



# MEE TURKEY

November 2020 Year: 26 No:99

*Alternative Tourism & MICE Magazine*

***Tips for travellers visiting  
Istanbul for the first time***



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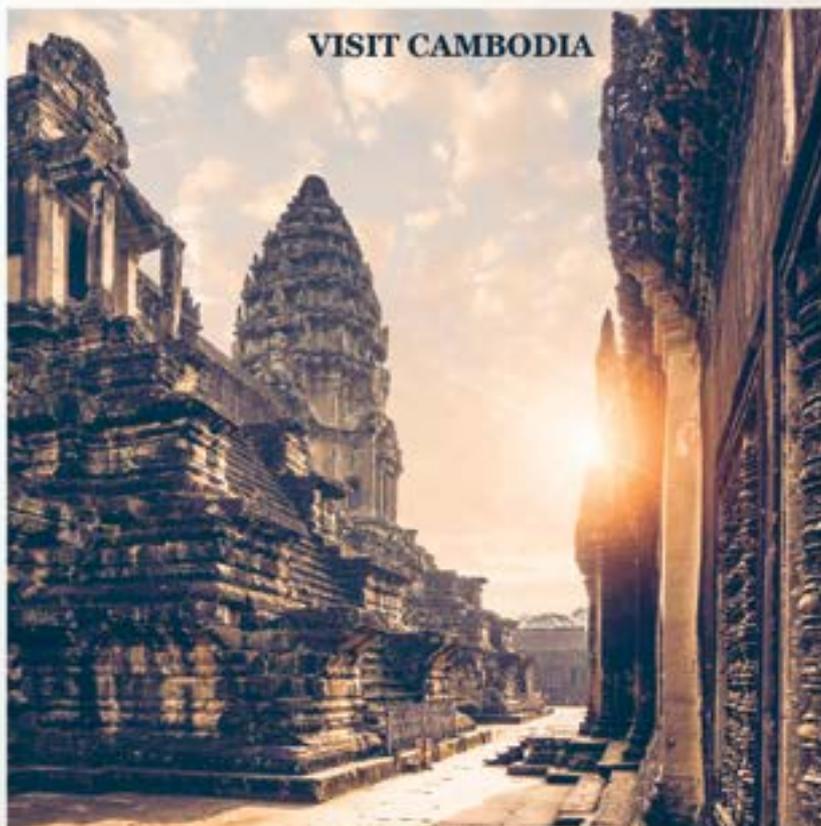
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### Destinations That are Open for MICE Events

It's no secret that 2020 has been a year unlike any other. Hundreds of conferences have been cancelled, postponed or moved online because of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.



Özgür Töre

A consensus is emerging that even with our optimism for a vaccine we will not be Covid-free before 2022. We face a long transition phase that is uncertain and volatile before we reach the New Normal. The pace of recovery will vary across regions and segments. It is estimated that over 40 countries are open for events but most have capacity limits and other restrictions. Read more details [here](#).

In this issue, we present tips for travellers visiting Istanbul.

***Stay safe and healthy!***

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### **TGA Becomes Member of World's Leading Tourism Organizations**

Turkey Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA) which is responsible for the promotion and development of Turkey as a tourism brand, initiated its membership with leading tourism organizations in the world such as UNWTO, ICCA, ECM and Medcruise.



The first institution that TGA announced its membership to was the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). TGA, which is accepted as an “affiliate member” to UNWTO, the expert organization of the United Nations tasked with promoting responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism, will be able to benefit from all the information resources and cooperation opportunities of the organization.

Another membership of TGA is with ICCA (International Congress and Convention Association), one of the most important and largest organizations of congresses, conventions and the international meetings sector in the world. ICCA, which has more than 1,000 members, all of which operate in the meeting and congress sector in 90 countries, is one of the most important structures in this sector with its recognition in the global congress market, business and information sharing and widespread communication network.

TGA joined the European Tourism Cities Federation of ECM (European Cities Marketing) with 110 members representing 100 European cities in 32 countries as a Board Member and will represent Turkey in this major organization to which city tourism offices with headquarters in Europe as well as convention and visitors bureaus are members of.

The last institution that TGA announced its membership with is MedCruise (The Association of Mediterranean Cruise Ports). Established in 1996 with an agreement for cooperation between 16 ports in seven different countries with the mission to promote the cruise industry in the Mediterranean and neighboring seas, MedCruise today represents more than 140 ports and 34 private memberships in 21 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe.

TGA Board Member and Spokesperson Erkan Yağcı made the following

statements about the new memberships: “Our memberships with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the International Congress and Fairs Association (ICCA), the European Federation of Tourism Cities (ECM) and the Mediterranean Cruise Ports Association (MedCruise), which are considered the top organizations in the tourism sector globally, is also a sign of the international acceptance of TGA’s work. TGA’s mission is to ‘represent, lead and serve the tourism sector of Turkey. These memberships will also open doors for us to exchange ideas with important stakeholders such as public institutions, private companies and universities in many parts of the world and carry out various joint projects”.

With the new memberships regarding UNWTO, ICCA, MedCruise and ECM; TGA will work alongside the associations to strengthen ties between the public and private sectors and drive tourism’s recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic with the common goal of maintaining recovery and making the sector more resilient and sustainable.

### **Trade Shows Resume in Istanbul**

The fairs and exhibitions in Istanbul that attract people from all over the world resumed under strict hygiene rules and precautions due to the pandemic. CNR Beauty & Wellness Fair became the first international fair to be opened in Istanbul after a six-months break.



Implementing the safety and health regulations including social distancing, hygiene, and obligatory face masks, the Beauty & Wellness Fair hosted 25.000 professionals in 3 days.

Organized for the 3rd time, the fair brings together beauty, healthcare, and cosmetics sectors under one roof. The fair hosts local and foreign sector professionals, including beauty salon operators, managers, aestheticians, hospital, and clinic dermatology unit managers.

Visitors had the opportunity to examine, test, and compare new technological devices, trends, and medical beauty products at the fair, where products of more than 500 brands are displayed.

Since the beginning of the 2020 summer season, Turkey’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism is supervising the implementation of the ‘Safe Tourism Certification Program’.

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This program defines and advises an extensive series of measures to be taken with regards to transportation and accommodation of all visitors who will spend their holidays in Turkey.

The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey implements a similar safety program for all exhibitions and fairs to be held in Turkey.

Thanks to these 2 programs, visitors are able to fly, accommodate, and participate in business meetings in Turkey within the most advanced health safety standards.

### **Michelin Starred Chef Opens Restaurant in Istanbul**

German-born Chef Michael Riemenschneider who had been trained by many of the worlds most famous and distinguished chefs such as Pierre Gagnaire, Michael Bras, Gordon Ramsay, Alain Ducasse, Manfred Schwarz, and many many more, won the medal of honor of the restaurant world called Michelin star, now is in Turkey.

He is getting ready to serve his German & Turkish grandma's cuisine mixed with his famous German / French cuisine in his different restaurants in Beykoz / Acarkent and Kavacik named "The Twins Kitchen by MR"- and "The Twins Bakery by MR", which will be his Bakery, Patisserie & Café. Also, a third Restaurant will be



open soon after Beykoz / Acarkent, called Atelier Celine by MR, affectionally after his beloved wife Céline Riemenschneider, on the European side of Istanbul, near and close to the Bosphorus. Contract negotiations are still ongoing on multiple sites there.

Celine & Michael had their twin boys born here in Turkey in late July 2019. They have settled their lifestyle on the Asian Side in the Beykoz Forrest Areas.

Michelin starred Chef Michael wants to make a difference to the culinary scene in the cities that he is going to open with his more casual brand "The Twins Kitchen by MR", to change the opinion and approach of fine dining around the world. "Fine Dining is not about Table Cloths, stuffy waiters in expensive suits, and crystal Chandeliers. It should be all about the food and great service performed while dining, a nice atmosphere around it and

good drinks”, Michael says.

Besides his classical cooking with very modern techniques, he is also combining traditional Turkish ingredients to serve and create a delicious dining experience for his guests. He describes his love for the kitchen as “My heart has been always beating for being in the kitchen and cooking.”

The successful chef says he is very confident about impressing his guests with special dishes and ingredients that despite the Michelin Star factor affordable for everyone in the name of the “Finer dining” concept.

In the past 2 months, Michael & Céline have a great team behind them. His Group Executive Chef for the Operations of MR Restaurants, Mert Aykut Okatan, 33 years of age, previously worked as Executive Chef at The Ritz Carlton, Les Ottoman, La Boom, and for some Michelin Star Chefs in Europe. He brings a great mix of leadership, organization and craftsmanship – also of course to be a Istanbul local, very helpful in sourcing the best producers and products and establishing good rapports with the local suppliers.

Also, in the kitchen, Michael is being assisted by one of his Pastry & Bakery Commis Eylem Dinç. With just 20 years of age, Michael strongly believes in Eylem and more so believes she will be one of the great pastry chefs in Turkey and Europe!! He has hardly ever seen so much passion and drive in such a young female or male chef.

Another member of his kitchen brigade is, Junior Sous Chef Tayfun Özdemir, born in Kesan/Edirne - just outside Istanbul, 27 years of age. Tayfun worked last in Vietnam, as a Private Chef for a Local Celebrity & Politician. Also at Mandarin Oriental / Bodrum, AmanRuya in Bodrum, and for Michelin Starred Chef and Michael’s good friend in the UK, Tom Aikens.



Michael is having 12 Female Chefs in his Brigade in Kavacik & Acarkent alone, making him an Ambassador for the Female Chefs Movement, in Turkey and all over the World. He believes it’s about time, more female chefs are coming forward, especially in Muslim countries like Turkey, and joining the likes of Aylin Yazicioglu to become some of the best chefs in Turkey and beyond.

### Istanbul Design Biennial Opens

Organised by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSİV) under the sponsorship of Vitra and with the support of the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the 5th Istanbul Design Biennial opens on October 15, 2020.



Entitled Empathy Revisited: Designs for more than one and curated by Mariana Pestana with Sumitra Upham (Curator of Programmes) and Billie Muraben (Assistant Curator & Deputy Editor), the Istanbul Design Biennial will be held with a new structure with various projects, mostly being produced locally in Istanbul, by participants from various countries and disciplines, intervening in exhibition venues, outdoor spaces in Istanbul and digital platforms. The projects displayed in the exhibition venues will be open to visit until 15 November 2020 whereas the interventions in the city, research projects and video series will continue to evolve until 30 April 2021.

The 5th Istanbul Design Biennial brings together ideas and projects that seek to define a new role for design based on empathy. As a mediator of emotions and feelings, design is presented here as a practice that takes care as its main purpose. Designers adopt sensitive, diplomatic, sometimes therapeutic functions, with the aim of connecting us with one another but also with the world around us, with other species, with microorganisms, soil, water and even the universe.

Aspiring to carve out a space of responsibility and nourish a culture of attachment towards the more-than-human, this biennial explores designs for multiple bodies, dimensions, and perspectives. The projects on display encourage us to rethink practices of care and civility at this critical moment in time, and to collectively build new systems and structures for re-connecting. This biennial offers critical tools and alternative pathways in face of urgent climate and economic crises, a general state of social deprivation, and an exhausted global industrial model. Designs for more than one are those that take into consideration not just their immediate user or client but the many constituents and complex entanglements inherent to any design process.

## Three Turkish Cities Join UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities

Three cities from Turkey have joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC), along with 52 other cities from 27 countries. The cities of Afyonkarahisar, Balikesir and Izmir have been recognised as outstanding examples of how lifelong learning can become a reality at local level. They have proven that effective lifelong learning policies and practices can support the development of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and contribute to the 2030 Agenda. Today's new members bring the total number of cities within the UNESCO GNLC to 230 in 64 countries.

The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), as coordinator of the network, admitted the new members following their nomination by the National Commissions for UNESCO in the concerned countries. A strong commitment to lifelong learning by the mayor and city administration is a key prerequisite for becoming a learning city. As part of their application process, potential UNESCO GNLC members must demonstrate a clear vision for providing lifelong learning opportunities for everyone in the community. Once admitted, cities are expected to take part in the activities of the network and to produce a biennial report outlining their achievements as learning cities. The new member cities will be presented in an online event on 23 September 2020.

The Afyonkarahisar municipality aims to continue fostering the culture of learning and individual development that it has maintained for many centuries. As a learning city, it seeks to mobilize resources in every sector to develop and enrich all



human potential for the fostering of personal growth, the maintenance of social cohesion and the creation of prosperity. COVID-19 has presented challenges for the education system of the city and demonstrated the necessity of being prepared and developing new competencies and skills. With the help of core stakeholders such as public universities, the national education directorate, the public education directorate and teaching associations the city sees this challenge as an opportunity to develop education programmes. New online learning methods will be developed and local and international tools for learning will be prepared.

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As outlined in the mission and vision statements of the 2020–2024 Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality Strategic Plan, lifelong learning is to be part of each citizen's life, as is necessary for the digital age and information society. Balıkesir is convinced that individuals' knowledge and skills, motivations and activities in lifelong learning are important for the development of a sustainable society. By raising individuals' awareness and helping them to meet their intellectual potential, the city intends that its citizens will be able to process information about complex systems and think creatively and abstractly across new disciplines.



As a Mediterranean city working towards the Sustainable Development Goals; Izmir wants to strengthen its global ties, to receive guidance and support from learning cities, and to share its best practices with other cities. Izmir is convinced that in order to develop the city, the people who live there must develop first through education.

By transforming citizens into more conscious, active and more educated individuals, the city aspires to create a society of solidarity, equality and democratic spirit that contributes to sustainable development in Izmir. As a city that receives 25.000 to 30.000 domestic and foreign migrants annually, many of which are refugees, education has become an important means to help the increasing young population adapt to social life in the city. The municipality seeks to provide education to everyone regardless of gender and age.

### **Turkish Tourism Sector Receives Support Package**

The Banks Association of Turkey (TBB) announced a support package for the tourism sector, one of the most affected sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic. The package aimed at meeting the institutional credit expenditures and cash needs of the tourism firms and suppliers of those firms, along with the rent and salary expenditures in a bid to cushion the COVID-19 pandemic's negative impact on the sector and economy

in general while preserving employment and production values.

A total of 10 billion TL credit will be provided by the banks with the guarantee of the Ministry of Treasury and Finance and the guarantee of the Credit Guarantee Fund.



The credits will have a maturity term of 48 months with a 12-month nonpayment period on the condition of not exceeding Nov. 1, 2021.

The banks that will be allocating Tourism Support Package loans included Akbank, Denizbank, Garanti BBVA, Halkbank, İş Bank, QNB Finansbank, TEB, VakıfBank, Yapı Kredi and Ziraat Bank along with several participation banks, namely, Ziraat Katılım, Albaraka Türk Participation Bank, Kuveyt Türk Participation Bank, Türkiye Finans and Vakıf Katılım.

The interest rate for the fixed interest loans was determined as a maximum of 14.5%. The bail upper limit will be TL 32 million per receiver and the credit upper limit will be TL 40 million.

## IN BRIEF

	<b>Eyüp Babür</b> named as the CEO of Elite World Hotels.		<b>Arzu Turan</b> has been appointed as Radisson Blu Hotel, Istanbul Pera.
	<b>İhsan Gemici</b> is the new general manager of Istanbul Lutfi Kirdar International Convention and Exhibition Centre.		<b>Tolga Akinci</b> named as the general manager of Dedeman Mövenpick Hotel Istanbul Golden Horn.
	<b>Erdoğan Turan</b> has been appointed as tourism coordinator of MK Group.		<b>Atilla Karaburçak</b> named as the member of the board at Fethiye Ölüdeniz Oyster Residences.
	<b>Harun Dursun</b> has been appointed as general manager of Mandarin Oriental Bosphorus, Istanbul.		<b>Eylem Fındık</b> has been appointed as CEO of Republika Academic Aparts, San Antonio, Texas.
	<b>Nicolas Kipper</b> is the new general manager of Fairmont İstanbul.		<b>Ömer Özcan</b> is the new general manager of Radisson Blu Hotel, Istanbul Ottomare.

### New Dates for IPW 2021 in Las Vegas

The U.S. Travel Association announced that IPW, its annual international inbound travel trade show, will be a live, in-person event held in Las Vegas from September 18-22, 2021. The September dates are revised from previously released 2021 event dates. U.S. Travel, together with premier sponsor Brand USA and our hosts, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority and Travel Nevada, secured later dates to provide additional time for international long-haul travel to the United States to broadly resume.

“Next year’s IPW will reunite the global travel community and be the keystone for safely rebuilding international travel to the United States,” said U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow.

“While IPW will look a bit different next year, expect it to be the turning point for the all-important inbound travel sector. “We are grateful for the support and flexibility of our many sponsors and attendees, both in the U.S. and around the world, and we can’t wait to see everyone in Las Vegas next September.”

“As the nation’s destination marketing organization, Brand USA values IPW because it is the single largest gathering of the global network of stakeholders dedicated to driving travel to the USA,” said Christopher Thompson, Brand USA president and CEO.

“We look forward to reconnecting face-to-face with industry colleagues and welcoming the world back to the diverse destinations and experiences across the United States. We will see you in Las Vegas in 2021.”

“IPW is crucial to reviving international travel, and we’re pleased that the U.S. Travel Association is dedicated to holding an in-person show in Las Vegas next September,” said Steve Hill, CEO/President of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

“These new dates will allow greater flexibility for attendees and will ensure the best possible experience for a successful and productive trade show. We look forward to welcoming delegates to the new West Hall expansion at the Las Vegas Convention Center as well as showcasing new and exciting



developments throughout the destination.”

U.S. Travel plans to open registration for IPW exhibitors in mid-November. IPW buyer and media registration will open in early 2021.

IPW 2021 will be held in the newly constructed West Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center. Planning for IPW show floor and media marketplace activities, as well as related official events, is underway by the IPW Host Committee.

IPW is the country’s leading international inbound travel trade show, driving \$5.5 billion in future travel to the United States. At IPW, travel buyers (including international tour operators, wholesalers and receptive operators) meet face-to-face with sellers of U.S. travel product (representing accommodations, destinations, attractions, retail, transportation companies and more), transacting business that would otherwise be generated only through an exhaustive number of around-the-world trips.

Additional information about IPW 2021 will be available in the coming weeks. Event updates will be sent to the IPW community and posted at IPW.com.

### **Korea MICE Expo Returns as Hybrid Event**

Korea MICE Expo (KME), Korea’s largest trade show for meeting professionals and incentive planners, returns this year as a hybrid event for the first time, held offline at Songdo ConvensiA, Incheon with a corresponding virtual event from November 24-27, 2020.



The event will provide a virtual gathering space for over 3,000 expected attending MICE industry professionals to meet with 300 exhibiting local service providers, including convention bureaus, unique venues, travel agencies, PCOs and more.

Participants can expect to engage in 1:1 video business consultation with global buyers and gain access to exclusive virtual content available through a new online platform.

Under the theme ‘Driving Innovation through Challenges’, this year’s KME will take a look at challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and suggest creative solutions for implementing the latest IT and meeting

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technology to welcome a new digital era of the MICE industry.

The Opening Keynote will be presented by the Vice President of Consumer Electronics Show (CES), the most influential tech event in the world, on how the transition of CES to a virtual exhibition and conference will provide value as a new experience.

KME will kick-off November 24th with an Opening Ceremony streamed live for online participants. The official program will continue over the following three days with B2B meetings, speaker presentations, exhibitions and more.

New this year, participants can see live demonstrations of Korea's latest MICE industry technology at the Meeting Technology Showcase, and discover MICE-related start-ups at the Smart Tech Exhibition Zone. Also, the CVB Showcase will present updates from Korea's regional cities. Discover charms of Korea's MICE cities and meet virtually with members of regional CVBs to learn about new attractions and MICE infrastructure to help you plan for future events and incentive tours in Korea.



### **ITB Berlin 2021 to be Entirely Virtual Event**

ITB Berlin 2021 will be an entirely virtual event taking place from 9 to 12 March. The World's Leading Travel Trade Show will provide the industry with an online platform for networking, business, and content.

This decision was taken by Messe Berlin after weighing all the circumstances. ITB Berlin 2021 and the accompanying ITB Berlin Convention will be open to trade visitors only. The trade visitor days will take place from 9 to 12 March 2021, adding an extra day to the event.

"The situation surrounding the pandemic remains difficult, particularly for the travel and tourism industry. Our decision to hold ITB Berlin 2021 as an entirely virtual event now provides exhibitors and trade visitors

with maximum planning certainty," said David Ruetz, Head of ITB Berlin, explaining the move.

"We have developed an alternative concept with which we as the World's Leading Travel Trade Show® can again offer our partners and customers a reliable platform for global networking, business and content. The event will be highly relevant in terms of content. In these challenging times business meetings, exchanging specialist information and orientation are of special value for the industry."

Among other features, the virtual concept of ITB Berlin 2021 will include numerous live-streamed high-level panel discussions and lectures as well as digital networking opportunities, an intelligent matchmaking event and a virtual exhibition area. On 16 November ITB Berlin will provide further information on exhibitor and sponsorship packages, tickets and booking options.

ITB Berlin's recent experience with virtual formats has been positive. With its launch of itb.com in March of this year the team had already established a global virtual platform for the tourism industry. Next to daily news it features podcasts, networking opportunities and monthly Virtual Convention sessions. In mid-October, ITB Berlin and the Berlin Travel Festival as well as ITB Asia in Singapore successfully held virtual tourism events. Numerous leading industry speakers, some of them in person, others live-streamed from remote locations, took part in discussions and exchanged information on a variety of topics ranging from marketing and sales to CSR.

## **FITUR 2021 Dates Announced**



IFEMA and the FITUR Organising Committee announced the dates for the next edition of the International Tourism Fair, FITUR 2021. An exceptional change of dates that will preserve the high international impact of this major tourism industry event, FITUR 2021 will be held between 19 and 23 May next year.

This comes after a meditated decision that, exceptionally, makes this event

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essential to the recovery of the tourism industry, at a time that will still preserve its high international impact and thus, promote the professional reunion of companies, countries and destinations and provide a much-needed boost to the worldwide tourism activity.

The meeting of the FITUR Organising Committee, headed by IBERIA's President, Javier Sánchez Prieto, also featured speeches by the Secretary of State for Tourism, Fernando Valdés; UNWTO Secretary-General, Zurab Pololikashvili; the President of the Spanish Confederation of Hotels and Tourist Accommodation, CEHAT, Jorge Marichal; the President of the Spanish Confederation of Travel Agencies, CEAV, Carlos Garrido, and the President of Mesa del Turismo, Juan Molas, among others.

For its part, IFEMA is focusing all its effort on presenting an edition aimed at contributing to the recovery of tourism at a time when FITUR's role as a driving engine is critical and decisive. Therefore, it is especially important to focus on optimising its rallying power, in addition to enriching its specialised content and new business niches, as well as promoting knowledge areas that contribute towards relaunching both the national and international tourism activity, as one of the world's main growth engines and especially for Spain, where tourism is the main sector, both in terms of GDP and employment.

FITUR has the unanimous support from Spain's tourism industry and it is currently the world's second major trade fair, and first regarding its impact on the Latin American market. Each edition brings together over 11,000 companies from 165 countries, as well as official representatives from a large number of nations from around the world.

It is also Spain's major event for the tourism business, with over 250,000 attendees from around the world, as well as for innovation and promotion of new tourism segments, technological leadership in tourism management and a tool for knowledge transfer.

Its high level of representation is also acknowledged by the support from the World Tourism Organisation UNWTO, with head office in Madrid; a bond that is also embodied in the Governing Board of Affiliate Members of the UNWTO which is currently chaired by IFEMA/FITUR.

Its annual event entails an economic impact of €330 million, with the ensuing direct outcome on the recovery of tourism activities and boosting of the sectors linked to tourism in Madrid.



## **Thailand's Domestic MICE Industry Shows Signs of Recovery**

In a show of the industry's readiness for domestic MICE post-COVID-19, Thailand hosted a full-day hybrid event "Thailand MICE United". Some 6,000 suppliers, entrepreneurs, and prospective clients attended the event. The full-day event saw a turnout of 1,240 delegates at Royal Paragon Hall and another 4,778 via Facebook Live.

The response reflected the keen desire of Thailand's diverse MICE stakeholders to stand together to move the industry beyond COVID-19. Domestic MICE took centre stage.

The Thai government is well aware of the power of MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions) as an engine for economic recovery and income generation, and is extending high level of policy support to secure the wellbeing and resilience of Thailand's domestic MICE industry. Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anutin Charnvirakul, gave this reassurance during his keynote address at 'Thailand MICE United', a MICE industry event held in Bangkok on September 2, 2020.

Mr Anutin said: "We encourage every sector of our economy to hold its domestic meetings and trade shows in Thailand. This will help distribute income regionally and accelerate economic recovery. Now is the time for

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our public and private sectors to join forces and elevate MICE to become an even greater economic contributor to Thailand.”

A key component of ‘Thailand MICE United’ was the MICE Mart, which served a total of 360 pre-schedule appointments between 132 MICE suppliers from across the country and 305 buyers under enhanced health and safety measures.

Other than the MICE Mart and Mr Anutin’s address, the event also featured a seminar on how COVID-19 has reshaped client demand, a showcase of new technologies, and a dialogue on new meeting standards in the face of COVID-19.

A highlight was the launch of two new MICE cities – Songkhla in the south and Nakhon Ratchasima in the northeast. Having met the criteria for infrastructure, accessibility, range of delegate activities, and image, these two cities now join Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Pattaya, Phuket and Khon Kaen as top-tier destinations to receive enhanced marketing and support.

TCEB’s support for domestic MICE is headlined by a subsidy of up to 30,000 Baht per event. For international MICE, there are four targeted campaigns: ‘Ease Up’ for meetings and incentives; ‘Convene Plus’ for conventions; ‘Re-Energize Exhibition’ for trade shows; and ‘Thailand Power-Up’ for mega events and festivals.

TCEB President Mr Chiruit Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya said: “The groundwork we have laid will position Thailand for a robust recovery in domestic MICE. TCEB’s incentive schemes, together with the government’s strong policy support, our resourceful and dedicated MICE entrepreneurs, and the debut of Songkhla and Nakhon Ratchasima as our newest MICE cities will recast Thailand as a high-value, high-trust destination with richly-differentiated products. TCEB is committed to creating a favourable environment for our MICE entrepreneurs to excel, and help them deliver outstanding experiences for clients.”

The strong turnout at ‘Thailand MICE United’ was the clearest signal yet of the readiness of Thailand’s MICE industry to bounce back from the challenges wrought by COVID-19. The event was also a reaffirmation of TCEB’s close partnership with the government in ensuring steady, holistic support for the industry.

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## **MICE Partnership between UAE and Israel**

The UAE and Israel have established a partnership in the areas of major conferences and exhibitions and broader trade development. An agreement signed between the Dubai World Trade Centre, the region's leading business networking destination and Israel Export Institute.

As part of the agreement, the two organisations will work jointly to facilitate the participation of Israeli exhibitors in large-scale exhibitions in the UAE by the end of the year.

The agreement creates a framework for cooperation and participation in international conferences and large-scale exhibitions, organising and exchanging business delegations between the countries, and support in realising the significant business partnership opportunities between both countries.

The signing of the agreement is part of a new engagement between the UAE and Israel to further peace, dialogue and stability and enhance cooperation to drive sustainable development. The commercial potential of agreements between the UAE and Israel is estimated at \$500 million per annum across several key sectors.

The new agreement has been facilitated by cooperation between the Israel

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## NEWS LINE WORLD

Export Institute and Israel's Ministries of Economy and Foreign Affairs, which are actively engaged in the promotion of Israeli industry following the recent signing of the peace treaty with the UAE. The Israel Export Institute, responsible for Israeli participation in international exhibitions, will now take on this role for the first time in the Gulf States.

DWTC hosts and organises some of the world's most renowned mega events and exhibitions and is an influential knowledge-sharing platform with prominent events spanning diverse sectors including technology, foodtech, cyberspace and lifestyle. Fuelled by Dubai's reputation as a strategic regional business and financial hub, DWTC serves as a leading destination for international conferences and trade fairs, as well as a multi-faceted ecosystem that supports the growth of businesses across the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region. DWTC's innovative and expansive portfolio has continued to redefine the region's MICE industry and has also driven new areas of economic growth and investment into Dubai and the UAE.

His Excellency Abdulla bin Touq Al Mari, UAE Minister of Economy said: "The historic signing of the Abraham Accords agreement has opened new avenues for strengthened collaboration and exchange between the UAE and Israel. It has also established a framework for bilateral trade and economic ties to flourish between both states. Partnerships such as the one between the Dubai World Trade Centre and the Israel Export Institute will have a wide-reaching positive impact, as not only both nations stand to benefit, but so does the wider region, particularly through an inward flow of investment and trade, increased cooperation, knowledge sharing, and large-scale innovation."

Gabi Ashkenazi, Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs, said: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has operated for many years in the financial field in the Gulf States in general. I welcome this step, carried out in cooperation with the Israel Export Institute, and which will promote the economies of both Israel and the UAE."

Amir Peretz, Minister of Economy and Industry said: "The fruits of peace are ripening faster than imaginable. The trade agreement with the Dubai World Trade Centre is the first step towards a comprehensive trade agreement to be signed within the coming weeks between the Ministry of Economy and the UAE Government. The agreement will cover a wide range of areas that could bring billions of dollars into the Israeli economy. This development

and future large-scale agreements are proof of the value of peace rather than unilateral activities and will surely bring growth to the broader region and the Israeli economy in particular.”

### **MITEC Hosted Malaysia’s First Major Business Event During COVID-19 Recovery**

The Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC) have successfully hosted the country’s first major business event during the COVID-19 Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) in a highly-controlled, carefully managed environment with stringent safety and security protocols in place.



The one-day event marked the first milestone of a large-scale gathering of more than 4,500 people in attendance including the Malaysian Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, senior ministers, dignitaries and participants from a non-governmental organisation. The event was captured in a video to showcase MITEC’s venue management that is in line with the approved Malaysian National Security Council Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) including health registration with MySejahtera\* App, mandatory mask-wearing in public areas and social distancing measures.

“We have rigorous health and safety measures, delegate management system, as well as on-site communication including ‘mobile human safety reminders’ encouraging strict adherence and the provision of guidance and compliance,” said Gunther Beissel, Chief Executive Officer, Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre.

Ready-to-eat packed meals were served to each attendee at their respective seats during lunch and AM/PM coffee breaks with pre-wrapped cutlery set to provide a safe and controlled catering system for the wellbeing of attendees and our team members.

“Successful hosting of such mass gathering signals a start to rebuilding public confidence in the meetings and events industry and we are proud to have delivered the event seamlessly within a safe, and structured manner.

We are excited to see Business Events rebound and thrilled to be hosting more major events and exhibitions in a safe, organised, and secure environment in accordance with the SOPs that have been endorsed by the Malaysian Government,” concluded Beissel.

### Tourism During and Beyond COVID-19

The Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has met in-person and virtually for its 112th session. This was the first major in-person event involving tourism and the United Nations held since the COVID-19 was declared a pandemic.



The Executive Council was able to

gather 170 delegates from 24 countries, who all agreed to support the Tbilisi Declaration with its commitment to making international travel safe again. The Council also decided to open a first UNWTO regional office.

After the session was opened by the Prime Minister of Georgia, Giorgi Gacharia, UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili outlined the accomplishments of the past 12 months. This included the provision of technical support to Members, tourism advocacy at the very highest political level, and furthering the sector's contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals from within the wider United Nations system.

Opening the meeting, the Prime Minister of Georgia Giorgi Gacharia said: "The post-crisis era presents an opportunity for our tourism sector to showcase the uniqueness of Georgia and make the country into a leading destination, with the many social and economic benefits this will bring".

In his welcoming remarks, Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili underscored "that the restart of tourism must be properly managed and that our sector lives up to its unique potential". He added that "this crisis has made clear the important role tourism plays in every part of our lives", laying the ground to "work together to build a tourism sector that works for everyone, where sustainability and innovation are part of everything we do".

Further proving tourism's global recognition, for the first time ever the UN Secretary-General sent a message of support to the Executive Council, remembering tourism's key role for people and the planet. António Guterres said that "tourism can be a force for good in our world, playing a part in protecting our planet in its biodiversity, and celebrating what makes us human". He further stressed that "this Executive Council is an important platform for collaboration, to explore the way forward and to support the future of tourism".

The members of the Council confirmed plans to open UNWTO's first Regional Office, to be located in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which recently announced its ambitious plans to open up its tourism sector to the world, including through the relaxation of visa rules for visitors.

The Executive Council agreed to the 'Tbilisi Declaration: Actions for Sustainable Recovery'. The Declaration recognizes tourism as one of the worst-affected of all sectors by the pandemic and identifies the global standstill as a chance to realign the sector towards a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Members also unanimously accepted Spain's proposal to host the 113th session of the Executive Council, during which the elections for the Secretary-General for 2022-2025 period will be held (19 January 2021).

To conclude the Session, UNWTO held an Investment Forum, bringing together experts from across the public and private sector to explore opportunities and challenges for investments in tourism in the post-pandemic landscape.

### **Exhibitions and Congresses Resume in Moscow**

In accordance with the decree of the mayor of Moscow from September, 4 exhibitions and congresses are resumed in Moscow in full, taking into account the requirements of sanitary and epidemiological safety. It has become the next step to remove the restrictions established in March this year.



The implementation of congress and exhibition activities has been resumed in full in compliance with the requirements aimed at preventing the spread of the new coronavirus infection. The convention and exhibition industry has become one of the most affected sectors of the economy.

And all this time, the Russian Convention Bureau, together with other industry associations, took an active part in developing recommendations on support measures and removing the stressful component of the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the industry, on measures to ensure sanitary and epidemiological safety for congress exhibition events.

These initiatives, aimed at the early recovery of the industry, became one of the key activities of the RCB during the period of restrictions.







### **Tips for travellers visiting Istanbul for the first time**

Istanbul is a Turkish city straddling Asia and Europe over the Bosphorous Strait. The city was once the capital of the Ottoman and Byzantine Empire and dates back to the 7th Century. The old city holds a timeless beauty and charm that is a great attraction to tourists.



In light of the COVID-19 epidemic, and if you are visiting Istanbul for the first time from Japan to USA, there are some important things that you need to know before travelling.



### **Current Restrictions**

The Turkish Government has introduced strict measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. Some of the restrictions have been relaxed somewhat, but you should be prepared as the Government might reintroduce them with little or no notice.



Everyone must wear masks at all times while walking around Istanbul

Public transport has capacity limits to ensure that passengers follow the set social distancing rules

### **Arrival and Departure**

Situations around the world have changed dramatically, and most Governments have issued travel warnings restricting travel. Turkish international borders are open to all foreign travellers, who must meet the

## COVER STORY

Turkish Immigration rules first.

Commercial flights have resumed, albeit on a country-to-country basis, which is coordinated by the Turkish Ministry of Health. The restrictions for travellers include:



All airline passengers must wear face masks and complete locator forms that the particular airline supplies. You have to provide the address of the place you will be staying as well as how to contact you.

The passengers must complete a COVID-19 screen on arrival to Istanbul. The screen includes a temperature check, and for any traveller with COVID-19 symptoms must undergo a PCR (Polymerase chain reaction) or swab test.

### Visa and Immigration

If you are planning to travel to Istanbul for business or tourist purposes, you can travel visa-free for visits of at least 90 days. If you plan to stay in Istanbul for more than 90 days, you can apply for a longer stay visa or obtain a residence permit before the 90 days elapse. If working in Istanbul, you need to obtain the appropriate permits.

Not abiding by your visa or permit terms will get you fined, deported and banned from Turkey. E-visas available many countries, you can apply for a Turkey visa from your country online. E-visas are processed as soon as they are submitted, but it would be best to apply 48 hours before travelling to avoid delays.





## Things to Do in Istanbul

For visitors from all around the world , there is no shortage of things to do in Istanbul, whether on a tourist or work visit. Some of the places to visit are:



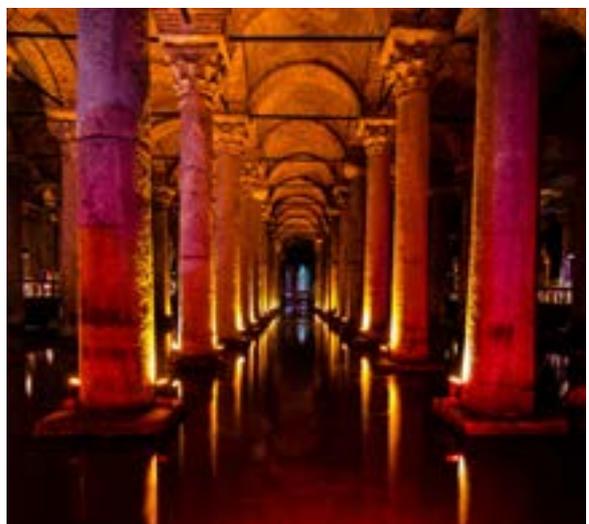
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## COVER STORY

**The Blue Mosque.** Built in 1616, it is famous for the intricate blue tiles that cover its entire interior.



**Topkapi Palace.** Once the administrative headquarters of the Ottoman Empire, it is a beautiful place, and includes the Harem, where the Sultan's mother, his wives and concubines resided.



**Basilica Cistern:** An ancient reservoir it is located underground. It is cold, dark, and if you look carefully, you will find two Medusa heads.



**Grand Bazaar:** Its great kaleidoscope of coloured lanterns and hallways resembling a maze are a delight to shop in.

**Spice Bazaar:** Built in 1664, the Spice Bazaar is the largest market where you can get all types of spices, caviar, dried fruits, Turkish delights and much more.



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## COVER STORY

**Suleymaniye Mosque:** An exquisite mosque, the Suleymaniye Mosque is 60 years older than the Blue Mosque and was constructed by Sultan Suleymaniye the Magnificent at the height of the Ottoman Empire.



### **And a tour on Beyoğlu**

An often neglected sightseeing route by tourists is that of Pera or Beyoglu, which in fact yields a whole number of historical interest points from churches, historical buildings, picturesque arcades, old Ottoman hans, to bazaars and fine restaurants, all easily visitable in one area over a couple of hours, depending on what takes your fancy.



## **Pera in the Past**

Pera, meaning 'opposite shore' generally referred to the shore opposite the harbor of the Golden Horn, that of Galata in Byzantine times. During Ottoman times, it came to refer to the section of Taksim between the Square and Tunel with all its residing foreigners.





The fortified enclave of lower Galata's Jewish, Italian and French were to become the later inhabitants of Pera. As the Ottomans opened to trading with the West, it soon necessitated rapid outer expansion into presently day Beyoglu, with the main route named as Grand Rue De Pera.





Such a diversity of new coming nations, ethnic groups and cultures was inevitably going to have an impact on the cities appearance and lifestyle. The first embassy was constructed by the French in lower Pera, quickly followed by a host of other nations competing in lavishness, offsetting a whole European scene within the larger Oriental one.



In keeping with the Western lifestyle, it remained a realm apart, a minute city of its own, feeding and thriving off its own cultural sphere. It became a stage for exhibiting exclusive fashions, holding glamorous embassy dances and parties.... it was quite possibly one of the most mingled and luxuriant foreign communities in the world. Since the formation of the Turkish Republic in 1923, the Grand Rue the Pera ceased to exist as it was re-named Independence Street, or Istiklal Caddesi. As you walk this grand street, tilt

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## COVER STORY

your head and try to envision the building facades in full splendor as they were in the nineteenth century heyday of Pera, the bygone era of fine ladies and elegant gentleman.



### **Beyoğlu today; İstiklal Caddesi / Grand Rue de Pera**

The 1.2 km pedestrian street leading from the Square down to Tunel is packed with an arbitrary scattering of music and bookstores, movie theaters and cultural centers, cafes, restaurants and bars, commercial banks and offices, shopping outlets and bazaars, consulates and embassies, churches, historical arcades and passageways.

Peddlers and street children engage in their prospective businesses of tissue sales, shoeshine and odd bits and pieces, amid clanging tram bells, blasting music shops, and street chatter. It is a public parade for the stylish and high society, and an anonymous lair for the style less, who career in close proximity.

Beyoğlu nights are for the clubbers and bar-goers, or for those just in search of good food. Weekends see the street swarming with droves of people, which would test anyone's skills in crowd negotiation. Hence it is advisable to partake in the business of sightseeing on a weekday to avoid any infuriation.



The Jazz Music Festival during the summer and Istanbul Film Festivals in the first week of April take over the area, seeing a large influx of musicians and artists and their audiences.

Istanbul is one of the oldest towns in Turkey and is rich in colour and culture. With the COVID-19 pandemic, you need to be well prepared if it is your first time. Having the proper documentation and following all the government guidelines, visitors from all around the world, will have a great time in Istanbul.



### Turkey eyes \$1 bln in health tourism revenue this year

Turkey has earned about \$1 billion in health tourism revenues in the last 12 months despite travel restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

Last year, more than 662,000 foreign patients visited Turkey, according to Doc's Health Tourism Agency CEO Yusuf Temrel.

"The figure was 143,266 in the first quarter of 2020. The revenue generated in that period was \$187.9 billion," he said.

"The top three countries sending international patients to Turkey were Iraq, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan," he added.



Turkey's health tourism revenue exceeded one billion in 2019, of which some 60 percent came from plastic surgeries.

The Turkish Health Ministry aims to increase the number of health tourists to

1.5 million by 2023 with a revenue of \$10 billion.

Noting that during the COVID-19 pandemic the health infrastructures of the countries have been under pressure, Temrel said Turkey was a "shining star in terms of health tourism."

"Our country is one of the countries that survived this process with the least damage with its well-equipped hospitals, experienced doctors and health personnel," he said.

Citing Britain's National Health Service numbers, some 4.4 million patients were in waiting lists for dental treatments, hernia and cataracts operations, hip and knee replacement surgeries, said Temrel.

"We predict that this number will exceed 10 million by the end of the year," he said, noting that the United Kingdom, one of the countries most affected by the pandemic, holds great potential for Turkey's health tourism sector.(Daily news)



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## MEET AT EVENT

### The First Virtual IT&CMA

Organized by TTG Events established in 1993, IT&CMA is well positioned as the global event with the largest exhibition showcase of Asia-Pacific MICE suppliers and both events have been co-locating since 2004. This year, the 28th IT&CMA and the 23rd CTW APAC edition are shifting to online for the first time and the virtual event is happening from 16 to 20 November 2020.



Five full business days from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the virtual event feature a 24/7 Virtual Exhibition, Brand Showcase Presentations, Walk-In Meets and adding new activities and opportunities such as Buyer Procurement Showcase and Mini Destination / Brand Roadshows. Attractive program hosted by the most important organizations like ICCA, IAPCO, SITE, PCMA, IMEX Group and more.

- Each exhibitor or buyer receives up to 24 x 20min schedulable meeting slots over 4 days. Mutual request for meetings can be done from 9 November, right up to the 5 actual event days, inclusive.
- Tune in first-hand to the latest highlights and developments by participating destination and corporate brands, during 30-min presentations.
- An exclusive mini event dedicated to immersing with the destination or brand host. Programme highlights can include an opening overview presentation, followed by Exhibitor Familiarisation sessions with individual co-exhibitors, concluding with an interactive social soiree of entertainment, fun & games, and giveaways.
- Daily opportunities to engage in the year's hot topics with our prolific panel of industry thought leaders and experts.
- 2 ways to optimise your one-on-one business meeting potential: (1) mutual request Scheduled Meet (SM) slots (2) anytime Walk-in Meets (WM), for maximum lead generation throughout the event.
- In addition to scheduled meets, anytime WMs can take place throughout the 5 event days from 9am to 6pm (GMT+8), subject to the Exhibitors' preferred booth opening hours and Buyers' online availability. Buyer / Exhibitor can directly request for a WM meet anytime without a prior appointment.
- Exhibitors and Buyers also have the added convenience of pre-arranging a meet based on mutual availability anytime during the event, including times outside the business day of 9am to 6pm (GMT+8).
- - A new event segment featuring MICE, Association and Corporate buyers as they share their procurement requirements with relevant and interested destination and supplier leads. Each showcase is 30-min in duration.
- Stretch your social muscles even further over virtual conversations, ice-breakers and interactive games.

The dates for next year event are announced from 28-30 September 2021 at Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld, Bangkok, Thailand. For more info <https://itcma.com/>

### Contemporary Istanbul 2020

The second Step Istanbul, Istanbul's affordable art fair, will take place between Dec. 16 and 20 this year. The fair will take place at Taksim 360, hosting 25 art galleries. Contemporary Istanbul (CI) Art Fair and the Contemporary Istanbul Foundation (CIF) Vice President Rabia Bakıcı Güreli said that Step Istanbul has become a multidimensional art event hosting art initiatives, galleries and artists.

"We have taken many measures due to the COVID-19 crisis this year. That's why the fair will also be available on online platforms beginning from Nov. 16," added Güreli, noting that this year the fair will take place with the sponsorship of Ford Otosan.



CI and CIF president Ali Güreli, Tomtom Designhood President Hakan Kodal and Taksim 360 Gap Construction Deputy General Manager Gonca Özgül also attended the press conference. Both Özgül and Kodal noted the importance of art events supporting artists and art scene.

"This year there will be severe measures taken for COVID-19 and everyone will be entering the fair area with their [Hayat Eve Sığar] HES codes," said Ali Güreli, referring to a code issued by a Health Ministry smartphone app.

Speaking about adapting to "the new normal," Güreli said that the world is encountering a new situation and that is what we call "next normal. From now on there will be only next normal and we will adapt accordingly," he added.

"This year we will host 25 galleries and 250 artists in Step Istanbul. We aim to establish a secure environment for everyone," said Bakıcı Güreli, adding that it is a must to maintain a sustainable art scene.

This year the event will host Gallery, Anna Laudel Gallery, ART TV Project, ART50.NET, Arton, C.E.P Gallery, Carré D'Artistes Istanbul, De Artium, Faar Art & Design, Ferda Art Platform, Galeri 77, Galeri Binyıl, Galeri Diani, Galeri Fe, Galeri/Miz, GaleriBu, Galleryrooms, Mixer, Mona Galeri, Paper Street Co., PG Art Gallery, Red Art Artopol and Vision Art Platform.

According to the policy adopted by Step Istanbul as the first step of accessible art, the prices of the works will range from 500 Turkish Liras to 20,000 liras.

### No fans to attend Turkish Grand Prix

Organisers of the Turkish Grand Prix have abandoned plans to invite fans to November's race because of Covid-19. A statement from the Istanbul governor's office said the event at the Istanbul Park track on 13-15 November would be held without spectators.



The decision was made on the recommendation of the coronavirus provincial pandemic committee.

Coronavirus cases are rising in Turkey, as in many European countries. Organisers of the race, which was last held in 2011, had hoped to attract a crowd of up to 100,000.

An F1 spokesperson said: "Our season has been guided by a safety first approach and that will continue to be our priority. "In Turkey we were looking forward to seeing fans but the situation in the country means this is no longer possible and we fully understand and respect the decision."



The first eight races of the season were held behind closed doors, but the past two grands prix have been held with spectators. The first was the Tuscan Grand Prix, when 2,800 spectators a day were allowed into the Mugello track over the weekend of 11-13 September.

The Russian Grand Prix in Sochi, the most recent event held, also invited spectators, while this weekend's Eifel Grand Prix at Germany's Nurburgring will allow up to 20,000 fans. The following events in Portugal and Imola in Italy are also planning to allow fans, as long as cases do not rise in a concerning fashion in those countries.

### International yacht race marks Turkey's Republic Day in Istanbul

An international yacht race kicked off on the Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul on 29th October, marking the 97th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey.

The race, organized for the first time this year by the Istanbul Offshore Yacht Racing Club under the auspices of the Turkish presidency, started off the Dolmabahce Palace along the shores of Bosphorus on the European side of the city with a ceremony.



A minute's silence was held to honor Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, who lost his life in 1938.

The teams attended the ceremony at their respective yachts on the strait, one of the busiest waterways in the world, flowing between the Asian and European parts of Istanbul.

In addition to the Turkish teams, 650 athletes and 61 yachts from neighboring countries such as Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine will compete in the race, which will run until Sunday, press reports said.

Ataturk declared the republic in 1923, ending the rule of the Ottoman Empire.





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## Check out Russian Travel news



## 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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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)



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Birbirimize İyi Bakalım Take Care of Each Other, 2020 (detay detail)  
İstanbul Modern Sanat Müzesi Koleksiyonu İstanbul Museum of Modern Art Collection  
Kadın Sanatçılar Fonu'yla koleksiyona kazandırılmıştır. Acquired by the Women Artists Fund.

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