

UNIQUE MOMENTS





Selected Unique Moments

UNIQUE DINING EXPERIENCE WITH LOCALS

To experience a dinner with locals is what we all dream of while travelling. This is a great opportunity to meet local people at their private places, experience their culture, daily life, hear their stories and taste the homemade local dishes. The event may take place in an apartment, an art gallery or in a atelier of an artist. Join a locals table to discover best kept secrets of local life!



TURKISH COFFEE AT SARK KAHVESI

Enjoy a traditional Turkish coffee at the Historical Coffee Roaster located in the Grand Bazaar. Each variety has been prepared with a blend of traditional knowledge, experience and an abiding Love of Coffee.



BAKLAVA TASTING AT THE KARAKOY GULLUOGLU BAKLAVA SHOP

Treat yourself with Baklava from the masters unchanging taste in Karakoy Gulluoglu Baklavicisi (since 1949).



TASTE THE TURKISH DELIGHT

A short break at Ali Muhiddin Hacı Bekir's shop a the inventor of Turkish delight. From the time of its founding during the Ottoman Empire, the name Hacı Bekir has become a legend in Ottoman and Turkish confectionery and a leading symbol of this art.



PRIVATE VISIT TO SEHZADEBASI MOSQUE

A unique experience offering an opportunity to have a private visit to a local mosque, where the imam will talk you through the praying rituals, as well as teaching you some local chants.



WHIRLING DERVISHES AT DARUZZIYAFE RESTAURANT

The Whirling Dervishes is the Mevlevi ritual, which symbolizes the mystical meaning of Divine Love and the passion for the union with the Divine truth. This has been performed for hundreds of years in the Mevlevi Lodges.



EXCLUSIVE VISIT OF HAGIA SOPHIA MUSEUM

You have the opportunity to avoid the crowds, escape the ordinary and enjoy after-hours tour at the spectacular Hagia Sophia Museum. This visit can be combined with a private cocktail and visit to the Underground Cistern. We can privately visit also the Chora Museum and The Museum Of Turkish And Islamic Arts.



TEA TIME AT PERA PALACE HOTEL

One of the most important historical landmarks of Istanbul where Agatha Christie wrote her novel "Murder on the Orient Express". Experience and relive the grandeur of the past while you enjoy your Turkish Tea.



THE HISTORICAL AND LUXURIOUS ART OF BATHING AT THE HURREM SULTAN HAMAM

Mimar Sinan, the chief Ottoman architect, designed & built the Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hamam in Istanbul at the request of Hurrem Sultan (Roxelana) in the 16th century (1556-1557 AD). Taking a Turkish Hamam includes relaxing in a hot dry air room for perspiring (the iliklik). The guests may then move on to a hotter room (the hararet) before cooling down with cold water. Finally, after a relaxing massage, guests retreat to the cooling-room for relaxation & refreshments



CALLIGRAPHY COURSES

Learn the secrets of creating rich patterns of handmade marbled paper and experience the sensuous flow of Ottoman calligraphy in the company of our highly skilled artist craftsman. He will put you at ease whilst giving you the rare opportunity to experience Turkish art up close with his beautiful henna tattoos, which may have originated in Turkey 7000 years ago.



TRANSFER WITH A VINTAGE CAR

Take a road trip through the city in a vintage American car. It's a fun way to get around in a Chevrolet Dodge, Plymouth or Desotos, which were among the most popular choices of vehicle in Turkey prior to 1960.



NOSTALGIC TOUR OF “GRANDE RUE DE PERA” ON A PRIVATE TRAMVAY

Experience a ride on a nostalgic tram in Istiklal Caddesi formerly known as “The Grande Rue de Pera” . During your journey admire the famous 19th century buildings like Cicek Pasaji (Flowers Passage), Roman Catholic churches of Santa Maria and St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral, the Greek Orthodox Haghia Triada, the famous Galatasaray School and much more...



EXPLORE CUCURCUMA AND VISIT ORHAN PAMUK MUSEUM

Cukurcuma, known as the neighbourhood that, here you will find the best antique stores in Istanbul combined with a visit to the Museum of Innocence, founded by Nobel prized author Orhan Pamuk, based on the museum described in his book. It is housed in a building in Cukurcuma and displays a evocative collection of everyday life and culture of Istanbul during the period in which the novel was set.



WITNESS THE DANCE OF COLOURS WITH THE WATER

Ebru Painting workshop is a traditional Turkish art. Natural dyes mixed with ox gall are sprinkled with brushes made of horse tails on the surface of water in a deep ebru tray. The oily dyes are designed on the surface of water, after the design is ready, tray-size papers are left on the tray to absorb all the dyes as they are with their formed shape.



NOSTALGIC TOUR OF IZMIR

A short ride of Phaeton/Fayton (traditional horse carriage of Izmir)tour in Izmir along the famous shore promenade called Kordonboyu.



EPHESUS MUSEUM

Private lecture by the director of the Ephesus Museum.



PRIVATE VISIT AND DINNER IN EPHESUS

Imagine a fully catered dinner against the backdrop of Ephesus, the best-preserved classical city of the Eastern Mediterranean.



WINE TASTING IN SIRINCE

This historical Greek village acquired world-wide fame when tourists flocked to the village in December 2012 to witness the Mayan Apocalypse; you will truly enjoy the impressive wines of Sirince.



DINNER AT A LEVANTINE VILLA'S GARDEN IN IZMIR

Dinner at the villa of one of the most notorious French Levantine family.



RUINS OF HIERAPOLIS

Private lecture by the Director of the Italian excavations Prof. Francesco d'Andria from the Università dei Studi di Lecce who also last year discovered the tomb of St. Philip.



CAPPADOCIA HOME COOKING

Traditional stone house where we accommodate our guests for traditional home cooking. The house is decorated in a traditional style (arched ceilings, Turkish textiles & Cappadocia rugs) so that guests can experience real village life of Cappadocia. We want you to feel and enjoy the Turkish hospitality and tradition. Savor this authentic Turkish food after we have prepared it together! The ingredients used are organic products, including fresh eggs from our chickens, honey from our own beehives and a variety of fruits, vegetables and spices that are grown in our garden.



DINNER AT THE CAPPADOCIA VALLEY

Exclusive catered breakfast, lunch or dinner in the ancient settings of the Valley of Cappadocia, a unique life time experience.



CAVE HOUSE VISIT

Visit a historic cave house and experience how the inhabitants used to live.



VISIT OF A TYPICAL TARSUS HOUSE

Have a refreshment stop in Typical Tarsus house converted to a cafe (Atilla Cafe).



TASTE THE "MENENGIC COFFEE" IN GAZIANTEP

After the visit to Bakircilar Bazaar taste the Menengic Coffee at the famous Tahmis kahvesi Coffee house.



COCKTAIL AT THE MOUNT NEMRUT

Taste the award winning wine Bogazkere of Diyarbakir region at the peak of the Mount Nemrut.



VISIT THE TURKISH GOURMET MUSEUM

Visit the only Gourmet Museum in Turkey called "Emine Gogus Cuisine Museum" located in Gaziantep.

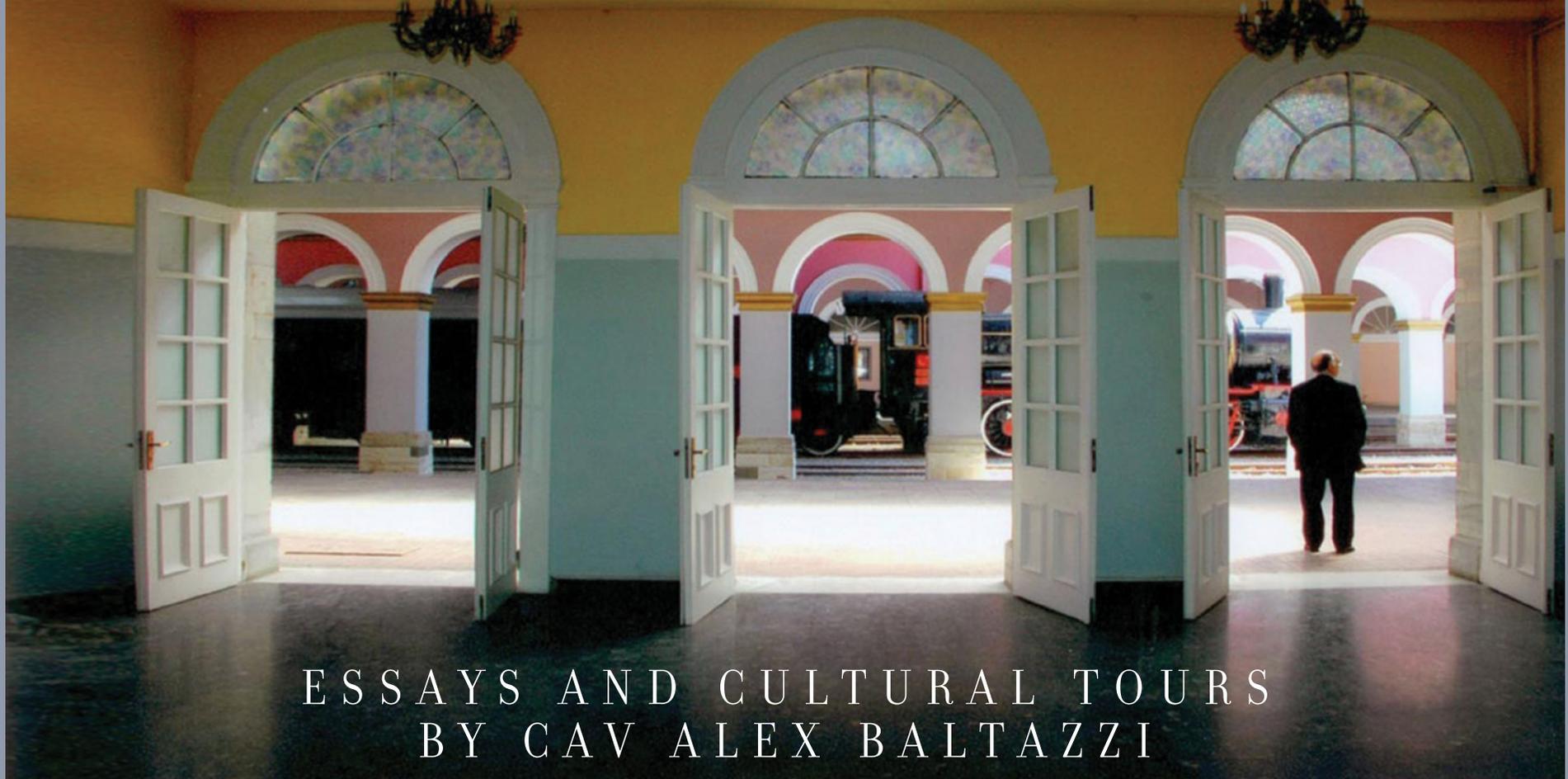
On the Spot Unique Moments



ON THE SPOT UNIQUE MOMENTS

Our guides will spontaneously pay school visits and weddings in villages should time and circumstances allow us.

*All services are upon availability of the locations and Lecturers.



ESSAYS AND CULTURAL TOURS BY CAV ALEX BALTAZZI

Alex Baltazzi Chairman and founder of Karavan besides his fifty year of successful experience in tourism and travel is a notable multilingual writer and specialist in the cultural and archaeological wealth of our country. Furthermore IS President of the Italian Cultural and Friendship Association of Izmir bestowed with the honour of Knight by the Italian President of the Italian republic, and is considered one of the best experts on the Levantine Heritage. See: www.levantineheritage.com/testi44.htm

We are hereby pleased to invite you also to consult the link of the cultural and archaeological tours prepared by him

http://www.karavantravel.com/2014/Essays_and_Cultural_Tours_by_our_President_Alex_Baltazzi.pdf