to stem short-term negative impacts of AI, he warned that it was "difficult" to suggest regulations aimed at reining in future impacts.

"We don't know how society and this technology are going to co-evolve," he said.

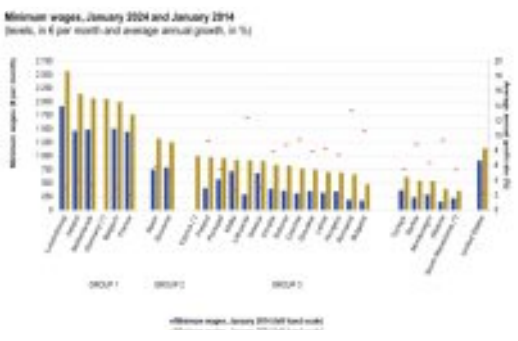
Bogdan-Martin meanwhile hailed that governments and others had recently "raced to establish protections" and regulations around the use of AI.

On Wednesday the European Union announced the creation of an AI Office to regulate artificial intelligence under a sweeping new law.

"It's our responsibility to write the next chapter in the great story of humanity and technology, and to make it safe, to make it inclusive and to make it sustainable," Bogdan-Martin said. https://www.dailysabah.com/

The Economy-Minimum wage in Turkey falls 2,000 liras below hunger threshold

In Turkey, the hunger threshold surpassed the minimum wage by nearly 2,000 liras in June, reaching 18,980 liras ($580), while the poverty threshold rose to 61,820 liras ($1,890), according to labour union Türk-İş. Finance Minister Şimşek argued that the minimum wage has not been low.



The cost of living for a single worker was 24,901.48 Turkish liras in July, while the net minimum wage has been still 17,002 liras, according to a report by the labour union Türk-İş.
The monthly food expenditure required for a family of four living in the capital Ankara to maintain a healthy, balanced, and adequate diet, or the hunger threshold, has risen to 19,234.43 liras ($600 approx).
The total amount of mandatory monthly expenses, including food, clothing, housing (rent, electricity, water, fuel), transportation, education, healthcare, and other necessary needs (poverty threshold), has reached 62,652 liras ($1,920 approx).
The amount spent on food increased by 3,930 liras since the beginning of the year and by 8,605 liras compared to the same month last year. The total expenditure required for all basic necessities rose by 12,800 liras in just the last six months.

The report stated, "While the minimum wage is insufficient for a single worker's sustenance, it is impossible for a family to cover even their food expenses."
The rate of change in food prices for the last twelve months was 82.96 percent, while the annual average increase was 82.02 percent.

As for the change in the prices of food products compiled by the union directly from the market by traveling around the bazaar and markets, there was no significant change in the milk, yogurt, cheese, and meat products compared to the previous month.
The average price per kg of vegetables was 34.14 liras and the average price per kg of fruit was 57.81 liras.

Finance Minister Şimşek: ‘Minimum wage significantly increased in dollar terms under AKP governments’
Speaking to the private Habertürk television, Treasury and Finance Minister Mehmet Şimşek stated, “We have not and will not let our citizens be crushed by inflation. The minimum wage has significantly increased in dollar terms under the Justice and Development Party (AKP) governments."
When the minimum wage was first announced on Dec. 27, 2023, it was $578. As of July 1, it eroded to $520 in just six months. The minister stated that the minimum wage was $524 in June; hence, it decreased by four dollars since he received his statistics as well.
"This year, the minimum wage will have increased in real terms. The minimum wage has risen by 49%. Inflation will be around 20% in the first six months. Even if inflation ends up at 42-43% as the market expects, the minimum wage will still have increased significantly," the Minister said, adding that Turkey has the highest minimum wage among developing countries.
"The minimum wage in Turkey is not low. We have exempted the minimum wage from taxes. This year, this exemption will cost the budget 670 billion liras," he added.

The main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP) leader Özgür Özel also discussed the minimum wage debates in an interview with the online Ekonomim newspaper.
"The minimum wage is very low for those who earn it, but very high for those who pay it. The exchange rate is high for us, but very low for exporters," said Özel, expressing support for a shift to regional and sectoral minimum wages. Source: https://www.duvarenglish.com/

It is becoming increasingly difficult for almost all segments of society, especially low- and fixed-income workers and retirees, to continue their lives in conditions befitting human dignity. Our Confederation has conducted this study to determine the living conditions of workers and the impact of price changes in necessities on family budgets.

As of July, the difference between the cost of living of a single worker and the net minimum wage (without tax deduction) was 7,900 TL. In cases where there is generally only one worker in the family and there is no additional income, the wage income obtained falls short of meeting the basic needs of the family and the inadequacy of wages is a matter of debate.

The additional burden on food expenditure compared to the beginning of the year was 4,185 TL. The amount of expenditure required for all basic expenses has increased by 13,633 TL in the last seven months. In the current economic environment, the purchasing power of workers is weakening day by day.
As long as a decent amount is not determined for income increases, workers and retirees will continue to become poor.

According to the results of the research conducted by the TÜRK-İŞ Confederation in July 2024;
The monthly food expenditure (hunger threshold) required for a family of four living in Ankara to have a healthy, balanced and adequate diet is 19,234.43 TL .
The total amount of food expenses and other monthly expenses required for clothing, housing (rent, electricity, water, fuel), transportation, education, health and similar needs (poverty line) is 62,652.87 TL,
The 'cost of living’ for a single employee increased to 24,901.78 TL per month. Source: https://www.turkis.org.tr/

Economy -Central Bank announces interest rate decision

The Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) kept the one-week repo auction interest rate, which is the policy rate, constant at 50 percent.

Their decision included the following statements:

"The Monetary Policy Committee (the Committee) has decided to keep the policy rate, the one-week repo auction interest rate, unchanged at 50 percent.

The main trend of monthly inflation in July increased slightly compared to the previous month, while remaining below the second-quarter average.
Indicators for the third quarter indicate that domestic demand continues to slow down, reducing its inflationary impact.
While goods inflation is falling, it is assessed that the improvement in services inflation will be delayed. The high course and rigidity in services inflation, inflation expectations and geopolitical developments keep inflationary risks alive.
The Committee emphasized that the relative importance of the compatibility of inflation expectations and pricing behaviours with forecasts has increased in terms of the disinflation process.

"MONETARY POLICY STANCE WILL BE TIGHTENED"

The determined stance in monetary policy will reduce the underlying trend of monthly inflation and strengthen the disinflation process through balancing domestic demand, real appreciation of the Turkish lira and improvement in inflation expectations.

The Committee decided to keep the policy rate constant, considering the lagged effects of monetary tightening, but reiterated its cautious stance against upward risks to inflation.
The tight monetary policy stance will be maintained until a significant and permanent decline is achieved in the underlying trend of monthly inflation and inflation expectations converge to the forecast range.
In the event of a significant and permanent deterioration in inflation, the monetary policy stance will be tightened.

"STERILIZATION TOOLS WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED EFFECTIVELY"

In case of unforeseen developments in credit and deposit markets, the monetary transmission mechanism will be supported with additional macroprudential steps. Liquidity conditions are closely monitored considering possible developments. Sterilization tools will continue to be used effectively.

The Committee will determine policy decisions in a way that will reduce the underlying trend of inflation and provide monetary and financial conditions that will bring inflation to the 5 percent target in the medium term, taking into account the lagged effects of monetary tightening.

Inflation and indicators of its main trend will be closely monitored, and the Board will resolutely use all tools at its disposal in line with the primary objective of price stability.

"The Board will make its decisions within a predictable, data-driven and transparent framework. The Monetary Policy Board Meeting Summary will be published within five business days."
This news was compiled by Haber Aydın editors. https://www.haberaydin.com/
Information about the content was collected from open sources.

I TRAVELLED BY TRAIN TO KONYA – Part 1 of 3
Written By: Pat Curtis

The August 2024 edition of National Geographic printed an article saying, “Turkey’s rail network remains one of the country’s best-kept tourism secrets, still rarely utilised by foreign travellers.”

An interesting train route nearest the Aegean coastal region is the Izmir Basmane Station inland to Denizli and then onwards to Isparta.

This allows you to hop on and off to check out some of the region’s ancient & historical sites including;
Selçuk for the UNESCO-listed Ephesus ruins,
Çamlik for the train museum,
Denizli for Pamukkale’s travertine terraces and the Hierapolis ruins and if you travel on to Isparta you would be in striking distance to the mountaintop ruins of Sagalassos.

Izmir itself is well worth a visit either as a day trip or a short overnight break. The full price for a one way reserved seat on the train from Selçuk to Izmir is 75 Tl.

I have always wanted to see Konya because of its reputation for being the centre of Sufism and because it houses Rumi’s tomb, the founder of Sufism in the Mevlana Museum.

Konya is a focal and pilgrimage point for millions of believers and visitors.
Many Seama ceremonies in Turkiye are no longer performed based solely on the original spiritual and religious tradition but have been shortened and simplified for commercial purposes.

I really wanted to experience a proper sema ceremony and not just a tourist show.

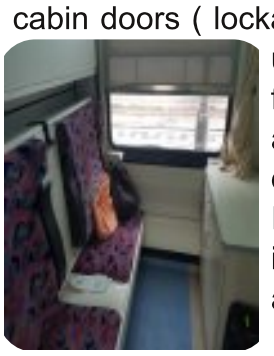
At Selçuk station you have the choice of catching the train direct to Basmane station in Izmir or using the Izban commuter train. The Konya Mavi night train departs Basmane at 20:05 and arrives into Konya at 09:01 the next morning.

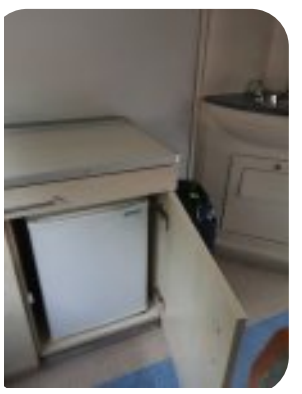
The train has 5 carriages including a dining car and the last carriage, furthest from the train engine and strangely numbered 7, is the business class / sleeper.

There are 60 Pullman style seats in each of the first three carriages but only 10 sleeper cabins (max two people to each cabin) in carriage 7.
A Pullman seat fare, at the time of writing is 425 Tl O/W and a sleeper cabin for sole use is 1,520 Tl. However there is a wide range of age related discounts as well as 15% off for returns and about the same if two share a sleeper cabin.

The carriages open about 19:30 so I killed some time in Izmir having a coffee and then closer to the departure time I wandered back to the train station.
My carriage, number 7, was the first in line and had an attendant standing on the steps. He looked at me and called out ‘ Pat Curtis ‘. Despite a flickering glow thinking I was well known I quickly realised it was highly likely I was the only solo yabanci on his passenger list.

The sleeping carriage impressed. There was a long corridor with toilets at each end and a separate shower room. There were 10 cabin doors (lockable from the inside). The cabins were adequate for two and very spacious for one. There were two comfortable upholstered seats facing a cupboard with an extending top which acted as a table. Inside the cupboard was a fridge with some complimentary snacks and drinks. In the far corner was a wash hand basin and small towel but most impressive was the full length window which provided great views of the countryside and villages on your trip.
I discovered the bed is not converted from the seats it is pre-made up and smartly recessed into the wall. Pulling on the bed strap the seats automatically folded away leaving an upper and lower bunk.





I put my picnic items and my bottle of wine into the fridge and went to explore.

The dinning car was bright,airy and laid out with dining tables and seats. It had a small shop & cafe with a menu board on the wall. Past this carriage lead to the two Pullman seat carriages This setting means there is no through traffic on the sleeper carriage corridor as it was the last carriage. I will describe the journey and arrival into Konya in the next post.”

Chickpea Salad with sumac onions, peppers, spinach and tomatoes

Ozlem Warren

This is a delicious variation of the much-loved Turkish beans salad, Fasulye Piyazi with some more veg added to it.

We love chickpeas and they are fantastic paired with cumin (as in hummus), and with sumac infused onions in this refreshing, nutritious salad. If you like greens, by all means add more spinach or pepper here. It is a lovely, easy to make substantial salad for lunch, can be served as part of meze or a side to grilled vegetables, fish or meat. You can use cannellini or your other favourite cooked beans in this salad instead of chickpeas too.

Author: Ozlem Warren
Recipe type: Vegan, Healthy Salads
Cuisine: Turkish cuisine
Serves: 2-3

Ingredients
1 x 14oz can of precooked chickpea / garbanzo beans
1tsp/5ml ground sumac (use more if you are a fan!)
1tsp/5ml ground cumin
½ medium red onion, halved and thinly sliced
10 cherry tomatoes, quartered
3 spring onions/scallions, finely chopped
1 red bell pepper, deseeded and finely chopped
40g/1 ½ oz spinach leaves, washed and roughly chopped

For the dressing:
30ml/2tbsp extra virgin olive oil
½ juice of lemon
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
Sprinkle of extra sumac to serve
Flatbread or pita bread to serve

Instructions
In a mixing bowl, rub a pinch of salt and ground sumac into the onion slices with your hands really well. This will soften the onions and make them more palatable, will also help infuse tangy sumac to the onion slices.

Place the precooked chickpeas or garbanzo beans on a colander, drain its liquid and rinse over running water. Combine the chickpeas with the onions in the mixing bowl. Stir in the ground cumin and season with salt to your taste, mix well.

Stir in the chopped tomatoes, peppers, spring onion and spinach into the bowl and combine well with the chickpeas and onion mixture.

For the dressing; combine the extra virgin olive oil and lemon juice in a small container. Season with salt and freshly ground pepper to your taste.
Pour in the seasoning over the salad and combine well. Transfer the salad into a serving plate. Serve with an extra pinch of ground sumac sprinkled over, if you like, with plenty flat breads or pita bread by the side, to mop up the delicious juices.
Afiyet Olsun, Ozlem

Effect of mercury on human health

Three people who came into contact with mercury spilled from an amulet in Kuşadasi district of Aydın were hospitalized.

Following the incident, ADÜ Emergency Medicine Department Faculty Member Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yunus Emre Özlüler made a statement regarding the effects of mercury on human health.

A mind-boggling poisoning incident occurred in the Ege Neighborhood of Kuşadasi. A 14-year-old child named SB curiously opened the amulet hanging around his neck to protect him from the evil eye.
In the meantime, the mercury inside the amulet spilled onto the child.

The child, mother and a woman who came into contact with the mercury spilled from the amulet were taken to the hospital after falling ill. Aydın Adnan Menderes University (ADÜ) Hospital Emergency Medicine Department Faculty Member Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yunus Emre Özlüler made statements regarding the effects of mercury on human health.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özlüler, who stated that mercury is a heavy metal found in nature and has increased its use in industry, especially with the increase in industrialization, said, “Normally, mercury is a heavy metal that is shiny silver, odorless and normally liquid at room temperature. However, it can easily evaporate at room temperature and become a threat to people and human health.
Mercury can be easily taken into the lungs through saliva in environments where it evaporates and is released. It quickly passes into the bloodstream in the lungs and is distributed to other organs and tissues. Mercury can especially affect the brain and central nervous system, along with the lungs. It can especially manifest with symptoms such as psychiatric disorders, changes in consciousness, and death.” https://www.iha.com.tr

Sports News in Turkey

He surprised everyone at the age of 5!

He drove a sports car at a speed of 312 km and drifted

Zayn, the 5-year-old son of Kenan Sofuoğlu, the Captain of the Turkish Motorcycle Federation (TMF) National Teams, continues to surprise with his achievements.

Zayn, who reached a speed of 312 kilometres with a million-dollar sports car, amazed the audience by drifting after the show.

Kenan Sofuoğlu's 5-year-old son Zayn made headlines this time with his speed test with a million-dollar Lamborghini Revuelto that he jumped over with an ATV. Reaching a speed of 312 kilometres per hour, little Zayn surprised everyone.

IMAGES SHARED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

After the breathtaking show, Zayn also drifted. Those moments of little Zayn were shared on social media with the words, "Zayn, who is 5 years and 128 days old, became the fastest child in the world at 312 kilometres per hour."

It was noteworthy that the images were watched by millions in a short time. https://yenisokegazetesi.com/

Countdown begins for tennis club in Kuşadasi

The countdown has begun for the Kuşadası Tennis Club project, which is currently under construction in the Kadınlar Denizi Neighborhood, as part of the work carried out by Kuşadası Municipality to bring modern sports facilities and event areas to the city.

The teams, who have covered the roads around the facility where tennis courts of international standards have been completed, are carrying out rainwater line work.

Kuşadası Municipality continues its work to bring new sports facilities and activity areas to the city under the leadership of Mayor Ömer Günel.

I n this context, teams have reached the final stage of the construction of the tennis club in the Kadınlar Denizi Neighborhood.

The construction of 4 tennis courts with night lighting and 1 training court, which meet international standards, has been completed in the facility built on a total area of 6 thousand square meters.
Finally, the facility, where the rainwater line installation process is carried out, will be put into service very soon.

In the facility where spectator stands have been placed so that sports fans from Kuşadası can watch the matches, the teams have also completed the arrangement of the 900 square meter green area and the construction of the changing rooms. In addition to its modern appearance, the tennis club will be a new meeting place for Kuşadası residents with the sports and socializing opportunities it offers. Sourced from: https://yenisokegazetesi.com/

Shock Meeting at Galatasaray: Resignations Coming One After Another

Galatasaray is experiencing great turmoil after the defeat against Young Boys in the Champions League play-off round. After the first news of the resignation from the management after the match, the club management decided to meet urgently.

The First Separation Has Happened, Others Are Next

The reactions experienced at Galatasaray after the defeat have begun to bear fruit. One of the club's important names, Ali Yüce, announced that he has resigned from his position on the board of directors. Yüce, who conveyed his resignation to the club, indicated that this separation is a beginning. It is being said behind the scenes that three more names from the Galatasaray Board of Directors are considering resigning.

An "Emergency" Meeting Decision Was Made for Wedneday 28th August at 18:00

According to the information provided by journalist Yağız Sabuncuoğlu, the decisions to be made by the management in this meeting are of great importance for the club. In particular, the situation of other directors who want to resign will be the most important agenda item of the meeting.

Resignations May Follow One Another

Following Ali Yüce's resignation, all eyes turned to the other board members. According to journalist Haluk Yürekli's statements, several more executives are preparing to resign. This could be a sign of a major change in Galatasaray's management. https://yenisokegazetesi.com/

DENT ISLAND DENTISTRY CLINIC
GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY OF KUSADASI

The writer visited this Clinic recently as we kept hearing nothing but good recommendations about Dt. Orhan and his multi-lingual team at the Dent Island Dental Clinic in Kusadasi.

This clinic, which was established in 2012, is located in a 4-storey building beside the popular Dent Bar on the same street as English Home and further up from the Special Restaurant on the opposite side.

The goal of this long established clinic has been and is, to provide their patients with experienced professional services. Dent İsland Clinic uses the latest technology and more importantly are constantly upating themselves in technological inovations so as to provide patient satisfaction and meet changing consumer trends/demands.

Dt. Orhan BABAYIGIT

The highly respected, Orthodontist Dt. Orhan BABAYİĞİT, who took over the polyclinic in 2019., hired doctors who are experts in their fields and those that I met, were all very professional, friendly and approachable.

In addition, there are Laser Devices, Sedation Devices, Panoramic X-Ray Devices, RVG Digital Imaging Devices in their clinic, and Implant Surgery is performed in the operating room environment. There are 4 Clinics, Operating Room, X-Ray Room, Waiting and Resting Rooms, all of which I noticed, were absolutley spotlessly clean.

Dt. Orhan explained that the Clinic provides the highest quality Dental Treatment Services with their 8-person staff, which includes 3 Dentists / Dental Technicians / Dental Assistants who are competent in their field, with an average of 15-30 years of experience, and provide support in All Dental Treatments.

They provide high standards of service in the fields of Implant, Aesthetic Dentistry, Prosthesis, Periodontology, Endodontics, Orthodontics and All Dental Treatment. It was explained that they prefer if patients visit before problems occur ie., they keep to regular hygiene visits and in this way early diagnosis of dental problems can be detected /treated straight away.

This clinic has only recently started providing specialised Dental Tourism packages which are proving popular for those prospective customers who have never been to Kusadasi before so check out their website for more details on those packages which also include some sight seeing trips in the area, which is a nice addition. https://www.dentislandkusadasi.com/

Useful Contact numbers for those living abroad: -WhatsApp - Turkey- 0090 545 499 99 50 / Irl.Eu - 00353 876163282
Landline - Turkey- 0090 256 613 40 13

While on my visit, naturally they had a few questions about the Foreign Citizens Advice Centre Kusadasi - following which, they offered to help the centre on behalf of their existing customers and their families who may in the future, need free advice and support by way of sponsorship so we thank Dt. Orhan and his team for giving back to the families and friends of his clients to the benefit of all who visit us at the Centre.
Trisha Ni Bhroin - The Ege Eye

SIMULTANEOUS ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE WORKS

Kuşadasi Municipality continues its road construction, maintenance and repair works throughout the city without slowing down.

The number of modern, comfortable and safe roads in the city is increasing day by day with the works carried out simultaneously by the Technical Works Directorate teams in different parts of Kuşadasi.

Kuşadaiı Municipality Technical Services Directorate teams have recently rolled up their sleeves to renew the roads of Değirmendere Neighbourhood Sanayi Street.

In this context, the team's first removed the old ground on the street. In the work carried out in an area of approximately 2,500 square meters, the roads will be covered with hot asphalt after the pavement and curb production is completed.

The Emergency Response Unit, established to quickly eliminate possible negativities throughout the city, continues to restore roads and sidewalks damaged by works carried out by infrastructure institutions in a short time.
Working at 62 different points of the city throughout the week, the teams quickly repaired the damage on the road during the natural gas infrastructure work carried out by the Enerya company in the Değirmendere Neighbourhood, Aldaş Gediği 1st Street and Kuşadasi Industrial Site. https://kusadasi.bel.tr/

"WE WILL KEEP OUR DEAR FRIENDS ALIVE NO MATTER WHAT THE CONDITIONS ARE"

Kuşadasi Mayor Ömer Günel, in his statement regarding the controversial stray animal law passed by the Turkish Grand National Assembly, said, "Our animal-loving fellow citizens can rest assured. We love our dear friends. We are happy to live together with them. We will continue to do our best for them." Mayor Ömer Günel emphasized that pet rehabilitation centres must be supported by the state in order for the law to be implemented.

Kuşadasi Mayor Ömer Günel made a statement regarding the enactment of the 17-article "Law Proposal on Amending the Animal Protection Law", prepared by the AK Party and known to the public as the "slaughter law", at the August regular meeting of the Municipal Council. Stating that the law in question ruled that all dogs on the street would be collected and cared for in shelters until they were adopted, instead of the "collect, vaccinate, neuter, and release" method that has been applied to stray animals until now, Mayor Ömer Günel stated that this was not possible considering the current conditions of the municipalities.

"THE GOVERNMENT PUT THE BALL TO THE MUNICIPALITIES"

Stating that the government has passed the buck to the municipalities with the amendment, Mayor Ömer Günel said, "Since the day we took office, we have implemented many studies regarding stray animals, which we see as our best friends. We have transformed the animal shelter that we took over with 4 personnel into a well-equipped pet rehabilitation centre where 33 expert personnel work. We continue our neutering studies without interruption. Our Pet Rehabilitation Centre has a capacity of 450 dogs, 150 cats and 20 poultry. We are currently hosting 158 dogs, 67 cats and 3 poultry. We have the capacity, but if the state does not provide supporting resources and incentives in the background of this regulation, it is not possible for the process to progress healthily."

"STATE SUPPORT IS A MUST"
Noting that there are a total of 322 shelters in Turkey and the total capacity is 105 thousand, President Ömer Günel said, "When we consider that there are 4 million street dogs, there is no chance of this law being implemented with the current number of shelters and the projected budget of 0.5 per thousand. This legal regulation should be supported by the state and municipalities should be given incentives on the subject."

"WE WILL KEEP OUR DEAR FRIENDS ALIVE"
Mayor Ömer Günel stated that Kuşadasi Municipality allocated a budget of 16 million 80 thousand liras for stray animals in 2023 and said, "This figure corresponds to 18.4 per thousand of our budget. While we are already exceeding 5 per thousand of the budget, we do not know what kind of a figure will emerge if we act as foreseen by the law. Rehabilitation centres need to be supported. As a municipality that wants to provide stray animals with the best conditions, we will continue to fight for their right to life as we have done until today and we will continue to do our best. Our animal-loving fellow citizens can rest easy. Even if the law tells us to put stray animals to sleep, it is out of the question for us to do such a thing." https://kusadasi.bel.tr/

KUSADASI MUNICIPALITY HAS RETURNED 18 BEST FRIENDS TO THEIR LIFETIME HOMES

Kuşadasi Municipality has accelerated the work of rehoming the best friends at Kuşadasi Pet Rehabilitation Centre.

In this context, 18 more dogs were given to an animal-loving businessman by the centre and given a warm home.

Kuşadasi Municipality, which sets an example for all of Turkey with its animal-friendly works, provides shelter, feeding, neutering and treatment services to stray animals, as well as helping these best friends find their forever homes.
Kuşadasi Municipality, which banned the sale of pets in pet shops with a council decision it made in 2021, adopts hundreds of cats and dogs every year with its 'Don't Buy, Adopt' campaign.
Within this scope, Kuşadasi Municipality recently contacted animal-loving businessman Halil İbrahim Çevik and reunited 18 more dogs at Kuşadasi Pet Rehabilitation Centre with their forever homes. The dogs will be cared for under the supervision of expert veterinarians at the shelter Çevik built on his private land.

"WE HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY"
Inviting all animal lovers to adopt stray animals, businessman Halil İbrahim Çevik said, "We, as animal lovers, have to take responsibility. For this purpose, my employees and I built a shelter here for our best friends. Later, we adopted 18 dogs. We plan to increase the number in the coming days."

"DON'T BUY, ADOPT"
Fulya Akıllı, the manager of Kuşadasi Pet Rehabilitation Centre, said, "Our centre has been renewed in every aspect during the time our animal-loving Mayor Ömer Günel has been in office and has become one of the most equipped places for stray animals in the region. We host many cats and dogs at our centre throughout the year. However, these animals need a warm home and love. I call on everyone who wants to take on the care of an animal to adopt an animal from our centre." https://kusadasi.bel.tr/

Registering your Phone in Turkiye

The regulations set forth by the Information and Communication Technologies Authority of Türkiye (ICTA), state that everyone coming into Türkiye with a mobile device must register their device within 120 days of arrival.
Calling features of those devices which are not registered within 120 days will be blocked.

Emergency calls will not be blocked, and the phone can be used over wi-fi so apps on your phone are okay to use.
Only one device can be registered per person or Passport every 3 years.

NOTE: Those staying in Türkiye for less than 120 days do not need to register their mobile device.

Steps for Registering Your Foreign Mobile Phone
Pay the phone registration fee online
You can retrieve your IMEI number by dialling *#06# on your phone.

The registration fee is 31 thousand 692 TL for 2024 will increase by the revaluation rate next October which is expected to be approximately 42.76% which would bring the new fee cost to 45 thousand 243 TL next new year 2025.

If the online payment does not work, you may also pay the fee in-person at Ziraat Bank with your residence permit card and your phone's IMEI number.

Visit a PTT branch (National Post Office) with your active Turkish mobile phone, passport, and residence permit card and purchase your e-Devlet (e-Government) pin code (UETS) which you will also need for residency renewals. Kusadasi the PTT office in Centrum applies.

The pin code must be registered with your foreign ID number that appears on your residence/work permit card and begins with 99.
Complete the registration on the e-Devlet system.

Note: If you do not receive your residence permit during these 120 days, you may register your phone through your cell service provider (Turkcell, Turk Telekom, Vodafone) by visiting their branch. However, they do charge a service fee. Therefore, we advise you to apply for a residence permit on time to avoid pursuing this option.

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Environment - Türkiye's solar energy capacity surpasses 16,000 MW

Türkiye's solar energy capacity has exceeded 16,000 megawatts , according to industry data, now accounting for 14% of the country's total installed power capacity.

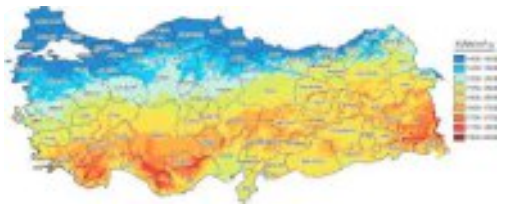
The nation's total installed electricity capacity reached 111,463 megawatts as of Wednesday, with solar energy contributing 16,004 megawatts, data from the Turkish Electricity Transmission Corporation (TEIAŞ) showed.

Türkiye is highly dependent on imports for energy needs and a hefty energy bill is among the biggest challenges before the government that seeks to curb the chronic trade and current account deficits and rely more on domestic resources to meet its needs.

It has managed to increase overall power generation while simultaneously cutting coal generation thanks to an aggressive rise in clean power deployment from wind, solar, geothermal and hydro installations.

The solar energy sector has grown significantly over the past decade, increasing from just 40 megawatts in 2014.

The expansion is largely driven by non-licensed, distributed solar power plants spread across 78 provinces, with 35 of these provinces having a capacity exceeding 111 megawatts



Cem Özkök, head of the Energy Investors Association (GÜYAD), said the figures demonstrate the growing strength of solar energy within Türkiye's overall energy mix.

Türkiye plans to triple its renewable energy capacity by 2053 as it strives to become a carbon-neutral economy.
Renewable energy currently accounts for more than 50% of the country's total installed electricity capacity.

Officials have said Türkiye aims to add 60,000 megawatts by 2035 by increasing annual investment in solar and wind energy by 5,000 megawatts.

Özkök emphasized Türkiye's strategic geographical position and skilled workforce as key advantages, allowing the country to take significant steps toward becoming a hub for renewable energy, particularly solar power.

He referenced International Energy Agency (IEA) President Fatih Birol's prediction that "the new king of energy will be the sun," highlighting Türkiye's ambition to attract investors in solar power plants and panel production.

The increase in solar energy capacity not only supports Türkiye's energy security and emission reduction goals but also reinforces its determination to become a strong player in the global energy sector, said Özkök.

He noted that investments in solar energy are contributing to the country's real economy and technological development, making Türkiye increasingly attractive to international investors.

"Investors are not only supporting the financing of the current account deficit, but they are also significantly contributing to the development of the real economy and technology through the activities of companies established with international capital in our country," he noted.

"This increase in Türkiye's installed solar energy capacity highlights the country's potential in renewable energy and its appeal to international investors. The growth in solar energy further solidifies Türkiye's commitment to becoming a strong force in the energy sector." https://www.dailysabah.com/

Environment - Burned areas in Muğla; Turning into forest again

Forest areas damaged by fires in Muğla are turning green again thanks to the intensive work of teams.

Three years have passed since the forest fires that started in the Marmaris Siteler area on July 29, 2021, then broke out in the Bodrum Güvercinlik, Köyceğiz, Milas Beyciler and Kavaklıdere regions and continued until August 12. The teams, who struggled to extinguish 75 fires in the region for 15 days, also carried out a feverish work to green the areas that were later reduced to ashes.

Muğla Forestry Regional Director Mustafa Ülküdür said that after the forest fire was extinguished, they first carried out the necessary measurement and damage assessment work on the burned area.

Ülküdür stated that the burned trees are cut as soon as possible, and the area is prepared for planting and sowing. "Later, the areas damaged by the fire are reforested according to appropriate forestry techniques. In addition to afforestation works carried out by planting saplings in the reforestation of burned areas, afforestation techniques in which saplings are obtained through natural methods are used. The most common of these is the natural rejuvenation method carried out with saplings obtained by germinating the seeds shed from the cones of trees in burned areas."

Ülküdür stated that natural rejuvenation method was applied to 72 percent of the burned areas in the last 5 years, and that soil cultivation and seed planting method was applied to 9 percent, and terracing method was applied to 5 percent. Ülküdür stated that 14 percent of the area was left to its natural state because it could not be technically intervened due to its excessively sloping, stony and rocky structure.

60 THOUSAND HECTARES OF FOREST HAVE BEEN DAMAGED IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

Ülküdür emphasized that natural regeneration was applied to 43,200 hectares of the 60 thousand hectares of forestland that was burned in the last 5 years, soil processing and seed planting methods were applied to 5,400 hectares, he said that they carried out afforestation work by planting saplings in 3 thousand hectares, and the 8 thousand 400 hectares was left in its natural state due to excessive slope, stony and rocky terrain.

Ülküdür, who stated that the fight against fires continues with determination, said, "Approximately 60 thousand hectares of forestland have been damaged in our region in the last 5 years. Most of these areas consist of areas burned in the 2021 major forest fires and the 2022 Marmaris Bördübet fire. During the 2021 major fire period, 52 thousand hectares of forestland burned, and 4 thousand 500 hectares in the 2022 Marmaris Bördübet fire. All of these areas were afforested naturally, with seed sowing and sapling planting methods."

Muğla Forestry Regional Director Ülküdür, who noted that it was a dry year and that they expected more sensitivity from all segments of society on this issue, said, "The period we are going through is the period when human and vehicle traffic is at its heaviest in our region. Let's please stay away from fire during this period so that our holidays are not poisoned, and our forests are not burned." https://yenisokegazetesi.com/

Environment - KUSADASI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SWITCHED TO CLEAN ENERGY

Kuşadasi Chamber of Commerce announced that it has started to produce its own electricity without harming the environment. Chamber Board Chairman Serdar Akdoğan stated that they aimed to increase environmental awareness and awareness on saving while taking this important step.

Serdar Akdoğan said, "As an institution, we have started to produce our own electricity with the energy emitted from the sun without harming the environment. We support clean energy for a cleaner world with our Solar Energy System, which both protects the environment and provides savings."

Kuşadasi Chamber of Commerce will meet the entire electricity needs of the building with the Solar Energy System (SES). The excess electricity produced will be transferred to the scholarship fund given to students. In this way, they aim to both get rid of electricity costs and contribute more to future generations. kusadasiolay.com

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Kusadasi Street Animals

Another day in the life of Animal Rescue Kusadasi

Life continues to be busy for the ARK team of volunteers. As usual, we responded to numerous calls for assistance from concerned individuals, as well as identifying cases of need ourselves. In the last month 51 animals (46 cats and 5 dogs) received veterinary treatment funded by ARK – some relatively minor (such as sickness & diarrohea, teeth problems, infections, anaemia, allergies and wounds) and some were life-threatening and/or life-changing, eg, various tumours, amputations and major breakages.
Our veterinary bills continue to be substantial and it's clearly essential that we raise funds in order to meet our costs.

Here are just a few of the animals we at Ark have helped recently:

• A lovely tabby cat which was found with a serious injury on his back close to its tail. It wasn't clear what caused the injury but it clearly needed urgent attention. To add to the cat's difficulties it was a nursing mother and obviously needed to be well enough to be able to feed its kittens. Thankfully there was no bone damage and the cat was treated to without delay, but as if this wasn't enough of a challenge it emerged that one of the kittens had a fractured leg. The poor thing would have been a significant pain and obviously needed surgery. We're delighted to report that both mum and baby are recovering well.

• We were alerted to a heavily pregnant cat by staff at the Ramada Resort, who take great care of cats on their site. She had somehow previously lost the bottom half of one of her back legs and her pregnancy was putting even greater pressure on her mobility. Catching her was more difficult than expected. She could move quite quickly - particularly when she saw a cat trap appearing!
We arranged for her to undergo the removal of the remainder of her damaged leg, in order to give her better balance and to avoid infecting her 'stump', as well as for her to be neutered. When she awoke from sedation she couldn't wait to escape the cat box! Despite having just three legs she ran out at a pace, having been given a new lease of life.

• Another heart-warming case was a cat which was found in a very bad condition. In addition to being very thin and having most of his tail missing, one of his eyes was missing and the other was almost covered by a tumour. The poor cat therefore had hardly any vision and must have been in severe discomfort from the bloody tumour on his only eye. We weren't prepared to give up on the poor soul, who has clearly had an extremely difficult life on the streets. The tumour was delicately removed, thankfully revealing a healthy eye. Although it's not possible to tell whether the tumour will re-grow, we're all crossing our fingers that it won't. The poor cat certainly deserves some luck!

Kusdadasi's Animal Shelter has improved dramatically in recent years and could already accommodate larger numbers. In addition, Omer Gunel, Kusadasi Mayor, has made it clear that stray animals will continue to be cared for. Ongoing consultations between the Mayor and the relevant groups continue as needed.

The importance of neutering

Animal neutering is clearly a key element in controlling the number of stray animals and is a key priority for us. In most cases we use the free neutering facilities provided by Kusadasi Municipality at the Barinak (Animal Shelter) on Kirazli Road (primarily for dogs) and the Cat Neutering Centre close to the Hilton Hotel in the Marina area. We encourage all members of the public to avail of this service.

Neutering Services for street animals - contact details:

Appointments for free neutering of street dogs at the Barinak - 0533 602 8849 or 444 7114, (central helpline, if transport needed)
Appointments for free neutering of street cats at the Cat Neutering Centre -
0539 645 2931

Can you help?

Are you able to adopt a stray animal, giving a home to a dog or cat which may have been abandoned through no fault of their own, or a puppy or kitten which was born on the streets? In addition to the many stray animals which are on the streets, there are a lot more to choose from at the Animal Shelter on Kirazli Road, which is open to the public 11.00 to 16.00 on weekdays.

Can you give us an hour or two of your time to help us in our range of projects and activities?

We have a strong relationship with Kusadasi's animal shelter, which is run by the Belediye (Council).
An important aspect of this is the small team of volunteers who assist the staff, providing home-cooked food, treats, comfortable bedding and lots of love and hugs, particularly to the cats and kittens and to puppy dogs.
In preparation for the Autum and Winter months - Can you provide us with Dried foods, Sheets or Blankets or clothes which we can arrange to collect from you?

Farewell to Jessica

In mid-September we in ARK will sadly be saying goodbye to Jessica Kucukgunduz. A member of the ARK Committee and Board. She also is one of the much-valued team of volunteers who help at the Animal Shelter each week. Jess has been a massive asset to ARK and will be greatly missed. We wish her and her husband Cemil a very happy and successful future in their new home in Norway.

Fund Raising Events

The first of many hosted events is - "The Indian Gala Night" which will be held in the Garden Area at Saray Restaurant on the evening of Monday 16 September next.
A 3 course authentic Indian meal (with options) will be served to include themed activities throughout the evening. An advert will be posted soon. For more information meanwhile, please WhatsApp ARK on 0539 3420622.

ARK's ability to help street animals relies entirely on the kindness of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers. Every donation, no matter how small, supports our mission to give street animals a life free of pain and suffering.
If you can find it in your heart to make a donation to ARK, we would be extremely grateful. Making a donation through our website – ARKTR.ORG – is very simple and makes an enormous difference to the street animals which rely on the help of us humans. Ref: Karen Froggot@ARK

15-year-old builds solar panel-powered vehicle with 65 km range

Samet Girgin, a 10th grade student at Şahinler Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School in the Akseki district of Antalya, implemented his dream project with the money he earned as an apprentice at a pharmacy during his summer vacation, and built a 65-kilometer-range vehicle powered by the sun from materials he collected from a scrapyard.

Living with his family in the Değirmenlik Neighborhood of the Akseki district of Antalya, 15-year-old Samet Girgin said that he studied in the 9th grade at Kaya Özen High School in the Cevizli Neighborhood of Akseki and that he will continue in the 10th grade at Akseki Şahinler Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School in the new academic year due to the closure of the school in Cevizli. Expressing that he has been interested in these subjects since he could understand them, Girgin said, “I chose the electrical and electronics department of my own free will. I have had an interest in this department since I was little. When I was little, I would disassemble machines and toys and try to understand what was inside.

Since I have been interested in such subjects since I was little, I have now started to make my own projects and designs. I also made my first project as my car. I had designed this project in my mind at the beginning of the summer vacation. I worked on the money I saved during the summer vacation and collected materials from scrapyards and second-hand stores and assembled them and made a vehicle that generates its own electricity. Since my budget was limited, I preferred scrapyards and second-hand stores. "The feature of my vehicle is that while a vehicle has four wheels, the vehicle I made has three wheels," he said.
He received first prizes while studying in primary school

Girgin, who said that he had previously won first prizes in projects he had done in the province while living in Sakarya due to his interest in mechanical and electrical devices since his childhood, said, “When I was a student in the second grade of primary school, I made a model with solar energy and a wind turbine related to clean energy production and introduced it to everyone in the class. I have had a love for mechanics and electronics for as long as I can remember.”

“I built my vehicle with my own budget”
Girgin, who stated that he did not want to be a burden to his family to build the vehicle he designed, and therefore worked during the summer vacation, said, “I started earning money to implement my project by working as an apprentice at a pharmacy during the summer vacation. I had designed this vehicle in my mind while studying in the 9th grade. Since I did not want to be a burden to my family, I saved the money I earned. Because I did not want to be a burden to my family. My budget was quite limited. I bought the parts of my vehicle with the money I earned. I bought some parts brand new. I completed my project in about a month and a half. It cost me 17 thousand liras.”

“I have new project designs”

Girgin, who stated that he has dreams and projects he wants to do, said, "My next project is an unmanned vehicle that can extinguish fires in fire spots that people, land vehicles and air vehicles cannot reach. I also want to realize this design. After completing this project, I will implement other projects in my mind. My goal is to study mechatronics at a good university. I have already started working for university. I will start doing my other projects when I have the budget. One of my projects is a scooter that does not have a steering wheel, can stand balanced and can be ridden like a skateboard. It will have two wheels and charging stations. I will also implement a project that can be carried by hand and will not have a battery problem."
65 kilometres range
Girgin, who said that while there are many electric vehicles in the world and in our country, he built a vehicle that can provide its own electricity without receiving support from elsewhere, said, “This vehicle is the only vehicle in the world. It gets its own energy from the sun. Its range is 65 kilometres. It goes up to 65 kilometres. When its charge runs out, if the weather is sunny, it can wait 20-25 minutes and go 10 kilometres further.”

“It has all the features found in a normal vehicle”

Girgin, who said that the vehicle he made has all the features found in a normal vehicle, said, “I removed the solar panel that we use in our own home as a second hand and used it. The car has a 205 watt solar panel. The engine power is 35 amps and 12 volts. It has all the features that a normal vehicle can have. It has all the features such as right, left signals, interior lights, headlights, whistle, sensor, alarm, reverse and forward gear, ignition key, rear and front brakes, dashboard, phone charging point.”
“We want to support him until the end”
Father Engin Girgin (43) said that his son built this vehicle with the money he earned and made his dreams come true. Expressing that his son started to hold a screwdriver when he was 6-7 years old, Girgin said, "When Samet was 6-7 years old and he started to hold a screwdriver, we understood that he was interested in these things. From that day on, we started to let Samet disassemble whatever he wanted as a family. Samet wanted to work and earn money during his summer vacation this year. He wanted to realize his dream project with the money he earned during his summer vacation. He started working as a foreman at a pharmacy in Cevizli Neighbourhood. He built this vehicle with the money he earned there. His budget was very small. He put up a serious fight. Samet achieved his dreams and ambitions. I think this is a beginning for Samet. Because Samet's dreams are very big, very many. We, as a family, want to support him until the end." Source: Ayse Catli - https://www.iha.com.tr/

A new era in real estate and automobile sales

Taking action against advertisements that deceive consumers, the Ministry of Commerce will put the new application into effect as of September.

The 'verified advertisement' regulation, which will start in the real estate sector on September 15, will be made for the automotive sector shortly after. The application, which will start as a hybrid, will become completely mandatory as of the beginning of the year.

Turkey's foreign trade data for July was announced in Kayseri. After the meeting, Trade Minister Ömer Bolat met with members of the press and made important statements on the agenda.
Bolat stated that they saw the positive effects of the recent regulations, especially in real estate and automotive, and that the 'verified advertisement' process would begin on advertisement sites as of September.

Bolat, who emphasized that none of the advertisements on the sites will be intended to deceive the consumer, said, “The person who will sell a house will select his real estate via e-Government and authorize the real estate agent, and the authorized real estate agents will mediate these sales.

We will hopefully bring our new regulation to the automotive sector towards the end of September. First, we will put the regulations in real estate into effect, and then in automotive after 1-2 weeks.” The regulation, which will start with the real estate sector in the first stage, will be put into effect as of September 15. The application, which will start as a hybrid in the first stage, will become mandatory as of the beginning of the year.

“We do not have a fixed exchange rate policy, we are trying to maintain balance”

Stating that the disinflation process has been showing its effect on the economy and markets since June, Bolat said, “As inflation decreases, the tendency towards exports will increase. The decrease in demand in the domestic market will drive our sellers and producers to pursue new export opportunities and possibilities in foreign markets. As we see inflation falling to 50 percent and below in annual terms after September and October, credit costs will also decrease. In fact, the market will move before the policy rate.”

Minister Bolat, who emphasized that the government does not have a fixed exchange rate policy, said, “The exchange rate is such a balance that if your foreign exchange decreases, risks increase in foreign economic relations, foreign trade and current transactions, and if there is an increase in demand for foreign exchange, the exchange rate increases. In that case, you cannot lower the exchange rate with instructions, nor can you lower it with desire.

When the exchange rate increases uncontrollably and rapidly, it increases prices in less than 24 hours. Hopefully, these balances will be established in a more stable and consistent environment in the coming period. As inflation decreases, input costs will also become stable. The important thing is to carry out this work in a balanced manner, and we are striving for this.”

Bolat, who stated that they continue their negotiations with the European Union Commission on the visa issue, said, “We continue to increase our efforts so that the visa does not become an obstacle for our businessmen.” Bolat, who stated that they are following the issue regarding imports from Chinese e-commerce companies such as Temu, said, “We are following the issue very closely and we are working on it, we have made the necessary decisions, you will see very soon.”

Foreign trade deficit narrows to $50 billion

Turkey’s exports in July increased by 13.8 percent compared to the same month last year, reaching 22 billion 512 million dollars, while imports decreased by 7.9 percent to 29 billion 747 million dollars.

In July, due to the increase in exports and decrease in imports, the foreign trade deficit decreased by 42.3 percent on an annual basis to 7.2 billion dollars. The foreign trade deficit decreased by 32.5 percent in the first 7 months, falling to 49.8 billion dollars. The export-import coverage ratio also increased by 9 points at the end of the first 7 months, reaching 74.9 percent.

Minister of Trade Ömer Bolat, who stated that success should be enjoyed especially in terms of imports, said, “We reduced the foreign trade deficit by 40 billion dollars and the current account deficit by 37 billion dollars in one year. We increased our country’s foreign exchange reserves. These developments also brought stability to foreign exchange.” https://www.ekonomim.com/

Nobody has the archive of Aydinli tradesmen!

Living in the Nazilli district of Aydin, 75-year-old Ahmet Sert is **one of the few remaining shopkeepers who still sell records and cassettes** that have a great place in Turkish music history. 75-year-old Ahmet Sert's profession, dating back half a century, is music, and his love is records.

Here, history seems to be coming back to life. Despite thousands of colleagues who have succumbed to technology, he stubbornly continues his profession. 75-year-old Ahmet Sert's profession of half a century is music, and his love is records. Ahmet Sert has been selling records and cassettes for 48 years. His love for records, gramophone records and cassettes still resists technology.

From Zeki Müren to Barış Manço, Orhan Gencebay to Ferdi Tayfur, Müzeyyen Senar to Malatya's Yüksel Özkasap, the shelves are full of records and cassettes. The atmosphere smells of nostalgia. It's as if history is coming back to life here. Despite dozens of colleagues who have been defeated by technology, he stubbornly continues his profession. No matter who walks through the door, he doesn't leave without finding what he's looking for. He doesn't turn anyone away with the archive he keeps in his warehouse. Sert has not only sold records and cassettes of famous voices, he has also met them. Customers are also happy with Sert, who loves his job.

One of the last active music markets

Ahmet Sert, who is a head over heels in love with the magnificent sounds coming out of analog records that were produced with the technology of the 1960s but that even today's technology cannot reach, is still actively pursuing his profession despite retiring 30 years ago. Ahmet Sert, who is 75 years old and happy to leave behind 48 years in his profession that he is passionate about, has many regulars not only from Turkey but also from abroad.

His secret is 'not to sell out'

Sert, who claims to be one of the last active music stores with the richest archive of vinyl records, cassettes and CDs in Turkey, says that his secret is to 'not sell out'. Sert, who states that he will not part with his records as long as he lives despite leaving behind 48 years full of pride, rich memories and emotions, was a guest of Zeki Müren for a week as a reward when Zeki Müren's 1983 cassette 'Gitme, sana mim' became the best-selling music store in the Aegean Region. Sert, who also held autograph sessions with artists such as Edip Akbayram, İlhan İrem, Barış Manço, Neşe Karaböcek, İzzet Altinmeşe and Ümit Besen in Nazilli , where the music store is located , went to Istanbul as invited to join them.

Nostalgia is reliving

He states that despite technological music products, a return has begun in recent years, and that the gramophone record, record and cassette sector has become active again. Noting that there used to be 60-70 people doing the same job in Nazilli, but that today he is one of the rare people doing the same job throughout the country, Sert claims that there is no one left who is actively doing the music market business like him.

“Love of music makes us proud”

Kemal Aslan, one of Ahmet Sert's first regulars; "We have been Ahmet Abi's customers since 1977. We find everything we are looking for at Ahmet Abi. Now everyone has turned to digital. But we still love records. Ahmet Abi's love of music makes us proud and emotional. He provides us with any record we ask for within a day, even if he doesn't have it. I don't think there is anyone else in Turkey. There is no other left. Since 1977, Ahmet Abi has provided us with everything we want, be it a record, cassette or CD. We experience nostalgia with him. We come here, listen to his records. Sometimes he finds a record we don't know at all, lets us listen to it, and then we take it and leave. In other words, his contributions to music since 1977 are immense. He held autograph sessions with various artists in Nazilli. He went to them as a guest. In other words, he is an unparalleled legend and the doyen of his profession."

“A unique place in Turkey”

Filiz Çimen, who stated that Ahmet Sert was completely filled with love for music, said, “I have known Ahmet for 35 years. I used to come here all the time. I bought many cassettes from him when I was young. He is one of the most well-known, most beloved and oldest tradesmen of Nazilli. He does this job with great love. He is completely filled with love for music. You can find cassettes, CDs, Taş Plak, whatever you are looking for about music here. It is a unique place in Turkey. It is the only place, the only shop left. So I recommend it to everyone. Even if you don’t buy anything, the memories you listen to will be enough for you. Believe me, no one else has his love for Taş Plak and music. He practiced his profession with great love. God willing, God will give him a long life and continue for many years to come.”

Ahmet Sert, explaining how he started the music market business, said, “I left the ship I was working on on February 16, 1977. I became a record store owner on February 17. I have been involved in music for 48 years because music is the food of my soul. I am a musician. I have been doing this job for 48 years. I retired in 1995. It has been 30 years since I retired, but I still continue my job because I love my job. Although my children, sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, and my wife at home say, ‘Quit your job, close your shop,’ I am in love with my job. I am in love with my job. I will continue to do this job as long as I live. There are 2 years left to 50 years, that is, half a century. But if I live, I doubt that I will close my business in the remaining 2 years. Because I love my job very much.”

He hosted famous guests in Nazilli and held autograph sessions.

Stating that he hosted famous music people at the autograph sessions he organized in Nazilli, Sert said; “We hosted artists such as Barış Manço, Ümit Besen, Edip Akbayram, İlhan İrem, Yeşim, İzzet Altinmeşe, Mahmut Tuncer at autograph sessions here for years. In fact, every corner of the shop is full of my photos with them. I held autograph sessions with them and sold their signed records. I still see most of them. Some of them passed away. I am a lover of this profession. As long as I live and my hands and feet are able to stand, I will happily do this job. I don’t like saying no anyway. That’s the reason I am successful in this profession. The warehouses here are full of records. They don’t sell anything here. I don’t like that word anyway. It’s a matter of passion. There is something like everyone’s inclination towards the profession. We also became experts in this business by kneading it. Thousands of my friends left this job when digital platforms came out. They left this job but we still see them. "I am the only place in Turkey that is an active music market, that is, the only place that sells records and cassettes with an open shop. There is no other place," he said. https://www.haberaydin.com/

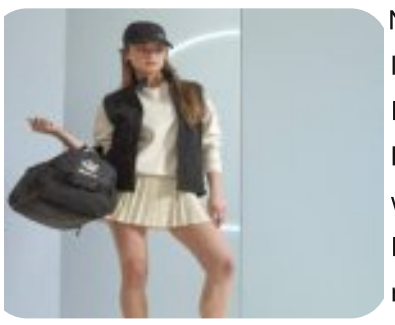
TRENDING IN FASHION

You can also wear a tennis dress to an invitation

In recent years, high fashion has sought to combine details from the world of sports with stylish designs.

For example, it is now very normal to attend a night party with a tennis dress or to use a football jersey with a stylish piece. We see traces of this trend in different brands from Miu Miu to Dries Van Noten.

Fashion trends inspired by the world of sports have been in our lives since the early 2010s. Back then, it was quite ambitious to complement leggings with shirts or sweatshirts with stylish skirts. This style has gained acceptance and solidified its place in the fashion world over the years.



Not only the high fashion giants, but also Generation Z, who are currently driving all trends, loved sporty designs.

For example, tennis skirts have left the courts and gone down to the streets. They have become a part of everyday styles. We have even started to see tennis skirts and dresses in evening looks. This trend, which has gained a new title in the fashion world under the name of 'Tenniscore', is not the only sport that affects fashion lovers.

For example, wearing running shorts with oversize shirts and even stylish shoes has become normal. Or, using jerseys representing different sports such as basketball and football together with stylish clothes and even showing up like this at nights and invitations has become normal.

T-SHIRT AND A STYLISH SKIRT

The polo or rugby shirts that we see a lot in the Spring/Summer 2024 collections are also a reflection of this trend.

The laces that Miu Miu added to the balloon skirts inspired by sports shorts are of course also a reflection of this trend. Dries Van Noten's oversize striped shirts also reference the world of rugby. The sporty shirts combined with chic black skirts in the Puppets and Puppets collection or Wales Bonner's sporty yet chic looks from head to toe are just some examples of this trend.

In addition, cool and young competitors have emerged to global giant sports brands such as Adidas, Nike and Puma, the popularity of brands such as Alo Yoga and Lululemon among young people has increased and their designs are mostly in colors and models that will make sporty pieces cool. These brands are not yet in Turkey, we will see if they will come soon.

MATCHING TIPS

Create contrasts: Creating contrast between sportswear and casual wear is key to pulling off this style successfully. For example, pair a sporty rugby shirt with a satin skirt or a tennis dress with heeled sandals.

Must-haves: Basic sporty pieces to add to your wardrobe include quality leggings, comfortable sweatshirts, sports bras and, this season, the polo shirts. You can easily pair these items with more stylish outfits.

Accessory use: Accessories such as hats, sunglasses, bags complete this style. You can level up your style with a stylish accessory detail that you add to a sporty look.

Think outside the box: To successfully implement this trend, you need to look at the pieces in your wardrobe with a different eye and not limit your combination options. Remember, your sports bra or running shorts are waiting to be paired with your stylish clothes. https://www.hurriyet.com.tr/

Things to Consider When Buying Sunglasses

The Turkish Ophthalmology Association (TOD) made a statement about 7 features to consider when buying sunglasses.

The Turkish Ophthalmology Association (TOD) has announced 7 features to consider when buying sunglasses, emphasizing the importance of using sunglasses because the sun's rays reach more and more directly in the summer months.

The following statements were made by TOD regarding the points to be considered when buying sunglasses:

“The most important thing to look for when buying sunglasses is that they have a label that says they block 100 percent of UV rays. The more area the sunglasses we are considering covering our eye area, the better protection they will provide. Some lenses come in different colours, such as yellow, green or Gray.

They do not block harmful rays better just because they look good in different colours, but they can increase the image and colour contrast, which can be useful for those who do sports. Polarized sunglasses reduce reflections from reflective surfaces, such as the sea or lake.”

According to TOD's statement, the fact that sunglasses are expensive does not mean that they are of good quality, but it is necessary to pay attention to whether the sunglasses have a mark indicating that they meet quality standards such as TSE and CE. https://rayhaber.com/

Sanliurfa – What to see and do. Part 4. By Lisa Morrow.

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 Continued Part 4

Kızılkoyun Nekropolis

The Kızılkoyun Necropolis is a burial ground carved into a rock face located on the east side of the Sanliurfa Archaeology Museum complex. You can see the roofs and balconies of ordinary residences above it while the road leading to the museum marks the lower boundary.

The necropolis was built by the Romans sometime between the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. To date 72 caves have been opened up, containing 133 rock tombs. The dead were placed in these burial chambers and the entry covered with a stone. There are reliefs covered in mythological and religious scenes in some of them. Various gifts would be left next to the dead, and offerings and sacrifices made from time to time.

Excavations are ongoing but the site is open to visitors. It's lit up at night and looks quite something. During the warmer months you can visit in the evening. There was a security guard on site and entry booth when I visited in 2022 but no entry fee. My research shows this is still the case, but this could change without notice.

Beykapısı Bedendibi neighbourhood

Almost two kilometres east of the necropolisis, around a 25 minute walk, you come to the Beykapısı Bedendibi neighbourhood. We went there because I'd read you could see traditional crafts like ebru, calligraphy, illumination, wood carving and silversmithing being practiced in restored houses in this historical district inside the Beykapısı Bedendibi walls. Despite leading Kim along numerous narrow winding streets I failed to find any workshops. Nonetheless both of us enjoyed wandering past houses made from nahit, a stone local to Urfa. Güllüoğlu Şok, where low pointed archways span houses opposite one another, was our favourite.

Given the heat and number of museums, historical sites and archaeological artefacts I took in during all of my visits to Sanliurfa, even my love of the music of Ibrahim 'Ibo' Tatlises wasn't enough to get me to the İbrahim Tatlıses Müzik Müzesi. It's located south east of Baliklı Göl. Part 5 - What to eat in sanliurfa next month

Roma Delux are one of the Sponsors of the foreign citizens advice centre and are situated 3 doors down from Karim @ The Shoe Box. (Opposite the mosque in centrum)
They are offering a nice discount to shoppers who mention The Ege Eye to them.
Their bags are of very good quality and they do open all year round and deliver worldwide.

Bag yourself a bargain

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