



# MEE T RKEY

September 2020 Year: 26 No:98

*Alternative Tourism & MICE Magazine*

## **Istanbul Music Festival Celebrates the 250th Anniversary of Beethoven's Birth**

**2021 UEFA Champions League Final – Istanbul  
Coronavirus is theme of Cartoon Competition  
Istanbul to receive UNESCO funding for Culture Project**



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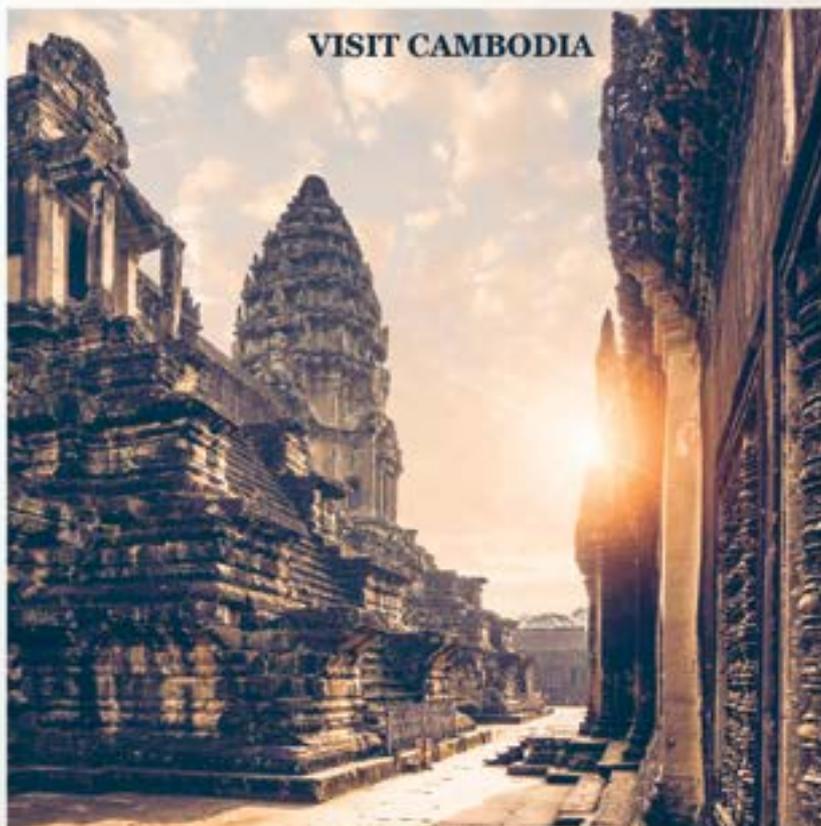
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### Meetings Industry Goes Online

As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread throughout the world, the global landscape has changed enormously, and professionals in the meetings industry now focusing on organizing online events and meetings to keep their businesses alive.



Özgür Töre

Most event professionals believe 1-2 years is a realistic timeframe to recover from COVID-19. Until full recovery, more events will be held online.

In this issue, we present you this year's Istanbul Music Festival, which celebrates the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven. This year's festival will be organized online and welcomes music lovers all around the world.

***Stay safe and healthy!***

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## Turkey Announces Tourism Statistics for H1 2020

Turkish Culture and Tourism Ministry announced the total number of tourist arrivals to the country in the first half of 2020. A total of 4.5 million foreign visitors traveled to Turkey in the first six months of the year. In the first six months of 2019, 18 million foreign visitors traveled to the country. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Turkey suffers a 75% drop in tourist arrivals in 2020.

With a normalization process starting in June, tourist facilities in Turkey reopened with strict measures to ensure safety and avoid the virus spread.

Turkey is one of the first destinations that certified with the WTTC Safe Travels stamp. Safe Travels stamp is launched by WTTC in order to allow travelers to identify destinations and businesses around the world which have adopted the global standardized health and hygiene protocols. WTTC Safe Travels stamp is also supported by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).



Number of tourist arrivals to Turkey by Months & Years					
	Years			Change %	
Months	2018	2019	2020*	2019/2018	2020/2019
January	1 461 570	1 539 496	1 787 435	5.33	16.11
February	1 527 070	1 670 238	1 733 112	9.38	3.76
March	2 139 766	2 232 358	718 097	4.33	-67.83
April	2 655 561	3 293 176	24 238	24.01	-99.26
May	3 678 440	4 022 254	29 829	9.35	-99.26
June	4 505 594	5 318 984	214 768	18.05	-95.96

Istanbul continued to be Turkey's top tourist draw, attracting nearly 53.7% of foreign visitors – around 2.4 million in June 2020.

## Hagia Sophia and Kariye Museum Converted into Mosque



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan issued a decree on July 10 to formally declare the Hagia Sophia as a mosque and another decree on August 21 for Kariye (Chora) Museum.

After more than eight decades as a museum, Turkey's iconic Hagia Sophia reopened for Islamic worship for the first time on July 24 with Friday prayers with the participation of thousands of people.

Thousands of people, including top officials, politicians and many who traveled from across Turkey, took part in the traditional Friday prayers both inside and outside the historic site in Istanbul.

"Now this place [the Hagia Sophia] has returned to its original form, it became a mosque again," said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, wishing the historical monument will continue serving as a mosque forever to all believers.

Hagia Sophia served as a church for 916 years until the conquest of Istanbul, and a mosque from 1453 to 1934.

After a month later, Kariye (Chora) Museum transformed into a mosque. The 1,000-year-old building's history closely mirrors that of the Hagia Sophia. Originally built in the 4th century, The Holy Saviour in Chora was comprehensively rebuilt around 1077-81 and again after a partial collapse following an earthquake early in the 12th century. The iconic site was a medieval Byzantine church decorated with 14th-century frescoes of the Last Judgement that remain treasured in the Christian world.

It was originally converted into the Kariye Mosque half a century after the 1453 conquest of Istanbul by the Ottoman Empire.

## Germany Lifts Travel Warnings to 4 Turkish Cities

Germany lifted its travel warning for several coastal regions of Turkey beginning of August. The warning lifted for the four Turkish coastal provinces of Antalya, Izmir, Aydin and Muğla.

“Turkey has developed a special tourism and hygiene concept for these four regions in order to realise safe tourism under the conditions of the pandemic,” said Germany’s government spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer.

Turkey requires anyone travelling back to Germany to present a negative coronavirus test within 48 hours before departure.



## Formula 1 Returns to Istanbul



On 15th November, after a gap of nine years, Intercity Istanbul Park will be playing host to Formula 1, the world’s most important motorsports event. Followed by millions of viewers around the world, Formula 1 is one of the key sporting events at which countries showcase themselves. The 14th race of the season, Formula 1 DHL Turkish Grand Prix 2020, will take place at Intercity Istanbul Park on the 13th, 14th and 15th November. Turkish Grand Prix has announced plans to host up to 100,000 spectators at Istanbul Park. Organizers expect to host 20,000 foreign spectators.

Formula 1 will be coming back to Istanbul as part of its 2020 schedule, returning to the country that hosted the Formula 1 Grand Prix between 2005 and 2011. Istanbul is one of the final four races of the 2020 F1 season.

Formula 1 DHL Turkish Grand Prix 2020 tickets will go on sale on September 15. Formula 1 tickets, which will be available on [Biletix](#) from 12:00 on Tuesday, September 15, will meet sports enthusiasts at prices ranging from 90 TL to 1.900 TL in the first 24 hours, and then 120 TL to 2.750 TL.

## LXR collection Enters Turkey

LXR Hotels & Resorts, Hilton’s collection brand for independent luxury properties, announced its latest hotel opening in Bodrum, Turkey. Susona Bodrum opens its doors on July 1st in Bodrum, Turkey. Just six kilometers from downtown Bodrum, Susona Bodrum boasts a private beach, world-class spa, and gourmet dining experiences, offering guests the ultimate place to find their balance and serenity.

Every element of the hotel is connected to its sense of place with a focus on protecting and preserving the local environment. Named after the mystical Susona, a legendary aquatic creature in Turkish mythology, Susona Bodrum is set in Torba Bay, a peaceful hideaway surrounded by turquoise waters. Each of the 76 guest rooms, suites, and villas features panoramic sea views and interiors inspired by the sea. In the bathrooms, guests will be treated to indulgent amenities from Atelier Rebul’s Mandarine Collection, made from the fruity and citrus fragrance of Bodrum mandarines, blended with aromatic flowers and musk. Guests can also enjoy dipping into a private pool at each of the hotel’s 10 standalone villas.



The resort’s five jetties offer a myriad of opportunities for guests to enjoy the azure waters of the Aegean Sea, with a host of seaside venues to choose from. These include Frankie Beach Club and Malva Restaurant, concepts created exclusively for Susona Bodrum by Kaya Demirel and the team behind the famed Frankie Istanbul, taking guests on a gastronomic journey while allowing them to soak in the coastal town’s breathtaking seascapes.

Susona Bodrum stays true to LXR Hotels & Resorts’ promise of offering guests a singular travel experience native to its place, history, and tradition. The resort’s gracious hosts not only delight guests by scouting out the best relaxation spots on-property and preparing perfect settings for sunset viewing, but also by delivering locally immersive experiences. Hosts at Susona Bodrum can curate personalised local trips, encompassing visits to Bodrum’s famous hand-crafted leather sandal workshops, local wine tasting at nearby vineyards, and a journey into the world of Turkish carpet making at Etrim village. With Susona Bodrum hosts working to create the perfect itinerary, guests are free to relax and absorb all that the hotel and its surroundings have to offer.

“Each hotel selected to join the LXR collection is handpicked for its ability to offer a truly profound travel experience and a unique window into a world-class destination,” said Feisal Jaffer, Global Head, LXR Hotels & Resorts. “With its tranquil location, commitment to personalised service, and exciting dining venues, the Susona Bodrum is ideal for travellers seeking a luxurious getaway.”

### SunExpress Restarted Flights To London, Pegasus Flies to Tel Aviv

Following the lifting of the travel bans imposed by the Turkish government in June, SunExpress has started its direct schedule flights to London from Antalya, Ankara, Izmir, and Gaziantep. And Pegasus Airlines resumed flights to Tel Aviv.

SunExpress will start to operate a weekly direct scheduled flight to London from Antalya and Gaziantep as of July 10. The airline, which has already resumed its flights to the UK from Ankara on July 2 and from Izmir the day after, will continue to perform two weekly flights from Izmir and one weekly flight from Ankara to London.

Following the UK government's decision to include Turkey in the 'travel corridor,' which is being established among several countries, passengers traveling from Turkey to the UK will be exempt from the quarantine procedure as of July 10. According to the new regulations that will be implemented in the coming days, passengers are no longer required to self-isolate themselves for 14 days if they have not been to another country, which is not included in the travel corridor list within the last 14 days prior to their arrival in the UK.

SunExpress operates daily flights from Antalya to Cologne, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hanover, Munich, Stuttgart, and Berlin in Germany and from Izmir to Cologne, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hanover, Munich, and Stuttgart. Besides Germany, the airline offers flights to many popular destinations in Europe, connecting Antalya to 21, Izmir to 23 and 10 cities in Anatolia, including Adana, Kayseri, Diyarbakır, Ankara, Elazığ, Gaziantep, Konya, Malatya, Samsun, and Trabzon to 18 destinations with direct scheduled flights.

Pegasus restarted flights between London Stansted Airport and Tel Aviv via Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen. Flights depart on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays to Ben Gurion International Airport; whilst flights from Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv to London Stansted Airport via Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen Airport will depart on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Pegasus Airlines CEO Mehmet T. Nane earlier said, "We are really pleased to be relaunching our flights following their temporary suspension as part of the restrictions put in place to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. It has only been our flights, not us, which have stopped during this uncertain time, which has seemed to us like years rather than months. We have continued to receive delivery of our new aircraft, enhanced our processes, and prepared for the new period ahead. We have worked continuously for the days when we would be reunited with our guests."

"We put the health and safety of our guests and employees first, and we will never compromise on this. We are disinfecting our aircraft more frequently according to international standards and in line with the aircraft manufacturers' directions. All our aircraft are fitted with high-efficiency HEPA filters which filter and replace the air in the cabin every three minutes on average. This means that the same air is not circulating, whilst 60% is fresh air from outside the aircraft. This air is filtered through the engine through heat of 1300 °C. This process destroys viruses, bacteria and similar particles in the air before entering the cabin. We also replace these filters periodically. For this reason, aircraft are one of the most hygienic environments due to this highly effective ventilation method. However, it is also vital to create and maintain a chain of hygiene throughout the entire journey from leaving the house to getting back home. This is where our role as individuals is most important. Let us continue to stay cautious and follow the instructions from the government and official health bodies, so that together we can win this fight."

### International Flights Start at Gazipaşa – Alanya Airport

Gazipaşa-Alanya Airport welcomed its first scheduled international flight in first days of August. Domestic flights have been running successfully since June. Operated by TAV Airports, Gazipaşa-Alanya Airport welcomed the first international flight with its 166 passengers; arrived the airport from Helsinki, Finland. The FinnAir aircraft was greeted by a water cannon salute upon arrival.



TAV Gazipaşa General Manager Ekrem Akgül said, "We are happy to welcome our passengers and scheduled flights at our airport. With the end of travel bans in early June, we started to serve domestic flights. Thanks to the comprehensive measures we have implemented with our stakeholders, we have carried out a smooth operation until today. Today, we welcomed our first international flight. In this

process, under the coordination of the Ministry of Transport, we would like to thank General Directorate of State Airports Authority, Directorate General of Civil Aviation and airlines as well as local government and NGOs and all our stakeholders. We hope that our international flights will continue to increase in the coming period, and we will welcome our guests from all over the world.”

During the summer season, FinnAir will initially fly once a week between Gazipaşa and Helsinki. Gazipaşa-Alanya Airport is preparing to welcome the first passengers from Russia this season on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Gazipaşa-Alanya Airport implemented the “Airports Pandemic Precautions and Certification Circular”, issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (SHGM). The staff is trained regarding the new regulations and code of conduct.

### **Jazeera Airways Resumed Istanbul Flights**



Jazeera Airways resumed its flights between Kuwait and Turkey with the re-launch of flights to Istanbul’s Sabiha Gökçen Airport. The first non-government owned airline in the Middle East resumed its flights to Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen Airport (SAW) on Saturday, August 15, 2020, according to [Travel Weekly MENA](#).

The Jazeera Airways aircraft carrying on its board 116 passengers received a warm welcome with a symbolic water cannon salute upon its arrival.

Jazeera Airways will fly between Kuwait and Istanbul three times in a week on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

### **Lion Air to Launch Flights to Istanbul, Appoints APG**



Lion Air, the Indonesian low-cost airline, has appointed APG as its GSA in Turkey in advance of launching flights to Istanbul. The APG office in Turkey will be providing full sales and marketing services as well as call center and ticketing facilities effective 1 Sep 2020.

Lion Air (JT) is planning to start a scheduled direct flight to Turkey on 1 October 2021 with 2 weekly flights. The flight will depart every Monday and Friday at 2300hrs from Jakarta Soekarno Hatta International Airport (CGK), arriving in Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen International Airport (SAW) at 0730hrs the next day. The returning flight will depart Istanbul every Tuesday & Saturday at 0950hrs, arriving in Jakarta at 0230hrs the next day. Lion Air will deploy an Airbus A330 with a capacity of 440 seats on the route.



### **Meetings on the Bridge Short Film Workshop Projects Announced**

Following the declaration of the World Health Organisation about COVID-19 as a pandemic, Meetings on the Bridge took the necessary precautions and performed its program online.

Meetings on the Bridge (MoB) is the international co-production and networking platform organised within the scope of the Istanbul Film Festival in collaboration with Anadolu Efes. Meetings on the Bridge Short Film Workshop was initiated with the support of Istanbul Development Agency (ISTKA) in 2017 aiming to highlight the importance of the short films for the careers of new generation filmmakers and to contribute to the increase of high-quality productions with international potential.



MoB Short Film Workshop will also be organised online between 14-23 September with the support of Asteros Film and in collaboration with Short By Short and Film Rental İstanbul.

The teams of 5 selected projects will be working with acclaimed short film writers, directors and producers on script, production, project packaging and pitching.

They will also get feedback on their projects from a director of photography, an artistic director, an assistant director, a production manager and a casting director who will analyse the projects from their point of view as film professionals.

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## NEWSLINE TURKEY

### Turkey Welcomes Travelers, No Quarantine, No Covid-19 Test Required

As international travel to Turkey resumed in June 2020, travelers from Europe and the Middle East started to fly Turkey to have their summer vacation. Turkey's tourism industry ramped up operations with the Safe Tourism Certification Program designed jointly by the country's tourism, health, transportation, and interior ministries.

Turkey is also one of the first destinations that received [WTTC Safe Travels stamp](#) and the country is a safe destination for travelers this summer. Istanbul Airport, which is the main hub for travelers, is the [first airport to be accredited](#) through the new Airport Health Accreditation programme launched by the Airports Council International (ACI) World and ACI EUROPE.

Following consultations between German and Turkish officials, the German Foreign Ministry updated its advisory against "all but essential" travel to Turkey. Germany has lifted its travel warning to four Turkish seaside provinces on August 4. Travelers from Germany to Antalya, Izmir, Muğla, and Aydin are now exempt. However, as a precaution, travelers returning to Germany will be asked to show a negative PRC (virus antigen) test taken no more than 48 hours before arrival.



Russia also resumed flights to Turkey in August. "We expect 1.8 million Russians to come to Turkey this year," informed Firuz Baglikaya, president of the Union of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB).

Direct, scheduled passenger flights between Turkey and the UK resumed on 11 June. British citizens traveling to Turkey for tourist or business purposes are able to travel without a visa for visits of up to 90 days in any 180-day period.

As of August 19, Turkey's popular Mediterranean resort town of Antalya welcomed 299,967 tourists from Ukraine, 281,398 from Russia, 221,151 from Germany, and 85,850 from the United Kingdom.

Turkey's Culture and Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy said on NTV TV channel, "If there is no setback in air traffic, as we haven't seen so far, we think that we can reach a tourist number of 15 million at the end of the year,". Mr. Ersoy also expects \$11 billion in tourism revenues this year.

Turkey's airline companies offer Tourist Protection and Support Insurance that features advantageous prices starting from EUR 15 for travelers to discover the heavenly destinations of Turkey with even greater peace of mind. Implemented by Güneş Sigorta under the leadership of the Republic of Turkey, visitors to Turkey are invited to experience the nation's many attractions while enjoying Covid-19 insurance coverage and peace of mind.

The wearing of face masks has become mandatory in all public areas in the country. Wearing face masks in venues such as shopping malls, supermarkets, restaurants, cafés, and hairdressers are mandatory nationwide.

### La Quinta by Wyndham Opens Two New Hotels in Turkey

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts announced plans to further expand its La Quinta® by Wyndham brand with the addition of two new hotels in Turkey. The new hotels are the 86-room La Quinta by Wyndham Giresun and the 175-room, La Quinta by Wyndham Bodrum. The new hotels join the previously announced 404-room La Quinta by Wyndham Istanbul Gunesli—the first La Quinta hotel to open outside of the Americas—and are the latest in a

string of international signings and openings since Wyndham acquired the brand in May of 2018.



Earlier this year, Wyndham announced plans to open two new La Quinta hotels in New Zealand, marking the arrival of the brand in Asia Pacific; and just last year, announced plans to open eight new La Quinta hotels in the Dominican Republic, four of which are currently under development. They build on the brand's existing portfolio of 14 hotels throughout Latin America. Globally, the brand has opened 55 new hotels since its acquisition.

"When La Quinta joined the Wyndham Hotels & Resorts family, we saw strong potential to expand the brand internationally and we are delighted to see its continued growth in Europe and around the world," said Dimitris Manikis, president, EMEA, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts. "These exciting properties on Turkey's charming coastline support our growth ambition and perfectly complement our other offerings in the market."

The new additions in Turkey—where Wyndham is the largest international hotel company with over 80 hotels—include two contemporary properties with central locations in the Black Sea coastal town of Giresun, as well as in Bodrum, one of Turkey's most popular and trendy seaside gateways.



## Two New Radisson Opened in Istanbul

Radisson Hotel Group expands its Radisson upscale Scandinavian-inspired brand to Istanbul in Turkey with the opening of two new hotels: Radisson Hotel Istanbul Sultanahmet and the Radisson Hotel President Beyazit Istanbul.



## Hilton to Open 4 New Hotels in Turkey

Hilton Hotels announced four new hotel openings in Turkey. The new hotels belong to Hilton's fast-growing upscale hotels brand DoubleTree by Hilton and Hilton Garden Inn, and Hampton by Hilton, the global upper-midscale brand known for its commitment to providing unmatched guest service.

Patrick Fitzgibbon, Senior Vice President Development, EMEA, Hilton, said, "As Hilton, we are in the Turkish market for over 60 years. We are very proud of being in Turkey and having a portfolio of 95 hotels that are open and in the project phase. The expansion of our portfolio in such a period is the most important indicator of the power of our brands in the market. DoubleTree by Hilton's room number in Turkey has passed 5000, it's considered to be an extraordinary achievement since the brand enters the market only 10 years ago,"

The new hotels are: DoubleTree by Hilton Şanlıurfa, which is expected to open in 2022, will be Hilton's second hotel in Şanlıurfa. The 192-room hotel will be located in Karaköprü, one of the most popular centers of the city. The hotel will have 4 meeting rooms, a ballroom, an indoor pool and a SPA center with 6 therapy rooms.

Hilton Garden Inn Balıkesir will be Hilton's first hotel in Balıkesir. The 105-room hotel in the middle segment, which is planned to open in 2022, will have 4 meeting rooms and a sports center. The property will be part of a mixed development project consisting of hotels, shopping malls, and offices located in the city center.

Hampton by Hilton Çerkezköy is Hilton's first hotel in Çerkezköy. The middle segment hotel will be located in Çerkezköy, which has developed as an industry and transportation hub. The hotel, which stands out with its proximity to Çerkezköy Train Station, City Hospital, Intercity Bus Terminal, and the historical center of the city, is planned to open in 2022. The 100-room hotel will have an indoor pool, a business center, and a gym.

Hampton by Hilton Arnavutköy will be opened in Arnavutköy, the rapidly developing district of Istanbul. The hotel, which is only 6 km from Istanbul Airport, will be connected to the airport by direct metro line. The 200-room central segment hotel, which is planned to open in 2023, will have a business center, a gym, and two meeting rooms.

Situated near the Grand Bazaar, St. Sophia and Topkapı Palace, these two new hotels combine modern and historical Turkish culture, reflective of this iconic city where Europe meets Asia. A stone's throw from the city's most prominent cultural, religious and gastronomic destinations, the hotels are the perfect home to immerse oneself into the wondrous tastes, sights and sounds of Istanbul including its biggest bazaars: the Grand Bazaar and the Spice Market where guests can be dazzled by the colors and flavors of Turkey with over 80 spice shops and hundreds of different spices.

The Radisson Hotel Istanbul Sultanahmet and the Radisson Hotel President Beyazit Istanbul successfully completed the Cleaning and Disinfection Assessment by SGS. This independent health and safety assessment ensures that all the cleanliness, disinfection and safety measures as outlined in the Radisson Hotels Safety Protocol have been implemented.

## IN BRIEF



**Hakan Şamhal** has been appointed as general manager of the Oba Hotel Bodrum.



**Pelin Ulusoy** has been appointed as general manager of Sheraton & Aloft Bursa hotels.



**Mesut Savucu** has been appointed as general manager of Park Dedeman Elazığ.



**Veli Tuzak** named as the general manager of Dedeman Palandöken and Dedeman Palandöken Ski Lodge Hotels.



**Hakan Arslan** is the new general manager of İstanbul Grand Makel Hotel.



**Kaan Fatih Bayhan** named as the general manager of Ramada Plaza By Wyndham İzmir.

### Face-To-Face Meetings to Recover in 1-2 Years

Most event professionals believe 1-2 years is a realistic timeframe to recover from COVID-19 following widespread disruption to face-to-face gatherings. A recent poll from leading event technology supplier EventsCase on nearly 500 participants looked to gauge predictions on the industry's chances of a "full recovery". The results showed that most professionals (52%) envisage a return to business as usual within the next 1-2 years. Only 28% voted for the next popular choice, 6-12 months, adding to the belief that organisers are prepared to sit tight as winter approaches.



A total of 14% predict an even longer recovery period of three years, with only 6% envisaging a rapid turnaround of 1-6 months. The survey closed just prior to the UK government's announcement that conferences and exhibitions would be allowed from October 1, 2020. However, this is dependent on successful "pilots" referenced in the Prime Minister's announcement.

Commenting on the poll's findings, Jose Bort, CEO and Co-Founder of EventsCase, said: "It is understandable that many feel it will take us up to two years to repair the damage inflicted by COVID-19. Many events simply cannot happen with the current restrictions, and that has a big impact on the scale that we are trying to recoup.

"That being said, we are taking great positivity from all the virtual and hybrid events that could bridge the gap between a pre and post-COVID world. Organisers now have the time and inclination to road-test new formats which make it easy for people to join in remotely. While we don't expect digital experiences to replace physical gatherings, a combination of the two might help organisers grow their geographical reach and potential audience."

Another poll from EventsCase supported the idea that virtual events will maintain their place in the industry once normal service is resumed. Just over half of the respondents (56%) expected them to evolve "parallel to physical events", with 34% believing they have the power to become formats in their own right.

EventsCase is one of the latest technology suppliers to roll out a series of tools for hosting online-only experiences. After reaching tens of thousands of guests through a number of virtual events, the platform announced its integration with Zoom to facilitate a more seamless user journey for attendees.

### ICCA to Offer Cleaning and Hygiene Accreditation for Meetings Industry

International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) formed a partnership with The Global Biorisk Advisory Council® (GBAC) to offer Facility Accreditation Programme and an online course.

GBAC, a Division of ISSA, the worldwide cleaning industry association and ICCA, the global community and knowledge hub for the international association meetings industry, will bring essential business reopening resources to ICCA members. ICCA's members include venues, tourism bureaus, airlines, and other event-related organisations.

As part of the agreement, ICCA will promote two GBAC programmes that help facilities and cleaning professionals better prepare for, respond to, and recover from biorisk situations:

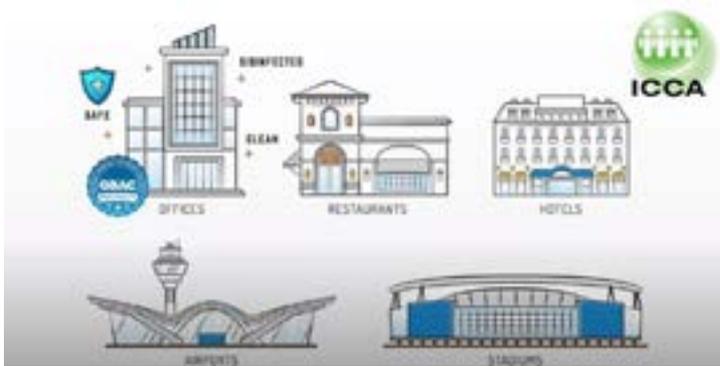
**GBAC STAR™ Facility Accreditation Programme**, which helps public and commercial facilities of all types and sizes set and maintain a cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention programme.

**GBAC Fundamentals Online Course:** Cleaning & Disinfection Principles, an e-learning course for cleaning professionals that highlights infection and contamination control measures for infectious disease prevention.

"We are pleased to be working with GBAC and their GBAC STAR Accreditation Programme that will encourage and allow our members to operate safely with shared best practices around hygiene. As organisations begin to open again, it is of utmost importance that they do so by showing their commitment to cleanliness during these times. We're glad to introduce such best practices to our members so that business events can return in the near future," **ICCA CEO, Senthil Gopinath.**

GBAC STAR accreditation demonstrates that a facility follows the proper cleaning protocols, disinfection techniques, and work practices necessary in the age of COVID-19. Facilities are encouraged to track their cleaning programme's progress and set goals for improvement in order to renew their accreditation annually. To date, numerous convention centers, hotels, and destinations have earned or committed to earn GBAC STAR accreditation.

The GBAC Fundamentals Online Course: Cleaning & Disinfection Principles educates cleaning professionals on cleaning and disinfection, including infection and contamination control measures for infectious disease outbreak



situations. Successful completion of the course results in a Certificate of Completion from GBAC and the ability to differentiate oneself as a “GBAC-Trained Technician.”

“With 1,100 ICCA member companies and organisations in nearly 100 countries, this partnership has the potential to help many facilities and cleaning professionals around the world improve their approach to cleaning, disinfection, and infection prevention,” said **GBAC Executive Director Patricia Olinger.**

### **GBAC STAR™ for Venues**

The GBAC STAR™ Accreditation Programme provides third-party validation that your venue meets a higher level of cleanliness and safety.

With GBAC STAR™, your venue is:

- ◆ Maintaining strict cleaning protocols for infectious disease.
- ◆ Using best practices to limit the impact of future outbreaks.
- ◆ Protecting building occupants now and in the future.
- ◆ Prepared for any recurring challenges in your workplace or facility.

With GBAC STAR™, your cleaning staff is:

- ◆ Highly informed for infectious disease response.
- ◆ Empowered to do their jobs safely and effectively.
- ◆ Trained to follow the right practices to keep themselves safe from disease.
- ◆ Bringing value to their communities and contributing to public health.

With GBAC STAR™, your customers have:

- ◆ The assurance that the venue has been disinfected to the highest standards.
- ◆ Renewed trust in building cleanliness and safety.
- ◆ Increased confidence to enter and feel comfortable inside the building.
- ◆ Peace of mind that proper cleaning is an ongoing venue management priority.

### **GBAC STAR™ for Meeting Planners**

- ◆ Meeting planners should seek out hotels and meeting spaces that are GBAC STAR™-accredited; look for the GBAC STAR™ seal and search the growing accredited facility listings and directory (launching late August 2020) at [gbac.org/star](http://gbac.org/star).
- ◆ More than 3,000 facilities in 66+ countries are currently seeking GBAC STAR™ accreditation for their facilities (as of August 6, 2020).
- ◆ Meeting planners should specify GBAC STAR™ accreditation in their RFPs to reinforce their priority and value of meeting participants' health and safety.
- ◆ A growing number of DMOs have already committed to GBAC STAR™ accreditation for their areas' transportation hubs, hotels, restaurants, public venues, and more.

### **GBAC STAR™ for Destination Marketing Organisations (DMOs)**

- ◆ Cities/destinations whose facilities have a critical mass of GBAC STAR™ accreditations will be uniquely positioned to drive confidence among leisure and business travellers that their communities are committed to clean, safe, and healthy environments both now and in the future.
- ◆ More than 3,000 facilities in 66+ countries are currently seeking GBAC STAR™ accreditation for their facilities (as of August 6, 2020).
- ◆ Meeting planners and event organisers have begun to actively seek locations with GBAC STAR™-accredited facilities to ensure their participants' health and safety when it is safe to meet again.
- ◆ A growing number of DMOs have already committed to GBAC STAR™ accreditation for their areas' transportation hubs, hotels, restaurants, public venues, and more.

ICCA Members can benefit from the 50% discount when [signing up](#) for GBAC Fundamentals Online Course. Use the **Referral Code: ICCA20** when signing up for GBAC Fundamentals Online Course or applying for GBAC STAR™ Accreditation.

### Malaysia Ensures Effective Compliance to Business Events

Malaysia Business Events Industry and government sectors engage to ensure effective compliance and adherence to Business Events (BE) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).



Business Events Council Malaysia (BECM) and Malaysia Association of Convention and Exhibition Organisers and Suppliers (MACEOS) with the support of Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB) brought together Malaysia's venue operators to engage with the Government on thorough monitoring and reporting as well as correct implementation and enforcement of the industry Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Present at the co-ordination meeting were Y.Bhg. Datin Sri Norfaliza, Head of Covid-19 Unit, Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture (MOTAC), Dr. Zulhizzam Hj. Abdullah, Deputy Director, Public Health Development Division, Ministry of Health (MOH), En. Hamzah b Ishak, Director of Crisis Management and National Intelligence, National Security Council (NSC), and Senior Assistant Commissioner M.V. Srikumar a/l Madhavan Nair, Department of Homeland Security & Public Safety (KDNKA), Royal Malaysia Police to share insights with the industry players on compliance and implementation of the SOPs.

"We are appreciative of this engagement with the government to help the industry implement effective measures to enforce adherence to SOPs. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Y.Bhg. Datin Sri Norfaliza who played an instrumental role in elevating our SOPs for consideration and endorsement. It is absolutely crucial for all industry players to commit to ensuring that in all stages of an event, from planning to execution to post event contract tracing, SOPs are strictly and ethically implemented and enforced. This will help the industry to instil confidence in the public and government that it is indeed possible to conduct events in a controlled, safe and secured environment," said Alan Pryor, Chairman, BECM.

Besides emphasising on the importance of adherence to the SOPs, the engagement session also shed light on the Government's support to the industry. Large Event Organisers were encouraged to liaise with the MOH and the Malaysia Royal Police in the planning phase of any large scale event to ensure a smooth and safe execution while the Industry itself was urged to reach out to all players, big and small, in the supply chain and to provide feedback through MyCEB on any challenges or problems faced in the implementation of the SOPs and to ensure they have access to the SOPs to ensure correct implementation.

BE industry supply chain is directly affected by no less than six SOPs covering the various activities that take place in differing facilities ranging from hotels and shopping malls to convention and exhibition centres and from special and government events to meetings, conventions and trade shows. The highest benchmark for each category was consolidated by BECM and MACEOS which culminated in the launch of the consolidated BE Guidelines late July. "The venue sector has to take the lead in ensuring conformity to the SOPs and it is imperative to ensure event organisers have 'covered' all the requirements in their pre-event planning. The execution in adhering to the SOPs is therefore a joint responsibility. Our primary objective is to demonstrate that events and exhibitions can and are being held in a controlled, secure and safe environment. For this, MyCEB, BECM and MACEOS will enforce strict self-regulation to ensure the BE industry can continue to operate in the new normal," said Dato' Sri Abdul Khani bin Daud, Chief Executive Officer of MyCEB.

"We urge all MACEOS members and other BE industry players to collaborate and adhere to the approved guidelines and SOPs. With venue operators taking the lead to implement the best SOP practices, event organisers will be able to abide by the requirements when executing their events in accordance to the standards of our Ministry of Health", said Dato' Vincent Lim, President, MACEOS.

Travel bubbles and cross border travel were also discussed and it was emphasized that these developments are highly dependent on the developing trends around the spread and containment of Covid-19 around the region and the world, as the prevention and control of the pandemic remain the most important priority, as such, virtual participation continues to be an integral option in all types of business events.

### Thailand Launches 'Ease Up' Campaign

Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) partners 54 hotels and 8 DMCs to roll out a new campaign "Ease Up" featuring a generous financial grant, free airport transfers, free sightseeing, and free hotel rooms.

The new campaign is launched at the virtual trade show, ITCM China 2020, on August 4 by Mrs. Nichapa Yoswee, Senior Vice President – Business of TCEB. It is the first virtual trade show the bureau has taken part in along with 20 Thai suppliers and 1 association.

In anticipation of the easing of international travel restrictions, TCEB has co-created this campaign “Ease Up” with destination management companies (DMCs) and hotels for meeting and incentive organisers. It is a part of a new, larger initiative by TCEB called I M People Focused (Incentives Meetings People Focused). This initiative – the result of an extended and in-depth dialogue between TCEB and industry partners – guided TCEB in crafting solutions that will bring success for meeting and incentive organisers as well as the organisations they serve because TCEB and partners believe in people and in responsible gathering and that business events are about sharing experience.



Under ‘Ease Up’, TCEB has allocated USD500,000 so that organisers can more effectively help their clients lower the cost of incentive travel and meetings.

DMCs and hotels have created high-value group packages for the campaign. 8 participating DMCs are offering complimentary airport transfers and a choice of local sightseeing, teambuilding or CSR activities. 54 hotels in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Khao Yai, Rayong, Koh Samui, Phuket, Khao Lak, Krabi, Pattaya and Hua Hin will reward organisers with complimentary guestrooms. Terms and conditions apply for all ‘Ease Up’ grants.

The campaign is open for application until March 31, 2021. All events must be completed by June 30, 2021. Applications must be submitted to TCEB at least 30 working days prior to the event date.

### **ECM and ICCA Form European Partnership**

ECM (European Cities Marketing) and ICCA (International Congress and Convention Association) have agreed to launch a European partnership to solidify collaboration and provide better-aligned benefits for their respective members.



The Partnership has agreed to begin a programme of exploring exchange and reciprocity in three areas: educational content, advocacy and a mentor programme. The partnership would implement a flexible framework of collaboration between the associations in order to achieve these benefits without compromising the focus and platform of each member organisation.

Work on the partnership will begin by engaging a series of educational exchanges incorporating each other’s knowledge content into their respective Congresses, develop a mentor programme for newcomers in the events industry and starting to align approaches taken to advocacy activities, beginning immediately.

Senthil Gopinath, ICCA CEO: “We are extremely excited to formalise an already existing long-term partnership and work closely together in moving the meetings industry forward in Europe together with ECM.” Through this partnership ICCA will further enhance its contribution towards meetings industry education.

“With this alliance, ECM and ICCA seal existing links to achieve greater efficiency in key areas, enabling better services for their respective members. We are very proud of this new milestone which outlines ECM development in the Meetings Industry worldwide. In those challenging times, this is also one more step to show the resilience of the Meetings Industry on the way to recovery”, said Petra Stuček, President of ECM and CEO of Visit Ljubljana.

### **ITB Asia 2020 Goes Virtual**

Messe Berlin (Singapore) announced today that ITB Asia, MICE Show Asia and Travel Tech Asia will go virtual. Originally scheduled on 21 – 23 October 2020, the annual travel trade show will be held on a virtual platform on the same dates, due to the uncertainty over continued global travel restrictions and safe distancing measures.

The virtual event will be hosted on a newly developed platform, also known as the ITB Community. ITB Community is set to launch on 12 August 2020. In addition to hosting this year’s edition of ITB Asia, MICE Show Asia and the inaugural Travel Tech Asia, ITB Community will also facilitate a year-long virtual engagement programme for key stakeholders which will allow them to continue forging new partnerships and strengthen existing business relationships with important players in the region.

Ms Katrina Leung, Managing Director, Messe Berlin (Singapore) said, “We undertake a huge responsibility as Asia’s

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leading travel trade show to adapt and serve the travel trade community in recovery. Taking into consideration the need for businesses to connect, it is imperative for us to unite the community to enable business meetings to take place for a seamless knowledge exchange. ITB Community will be the latest permanent addition to a wide variety of offerings we have for our customers to tap into for their business success.”

The three-day virtual event for ITB Asia, MICE Show Asia and Travel Tech Asia will incorporate key features such as business matching between buyers and sellers, top notch conference sessions, virtual exhibition and more, creating a marketplace for the travel industry.

### **ITB Asia, MICE Show Asia, Travel Tech Asia 2020 – A Virtual Experience**

The 2020 virtual edition for ITB Asia, MICE Show Asia and Travel Tech Asia will be complimentary and serves as a value-add to all confirmed exhibitors[1][1] of ITB Asia 2021. With over 5,000 pre-qualified international MICE, corporate and leisure buyers invited with a full-access pass to the exclusive virtual event, the three-day event will be available 24/7 to attendees to access business matching, conference sessions and the exhibitor directory.



Mr Andrew Phua, Executive Director, Exhibitions and Conferences, Singapore Tourism Board, said: “ITB Asia is Asia’s leading marketplace of ideas, concepts and products for the international travel industry. We are heartened that it is pivoting to a new event model

this year, demonstrating the travel trade’s ability to innovate and continue forging important partnerships in this challenging time. Virtual and hybrid event formats are likely to continue to complement future physical events, and we are confident that Singapore will continue to lead the way forward in this area.”

### **Hilton Introduces Hilton EventReady with CleanStay**

To address safe group travel practices and evolve today’s event experience, Hilton today announced a global, industry-leading cleanliness and customer service program specific to meetings and events.

Hilton EventReady with CleanStay is the next phase of the company’s recently launched [Hilton CleanStay](#) and was shaped by extensive research and feedback.

“At Hilton, we’ve always believed in the power of in-person connections and take pride in the exceptional experiences our teams create in partnership with event professionals,” said **Chris Nassetta, President and CEO, Hilton**. “In today’s new normal, we know that people planning and attending events of any size are focused on their health and safety. Hilton EventReady delivers innovative solutions for the entire event experience – from flexibility in planning and physical distancing protocols to transparency in cleanliness policies and inspiring catering options.”

The key tenets of the Hilton EventReady with CleanStay program include:



**Cleanliness Protocols:** The program expands on the elevated sanitation standards of the recently-announced Hilton CleanStay program, addressing every touch point of the meeting experience. This includes room seals for guest and meeting rooms, sanitizing stations in public areas and meeting spaces and EventReady Room Checklist.

**Book-to-Billing Flexibility:** Understanding the importance of flexibility, Hilton Teams will work hand-in-hand with customers to align on shared objectives, providing:

Flexible pricing, space options and contract terms;

Responsive offers to meet the needs of customers, like simplified agreements for small meetings;

Hilton EventReady Playbook, which delivers expert guidance and curated resources for solutions, such as Hybrid Meetings that seamlessly combine on-site attendees with those in remote locations, Room Sets and Creative Networking.

**Safe and Socially Responsible Solutions:** To responsibly host meetings and events, Hilton Team Members will partner with their clients to achieve the meeting's objectives while addressing both health and environmental concerns.

This includes presenting creative physical distancing meeting sets and meal service, developing inspiring food & beverage options and sharing environmental impact solutions measured by LightStay, Hilton's award-winning corporate responsibility measurement platform.

Each meeting and event experience is backed by Hilton hospitality from dedicated Team Members who aim to overdeliver on client expectations from both the event professional and the attendees.

For more information on Hilton EventReady with CleanStay visit [www.meetings.hilton.com/eventready](http://www.meetings.hilton.com/eventready)

### **IAPCO Launches The PCO Perspective: An Advocacy Guide**

IAPCO's (International Association of Professional Congress Organisers) international task force which was set up in June to support the congress and events industry in the recovery period following the public health emergency, has launched The PCO Perspective: An Advocacy Guide.

The guide was presented in the recent webinar organised by IAPCO, attended by the members of industry associations from 11 countries that are part of the task force, in which Federcongressi&eventi represents the Italian meetings industry.



The PCO Perspective: An Advocacy Guide, produced in partnership with the Joint Meetings Industry Council (JMIC), provides PCOs with strategic guidelines on how to raise institutions' awareness of the social, economic and cultural value of congresses and events, in order to obtain the necessary support to get through this undoubtedly difficult period. The document identifies 10 key points for effective communication with institutions.

These include: be proactive (propose guidelines for congresses and events to governments); demonstrate with data the economic impact generated by events and congresses; ask governments to provide a definite date for the reopening of the sector; team up with local stakeholders and invest in digitisation to make events held in person safer.

"Working in close contact with international colleagues shows us how, unfortunately, there is no country in which institutions realise the decisive role played by congresses and events as drivers of research, innovation, promotion of the region and business", comments Marica Motta, board member and Federcongressi&eventi's representative on the IAPCO panel.

"This period of major crisis on a global scale may however turn into an opportunity to make governments understand the strategic and cross-sector role of our sector in the economic recovery. It is therefore fundamental that all associations and professionals act to promote the values of the meetings industry with a single voice, following the guidelines set out in The PCO Perspective: An Advocacy Guide".

### **The Past and Future of Busan as an International Convention City**

Having attracted and hosted countless international conventions, Busan has grown into one of the world's top international convention cities. Ranked 4th in Asia and 12th in the world, according to the Union of International Associations' rankings of international convention cities, Busan continues to raise its status as a major MICE (meeting, incentives, convention, and exhibitions) city. The unique appeal of Busan's natural environment, top-class convention infrastructure, and tourism industry is colorfully blended into the city's MICE marketing, with the outcome being positive and consistent. Busan is an ideal setting for international conventions. Let's explore its milestones and future possibilities.

With the 2001 opening of the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center (BEXCO), featuring over 46,500 of exhibition space and 53 meeting rooms, Busan made a successful foray into the international convention industry. The success of APEC South Korea 2005 held in Busan catapulted the city to the status of a major international convention city in Asia. In the same year, the Busan Convention Bureau was established to ramp up the city's MICE efforts. Other notable large-scale international conventions held in Busan that brought it to global attention as an ideal MICE city include the 2009 OECD World Forum and the 2012 Lions Clubs International Convention.

In November 2019, Busan hosted the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit for the second time

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in a row since 2014. Some 10,000 attendees, including heads of state, governmental ministers, and corporate representatives from countries in the ASEAN region, attended the event, where pledges for exchanges were made in various areas. Busan's status as a hub for ASEAN exchanges was cemented when it also hosted the 1st Mekong-Republic of Korea Summit, held back-to-back with the 2019 ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit. In December of the same year, the 2019 International Diabetes Federation Congress was also successfully hosted in Busan, where a rare scene involving some 3,000 event visitors running through the city was created in a nocturnal marathon held to promote a sense of solidarity.

Beginning in early 2020, Busan has consistently adhered to Korea's COVID-19 strategy and is hosting safe events during the pandemic. Major international events scheduled for this year include landmark events such as the Busan One Asia Festival in October, and the 30th Anniversary World Congress on Biosensors in November. In the face of the coronavirus pandemic, a wide range of non-contact events made possible thanks to meeting technologies are taking place, and Busan's MICE industries are cooperating to overcome the crisis. Busan's safety in the midst of the pandemic is attested by its membership in the International Safe Community Network, a noteworthy feat as Busan was the first metropolitan-scale city in the world to be granted this level of recognition.



The future of Busan as a city of international conventions is bright. Having worked hard to earn the opportunity to host such large-scale international events as the 2021 World Team Table Tennis Championships, the 2022 International Microscopy Congress, and the 2026 International Federation of Automatic Control World Congress, Busan is now preparing for these events as its confirmed host city. This achievement didn't happen overnight; it required tremendous effort from the city to continuously improve its appeal as a host city. Thanks to its advanced MICE infrastructure, which includes an attractive selection of convention centers, hotels, unique venues, and support systems, Busan is ready to become the world's top international convention city.

Busan's potential for growth as an international convention city is infinite. As its milestones indicate, the city checks all the right boxes: the passion, ability, and infrastructure needed to provide the best possible international convention experience. Busan will continuously endeavor to attract and successfully host international conferences in these changing times, to become a proud and world-renowned international convention city.

### **Business Events Sector Reopening in England**

VisitEngland promotes business events worldwide as MeetEngland, driving awareness of England's products and highlighting its history of research, innovation and high-quality infrastructure to position it as a leading destination for business events.

MeetEngland welcomed the news of a timeline for the business events sector reopening in England. English destinations, venues and business event suppliers are preparing to welcome conferences and other business events from October.



Support your business recovery. **APPLY NOW**

VisitEngland's 'We're Good To Go' logo is a mark of approval for businesses that have been assessed and approved by VisitEngland. It is a mark of approval for businesses that have been assessed and approved by VisitEngland. It is a mark of approval for businesses that have been assessed and approved by VisitEngland.

VisitBritain/VisitEngland Director Patricia Yates said, "The timeline for reopening conferences and business events is great news for England's valuable events industry and the thousands of jobs that depend on it. Giving certainty to businesses means they can plan with confidence.

"MeetEngland, alongside our suppliers, has been working very hard to ensure the sector can get back on its feet, ready to welcome back visitors safely and to showcase the outstanding destinations, venues and incentive experiences that make England a leading destination for business events."

As the sector works towards reopening, MeetEngland is encouraging businesses to register for the UK-wide 'We're Good To Go' industry standard and consumer mark, providing a 'ring of confidence' for business events planners. The industry standard means businesses can demonstrate that they are adhering to Government and public health guidance, have carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment and have the required processes in place. Almost 30,000 businesses across the UK have already signed up to the industry standard.

We're Good To Go, launched by VisitEngland in partnership with Tourism Northern Ireland, VisitScotland and Visit Wales, ensures a standard-led approach across the UK. The self-assessment includes specific guidelines for sectors including accommodation, visitor attractions, restaurants and pubs and business conference and events venues with signposting to further industry and trade association guidance as required.

## 2020 European Capitals of Culture to Extend into 2021

Due to the effects of the coronavirus crisis, European Commission has decided to give Rijeka (Croatia) and Galway (Ireland) the possibility to extend their year as 2020 European Capitals of Culture until 30 April 2021.

Those cities have been severely hit, impeding them to implement their European Capital of Culture initiatives. The Commission also proposes to postpone the year in which Novi Sad (Serbia) is due to host a European Capital of Culture from 2021 to 2022 and the year in which Timisoara (Romania) and Elefsina (Greece) will hold the title from 2021 to 2023.

Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, said: “Rijeka and Galway deserve a fair chance to bounce back and showcase their resilience and creativity. Opening hearts and minds, welcoming diverse audiences and artists has always been the lifeblood of the European Capitals of Culture. And it shall remain so. I am confident that for Novi Sad, Timisoara and Elefsina, additional time will allow weathering the current downturn in the cultural and tourism sectors and mobilising relevant investment, including through solidarity at European level.”



Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: “Culture has been badly hit by the pandemic and European Capitals of Culture are no exception. Despite the energy, enthusiasm and professionalism of their teams and partners, Rijeka and Galway were unable to roll out their 2020 European Capital of Culture programmes as planned. I hope that both cities will make the most of the possibility offered to them to prolong their special year. I am sure that Timisoara, Elefsina and Novi Sad, the European Capitals of Culture next in line, will benefit from extra time to prepare their ambitious programmes.”

### UNWTO: This Crisis Represents an Opportunity to Rethink Tourism

Tourism has been among the hardest hit of all sectors by COVID-19 and no country has been unaffected, with restrictions on travel and a sudden drop in consumer demand leading to an unprecedented fall in international tourist numbers.

The “COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism” Policy Brief from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, makes clear the impact that the pandemic has had on global tourism and how this affects everything from jobs and economies to wildlife conservation and the protection of cultural heritage.

Mr Guterres said: that “It is imperative that we rebuild the tourism sector” in a “safe, equitable and climate friendly” manner and so “ensure tourism regains its position as a provider of decent jobs, stable incomes and the protection of our cultural and natural heritage”. The UN Secretary-General further underscored that tourism is one of the world’s most important economic sectors, providing “livelihoods to hundreds of millions more”, while it “boosts economies and enables countries to thrive”, and at the same time allowing “people to experience some of the world’s cultural and natural riches and brings people closer to each other, highlighting our common humanity”.

The Brief warns that the impacts of the pandemic on tourism are already placing conservation efforts in jeopardy. Citing case studies from around the world, it warns that the sudden fall in tourism revenues has cut off funding for biodiversity conservation and, with livelihoods at risk in and around protected areas, cases of poaching and looting are expected to rise. Again, the impact on biodiversity and ecosystems will be particularly critical in SIDS and LDCs. Furthermore, with 90% of World Heritages Sites having closed as a result of the pandemic, both tangible and intangible heritage is at risk in all parts of the world.

#### Five points priorities moving forward

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said: “Tourism touches on nearly every part of our societies and is a cornerstone of growth and employment, both in developed and developing economies. The United Nations Secretary-General echoes the five key priority areas that UNWTO has identified for tourism to return and drive wider recovery, and both governments and the private sector now have a duty to put this plan into action.”

The Policy Brief notes that women, youth and workers in the informal economy are most at risk from job losses and business closures across the tourism sector. At the same time, destinations most reliant on tourism for jobs and economic growth, including SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are likely to be hardest hit, including through an anticipated fall in foreign direct investment (FDI).

In addition to calling for strong support for the sector in mitigating these massive impacts, the Brief stresses that this crisis represents an opportunity to rethink tourism, including how it contributes to the SDGs. To this end, the

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Policy Brief provides Five Priorities for the restart of tourism, all aimed at ensuring a more resilient, inclusive and carbon neutral sector. These priorities are:

- ◆ Mitigate socio-economic impacts on livelihoods, particularly women's employment and economic security.
- ◆ Boost competitiveness and build resilience, including through economic diversification and encouragement of MSMEs.
- ◆ Advance innovation and digital transformation of tourism
- ◆ Foster sustainability and green growth
- ◆ Enhanced focus on coordination, and responsible leadership

Alongside penholder UNWTO, a further 11 United Nations agencies contributed to the Policy Brief, highlighting the sector's unique importance and outreach.

### **GBTA: Domestic Business Travel Continues to Trend Toward Recovery**

GBTA member companies worldwide, report an emerging willingness to permit employees to engage in domestic business travel, according to the latest poll conducted between August 5-9, 2020, by the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA).

Respondents to the poll; the 10th bi-weekly survey conducted among GBTA's members since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in February, continue to report virtually no willingness for employees to travel internationally, with 93% indicating the pandemic has curtailed all or most international business trips. By comparison, 74% of respondents report that the pandemic has curtailed all or most of their organization's domestic business trips.

That number has fallen by 19 percentage points since GBTA's mid-April poll of members and the lowest level since the pre-pandemic polling in late winter 2020.

"The business travel landscape continues to be difficult in Europe and the U.S., but we do see some small glimmers of recovery here and there," said Dave Hilfman, the interim Executive Director of GBTA. "More companies look to be trending positively on domestic trips, with Europe still showing the most positive uplift."

In Europe the outlook remains more positive, 70% of GBTA members in Europe expect domestic business travel to return in the next 2-3 months compared to just 26% in North America. Likewise, members based in Europe are more likely to expect international business travel to resume in the next 2-3 months (20%) than members based in North America (9%).

Three in four respondents (74%) report that their company has started to formulate a travel recovery plan. Tighter booking channels are a trend, with 66% of respondents stating they are less likely to allow travelers to book directly with suppliers and 65% are less likely to allow travelers to book with an OTA (Online Travel Agency), than before the pandemic.

When asked about new safety measures, PPE is the new business travel accessory. One-third (31%) of GBTA member companies plan to provide PPE for their travelers while 20% require their travelers to provide their own as an essential item for their safe return to travel. Only 6% report that their company is not making PPE mandatory for travelers.

While recovery plans are underway, the return to travel remains slow and is taking longer than previously expected. Suppliers (84%) are more likely than travel managers (73%) to say that business travel has resumed more slowly than they had originally expected.

"It is encouraging to see so many members companies working on travel recovery plans in preparation for their return to travel, with virtually all our members keeping employees' health and safety as their primary concern. New considerations such as PPE are being added to travel policy and GBTA is supporting members and the industry to ensure consistent health and safety measures across all sectors on a global basis," added Dave Hilfman, the interim Executive Director of GBTA.

### **Accessible Tourism for All in the New Reality**

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is calling on destinations to recognize the needs of travelers with disabilities or specific access requirements as they open up to visitors again.

In partnership with the ONCE Foundation of Spain and the European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT), the United Nations specialized agency has released new guidelines to ensure accessibility and inclusivity as the responsible restart of tourism gets underway.



According to the newest data from UNWTO, 40% of global destinations have now eased restrictions on travel introduced in response to COVID-19. Now, with tourism steadily returning, UNWTO has joined disabled people's organizations and organizations from across civil society to design a basic set of recommendations aimed at maintaining the ethos of "Accessible Tourism for All" in the new reality.

### **Accessibility means opportunity**

The "Reopening Tourism for Travellers with Disabilities" guide also notes the opportunities available to destinations that take steps to accommodate the specific needs of persons with disabilities, those with specific access requirements and seniors. This is particularly relevant now since tourism has been among the hardest hit of all major economic sectors, with businesses big and small at risk.

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said: "Much progress has been made in making tourism more accessible to all. As we guide the responsible restart of tourism, we must make sure that this progress is not rolled back. Instead, it must be stepped up as it will benefit everyone. These Guidelines, produced in collaboration with ONCE Foundation and ENAT show that simple, thoughtful measures can make a real difference for travellers – and in return, allow destinations to welcome this wide and diverse demographic as they look to recover from COVID-19."

Fundación ONCE Vice-President, Alberto Durán, underlined: "We are making great efforts to help everyone enjoy travel and tourism. It is fundamental that we use this time of change to sensitize all stakeholders to the need to include persons with disabilities and their families in tourism, leaving no one behind. These clients can help businesses stay afloat in these challenging times, representing opportunities for all.

ENAT President, Anna Grazia Laura stated: "These practical guidelines for curbing the spread of COVID-19, with due regard for accessibility and inclusion within tourism, can contribute to global efforts to reassure all visitors, benefitting tourists, businesses and destinations alike.

### **Guidelines for the whole of the sector**

The Guidelines are a set of basic recommendations addressed at different stakeholders working across the whole of the tourism value chain. All are aimed at helping stakeholders, including accommodation providers, bars, restaurants and tourism offices, adjust to new health and sanitary demands without reducing accessibility. The recommendations cover four distinct areas:

The full set of recommendations, "Reopening Tourism for Travellers with Disabilities: How to Provide Safety Without Imposing Unnecessary Obstacles" can be downloaded [here](#).

Travel Planning and Protocols: Including steps to guarantee seamless travel, and for making relevant information available and accessible to all

Transportation: Including the importance of upskilling employees, adjusting protocols for passengers with disabilities/access requirements at airports and stations, as well as the provision and hygienic upkeep of mobility equipment

Accommodation, Bars and Restaurants: Focusing on accessibility to cater for different needs of clients, guaranteeing social distancing, and enhanced hygiene procedures in all tourism-related establishments

Tourist Activities: Including recommendations to help destinations and attractions adapt existing protocols by taking into account accessibility issues related to queuing, health and safety measures, and new venue capacities

## **Airports Council International's 4th COVID-19 Economic Impact Analysis Bulletin**



Airports Council International (ACI) World analysis has revealed the actual and predicted extent of the impact on the global airport business of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In its fourth economic analysis bulletin - The impact of COVID-19 on the airport business - ACI has revealed that the airport industry is anticipating a -59.6% reduction in passenger volumes in 2020 vis-à-vis the projected baseline (pre-COVID-19 forecast for 2020) and a -58.4% reduction in passengers as compared to 2019. This equates to a reduction in passengers of -5.6 billion for the year.

Along with this, the airport industry is anticipating a -60% reduction in revenues as compared to the projected baseline. Revenues declined by -\$10.3 and -39.5 billion (figures in US Dollars) in Q1 and Q2 2020, respectively, compared to the projected baseline. The revenue shortfall is expected to lessen to -\$33.4 and -21.1 billion in Q3 and Q4 2020, respectively reaching an unprecedented \$104.5 billion reduction in revenue for 2020 which heavily

impacts the airport business.

ACI also highlighted a significant level of uncertainty surrounding the recovery trajectory, predicting that, by December, monthly traffic may reach between 27% and 60% of the projected baseline for December 2020. The most likely baseline scenario suggests passenger traffic volumes to reach 56%, ACI found.

Globally, passenger traffic volumes are forecast to not recover to 2019 levels before 2023 and markets that have significant international traffic will not recover until 2024.

“Airports are key drivers of economic development but, without any support from governments and with \$104 billion in losses because of the devastating impact of the pandemic on aviation, it is now the time to come together to support recovery,” ACI World Director General Luis Felipe de Oliveira said. “Aviation will be central to the global economic recovery, delivering connectivity, trade, tourism, jobs, prosperity and growth.

“As air transport has always been an industry based on the interdependence of all its parts, the COVID-19 crisis devastated all stakeholders—from aircraft manufacturers and travel agents to retailers in airports—and resulted in job losses, business shutdowns, bankruptcies, and other instances of economic devastation.

“Beyond the immediate and apparent damages, the global economy has been hit hard by the loss of the benefits arising from air transportation activity. Indeed, according to the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG), as of 2018, aviation supports 65.5 million jobs worldwide and enables \$2.7 trillion in global GDP.

“The recovery of air travel is crucial in the wider global economic recovery but, to succeed, it will need passengers to have confidence in the industry’s focus on their health and welfare.”

ACI has provided support and assistance for airports including initiatives like the Check & Fly app and its global Airport Health Accreditation programme to help them demonstrate that health and safety is the industry’s number one priority.

ACI World has also called on governments to follow a robust and consistent protocol for testing which should be implemented only when necessary and as an alternative to broad-brush requirements for quarantine.

“Unnecessary quarantine measures are harmful to passenger confidence so harmonized measures and a risk based approach that relies on scientific evidences will help to restore the traveller confidence and support the economy recovery of the aviation ecosystem,” Luis Felipe de Oliveira said.

### **More than 50% of Global Destinations are Easing Travel Restrictions**

World Tourism Organization announced that a majority of destinations around the world (53%) have now started easing travel restrictions. Though many remain cautious in view of the development of the pandemic, the seventh edition of the UNWTO “COVID-19 Related Travel Restrictions: A Global Review for Tourism” confirms the ongoing trend towards the gradual restart of tourism.



Analysing restrictions up to 1 September, the research carried out by the United Nations specialized agency for tourism found that a total of 115 destinations (53% of all destinations worldwide) have eased travel restrictions, an increase of 28 since 19 July. Of these, two have lifted all restrictions, while the remaining 113 continue to have certain restrictive measures in place.

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said: “Coordinated leadership and enhanced cooperation between governments means tourism is slowly but steadily restarting in many parts of the world. Starting to ease restrictions on travel opens also the doors for tourism’s social and economic benefits to return. While we must remain vigilant and cautious, we are concerned about those destinations with ongoing full travel restrictions, especially where tourism is a lifeline and economic and social development are under threat.”

### **Deepening tourism intelligence**

For the first time, the COVID-19 Related Travel Restrictions report includes key data on the health and hygiene infrastructure in place at destinations, while also analysing rate of notifications of new COVID-19 cases. This allows UNWTO to determine the factors that are influencing destinations’ decisions to ease restrictions. Notably, the report shows:

Destinations which have eased travel restrictions generally have high or very high levels of health and hygiene infrastructure. They also tend to have comparatively low COVID-19 infection rates.

Within advanced economies, 79% of tourism destinations have already eased restrictions. In emerging economies,

just 47% of destinations have done so.

64% of those destinations which have eased have a high or medium dependence on air as a mode of transport for international tourism arrivals.

At the same time, the report shows that many destinations around the world are extremely cautious about easing travel restrictions they introduced in response to the pandemic and some have passed severe measures in an attempt to keep their citizens safe. 93 destinations (43% of all worldwide destinations) continue to have their borders completely closed to tourism, of which 27 have had their borders completely closed for at least 30 weeks.

Furthermore, more than half of all destinations with borders completely closed to tourism are classified as being among the World's Most Vulnerable Countries. They include 10 SIDS (Small Island Developing States), one Least Developed Country (LDC) and three Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs). More than half of destinations with full restrictions still in place are also highly dependent on aviation, with at least 70% of their tourist arrivals coming by air, causing significant connectivity impacts for their citizens and economies.

UNWTO continues to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism. From the start, the UN specialized agency has advised that the situation is fluid and that, even as tourism restarts in some regions, in others, restrictions may be tightened and borders re-closed. Similarly, UNWTO has observed a rise in travel advisories being issued by governments for their own citizens, alongside more and varied restrictions and other measures directed at passengers arriving from specific countries or regions.

### **Safe Travels Protocols for Adventure Travel**

The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTTC) has unveiled the latest set of measures designed to rebuild global consumer confidence, reduce risk and encourage the return of Safe Travels in adventure tourism. The latest protocols for the global Travel & Tourism sector focus on measures to ensure the reopening of adventure tourism, which should see an increase in popularity as travelers seek more unique experiences post COVID-19.



WTTTC, which represents the global Travel & Tourism private sector, held detailed discussions with key stakeholders and organizations to ensure maximum buy-in, alignment, and practical implementation.

The measures help to set clear expectations of what travelers can experience in the 'new normal' which offers safe environments as travel restrictions are eased.

Backed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the WTTTC protocols also take into account guidelines from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC), and the WTTTC Safe Travels stamp recognizes those destinations, countries, businesses, and governments worldwide which have adopted them.

Protocols for the adventure tourism industry were compiled on the basis of insights and frameworks developed by the Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA), in collaboration with a number of key tour operators in the segment such as Abercrombie & Kent, Eurotur, Intrepid, and The Travel Corporation (TTC), to support the safe, healthy and responsible restart of adventure tourism around the world.

Within these protocols, the adventure tourism industry refers to a wide variety of adventure tourism experiences including cycling, rafting, trekking, skiing, snowboarding, wildlife safaris and culinary tours, among others.

Not only are these activities mostly outdoors, thus limiting time spent in indoors; but group sizes can be managed to allow for physical distancing. It is expected that this type of tourism will see growth in the post-COVID landscape.

Gloria Guevara, WTTTC President & CEO, said: "Adventure tourism is becoming increasingly popular amongst travelers and will represent a key component to travel in the new normal. According to our recently launched COVID-19 Travel Demand Recovery Dashboard, it is also one of the fastest-growing segments, which is why it is vital to establish measures allowing safe travels for adventure travelers.

"Consumer confidence is crucial for Travel & Tourism to resume. We know travelers will want to explore the world around them once more, so long as they are confident in their safety. The return of Travel & Tourism will help power the world's much-needed economic recovery, which is why these protocols are so important.

"We would like to pay tribute to all those companies in the global private sector who have stepped forward and rallied around in support of the WTTTC Safe Travels protocols. They create the consistency needed to allow a re-invigorated Travel & Tourism sector to re-open for business.

## MEET AT EXHIBITION



### Forum Show at SALT Beyoğlu

SALT Research's Art Archive is showcasing a collection of photographs of exhibitions that have taken place between 1950 and 1995. In the Forum at SALT Beyoğlu, one assemblage highlights Turkey's art history with an added touch of nostalgia given the recent closure of art venues amid pandemic

It is a simple, understated curation, but in that way familiar and comforting, almost like stepping into the family home for an informal teatime roundtable with relatives and neighbors, poring over black-and-white photographs to reminisce about times at once older, and somehow younger.

Ahmet Müderrisoğlu is in mid-pose. He could be playing air guitar, clenching one fist at his hip as he raises his left hand to the sky under the punk mop locks that cover his face entirely. The other seven in the picture appear as out of an interior winter scene in Istanbul among the heady airs of its mid-1990s art world heyday.

Müderrisoğlu is an abstract painter with a pop edge, employing vibrant, artificial colors as if out of an advertising scheme for the uncultured swayed by flashes of instantly gratifying, common images on repeat, however, bent out of shape. In the photo on display at the Forum in SALT Beyoğlu, from the opening night of a show at Devlet Han, he stands next to a stoic, thick-jacketed and long-haired Ismet Doğan.

Doğan is as emotionless as he seems in more recent profiles, where he is often standing beside his mixed media canvases of semi-abstract naturalist representationalism. He is the only one in the photo not smiling or even animated. He must be taking himself very seriously. But the others do not. A youthful, smiling Ali Akay places his hand on the shoulder of a warmly grinning Gülsün Karamustafa. Akay had just become an associate professor and would go on to head the Mimar Sinan University's sociology department. Through her practices as an artist and filmmaker, Karamustafa also tackled social themes, such as gender and ethnicity.

Pictured from left to right, Ahmet Müderrisoğlu, Ismet Doğan, Hüseyin Bahri Alptekin, Emre Zeytinoğlu, Bülent Şangar and sitting Ali Akay, Gülsün Karamustafa and Müşerref Zeytinoğlu. (PHOTO COURTESY OF SALT Research)

Pictured from left to right, Ahmet Müderrisoğlu, Ismet Doğan, Hüseyin Bahri Alptekin, Emre Zeytinoğlu, Bülent Şangar and sitting Ali Akay, Gülsün Karamustafa and Müşerref Zeytinoğlu. (PHOTO COURTESY OF SALT Research)

Müşerref Zeytinoğlu laid down on her side, and with her head in her hand, looked up and smiled for the camera. Her research has focused on the skin and the body as the head of the fashion and textile design department at Yeditepe University in Istanbul where she teaches courses on drawing techniques and color analysis. Her blonde hair matched with the casual sweater worn by Hüseyin Bahri Alptekin, a slightly rotund sort who tilted his head

upward for the lens like a Shakespearian actor about to pontificate on the muses of the universe. Alptekin had a global mind for the eccentrically hyperreal nexus of installation art and aesthetic philosophies.

With a cool sideways stance, the prolific ceramicist and theorist Emre Zeytinoğlu wraps his palm around a glass and eyes his colleagues, all in the prime of their lives, as their lives are frozen for a passing moment in which they may or may not have been reflecting on the nature of time and its ephemerality. Zeytinoğlu and Akay had just published a book together a year prior to the photograph, “A Deconstruction of the Urinal” (1994), in reference to the classic found object installation by Marcel Duchamp.

And interestingly, the book that Zeytinoğlu and Akay published was released for the opening of Istanbul’s Urart Art Gallery, where photographer and installation artist Bülent Şangar had his first exhibition. Şangar stood as the rightmost persona in the group photo at the Forum in the entranceway foyer of the SALT Beyoğlu. While relatively unimportant in passing, the image is a treasure trove of references to the early career collaborative spirit that would define life in the contemporary art world when Istanbul’s culture sector was bubbling with the unprecedented and as yet unparalleled invention.

Then-Prime Minister Tansu Çiller, former Culture Minister Fikri Sağlar and artist İnci Eviner at the 1993

Then-Prime Minister Tansu Çiller, former Culture Minister Fikri Sağlar and artist İnci Eviner at the 1993 “Female Artists from the Republic to Present” exhibition at the Istanbul Archaeological Museums, Istanbul, Turkey. (PHOTO COURTESY OF SALT Research)

### **A thousand and one words**

Another trio of photographs features a stern, middle-aged Cengiz Çekil in all three. Either with his hands behind his back, or crossed in front of him, he is stone-faced and still, but maintains a solid posture. Standing with colleagues for the 1995 exhibition of Canan Beykal at Şantiye Gallery in Izmir, he is mustachioed, wearing a grey suit jacket with downtrodden eyes that might indicate some exhausted tragedy. It is coincidental to note that the SALT has just released a major book publication surveying the extent of Çekil’s oeuvre.

The book, titled “Cengiz Çekil: 21.08.1945-10.11.2015,” was edited by SALT co-founder Vasıf Kortun, who also contributed to the volume’s original texts. Inside its pages, interviews include Vahap Avşar, who appears in the Forum photo series in the same frame as Çekil. Avşar can also be seen joined by artist and professor Selim Birsnel, who remains active at such galleries as Riverrun and Öktem Aykut. Avşar has a brighter countenance in his stance, as he dons a white getup, and under close-cropped hair appears as a young and determined man of the cultural scene. By the time of the photo in 1995, Avşar had become a critical artist in Turkey and moved to New York.



Canan Beykal makes another welcome appearance in the next series of three photos at the Forum, which chronicle the 1993 exhibition, “Female Artists from the Republic to Present,” held at Istanbul Archaeology Museums. She stands in heavy clothes of warm autumnal colors besides the Turkish painter Tomur Atagök, who has lately taken on a more polychromatic character in recent pictures, compared to her relatively muted attire nearly three decades past. Her archive at SALT Research is the source for these photos in which Beykal stands across from painters Neşe Erdok, famous for disproportional figures and artist Nur Koçak.

These powerful women changed the face of Turkish art, and in the process, redefined male-dominated stereotypes of regional cultural leadership through creativity, touching on the world of business. A harmonious note of historical relativity between when the photos were taken at the Istanbul Archaeology Museum and now is in the portrayal of İnci Eviner, who watched as former Prime Minister Tansu Çiller, Turkey’s first and only female prime minister, and former Culture Minister Fikri Sağlar eyed a spastic work of multimedia two-dimensional sculpture excavating prehistoric motifs and semi-representational figures.

Eviner is currently showing a new series of works, titled, “What Remains, What Returns, Implications,” only a few steps away from the SALT Beyoğlu at Galeri Nev Istanbul. Her style is deeply informed by studies of the subconscious imagination, with historical references and trains of thought that fleck and spray to abandon across the ink-black empyrean of nightmares and daydreams. And as an innovator whose works continue to influence contemporary art in Turkey, she is in good company at the Forum show of vintage photographs. (BY MATT HANSON)

# Istanbul Music Festival 2020 Celebrates



# 250th Anniversary of Beethoven's Birth





The 48th Istanbul Music Festival will meet music lovers virtually between 18 September and 5 October 2020. Curated around this year's theme, The Enlightened World of Beethoven, the festival concerts filmed at historical venues in Istanbul, Ankara, and various cities of Europe.

Organized by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSV) with the support of the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the 48th Istanbul Music Festival will be available for streaming on [online.iksv.org](http://online.iksv.org) for audiences to enjoy on their screens.

The online festival will kick off with the Opening Concert to be streamed online for free on [online.iksv.org](http://online.iksv.org) and İKSV's YouTube channel on 18 September. All concerts from the festival programme will be available for audiences both in Turkey and around the world with stunning image and sound quality, and accessible ticket prices.

Concert tickets will go on sale at a single ticket price of **20 TRY**. The audiences will also be able to purchase a bundle ticket that is valid for all the concerts for **250 TRY**. As part of the festival, a new concert will be open to stream every day as of **18 September**, and the concerts will be accessible for **30 days**. Viewers will be able to stream the concerts for **7 days** after they start watching.

### Concert recordings at historical venues

The 48th Istanbul Music Festival concerts were filmed by professional crews at historical venues in Istanbul, Ankara and various cities of Europe, with ensembles such as the **Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra, Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra, Wiener Akademie, Bilkent Symphony Orchestra, Kheops Ensemble, Philharmonix, Beethoven Trio Berlin, Borusan Quartet, Semplice Quartet** and with soloists like **Thomas Hampson, Vikingur Ólafsson, Benjamin Schmid, Anna Tifu, Bülent Evcil, Derya Türkan, Yurdal Tokcan, Gökhan Aybulus, Ezgi Karakaya, and Pelin Halkacı Akın**.

The concert venues include the Theodosius Cistern, Palace of the Porphyrogenitus, Khedive Palace, Tophane-i Amire Culture and Art Centre, Harbiye Saint Esprit Cathedral, Surp Ohan Vosgeperan Armenian Catholic Church, Süreyya Opera House in Istanbul, and the Abbaye de Stavelot, Wonderfeel Festival Site, Schubertkirche in Belgium, Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands.

### Festival celebrates the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth

In 2020, the 48th Istanbul Music Festival, centred on the theme **The Enlightened World of Beethoven** celebrates the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven, along with the rest of the world. The festival will feature iconic works of the composer, as well as new commissions and projects inspired by his music.

The Istanbul Music Festival programme evokes the essential aspects of the composer's music such as the 'love of nature', 'love of humanity' and 'innovative and visionary music language'. With his bold musical language, Beethoven defied the boundaries of musical genres of his time and set new standards that still influence the music world and manifest in most of the festival performances.

### **Free festival events on İKSV's YouTube channel**

Besides the Opening Concert of the 48th Istanbul Music Festival that will be accessible for free at [online.iksv.org](https://online.iksv.org) and [İKSV's YouTube channel](#), the festival will present a series of talks on art history and music, pre-concert talks and children's workshops on **İKSV YouTube channel**, to be held in Turkish.

### **Opening Concert by Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra and violinist Emre Engin**

The 48th Istanbul Music Festival opens on **18 September at 20.00** on [online.iksv.org](https://online.iksv.org) and **İKSV's YouTube channel** with the **Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra**, the festival's **2019-2022 Opening Concert Orchestra**. The concert under the baton of **Aziz Shokhakimov**, with violinist **Emre Engin** as the soloist, features works by Beethoven, Mozart, Prokofiev, and Bartok. Filmed at the Boğaziçi University South Campus in July, the concert was attended by a limited number of İKSV's Tulip Card members in line with the COVID-19 measures. The online concert will be preceded by the opening speech of the Chairman of İKSV **Bülent Eczacıbaşı** and introductions of this year's festival award recipients.

### **Festival's Honorary Award goes to Ahmet Say**

The 48th Istanbul Music Festival's Honorary Award will be presented to musicologist and music writer **Ahmet Say**.

Born in Istanbul in 1935, **Ahmet Say** began taking piano lessons at a young age. In 1946, invited by Ferdi Statzer, he entered the Istanbul Municipal Conservatory, where he studied theory and solfège with Demirhan Altuğ, piano with Verda Ün, and harmony with Raşit Abed. He left the Conservatory in 1950 and went to Germany where he studied media and press. During this time, under the guidance of musicologist Kurt Kohler, he got interested in musicology. Upon his return to Turkey he worked as a public educator in Bingöl. Here he collected folk songs, laments, fairytales and legends, and founded children's and youth choirs as well as folk dance ensembles. Putting his experiences to use in the field of literature, he wrote award-winning novels and short stories (TRT Award, Sabahattin Ali Award, Antalya Film Festival Award, Milliyet Newspaper Novel Competition Award). In 1964 he settled in Ankara, where he worked for various newspapers and magazines. He published a monthly literary magazine, Turkish Writers. He turned to music education and music publications in 1974 and to this day, he has been directing the Müzik Ansiklopedisi Yayınları (Music Encyclopaedia Publications) that he founded, as well as writing music reviews and books on music.





### **Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Alexander Rudin**

One of the leading representatives of Russian school of music; cellist, conductor, pianist, harpsichordist, and professor **Alexander Rudin** will be the recipient of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award. **Alexander Rudin** will be presented the Lifetime Achievement Award at the next year's festival.

Alexander Rudin's artistic approach derives its strength from his natural interpretation with a careful and sensitive relationship with musical text. Despite having received education in traditional academic style, Rudin, who has focused on the authentic interpretations in early music, performs the Romantic period works in traditional style, while performing historically informed interpretations of the Baroque and Classical periods. With his vast repertoire covering four centuries, he has been performing the world and Russian premieres of contemporary composers' works. Rudin has conducted many orchestras including London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the





Vienna Symphony, the Bavarian State Opera, the Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Russian National Orchestra. As of 1988, Alexander Rudin is the Artistic Director and principal conductor of Musica Viva Chamber Orchestra, as well as the Artistic Director of the Dedication International Music Festival in Moscow.



## The Aydın Gün Encouragement Award for 2019 goes to young violinist Elvin Hoxha Ganiyev

Awarded every year since 2012 by the **Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSVA)** to promising young classical musicians, the **Aydın Gün Encouragement Award** of 20,000 TRY is granted to the 22 year-old violinist **Elvin Hoxha Ganiyev** in its eighth year.

**Elvin Hoxha Ganiyev** was born in 1997 into a family of esteemed musicians and started playing the violin when he was 5 years old. At the age of 8, he made his concerto debut with his grandfather Server Ganiyev, and that same year he was admitted to the Zurich Conservatoire Young Student Programme. At the age of 10, Elvin made his debut with Moscow Virtuosi under the baton of Vladimir Spivakov at the Kremlin Palace. He holds a bachelor's degree from Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía in Spain. **Ganiyev** is currently pursuing his master's degree at Hochschule für Musik Theater und Medien Hannover in Germany.

**Ganiyev** has performed with renowned conductors, such as Zubin Mehta, Yuri Bashmet, Sasha Goetzl, Gürer Aykal, Rauf Abdullayev, Plácido Domingo, Jules van Hessen, and David Bernard. He has concertized with such virtuosos as Vadim Repin, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Maxim Vengerov, Cihat Aşkın, and Fazıl Say at prominent concert halls throughout the world such as the Carnegie Hall, the Berlin Philharmonic Hall, Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow, Opera Garnier Monte-Carlo, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, and the Royal Albert Hall in London. At the age of 13, Ganiyev performed as a soloist in the opening concert of the 38th Istanbul Music Festival with the Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Gürel Aykal.



Among the many leading orchestras that Ganiyev has performed with are the Moscow Virtuosi, Shanghai Chamber Orchestra, Amsterdam Philharmonic, Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic, Azerbaijani Philharmonic, Qatar Philharmonic, Odessa Philharmonic, New Russia Orchestra, Bilkent Chamber & Bilkent Symphony Orchestra, Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, Turkish Presidential Symphony Orchestra, Istanbul State Symphony, and İzmir State Symphony. He has received numerous awards and honours at prestigious international competitions including the David Oistrakh Violin Competition, Lipinski-Wieniawski Competition for Young Musicians, Golden Medal Berliner International Music Competition, and Vienna International Music Competition to name a few.

### Festival contributes to artistic production with three new commissions

Istanbul Music Festival commissions new works to local and international composers since 2011 to support contemporary artistic production. This year, the festival enriches the contemporary music repertoire with **three new commissions**. While one of the works receives its world premiere at the festival this year, the other two commissions will make their premieres at the next edition of the festival in 2021.

The commission to the Turkish composer **Turgay Erdener** entitled **Nonet Pastoral 'alla turca'** interweaves Beethoven's Pastoral with themes from Ottoman composers, and it is part of the Beethoven Pastoral Project run within the scope of BTHVN2020. Erdener's work will receive its world premiere online on **27 September** under the sponsorship of **STONELINE** with the master musicians **Derya Türkan, Yurdal Tokcan, Serkan Mesut Halili, Aykut Köseleli, Kağan Yıldız, and Semplice Quartet**.

The other work **Toprak Sever İnsanları Birer Birer (Earth Loves People One by One)** by **Hasan Uçarsu** is a co-commission with **Tekfen Foundation** and funded by **Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation**. Inspired by the poems of the Turkish poet Fazıl Hüsnü Dağlarca, Uçarsu's new work alludes to the universal values Beethoven represents both in person and in his music.

Co-commissioned by the **Istanbul Music Festival, Philharmonie Essen, Autumn Chamber Music Festival Riga and Wigmore Hall** with the support of the President of the Hoffmann Foundation **André Hoffmann, Peteris Vasks'** new work **String Quartet No. 6** is based on the 3rd movement of Beethoven's op. 132, 'Heiliger Dankgesang' (Holy Song of Thanksgiving).

The world premiere of **Earth Loves People One by One** and the Turkey premiere of **String Quartet No. 6** will be given at next year's festival.

İSTANBUL  
KÜLTÜR  
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IKSV  
MÜZİK

18 Eylül -  
5 Ekim  
2020

# 48. İstanbul Müzik Festivali

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EKRANLARINIZDA.

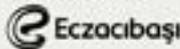


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### **Istanbul Music Festival presents the Festival Orchestra**

Under the extraordinary conditions of the pandemic, the festival, together with all its supporters, has decided to hold the 2020 edition in order to create opportunities for musicians and music sector workers, and to ensure the continuity of cultural activities. With the new edition, Istanbul Music Festival establishes a festival orchestra with the support of **Bell Group & Organik Holding**. Comprising **Turkey's most talented young musicians** under the baton of **Cem Mansur**, the Festival Orchestra brings a qualified, dynamic, and innovative approach to music making. In its debut concert, which was recorded at the **Tophane-i Amire Culture and Art Centre** and to be streamed online on **22 September**, the Festival Orchestra performs a colourful programme with works by composers from various countries.





### **Festival's Weekend Classics concerts**

A tradition for the festivalgoers, the free Weekend Classics that usually take place outdoors on weekend mornings throughout the festival, are also held online this year and welcome the world thanks to the sponsorship of **Mercedes-Benz Türk A.Ş. / Mercedes-Benz Otomotiv Tic. ve Hiz. A.Ş.** The concerts recorded at the **Khedive Palace** in Istanbul and **Wonderfeel Festival Site** in the Netherlands will be available for free on [online.iksv.org](http://online.iksv.org).

At the **first concert of the Weekend Classics**, **MİAM Percussion Ensemble** will offer a selection of jazz, Latin and world music, followed by the **'Make It & Play It'** workshop for children aged 3-6 on making instruments from scrap materials on İKSV's YouTube channel. The concert will be open to streaming on **20 September at 11.00**.

**The second concert of the Weekend Classics** will celebrate Beethoven's love of nature with **The Netherlands Saxophone Octet's** unique project **'Canto in Flow'**, which will guide the audience into a unique flow where music, breath and movement become one. Recorded at the **Wonderfeel Festival Site** in 's-Graveland, the Netherlands, the concert will also offer a yoga experience with English instructions, enabling the viewers to join through their screens. After the concert, children aged 4-7 will have a chance to join the **'Ek Biç Ye İç'** workshop on making seed balls and self-watering pots, which will be streamed online at İKSV's YouTube channel.





### **Project for children: The Stronger Together Choir II (Birlikte Güçlü Sesler Korusu II)**

The Stronger Together Choir (Birlikte Güçlü Sesler Korusu), which brought children and youth with various disabilities together with the Music for Peace Foundation Choir at the 47th Istanbul Music Festival, will bring children from refugee and host communities together in Turkey this year. Initiated by İKSV Alt Kat: Learning and Interaction Space with the support of Istanbul Development Agency (İSTKA) in 2019, the second edition of The Stronger Together Choir II (Birlikte Güçlü Sesler Korusu II) will be realised with the kind contribution of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The choir, which will be conducted by Zeynep Eren Kovankaya and will consist of children from the Human Resource Development Foundation, Mavi Kalem Social Assistance and Solidarity Association and the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Immigrants, will present the unifying power of music between different cultures with a multilingual repertoire.

The Stronger Together Choir II (Birlikte Güçler Sesler Korusu II) will meet the audience at a mini concert before Festival Focus: BIPO "From Baroque to Classical" concert on 2 October.





### **Festival continues to support the ‘Women Stars of Tomorrow’ through Young Women Musicians Support Fund**

In 2018, the festival initiated a project to support the next generation of female musicians. Women Stars of Tomorrow: Young Women Musicians Support Fund was launched in collaboration with TSKB (Türkiye Sınai Kalkınma Bank) and the contribution of the audiences to advance the international careers of gifted musicians in the branches of instrument, singing, and conducting.

The project is open to young Turkish female musicians who seek for financial support to study abroad or for various activities to further their careers. The selection committee, presided by the Deputy Director General of İKSV, musicologist Dr. Yeşim Gürer Oymak comprises conductor and Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall General Artistic Director Cem Mansur, violinist and conductor Hakan Şensoy, piano duo Ufuk and Bahar Dördüncü, and pianist İris Şentürker.





The recipients of the project are Aslıhan Gençgönül (cello), Billur Ogun (trumpet), Cansu Özdamar (piano), Doğa Çetin (violin), Ece Selin Yüksel (flute), İdil Bursa (cello), İlke Işı Tuncer (violin), İrem Özyiğit (double bass), Mercan Demirkanlı (flute), Nora Heder (viola), Seher Karabiber (flute), and Simay Gönültaş (bassoon).

Among the young women musicians selected for support, Ece Selin Yüksel (flute), İdil Bursa (cello), İlke Işı tuncer (violin), İrem Özyiğit (double bass), and Seher Karabiber (flute) will make their appearance at a concert recorded at the Süreyya Opera House with the pianist Ayşegül Sarıca as guest artist. The concert will be streamed online on Tuesday, 29 September at 20.00. At the Pre-Concert Talk, which will be streamed online on İKSV's YouTube channel, the journalist and author Melis Alphan will interview Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of SosyalBen Foundation Ece Çiftçi on her personal success story.





### **Festival tickets go on sale on Friday, 4 September**

Tickets for the 48th Istanbul Music Festival will be on sale on here with a standard price of 20 TRY as of 10.30 on Friday, 4 September. The audiences will also be able to purchase a bundle ticket that is valid for all the concerts for 250 TRY.

Priority sales for Tulip Card members are on Wednesday, 2 September for Black and White Tulip, and Thursday, 3 September for Red, Orange and Yellow Tulip members at 10.30. Black and White Tulip Card holders are entitled to a discount of 25% while 20% discount is applicable for Red, Orange and Yellow Tulip Card holders. Click to become a member.

With the Eczacıbaşı Culture & Art Card, 2000 university students in Turkey between 18-25 years of age received 250 TRY that can be used until the end of 2020 for İKSV events and Istanbul Museum of Modern Art. Eczacıbaşı Culture & Art Card holders will also be able to use their cards from 10.30 on Friday, 4 September to purchase tickets for the Istanbul Music Festival concerts.





### **Supporters of the 48th Istanbul Music Festival**

The 48th Istanbul Music Festival is organised with the support of several performance sponsors. Performance sponsors with the Highest Contribution are Borusan Sanat, Borusan Holding, Tekfen Foundation and Mercedes-Benz Türk A.Ş. / Mercedes-Benz Otomotiv Tic. ve Hiz. A.Ş.

Among the festival's performance sponsors are Türkiye İş Bankası, STONELINE, Nobel İlaç, bluechip Creative Events, Bell Group & Organik Holding, Berrin Erengül & Eva Barlas, Elvan Tuğsuz Güven, Işıklar Holding and Mercedes-Benz Türk A.Ş. / Mercedes-Benz Otomotiv Tic. ve Hiz. A.Ş.

Additionally, Tekfen Foundation supports the festival with the Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra as the festival's Opening Concert Orchestra in 2019-2022.

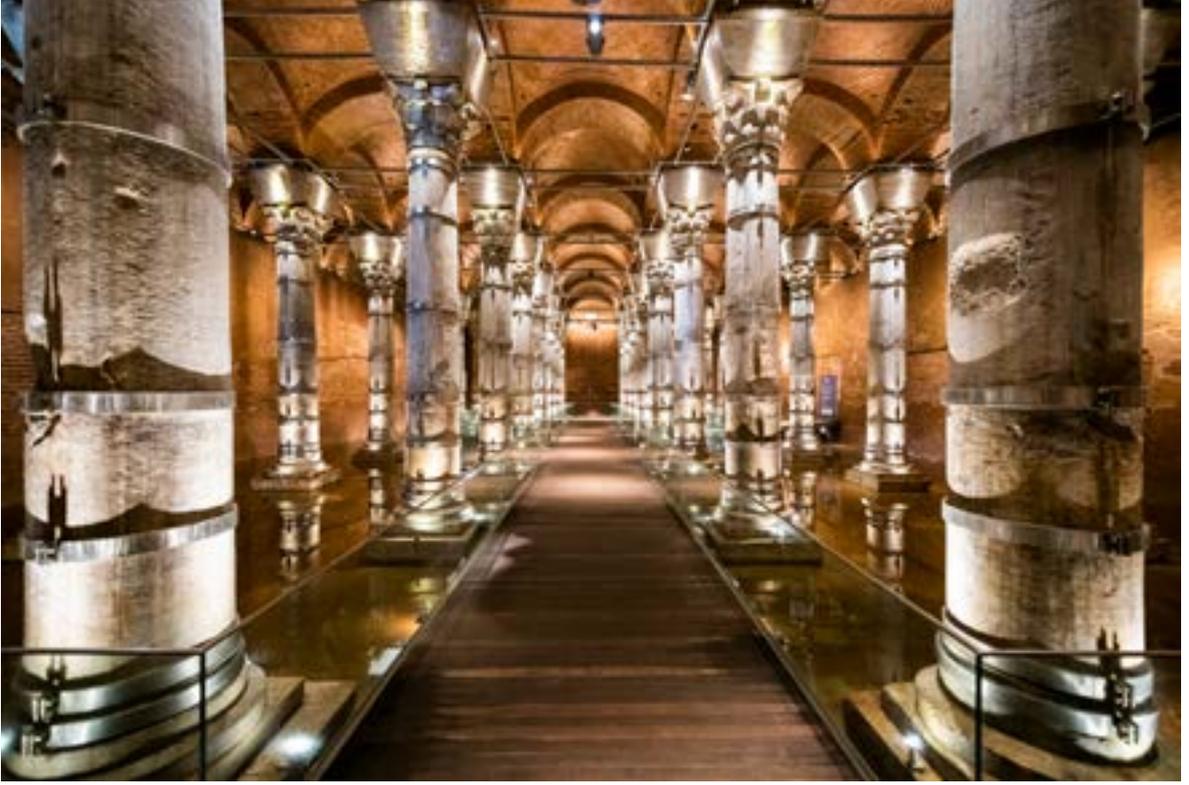
TSKB (Türkiye Sınai Kalkınma Bankası) supports the festival as the Education Support Fund Sponsor.

The 48th Istanbul Music Festival is supported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Governorship of Istanbul, the Istanbul Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Kültür AŞ, Beşiktaş Municipality and Kadıköy Municipality.

The festival takes place with the kind collaborations of Austrian Cultural Forum, BTHVN2020 Beethoven Pastoral Project, Biletix, Bilkent University and Bilkent Symphony Orchestra, Boğaziçi University, Brucknerhaus Linz and Salzkammergut Klassik Festival, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Tophane-i Amire Culture and Art Centre, Harbiye Saint Esprit Cathedral, Süreyya Opera House, Armenian Patriarchate of Turkey, Wonderfeel Festival, Consulate General of the Netherlands in Istanbul and The Performing Arts Fund NL.



Photos by IKSU - Poyraz Tutuncu



The Founding Sponsor of the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts is Eczacıbaşı Group, İKSV Official Hotel Sponsor is The Marmara Group, the Insurance Sponsor is Zurich Insurance Group, and the Service Sponsors are American Hospital, Navitas, GFK, and AGC.

The 48th Istanbul Music Festival's promotional campaign was led by an advisory board comprised of Pemra Ataç, Uğurcan Ataoğlu, and Kenan Ünsal. The festival poster was designed by Geray Gencer and illustrated by Müjde Polatkan whereas the campaign video was prepared by Animasyon Cumhuriyeti. (Photo Credit: Poyraz Tutuncu)



## MEET AT CULTURE

### Istanbul to receive UNESCO funding for Culture Project

Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSV) announced to be among the grantees of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD), established under Article 18 of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

The grant will support İKSV in realizing the nationwide project of 'Thread of Culture: Empowering Turkey's Local Cultural Professionals', proposed and to be carried out by the Cultural Policy Studies department of İKSV. One of the nine eligible projects to receive funding among 480 projects from 60 countries, Thread of Culture is also the first project to receive the fund from Turkey.

Thread of Culture will establish a platform for professionals working on every level of the cultural field across Turkey to offer a wide variety of capacity building trainings, and to set new standards for cultural production, policies and management. Developing countries that are parties to the 2005 Convention have the opportunity to benefit from this fund, which aims to develop sustainable cultural policies and support practices, researches and projects.

Thread of Culture, scheduled to begin in July 2020, aims to improve the competencies, skills and increase the overall capacity of cultural professionals at a local level, in as many cities as possible across Turkey. To this end, a need assessment research will be conducted, cultural management training programmes will be designed and implemented and a web platform open to public will be activated. In order to establish a balance between participants from civil and public sectors, the participants of the training programmes will be chosen among the employees of both public and nongovernmental organisations and independent institutions. The content, curriculum and the programme of the training will be designed, prepared and implemented by prominent professionals from the academia, civil society, and private as well as the public sector. Thread of Culture will persistently open its resources and know-how to its participants across the country and to the public along the way for everyone to access with a web platform that will reflect the diversity of cultural expressions in local contexts. The web platform will function as an online capacity empowerment tool (discussion forum, audio-visual content, publications) while assuring the sustainability of the project in the future.

The objective of the project is also to foster civic participation in the decision-making processes in the cultural field by enhancing dialogue and cooperation between civil and public sector, which is also among the foremost universal objectives of the 2005 Convention. Training sessions with novel methods of participation and dialogue are being designed for civil and public sectors to work in a spirit of exchange and cooperation.

A multifaceted assessment of the project will be presented by the Cultural Policy Studies of İKSV to all relevant institutions, policy makers and officials in the form of a report upon the project's termination. To take shape with the contributions of the participants of the training programme, the report will try and measure the integration of civil society into the decision-making processes in the cultural field, and identify the obstacles faced by the private sector while proposing alternative ties with public sectors.

Carried out by the Cultural Policy Studies of İKSV with the partnership of Turkey Europe Foundation (TAV), Thread of Culture is planned to run between July 2020-2022.



### 2021 UEFA Champions League Final to be Played in Istanbul

The UEFA Executive Committee yesterday announced that Istanbul, which was originally appointed to stage 2020 final, will now host the 2021 UEFA Champions League Final.

The Hotel Association of Turkey TÜROB Chairman Müberra Eresin stated that they welcomed 2021 final to be held in Istanbul with an audience. Emphasizing that many accommodation facilities in Istanbul received prepayment for the guests coming to Istanbul for the 2020 Champions League Final, Eresin noted that with UEFA's final decision, the refund of these payments will not be obligatory. Eresin stated that the advances received will be deducted for the 2021 Champions League Final.

Ms. Eresin said, "It was on the agenda that the 2020 final will be held in Istanbul without an audience. With the support of the Turkish Football Federation, we indicated our preference to host the final game in 2021 and with spectators. We expect to welcome 50-60 thousand international spectators to Istanbul for the 2021 Champions League Final."

The 2019-2020 Champions League, suspended since March because of the coronavirus pandemic, will be completed as a straight knockout tournament in Lisbon, Portugal in August.

Quarter-finals, semi-finals and final will be single-leg fixtures. The games will be split between Benfica's Estádio do Sport Lisboa e Benfica (which will host the final) and Sporting CP's Estádio José Alvalade.

A decision is pending on whether the remaining round of 16 second legs will take place at the home team's stadium or in Portugal. The Estádio do Dragão in Porto and the Estádio D. Afonso Henriques in Guimarães will host the four outstanding second legs if required.

The 2019/20 UEFA Champions League has been on hold since Wednesday 11 March due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The revised schedule to conclude this season's competition was confirmed following Wednesday's UEFA Executive Committee meeting.

2019/20 UEFA Champions League schedule

7-8 August: Round of 16 second legs (venues to be confirmed)

12-15 August: Quarter-finals (Lisbon)

18-19 August: Semi-finals (Lisbon)

23 August: Final (Estádio do Sport Lisboa e Benfica, Lisbon)

All fixtures will kick off at 21:00 CET. The quarter-final and semi-final draws will take place in Nyon on 10 July; the exact match schedule will then follow.



Upcoming UEFA Champions League finals

The 2019/20 final was due to be held at the Atatürk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul which will now instead stage the 2020/21 showpiece. The three subsequent final venues have also agreed to host a year later than originally planned.

2020: Estádio do Sport Lisboa e Benfica, Lisbon, Portugal

2021: Atatürk Olympic Stadium, Istanbul, Turkey

2022: Saint Petersburg Stadium, Saint Petersburg, Russia

2023: Football Arena Munich, Munich, Germany

2024: Wembley Stadium, London, England

UEFA medical protocol and matches behind closed doors

The key principles of the UEFA medical protocol were also approved on Wednesday, and detailed guidelines will now be finalised over the next few weeks to ensure that a thorough sanitary plan be put in place to protect the health of all participants to UEFA matches when the competitions resume.

UEFA will be regularly assessing the situation across the continent and will liaise with local authorities to see when spectators could gradually return.

UEFA also announced further changes in this year's competitions; Europa League 2019/20, UEFA Women's Champions League 2019/20, UEFA Youth League 2019/20, and UEFA Super Cup 2020.

## MEET AT COMPETITION



### **Coronavirus is Theme of This Year's International Tourism Cartoon Competition**

The 12th International Tourism Cartoon Competition in 2020 has announced its themes and deadline for submission. Cartoons can be sent to the competition in one of the following themes.

1) Tourism in Coronavirus days, 2) Tourism after the Coronavirus, 3) Social distance in tourism

The organizers of the Tourism Cartoon Competition announced that the 2020 edition of the event has two categories; Adult and Young.

**Adult Category:** This category is open for all of the cartoonists who are 17 and older. The category should be noted when cartoons are submitting. Grand award, second award, third award, Professor Atila Özer recognition award, and three mansions will be given in this section. Finalist cartoons in this section will be published in the album.

**Young Category:** This category is open for the cartoonists who are 16 and younger. The category should be noted when cartoons are submitting. Grand award and two achievement awards will be given in this section. Finalist cartoons in this section will be published in the album.

Deadline for Submission: 31 December 2020

Meeting of the pre-Selection Committee: 23 January 2021

Announcement of finalist cartoons (for possible objections): February 1 – 9, 2021

Notification of Winners: April 2021

### **AWARDS**

Category of Adult Cartoonists

The Grand Award: \$1000

The Second Award: Holiday in Turkey (5 days, 2 persons, Full pansiyon, (Four Points by Sheraton İzmir)

The Third Award: Holiday in Turkey (5 days, 2 persons, Full pansiyon, Four Points by Sheraton İzmir)

Professor Atila Özer Recognition Award: \$750

Category of Young Cartoonists

The Grand Award: \$750

The Second Award: Holiday in Turkey (5 days, 2 persons, Full pansiyon, Four Points by Sheraton İzmir)

The Third Award: Holiday in Turkey (5 days, 2 persons, Full pansiyon, Four Points by Sheraton İzmir)Evaluation

For more information visit, <http://www.tourismcartoon.org/en/>



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## DESTINATIONS - ANKARA



Ankara, the capital of Turkey, is located in the center of Anatolia province. With a known history of around 3000, Ankara has seen great heights in the past. Around 3000 years ago, the Hittites established a city by the name of Akuwash (old name for Ankara) at the intersection of two trade routes in Turkey. During its earlier phase, Ankara was ruled by Phrygians, Macedonians (under Alexander the Great), and Romans. Seljuk Turks captured the city in 1071 AD and renamed it as Enguriye.

Most important moment in the history of Ankara came when Atatürk founded his provisional government here in 1920, and in 1923 when it became the capital of Turkish Republic. The city has seen a number of changes since then, however it has been successful enough in maintaining a fine balance between the old and the new and thereby living up to its unique identity as the “Melting Pot of East and West”. Today, Ankara is a sprawling urban mass thoroughly organized and well - planned and much European in look than most of the cities in Turkey. Its wide-open roads, large hotels, restaurants and government offices distinguish the city. Besides, there are several tourist attractions and meetings in the city making it an ideal destination for the tourists and mice industry.



### City At a Glance

Population: 3,627,098 Traffic Code: 06 Telephone Code: 0312

### How to go

Ankara's international Esenboga Airport is well connected to other cities in Europe as well as to important destinations in other parts of the world.

### What to do

The foundations of this citadel were laid by Galatians to be completed by the Romans. Byzantines and Seljuk made major changes later on. The citadel is located atop a hill in the old city where one can see some fine examples of traditional architecture of Ankara.

### What to see

- ◆ The Ankara Citadel
- ◆ The Museum of Anatolian Civilization
- ◆ Anıtkabir
- ◆ The Temple of Augustus
- ◆ The Roman Bath
- ◆ The Column of Julian
- ◆ Had Bayram Mosque
- ◆ The Hatti Monument
- ◆ Victory Monument
- ◆ Monument of the Republic
- ◆ Yeni Mosque
- ◆ Kocatepe Mosque

## DESTINATIONS - ANTALYA



Visit the picturesque old quarter of Kaleici; narrow, winding streets and old wooden houses around the ancient city walls. Since its founding in the second century B.C., Antalya has been continuously inhabited. The region, bathed in sunshine 300 days of the year, is a paradise of sun-bathing, swimming and sports activities like windsurfing, water skiing, sailing, mountain climbing and hunting. If you come to Antalya in March or April, in the mornings you can ski the slopes and in the afternoons you can swim in the warm waters of the Mediterranean. Important historical sites await your discovery amid a landscape of pine forests, olive and citrus groves, and palm, avocado and banana plantations. The Turquoise Coast is the tourism capital of Turkey. Its full range of accommodations, about 35 000 delegates, sunny climate, variety of excursions and activities, and its warm hospitality make it a sought-after venue for meetings and conferences. The Antalya Convention Bureau, ACB, is an independent, non-profit making organization. Founded in 1995, the Antalya Promotion Foundation (ATAV) has become a member of the European Federation of Conference Towns (EFCT) in 1997. A Culture, Exhibition and Congress Center was opened in 1996 in the Konyaalti district. The Congress Center is located in a glass pyramid.



### City At a Glance

Population: 1.132.211 Traffic Code: 07 Telephone Code: 0242

### How to go

Antalya airport is 10km east of the city center, and has direct flights from Europe. It is well connected to other parts of Turkey, and daily direct flights from Istanbul and Ankara.

### What to do

With its palm-lined boulevard, internationally-acclaimed marina, and old castle with traditional architecture, all set amidst a modern city, Antalya is a major tourist center in Turkey. In addition to the wide selection of hotels, restaurants, bars, nightclubs and shops, the city also plays host to a number of sporting events throughout the

year, like International Beach Volleyball, triathlon, golf tournaments, archery, tennis and canoeing competitions. Opened in 1995, the Cultural Center hosts cultural and art events. The main area of interest in the city is central old quarter within the Roman walls, known as Kaleici, and there are many interesting museums around the city.

### What to see

- ◆ Archaeological Museum
- ◆ Truncated and fluted minarets
- ◆ Hadrian's Gate Old Harbour
- ◆ Perge, Side, Aspendos
- ◆ Düden and Kursunlu Waterfalls
- ◆ Antalya Castle

## DESTINATIONS - ISTANBUL



The former capital of three successive empires - Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman- Istanbul is a fascinating mixture of past and present, old and new, modern and traditional. The museums, churches, palaces, mosques, bazaars, and the sights of natural beauty seem inexhaustible. As you recline on the shores of the Bosphorus at sunset contemplating the red evening light reflected in the windows and slender minarets on the opposite shore you understand, suddenly and profoundly, why so many centuries ago settlers chose to build on this remarkable site. In addition to its unique historical and cultural background and innumerable attractions, modern hotels, exclusive restaurants, nightclubs, cabarets, bazaars and shops make Istanbul a superb site for meetings, conferences and conventions. Istanbul is fast becoming one of the most popular international congress and exhibition destinations.

The opening of the Lütfi Kırdar International Conference Center (ICC) doubled the capacity of congress facilities in Istanbul. The ICC is ideally located in the modern district of Harbiye, at the center of the city's business, cultural and commercial life, surrounded by some of Europe's top quality hotels. Istanbul Convention & Visitors Bureau (ICVB) has all the contacts and information for your meetings in Istanbul.



### City At a Glance

Population: 14.000.000 Traffic Code: 34 Telephone Code: 0212 (European side) - 0216 (Asian side)

### How to go

Istanbul city has modern and new international airport, which is well connected by regular flights, with most important destinations in Europe, Middle East, and North America with. Besides, vast networks of flights fly between Istanbul and various other cities of Turkey. Ataturk International Airport is 20 km from city center. Helicopter service is also available between the cities.

### What to do

While in Istanbul there is so much to do and look forward to. The museums, castles, palaces, great mosques, bazaars and sights of natural beauty seem inexhaustible.

Being a cultural and historical center, exploring the grand heritage of the city should be the top most priority. Shopping which can be a pleasure in the markets of Istanbul should form another important part of your itinerary. More than anything else a walk down the lanes and by lanes of the many bazaars in Istanbul can be a great experience, if interested in feeling the culture and lifestyles of the people of this amazing land.

### What to see

- ◆ Dolmabahçe Palace
- ◆ Küçüksu Pavillion
- ◆ St. Irene
- ◆ Blue Mosque
- ◆ Topkapi Palace
- ◆ Mosaic Museum
- ◆ Covered Bazaar
- ◆ St. Sophia
- ◆ Kariye Museum
- ◆ Beylerbeyi Palace
- ◆ Yerebatan Cistern
- ◆ Miniaturk

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## DESTINATIONS - IZMIR



Izmir, historically known as Smyrna, is the third most populous city of Turkey and has the country's largest port after Istanbul. It is located in the Gulf of Izmir, by the Aegean Sea. It is the capital of Izmir Province. Izmir has the inherit of almost 3,500 years of urban past, and possibly up to that much more in terms of advanced human settlement patterns. It is Turkey's first port for exports and it has free zone, a Turkish-U.S. joint-venture established in 1990, is the leader among the twenty that Turkey counts. Its workforce, and particularly its rising class of young professionals, is concentrated either in the city or in its immediate vicinity (such as in Manisa). Izmir is widely regarded as one of the most liberal Turkish cities in terms of values, ideology, lifestyle, dynamism and gender roles. The Izmir Convention & Visitors Bureau (Izmir CVB) was founded in 2007 by Izmir Tourism Promotion Foundation (IZTAV), as a non-profit and independent organization. Izmir CVB's mission is to promote the city's rich cultural and natural assets. It has great potential on a national and international level and is seeking guidelines and best practice to develop the city's congress tourism.



### City At a Glance

Population: 3,627,098 Traffic Code: 35 Telephone Code: 0232

### How to go

Adnan Menderes Airport, 16km south of the city center, has several daily flights to Istanbul, Ankara and Antalya. There are also regular flights from many European cities.

### What to do

While in Izmir see the sights, the Archaeological Museum near Konak Square, which houses a superb collection of antiques including the statues of Poseidon, and Demeter that in ancient times stood in the agora. Neighboring the Archaeological Museum, the collection of the Ethnography Museum contains folkloric artifacts among which are fine collections of Bergama and Gördes carpets, traditional costumers and camel bridles.

Situated on Atatürk Caddesi (Street) there is an old Izmir house used by the founder of the Turkish Republic, the Atatürk Museum, exhibits photographs of the leader as well as some of his personnel belongings. The Selcuk Yasar Art Museum is a private museum on Cumhuriyet Boulevard with a collection of 20th century Turkish art. Wander in the bazaar, sip drinks and dine at the pleasant waterfront restaurants.

### What to see

- ◆ Agora
- ◆ Pergamum – Bergama
- ◆ Milet - Dydima
- ◆ Clock Tower
- ◆ Kemeralti
- ◆ Kadifekale
- ◆ Asansor
- ◆ Ephesus – Selcuk
- ◆ Virgin Mary
- ◆ Alacati
- ◆ Seferhisar
- ◆ Cesme

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Documentaries on Leyla Gencer, Haldun Taner and the production phase of the play, *Tribute to Nâzım*



Special MUBI screening of award-winning films that marked the last 10 years of the Istanbul Film Festival



Virtual tour of the 15th Istanbul Biennial with Google Arts & Culture, and films by biennial artists accessible on YouTube



New policy text from the cultural policy studies of İKSV, accessible through [iksv.org](http://iksv.org)



Animated versions of the children's book series of İKSV, presented by İKSV Alt Kat: Learning and Interaction Space



Conversations with designers on the pandemic on the web blog of the Istanbul Design Biennial

**For detailed information, visit the web page, YouTube channel and social media accounts of İKSV.**

[iksv.org/en](http://iksv.org/en) [@ / iksv\\_istanbul](https://www.instagram.com/iksv_istanbul) [/ v / iksvistanbul](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkqv1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1) [#iksvathome](https://twitter.com/iksvistanbul)



Istanbul Modern's new collection exhibition brings together samples from abstract and figurative movements in Turkey after 1950, and a variety of contemporary art dealing with nature and the environment, produced after 1980.

# COLLECTION EXHIBITION

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Latife Eczaklıç, 1974, Two steps in the right, then turn left. Carefully touching the ends of the leaves with the end of fingers. Swinging the arms in a slow rhythm. Then close the eyes., 2019 (detail)

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