

Dear Mr.Hugh Fraser,

Greetings from the sublime city of Istanbul !

Please kindly find below our proposal for your possible groups for 30-50 pax in the future.

You may see suggested boutique&special category hotels, vip-transfers, excursions and last but not least, dinner venues and entertainment as well as some ideas for gifts.

It will be an honour and an utmost pleasure to be working with you.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best Regards,

Onur Alkaya  
Director of kmice



## ISTANBUL



## AIRPORT/HOTELS or VICEVERSA TRANSFERS



## VIP PRIME CLASS SERVICES

### **ARRIVAL TO ISTANBUL**

#### **PRIME CLASS ARRIVAL SERVICES**

- Prime class hostesses will welcome our guests at the gate of the aircraft,
- Visa procedures will be done ( If needed) by Primeclass hostesses,
- Passport procedures will be done by Primeclass hostesses,
- Primeclass porters will collect luggages and carry them to the buses.
- Assitant will be given during Duty Free shopping.

### **DEPARTURE FROM ISTANBUL**

#### **PRIME CLASS DEPARTURE SERVICES**

- Primeclass hostesses will welcome our guests at the entrance,
- Primeclass porters will collect luggages and carry with luggage truck,
- Check-in procedures will be done at Primeclass desk,
- Passport procedures will be done at Primeclass desk,
- Prime class waiting lounge.

**Check-in from a separate desk at the hotel**  
Welcome punch will be served during check-in procedure.



## THE PA TOUR GUIDE SYSTEM



*The PA Tour Guide System helps our guests with hearing difficulties overcome background noise and distance from the tour guide – even in noisy surroundings. Our tour guide wears Transmitter and Headset microphone. Listeners use portable receivers and lightweight headphones to hear every word clearly and easily, even in the back of the group. Complete portable system operates over distance of 50-70 meters.*

**The PA Tour Guide System usage is obligatory in St.Sophia and St. Savior in Chora**

## HALF DAY ( AFTERNOON) EXCURSION ALTERNATIVES



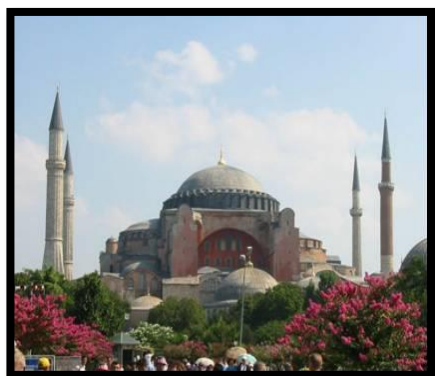
## BYZANTINE & OTTOMAN / HALF DAY TOUR

### HIPPODROME SQUARE :



The tour will start with the visit of Hippodrome Square with a capacity of 100,000 spectators, the Hippodrome was the scene for the political struggles and the uprisings in the capital city of the Empire. The construction of the race tracks and the cavea started in the reign of Emperor Septimus Severus and were completed a hundred years later under Constantine the Great. The stones from the structure were used in the construction of the Blue Mosque. Today the only remains from the Hippodrome are the three monumental columns and a fountain. The granite obelisk was brought from the temple of Carnac on the river Nile, by the Roman emperor Theodosius. The second one is the "Column of the Serpent", brought from the Temple of Apollo in Delphi and the last one is the present from German Kaiser Wilhelm II to the Ottoman dynasty.

### ST. SOPHIA :



Our second visit will be to **Hagia Sophia**, which is considered as one of the eight wonders of the world, also occupies a prominent place in the history of art and architecture. It is one of the rare works of this size and age that has survived to our day. The church (called Ayasofya in Turkish) is erroneously known as Saint Sophia in the west. The basilica was not dedicated to a saint named Sophia, but to Divine Wisdom. This was the site of a pagan temple, and the three separate basilicas built here in different times were all called by the same name. Although no churches were built during the reign of Constantine the Great, some sources maintain that the first Hagia Sophia basilica was built by him. Actually, the first small basilica with a wooden roof was constructed in the second half of the 4th century by Constantinius, the son of Constantine the Great.

This church burnt during the riots in 404, and a second and larger basilica that replaced it was inaugurated in 415. During the bloody uprising of 532 that broke out at a chariot race in the Hippodrome, ten thousands of the inhabitants of the city were killed and numerous building destroyed. The Hagia Sophia church was among the structures burnt

during this so-called "Nika" revolt which was directed against Emperor Justinian.

### **BASILICA CISTERN :**



The next stop after the Hagia Sophia will be to **Basilica Cistern**, also known as the **Sunken Palace** was used as the water reservoir for the Byzantine Great Palace during the reign of Justinian in 532. Inside the huge building, there is a few feet of water but wooden walkways have been built for visitors. There are 336 columns supporting a cathedral ceiling and some of them were taken from torn-down temples. The interior of the building has special dim lighting and classical music is played to create an eerie atmosphere.

### **St. SAVIOR IN CHORA :**



The tour will end with a visit to the **Holy Savior In Chora (Kariye Museum)**. This church was originally built as the primary structure of a Byzantine monastery complex. Today, only the church that was dedicated to Jesus Christ the Savior has survived. Visitors flock to this church to see its exquisite frescoes. The building you see today was built in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century and since then has undergone lots of repairs and restoration. Virtually all of the interior décor, such as the famous, breathtaking mosaics and the less renowned but equally striking mural paintings, dates from about 1320.

## OTTOMAN MARVELS / HALF DAY TOUR

### BLUE MOSQUE :



First visit will be to Blue Mosque known as the “Mosque of Sultan Ahmet”, the mosque is located next to the ancient Hippodrome and across from Hagia Sophia. The mosque was built in the first quarter of the 17th Cen. The architect was Mehmet Aga, one of the pupils of the great Architect Sinan. As he tried to surpass his master, he created a masterpiece that still has a great reputation. Next to the mosque is a religious complex that had a soup kitchen, a hospital, a primary education school a madrasah (school of theology) and the tomb of Sultan Ahmet. The six minarets and the lay out of the domes and semi domes create a unique exterior. The decoration of the interior and the outstanding tiles are well worth seeing. A sound and light show is performed every night in various languages, just outside the mosque.

### TOPKAPI PALACE:



Next visit of the day will be to Topkapı Palace, the administrative palace of the Ottoman Dynasty, that ruled on three continents for over six centuries, is definitely a must see. Open every day, except Tuesday, the museum and the artifacts displayed deserve a through attention. The construction started in 1470; the palace do not show an architectural uniformity in the classical sense as each reigning Sultan added new parts, or separate parts of it were rebuilt after the destruction of fires and earthquakes. The beautiful gardens of the palace, that occupied the eastern end of the peninsula in the time interval the palace was used by the dynasty, serve different purposes today. Through the Central Gate, adorned with two defense towers on two sides, one reaches a large courtyard. On the left there is a chamber which was used as the barracks for the external guards, “Hallebardiers” (Teberliler) and where the imperial coaches are displayed. Along the same row is a separate museum. On the right is the kitchen complex that houses four separate display rooms. The 16th Cen., construction is the work of the great imperial Architect “Sinan”. More than one thousand servants were employed in the complex and cooked for five thousand people everyday. In the religious celebrations, circumcision ceremonies for the heirs and so on, this number reached up to ten thousand or more. The large hall, that covers a great portion of the kitchen, displays one of the largest collections of Chinese and Far Eastern porcelain. The original kitchen utensils and Istanbul and European porcelain are displayed in the two small chambers at the end of the inner courtyard. The narrow building used as the cellar in the past, houses the silver collection.

### GRAND BAZAAR :



We will end the tour with the visit of Grand Bazaar. The oldest and largest covered bazaar in the world is situated in the heart of the city. One cannot appreciate this market without visiting it. It resembles a giant labyrinth with approximately sixty lanes and more than three thousand shops. The bazaar consisted originally of two 15th century buildings with thick walls that were covered with a series of domes. In later centuries the streets around these buildings developed and were covered and new additions were made, turning it into a trading center. In the past each lane was reserved for a different profession and the handicrafts produced here were rigorously controlled. Business ethics and traditions were strictly adhered to. All types of jewelry, fabrics, weaponry and antiques were sold by merchants whose expertise in the trade went back for generations. At the end of the last century the bazaar suffered an earthquake and several fires.

## EGYPTIAN BAZAAR & BOSHORUS CRUISE

### EGYPTIAN BAZAAR :



The tour will start with a visit to the **Spice Market**. Built in 1664, this large, old stone building includes a large number of shops (and a restaurant on the second floor that has long held a venerable place in the life of the city). This collection of shops was actually part of the complex of the adjacent Yeni Camii (the “New Mosque,” whose construction started in 1597 and finished decades later). Since its construction, the Egyptian Spice Market has specialized in the sale of exotic spices. Today, these lovely small shops continue to sell spices and now also sell dried fruits, nuts, seeds and other edibles. Some of the shops are gradually being transformed into shops featuring jewelry.

**Option A) SUREYYA V YACHT** [www.adaturizm.com](http://www.adaturizm.com)

We will continue with the bosphorus cruise. Sureyya V. has proven to be one of the most eye-catching vessels on the Bosphorus. With its sleek lines and elegant profile, this 32-meter luxury yacht provides the perfect setting for unforgettable Bosphorus cruises, dinners and private parties.



**Option B) HALAS YACHT [www.halas.com.tr](http://www.halas.com.tr)**

The Halas 71 has along and rich history which runs parallel to that of the final years of the Ottoman Empire and the founding of the Turkish Republic. With her idyllic setting and impeccable services, Halas offers the perfect atmosphere to organize events for up to 120 people. The principal indoor dining room can seat up to 60 people, and additional outdoor space for seating 42 people.



## MODERN ART MUSEUM & PERA MUSEUM & TEA TIME

### THE ISTANBUL MUSEUM OF MODERN ART



The tour will start with a visit to the Istanbul Museum of Modern Art. Founded in 2004, the Istanbul Museum of Modern Art is Turkey's first private museum that organized modern and contemporary art exhibitions. It occupies an area of 8,000 square meters on the shores of the Bosphorus. Istanbul Modern embraces a global vision to collect, preserve, exhibit and document works of modern and contemporary art and make them accessible to art lovers. As part of its commitment to sharing Turkey's artistic creativity with a wide audience and promoting its cultural identity in the international art world, Istanbul Modern hosts a broad array of interdisciplinary events. Apart from the permanent and temporary exhibition galleries, a photography gallery, and spaces for educational and social programs, the museum offers a cinema, restaurant, design store, and extensive library.

### PERA MUSEUM



Our second visit will be to the **Pera Museum**. This museum exhibits some of the most interesting works of art from the late Ottoman era, such as the famous “Kaplumbağa Terbiyecisi” (“Turtle Trainer”) of Osman Hamdi Bey. Apart from its permanent collection, the museum also hosts visiting exhibitions, which have included the works of world-famous artists such as Rembrandt.

Inaugurated on 8 June 2005, **Pera Museum** is a private museum founded by Suna and İnan Kır   Foundation with the aim of offering a broad range of high-quality culture and arts services. The Museum is located in the historic building of the former Hotel Bristol in Tepebaşı, renovated between 2003 and 2005 by restorer architect Sinan Genim, who preserved the fa ade of the building and transformed the interior into a modern and fully equipped museum. Pera Museum shares its three permanent collections “Orientalist Paintings”, “Anatolian Weights and Measures”, and “K tahya Tiles and Ceramics,” as well as the values that these collections represent, with the public through exhibitions, publications, audio-visual

events, educational activities, and academic works, striving to transmit these values to future generations. Having organized joint projects with leading international museums, collections, and foundations including Tate Britain, Victoria and Albert Museum, St. Petersburg Russian State Museum, JP Morgan Chase Collection, New York School of Visual Arts, and the Maeght Foundation, Pera Museum has introduced Turkish audiences to countless

internationally acclaimed artists, among them Jean Dubuffet, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Rembrandt, Niko Pirosmeni, Josef Koudelka, Joan Miró, Akira Kurosawa, Marc Chagall, Pablo Picasso, Fernando Botero, Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, and Goya. Since its inauguration, Pera Museum collaborates annually with national and international institutions of art and education to hold exhibitions that support young artists. All of the Museum's exhibitions are accompanied by books, catalogues, audio-visual events, and education programs. Standing out with its seasonal programs and events, Pera Film offers visitors and film buffs a wide range of screenings that extend from classics and independent movies to animated films and documentaries, as well as special shows paralleling the temporary exhibitions' themes. Pera Museum has evolved to become a leading and distinguished cultural center in one of the liveliest quarters of Istanbul.

### TEA TIME AT PERA PALACE HOTEL



Our last visit will be to Pera Palace Hotel for tea time. The Hotel was built in 1892 to accommodate Orient Express passengers. The historic building and its authentic interior take you back to a by-gone age. Famous guests include Mata Hari, Agatha Christie, King Edward VIII and Jacqueline Kennedy. The hotel has spectacular views of historical and modern Istanbul. Situated in the Galata district of Istanbul, the hotel has 145 guest rooms, 275 beds, 6 suites, and 2 junior suites. All rooms are equipped with air conditioning, satellite TV, clock radio, direct-dial telephone, internet access, mini-bar and hair dryer. Additional amenities include laundry, dry cleaning, gift shop, 24-hour room service, power generator, doctor or nurse, indoor parking, babysitting service, business centre and safety deposit box. For an authentic taste of Istanbul dine in one of Pera Palas's quaint restaurants or enjoy afternoon tea in the patisserie coffee shop.

## CUKURCUMA, THE MUSEUM OF INNOCENCE, ISTIKLAL STREET



Today, you will visit one of the busiest spots in Istanbul, **Taksim Square**, is next for a much better comprehension of the social diversity of the city. You will dig in through the side streets here, giving you also the chance to pursue the truly off-the-beaten paths of the city, to reach the antique stores of **Cukurcuma**, where Istanbulers go for antique hunting, to see fascinating collectibles in wood and glassware. Then you will visit **The Museum of The Innocence** which is a 19th-century house in the Cukurcuma district that gives the name to the novel Nobel Prize-winning author Orhan Pamuk. You will continue your touring with **Pera Museum** where you will view the rich art collection of Suna Inan Kirac Foundation including the paintings of Osman Hamdi, regarded as the only “native orientalist artist”. The museum also hosts the collection of historical measurement equipment and handcrafts made of Kutahya tiles.



The tour will end with the visit of **Istiklal Avenue** (or Istiklal Street). This avenue is one of the most famous avenues of Istanbul and is visited by nearly three million people in a single day on the weekend. Located in the historic **Beyoğlu** (Pera) district, it is an elegant pedestrian street, approximately three kilometers long, which houses exquisite boutiques, music stores, bookstores, art galleries, cinemas, theaters, libraries, cafés, pubs, nightclubs with live music, historical patisseries, chocolateries, and restaurants.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

### **Private Visit to Laleli Mosque :**



A unique experience offering clients the 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.

**[Please check our other Unique Moments from given link on the mail body !](#)**

## LUNCH ALTERNATIVES



### HAMDİ RESTAURANT [www.hamdirestorant.com.tr](http://www.hamdirestorant.com.tr)



Hamdi Restaurant has been serving its traditional southeastern kebabs since it started in 1970. It is the place to go for this famous Turkish dish. This popular restaurant is situated in the historic Eminönü district (west of Sultanahmet) and has a stunning view of the Golden Horn. The restaurant gives superior, quality service and its menu presents a wide selection of meat dishes, making Hamdi Restaurant one of Turkey's first class restaurants.

### 360 ISTANBUL RESTAURANT [www.360istanbul.com/eng/index1.html](http://www.360istanbul.com/eng/index1.html)



The name of the restaurant comes from its spectacular view that shows a 360-degree scene of the marvelous city of Istanbul. Similarly, a broad range of taste sensations is offered on the restaurant's menu. This journey of world famous cuisines includes many flavors that are unforgettable. 360's restaurant and bar are located on the terrace level of one of Istanbul's landmarks, the historic Mısır (Egypt) building.

The Mısır was built in 1910 by architect Hovsep Aznavur for Abbas Halim Pasha of Egypt as a winter residence and later was converted into an apartment by his heirs. The Catholic St. Antoin Church, whose bell tower is in the forefront of 360's view, is another landmark that is located next to Mısır apartment. The venue is surrounded by glass windows, and inside a two-sided fireplace divides the room into two sections: the bar and the restaurant. After 11:30 PM, it turns into a bar.

### ASITANE RESTAURANT [www.asitanerestaurant.com/English/index.php](http://www.asitanerestaurant.com/English/index.php)



Located in Edirnekapi, Asitane Restaurant is considered by many to be one of the most important areas of historic Istanbul. The restaurant sits high up in the foothills overlooking the Golden Horn and sits in the shadow of the mighty Chora Church, which is famous for its mosaics and is one of the most important and well-kempt buildings from the Byzantine era. Asitane opened its doors in 1991 together with the Kariye Hotel and is now a restored 19<sup>th</sup> century traditional Ottoman mansion.

The restaurant was named Asitane meaning not only “Head Gate” in Farsi but also one of the many names given to Istanbul throughout the reign of the Ottoman Empire. As a result, it was decided that the restaurant should specialize in fine Ottoman court cuisine with dishes that reflect the electric nature of the Turco-Ottoman neighborhood. After thirteen years of being open, Asitane Restaurant is now able to boast an impressive archive comprised of over 200 forgotten sweet and savory recipes, which utilize the cooking methods used 500 years ago.

### SARDUNYA FINDIKLI RESTAURANT [www.sardunyafindikli.com/en](http://www.sardunyafindikli.com/en)



Sardunya has maintained its reputation as one of Istanbul’s finest restaurants with its unchanging, impeccable standards and service over the years. It caters to a highly selective crowd on its terrace overlooking the Bosphorus. The rich menu offers seafood dishes such as sea bass served with chard leaves, calamari kebabs, grilled eggplant marinated in a “bostan” sauce. The desserts reflect traditional Turkish tastes along with delicious modern flavors.

**MATBAH RESTAURANT** [www.matbahrestaurant.com/location.htm](http://www.matbahrestaurant.com/location.htm)



Matbah is situated in a beautifully landscaped garden that acts as a peaceful oasis in the middle of Istanbul. Sitting in the heart of the old city and surrounded by all the major historical and cultural sights including the magnificent Topkapi Palace and Hagia Sophia Museum, Matbah takes you deep into the soul of Ottoman and Turkish culture through an elegant and unique atmosphere.

Matbah recreates the classic “Ottoman Palace” fine dining experience in an impressive, relaxing and welcoming way, embracing a passion for tradition and excellence.

Open for breakfast, brunch, lunch, pre-dinner and dinner, Matbah’s restaurant and bar offer a great selection of the Ottoman palace’s cuisine designed for the palates of exclusive gourmets.

**SUR BALIK HALIC** [www.surbalik.com/index\\_en.html](http://www.surbalik.com/index_en.html)



Sur Halic, the fourth restaurant in the Sur Fish chain, started to serve its customers on the coast of Istanbul’s Golden Horn. This restaurant invites you to enjoy a rich array of seafood dishes and the qualified services of expert team.

## HALF DAY TURKISH HAMMAM EXPERIENCE



## THE HAMAM CULTURE

The history of the baths stretch backs as far as the Romans. The excavations carried out in the city of Pompeii that remained under the ashes following the eruption of the Vesuve, putted into light the baths used by the Romans. These hamams were understood to be not just for cleaning but also pleasure and leisure. In reason of the class differences in the Roman Empire, the entrance Gates and washing places of the slaves and nobles were separated. The Roman bath incorporated at the same time the steam room- hot and cold water pools.

The Ottomans conquered materially Istanbul but Byzantium that reflected the rich heritage that it took from the Romans conquered the Ottomans by its baths.

At the most prestigious periods of the empire, in every neighborhood of the city, there was always a hamam with its hot and cold bath, fountains, domed rooms in marble and open to the ladies certain days exclusively for ladies.

The main reason why the baths took such an important place in the ottoman culture was religious. According to the Koran, cleanliness was not just an important part but a principal part of the piety. These marble temples were ensuring the apparition of social living place consisting of conversation, bath and massage.

It was customary to come to the Turkish bath with his towel, brush, henna, kohl, a piece of soap from Crete and mother of pearl inlaid patterns and in company of servants. This ceremonial preparation was due to the fact the time spent in the hamam was not one hour but almost one day.

The hamam tradition that is for the past one thousand of year an important representation of cleanliness, remedy but at the same time entertainment and social sharing.

AYASOFYA HURREM SULTAN HAMMAM [www.ayasofyahurremsultanhamami.com](http://www.ayasofyahurremsultanhamami.com)



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The Haseki Hurrem Sultan Bath was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century for Hurrem Sultan, also known as Roxelana. The building is situated just opposite the St. Sophia Mosque in Sultanahmet. **The Hamam** was commissioned by Sultan Suleiman I's consort Roxelana and constructed by Mimar Sinan.

It's possible to use the Hamam exclusively.

## DINNER ALTERNATIVES





## **BOSPHORUS CRUISE AND COCKTAIL ON BOARD & DINNER AT LEANDER TOWER**

**DENDEN MEGA YACHT** [www.kiraliktekneler.com/en/megayacht-eng.aspx](http://www.kiraliktekneler.com/en/megayacht-eng.aspx)

Tamer Koseoglu started the company in September of 2005 with the “DenDen Marine” motor yacht. The fleet has developed since then and now proudly is a leading company on the Bosphorus with the best quality of service. With its five VIP-class yachts, DenDen Yachts continues to offer high quality service to exclusive hotels and leading agencies and companies of Istanbul.



**EXCLUSIVE USE OF UNIQUE KIZ KULESI “LEANDER TOWER” [www.kizkulesi.com.tr](http://www.kizkulesi.com.tr)**

**The Legend of the Tower**

Rising from a rock at the mouth of the Bosphorus, Maiden’s Tower (also known as Leander’s Tower) was built by Ibrahim Paşa in 1719 on top of the remains of a fortress built originally by Mehmet the Conqueror. The fortress is the earliest original building constructed on a rock by Byzantine Emperor Manuel Comnenus I. The tower finds its roots in an old fable similar to Romeo and Juliet. Leander had fallen in love with Hero, a priestess of Aphrodite. Leander drowned swimming to meet Hero. When Hero found her beloved’s corpse, she committed suicide. The tower is a symbol of long lost love. Several poems have been written, works of art have been created, and thousands of photographs have been taken of this tower. It was even featured in the James Bond film *The World is Not Enough*. Since the 1600s, the tower has been used as a prison, a quarantine hospital, and a lighthouse. It is currently a deluxe restaurant in Istanbul. Transport to the tower is provided by private yachts at an extra cost.



**It’s possible to use the venue exclusively.**

**DINNER & LIVE SHOW AT NOMADS** [www.nomads.nl/istanbul](http://www.nomads.nl/istanbul)

Nomads is located in Ortakoy, the nightlife district of Istanbul. The club has a Middle Eastern theme and its distinctive décor makes every corner of Nomads unique and mystical.

As appropriate to the Eastern style, there is an exotic, slow and high rhythm Arabic/Turkish music with a Western effect. Belly dancers, singers and surprise performances at Nomads are the highlights of the club.



It's possible to use the venue exclusively.

PRIVATE VISIT ST. SOPHIA OR PRIVATE VISIT ST.IRINE CHURCH WITH CONCERT & DINNER AT BALIKCI SABAHATTIN

### ALTERNATIVE 1 - A



We will have a private visit to Hagia Sophia, which is considered as one of the eight wonders of the world, also occupies a prominent place in the history of art and architecture. It is one of the rare works of this size and age that has survived to our day. The church (called Ayasofya in Turkish) is erroneously known as Saint Sophia in the west. The basilica was not dedicated to a saint named Sophia, but to Divine Wisdom. This was the site of a pagan temple, and the three separate basilicas built here in different times were all called by the same name. Although no churches were built during the reign of Constantine the Great, some sources maintain that the first Hagia Sophia basilica was built by him. Actually, the first small basilica with a wooden roof was constructed in the second half of the 4th century by Constantinius, the son of Constantine the Great. This church burnt during the riots in 404, and a second and larger basilica that replaced it was inaugurated in 415. During the bloody uprising of 532 that broke out at a chariot race in the Hippodrome, ten thousands of the inhabitants of the city were killed and numerous building destroyed. The Hagia Sophia church was among the structures burnt during this so-called "Nika" revolt which was directed against Emperor Justinian.

## ALTERNATIVE 1 - B

### PRIVATE CONCERT AT ST. IRENE CHURCH

ST. IRENE CHURCH [www.kultur.gov.tr](http://www.kultur.gov.tr)



Other than Hagia Sofia, St.Irene is the largest and oldest church from the Byzantine era. It also carries the distinction of having been the first museum in the Ottoman Empire. St.Irene was built in 330 by Emperor Constantine the Great. The church was first built from wood, and burned during the Nikean Revolt of 532. Although the Emperor Justinian had it restored together with Hagia Sofia, it was later to suffer significant damages in fires and earthquakes. The church was renewed each time that it was damaged, and, after the conquering of Istanbul, remained within the walls of the palace courtyard. For a long period, St.Irene was used as a weapons depot; finally, in 1869, it was converted into a museum. It thereby became the first museum in the Ottoman Empire. Furthermore, it is the only church surviving today with an atrium (in other words, it is lighted from above through small windows). Now days the Museum hosts classical concerts and art exhibitions.

## ALTERNATIVE CONCERTS

### 1- BORUSAN ISTANBUL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



The history of the Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra (BIPO) starts with the Borusan Chamber Orchestra, one of the first ventures in the field of culture and the arts by Borusan Holding, a leading industrial conglomerate in Turkey. Though it began with modest numbers, the chamber orchestra was transformed into one of the leading Turkish philharmonic ensembles under its former artistic director and principal conductor Gürer Aykal. Giving its concert premiere in May 1999, BIPO has since become a prominent element of Istanbul's cultural scene.

## 2- TULUYHAN UGURLU CONCERT



### **A GENIUS IS DISCOVERED**

He was born in Istanbul, on the night of November 15, 1965. When he was two years old, he would swing in joy with the sound of his mother playing the piano. He began to make pleasant sounds with the piano when he was four years old, it also drew his mother's attention that he could repeat songs that he hear and so she took him to Cemal Reşit Rey, one of the most important classical music composers of Turkey. The master played melodies to the child and asked him to repeat. He called out in his charming style: "Come and listen, there is an international talent here". Tuluyhan was only 4 years old and confused.

**IT IS DIFFICULT TO BE A GENIUS KID!** He entered the conservatory exams without wasting time and began to learn musical notes before he learned the alphabet, when he was four years old. Next year he would start primary school and the difficult times would start. For years, he would watch from the room where he played the piano, as his friends were playing in the fields. He started composing when he was very young. He did not even know that these were compositions. He would gather people around the piano and say, "I'm

going to play something for you" and when asked what it was, he would reply, "I made it up right now".

**THE GOAL IS VIENNA** He entered the Infant Prodigy Exam when he was seven years old and achieved first place with his superior musical talent as well as his culture. He turned to the famous Turkish composer Adnan Saygun, who was in the jury, and without knowing to whom he was talking, he said "I am going to be the greatest Turkish composer. I am going to make compositions better than Adnan Saygun", which showed that his future identity was already drawn when he was only seven years old. He went to high school and the conservatory simultaneously. He traveled to Vienna for a long time, after entering the departments of piano and composition in the Vienna Music Academy. Having successfully graduating from both departments of the Vienna Music Academy, Tuluyhan took an important decision for his art life.

### **TULUYHAN SHOULD PLAY HIMSELF**

He had played the music of the greatest composers of the world, and learned not only their notes, but also their lives. Would there be anything left behind if they had not played only their own works? When seeking the answer to this question, despite all difficulties, he decided to fight in the world of music and only play his own music.

In 1987, he completed his first album that consisted of recordings from the live concert recordings he gave in Europe. The work entitled "Go With God", brought him fame in Central Europe and he was listed among respected names of the ethnic, classical, new age style. Topics of universe, Bach and beliefs deeply affected him. In his second album, he performed holly books, with the influence of Bach: Verses From Holly Books

### **CONCERTS WITH NASA IMAGES**

Tuluyhan Uğurlu said, “I would be an astronaut if I was not a musician” when he was still a student in Vienna, he wished to enrich music with visuals and draw the attention of people to the universe. The improvisations he conducted with space photographs he obtained from NASA and the European observatories, drew wide attention in his concerts.

### **ISTANBUL UNDER MY WINGS**

In 1993 he returned to Turkey for his military service. He met with Mustafa Altıoklar when he was in military service in Ankara as a reserve officer. Mustafa told him about Hezarfen, who tried to fly over Istanbul with wings, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and said “You are flying already, think about it”. Tuluyhan had completed the soundtrack of the movie month before it was shot... Drawing wide attention in Turkey and overseas, Istanbul Under My Wings brought him great fame. You may find the MP3s of the work in our MP3 section.

### **SYMPHONIC WORKS**

In 1997, he composed a serious work that he was dreaming about for years. He composed a symphonic work for Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Republic of Turkey, whom he adored deeply. He dedicated this work to the celebrations for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the republic. In 2002 he composed his first symphony and achieved a first in the world of music. In Symphony Turk, he used the piano, a symphony orchestra, a Mehter Band (historical Turkish military band) and instruments of Turkish music. (In the history of music, Mozart had used Mehter rhythms in his Turkish March and Haydn in the Military Symphony) (You may find a part of this work in the MP3 section.)

### **NEMRUD MOUNTAIN AND HISTORICAL PLACES**

Tuluyhan Uğurlu started a new project after 2003 and began to perform his concerts in historical places rather than concert halls, as much as possible. In the framework of this project, he performed a meaningful concert entitled “Living together Easter and Western Cultures”, on September 4, 2003, at the peak of the Nemrud Mountain, at an elevation of 2150 meters. Concerts in historical places continued with Van Tuşba Fort, Hattuşa, Çanakkale Troy, Çanakkale Çimenlik Fort, Topkapı, Yıldız, Çırağan and Beylerbeyi Palaces, Waiting Room of the Sirkeci Train Station, Istanbul Archeology Museum. In 2006 Uğurlu carried out the first individual project under the framework of the preparations for Europe Cultural Capital City Istanbul 2010 and made an album entitled World Capital City Istanbul, to depict the 3000 years and future of Istanbul using instruments. The work is currently performed in concerts throughout the world.

### BALIKCI SABAHAATTIN RESTAURANT [www.balikcisabahattin.com/index\\_eng.asp](http://www.balikcisabahattin.com/index_eng.asp)



Balıkçı Sabahattin is a famous seafood restaurant in Cankurtaran, Sultanahmet near Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace and the Blue Mosque. The restaurant is inside a narrow, multi-storied Ottoman style house that is charmingly decorated with ceramic plates, old copperware, traditional carpets and embroidered curtains. During the summer months, the tables spill out onto the street to accommodate the restaurant's guests.

### DINNER AT CIRAGAN PALACE / TUGRA RESTAURANT

[www.kempinski.com/en/istanbul/ciragan-palace/dining/restaurants/tugra](http://www.kempinski.com/en/istanbul/ciragan-palace/dining/restaurants/tugra)



Tugra Restaurant presents not only the ultimate Ottoman dining experience but also Istanbul's most exquisite and romantic dining experience. Tugra Restaurant and Lounge is on the first floor of the original Ciragan Palace. The feast begins with the ambience: rich Ottoman décor, live classical Turkish music and the ever-stirring backdrop of the Bosphorus. For the full effect, ask for a table on Tuğra's summer terrace, lit by the moon, candles and the Bosphorus Bridge.

Forgotten classic Turkish and Ottoman recipes like Lamb Kulbasti and Testi Kebab, Tugra's modern classic menu will take you back in time to the sultans' most glorious era. For dessert, enjoy the traditional candy stick trolley "Macun."



## DINNER AT SAIT HALIM PASA MANSION [www.saithalimpasa.com](http://www.saithalimpasa.com)



Sait Halim Pasa (1863-1921) was the eldest son of Prince Abdulhalim Pasa. His father bought and refurbished the mansion from the Aristarhis family, and on his father's death, Sait Halim Pasa inherited the building in 1894. Built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the two lion statues situated in the entrance, give it the name "Lion Mansion". You may admire the influence of the 19<sup>th</sup> century's Ottoman and Egyptian style in the architecture of the mansion, which is decorated with beautiful crystal chandeliers and the famous painting "Hunting in the Desert" by Felix Auguste Clement.

The structural and decorative characteristics of the building are typical innovations of its time, with the building set back from the waterfront by a jetty and the façade and windows typically neo-classical (empire-style) in style. The mansion's plan includes a central grand hall with an alcove overlooking the seafront and a stairway on the opposite side. There are two gates leading to the selamlık (men's' quarters) and harem (ladies' quarters) from the quay. Towards the northern side

of the harem garden, there was a bathing house used by the residents for swimming. The enclosed bridge built between the mansion and the estate on the slopes behind was demolished like all other annexes which were demolished during the widening of the road in 1958. There was also a boathouse in the garden of the men's quarters which does not exist any longer.

The building recessed from the waterfront without bay-windows and the empire style of the façade and windows are all examples of the "empire-baroque" style of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The mansion is decorated in typical empire style, with traces of eclecticism. The cubic style in the furniture and exaggerated curves in the decoration were rare between 1800 and 1830. Gilded wood disappeared, although mahogany with bronze plaque appliqué became popular. Walls were divided into panels with raised bands, and occasional pilasters. Egg and dart and garland friezes decorated the cornice, and the ceilings were framed with a band of decoration with a similar circular band in the centre. This interior design is seen throughout the mansion, with the single exception of the ground floor reception room which carries the Egyptian-Arabian influence in decoration.

Sait Halim Pasa is now open to the public and a popular choice for private functions, meeting and corporate events and weddings. The mansion also has an a la carte restaurant.

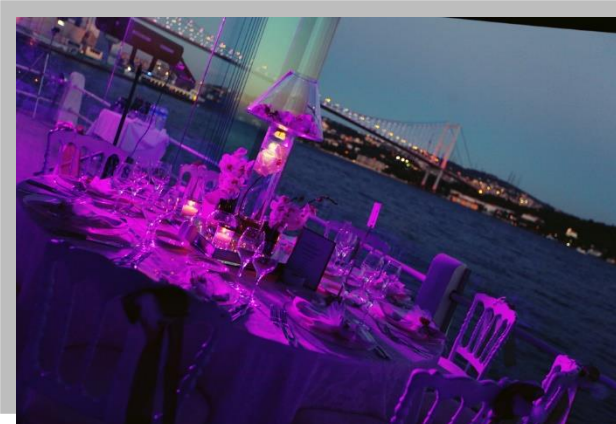
## RUBY RESTAURANT & CLUB [www.rubyistanbul.com](http://www.rubyistanbul.com)



Located on the shore of Bosphorus, it goes without saying that this three storey mansion offers a good view as well as a broad variety of food in the garden /balcony with Bosphorus panoramic views. There are two nightclubs, one on the bottom and one on the top floor.

## FERIYE / CAM HALL [www.feriye.com/english/index.asp](http://www.feriye.com/english/index.asp)

Once a 19<sup>th</sup> century Ottoman police station, Feriye is one of the rare examples of Ottoman architecture. Located near Kabatas High School on Ciragan Avenue, Feriye Restaurant provides a fantastic view of the Bosphorus, Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Beylerbeyi and Maiden's Tower. The restaurant is within what used to be the Ottoman sultans' palatial grounds next to Ciragan Palace. Feriye has developed its seasonal menus procuring only traditional, natural food and carefully preserving its characteristic flavors while serving a modern synthesis of traditional Turkish and Ottoman cuisine. It has two separate areas for the summer and winter. The indoor section has a seating capacity of 400 guests and the outdoor terrace with a Bosphorus view can cater to 1,000 in the summer.





**EXCLUSIVE USE OF ADILE SULTAN PALACE** [www.adilesultan.org](http://www.adilesultan.org)



Sakıp Sabancı Kandilli Education and Culture Center- Adile Sultan Palace was opened with a magnificent ceremony on June 28, 2006 by the host of UKTAŞ which is also the manager of Lütü Kırda. Adile Sultan Palace, donated by the Adile Sultan to the public education to be used as a school for girls after her death in 1898. The Palace was used as Kandilli High School for Girls until 1986, when it was burnt down and with the donated of the deceased businessman Sakıp Sabancı the Palace was restored. By the direction of this purpose; Adile Sultan Palace was rebuilt by the support of the Ministry of National Education, Istanbul Governorship, deceased Sakıp Sabancı, Hacı Ömer Sabancı Foundation ( VAKSA ), and Kandilli High School for Girls Education and Cultural Foundation ( KANKEV ) and the Palace was named as "Sakıp Sabancı Kandilli Education and Culture Center – Adile Sultan Palace". The Palace, which is planned to become one of the most esteemed organization place in Istanbul, has halls with high, gold failed ceilings, with a view of the Bosphorus. The Palace covers an area of 5625m2 including accommodates an oval hall for meeting and banqueting of 500 people, another two meeting halls for 200 people each, a 1300m2 hall for cocktails and exhibitions, 20 seminar rooms with 30-40 seats, the "Palace Garden"for 2000 people and various service units.

**DINNER AT PERA PALACE HOTEL ISTANBUL & GATSBY PARTY [www.perapalace.com/en-EN/homepage/61.aspx](http://www.perapalace.com/en-EN/homepage/61.aspx)**



Pera Palace Hotel was built in 1892 to accommodate Orient Express passengers. The historic building and its authentic interior take you back to a by-gone age. Famous guests include Mata Hari, Agatha Christie, King Edward VIII and Jacqueline Kennedy. The hotel has spectacular views of historical and modern Istanbul. Situated in the Galata district of Istanbul, the hotel has 145 guest rooms, 275 beds, 6 suites, and 2 junior suites. All rooms are equipped with air conditioning, satellite TV, clock radio, direct-dial telephone, internet access, mini-bar and hair dryer. Additional amenities include laundry, dry cleaning, gift shop, 24-hour room service, power generator, doctor or nurse, indoor parking, babysitting service, business centre and safety deposit box. For an authentic taste of Istanbul dine in one of Pera Palas's quaint restaurants or enjoy afternoon tea in the patisserie coffee shop.

**1920's... After the big war. The Art Nouveau influence and the glamour of the Bohemian live... We invite you to enjoy this together.**



**ULUS 29 RESTAURANT & EXCLUSIVE USE OF CLUB SECTION AFTER DINNER** [www.group-29.com/indexEN.html](http://www.group-29.com/indexEN.html)



Ulus 29 is an Istanbul classic. It's located between the first and second bridges and has one of the best views of the Bosphorus and Anatolian coast. It was decorated by famous interior designer Zeynep Fadillioglu, winner of the 2002 Andrew Martin International Decoration: Best Modern Interior award. She skillfully depicted this Eurasian city: lush, mismatched upholstery and crisp white linens; every nook and cranny garnished with Oriental Neoclassic objects; mosque lanterns mixed with fashionable lamps from London. The club section, called "Club 29," offers privileged entertainment at the same address. Open Friday and Saturday nights, you can experience Istanbul's highest quality entertainment with amazing DJs and a sophisticated crowd.



**EXCLUSIVE USE OF UNIQUE ESMA SULTAN PALACE** [www.themarmarahotels.com](http://www.themarmarahotels.com)



Esma Sultan Palace was originally the seaside mansion of Sultan Abdulhamid 1st's daughter, Esma Sultan. Built in the 18th century, this magnificent ruin in the historic and buzzing Bosphorus district of Ortaköy, was taken over by The Marmara Hotel in the 1990's and restored to its former glory. This breathtaking example of Ottoman architecture remains a favoured venue for receptions and banquets in Istanbul. The large event space is available in different forms dictated by the needs of an event. There is the two storey historic building with a completely new high tech interior consisting of a bar and restaurant area on the ground floor and a large high-ceilinged event room on the second floor. The outdoor space consists of a deck leading out to the Bosphorus on the seashore and a lawn lined with trees. Offering banquet seating for 1000 guests and reception space for up to 2000 guests in the garden, and indoor banquet seating for 300 and reception for 450 guests on the top floor - banquet seating for 180 and reception for 300 guests on the entrance floor, this unique venue is accessible both by land and by sea, so you may wind up your Bosphorus cruise with an elegant reception in this monument to Ottoman grandeur and splendour. The venue can be also reached by the Bosphorus.

## ENTERTAINMENT & 1001 NIGHTS THEME FOR GALA DINNER





Theme decor would include a full decoration of the tent with carpets, kilims, plants, Ottoman scenery, panos, Turkish coffee corner with water pipes and backgammon sets, Turkish musicians. Dinner begins with performances by folkloric groups performing dances from different regions of Turkey symbolising our culture. Next set of performances are by group of gypsy dancers and final performance is by a belly dancer. A stage and a dance floor is available.

## FIRE OF ANATOLIA



A synthesis of hundreds of folk dances and music from different regions, Fire of Anatolia is a unique project whose source is Anatolia's ancient mythological and cultural history. Produced by Mustafa Erdoğan, the group hopes to introduce the world to the fire that arises from the ancient Anatolian mosaic of love, cultural history and peace. Fire of Anatolia, which is regarded as one of the world's best dance groups, thanks to countless international tours, has taken great steps in realizing this goal.

In 1999 Mustafa Erdogan started work intensively on the project then known as Sultans of the Dance. Audition announcements were placed in newspapers and 90 talented young dancers were selected from 750 applicants to begin work immediately. The company generally rehearsed eight hours a day, but up to 16 hours. Costumes were created and music was composed. Dancers took theoretical instruction on the notation of Anatolian rhythms. The group worked night and day under the supervision of dietitians, estheticians, exercise and massage specialists. Folk dances, ballet and modern dance were

the center of training, and stretching and yoga were also incorporated. This first period of creation lasted a year and a half.



## Gala Dinner with the participation of ORHAN PAMUK 2006 Nobel Prize in Literature



Orhan Pamuk was born in Istanbul in 1952 and grew up in a large family similar to those which he describes in his novels *Cevdet Bey and His Sons* and *The Black Book*, in the wealthy westernised district of Nisantasi. As he writes in his autobiographical book *Istanbul*, from his childhood until the age of 22 he devoted himself largely to painting and dreamed of becoming an artist. After graduating from the secular American Robert College in Istanbul, he studied architecture at Istanbul Technical University for three years, but abandoned the course when he gave up his ambition to become an architect and artist. He went on to graduate in journalism from Istanbul University, but never worked as a journalist. At the age of 23 Pamuk decided to become a novelist, and giving up everything else retreated into his flat and began to write. His first novel *Cevdet Bey and His Sons* was published seven years later in 1982. The novel is the story of three generations of a wealthy Istanbul family living in Nisantasi, Pamuk's own home district. The novel was awarded both the Orhan Kemal and Milliyet literary prizes. The following year Pamuk published his novel *The Silent House*, which in French translation won the 1991 Prix de la découverte européenne. *The White Castle* (1985) about the frictions and friendship between a Venetian slave and an Ottoman scholar was published in English and many other languages from 1990 onwards, bringing Pamuk his first international fame. The same year Pamuk went to America, where he was a visiting scholar at Columbia University in New York from 1985 to 1988. It was there that he wrote most of his novel *The Black Book*, in which the streets, past, chemistry and texture of Istanbul are described through the story of a lawyer seeking his missing wife. This novel was published in Turkey in 1990, and the French translation won the Prix France Culture. *The Black Book* enlarged Pamuk's fame both in Turkey and internationally as an author at once popular and experimental, and able to write about past and present with the same intensity. In 1991 Pamuk's daughter Rüya was born. That year saw the production of a film *Hidden Face*, whose script by Pamuk was based on a one-page story in *The Black Book*.

His novel *The New Life*, about young university students influenced by a mysterious book, was published in Turkey in 1994 and became one of the most widely read books in Turkish literature. *My Name Is Red*, about Ottoman and Persian artists and their ways of seeing and portraying the non-western world, told through a love story and family story, was published in 1998. This novel won the French Prix du meilleur livre étranger, the Italian Grinzane Cavour (2002) and the International IMPAC Dublin literary award (2003). From the mid-1990s Pamuk took a critical stance towards the Turkish state in articles about human rights and freedom of thought, although he took little interest in politics. *Snow*, which he describes as “my first and last political novel” was published in 2002. In this book set in the small city of Kars in northeastern Turkey he experimented with a new type of “political novel”, telling the story of violence and tension between political Islamists, soldiers, secularists, and Kurdish and Turkish nationalists. *Snow* was selected as one of the best 100 books of 2004 by *The New York Times*. In 1999 a selection of his articles on literature and culture written for newspapers and magazines in Turkey and abroad, together with a selection of writings from his private notebooks, was published under the title *Other Colours*. Pamuk's most recent book, *Istanbul*, is a poetical work that is hard to classify, combining the author's early memoirs up to the age of 22, and an essay about the city of Istanbul, illustrated with photographs from his own album, and pictures by western painters and Turkish photographers.

Orhan Pamuk's books have been translated into 46 languages, including Georgian, Malayan, Czech, Danish, Japanese, Catalan, as well as English, German and French. Pamuk has been awarded The Peace Prize, considered the most prestigious award in Germany in the field of culture, in 2005. In the same year, *Snow* received the Le Prix Médicis étranger, the award for the best foreign novel in France. Again in 2005, Pamuk was honoured with the Richarda Huck Prize, awarded every three years since 1978 to personalities who “think independently and act bravely.” In the same year, he was named among world's 100 intellectuals by *Prospect* magazine. In 2006, *TIME* magazine chose him as one of the 100 most influential persons of the world. In September 2006, he won the Le Prix Méditerranée étranger for his novel *Snow*. Pamuk is an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and holds an honorary doctorate from Tilburg University. He is an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters as well as the Chiese

Academy for Social Sciences. Pamuk gives lectures once a year in Columbia University. Lastly, he received the 2006 Nobel Prize for Literature, becoming the second youngest person to receive the award in its history. Apart from three years in New York, Orhan Pamuk has spent all his life in the same streets and district of Istanbul, and he now lives in the building where he was raised. Pamuk has been writing novels for 30 years and never done any other job except writing.

## Awards

- 1979 Milliyet Press Novel Contest Award (Turkey) for his novel Karanlık ve Işık (co-winner)
- 1983 Orhan Kemal Novel Prize (Turkey) for his novel Cevdet Bey and His Sons
- 1984 Madarali Novel Prize (Turkey) for his novel The House of Silence
- 1990 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize (United Kingdom) for his novel The White Castle
- 1991 Prix de la Découverte Européenne (France) for the French edition of Sessiz Ev : La Maison de Silence
- 1991 Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival (Turkey) Best Original Screenplay Secret Face
- 1995 Prix France Culture (France) for his novel Kara Kitap : Le Livre Noir
- 2002 Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger (France) for his novel My Name Is Red : Mon Nom est Rouge
- 2002 Premio Grinzane Cavour (Italy) for his novel My Name Is Red
- 2003 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award (Ireland) for his novel My Name Is Red
- 2005 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade (Germany)
- 2005 Prix Médicis Etranger (France) for his novel Snow : La Neige
- 2005 Ricarda-Huch Prize
- 2006 Nobel Prize in Literature (Sweden)
- 2006 Washington University's Distinguished Humanist Award (United States)
- 2006 Puterbaugh Award (United States)
- 2008 Ovid Award (Romania)

## Doctorates (Honoray Degrees)

- 2007 Free University of Berlin, Department of Philosophy and Humanities
- 2007 Tilburg University
- 2007 Boğaziçi University, Department of Western Languages and Literatures
- 2007 Georgetown University
- 2008 Madrid University
- 2003 American University of Beirut

## Honours

- 2008 Membership of the American Academy for Arts and Literature
- 2008 Membership of the Chinese Academy for Social Sciences

## Books



### FRAGMENTS OF THE LANDSCAPE

In his new book, Orhan Pamuk writes sincerely of his life and experiences, beginning from his childhood.



### MUSEUM OF INNOCENCE

“It was the happiest moment of my life, I didn’t know. Orhan Pamuk’s recent novel the Museum of Innocence on which he has been working for six years begins with these words...



### MY FATHER’S SUITCASE

“Two years before his death, my father gave me a small suitcase full of his writings, hand writings and notebooks.”



### MEMORIES AND THE CITY

This story, heads from Pamuk’s first feelings related to ‘his own’ to his mother, his father and his family, and as a source of happiness and sadness, opens out to the streets of Istanbul.



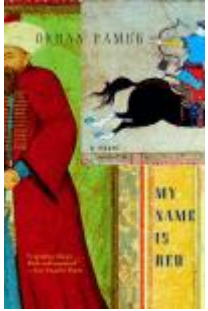
### SNOW

On the fourth day after his return to Turkey, Ka, a Turkish poet who has been an exile in Germany since twelve years, finds himself in the city of Kars for an interview.



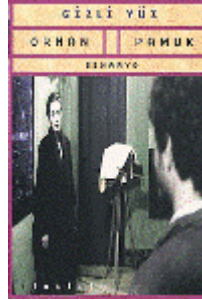
### OTHER COLORS

Other Colors ranges from the author’s childhood memories to his hours of happiness, from how he writes his novels to his journey notes...



### **MY NAME IS RED**

My Name Is Red about which Orhan Pamuk says “it’s my most colorful and optimistic novel”, covers nine snowy days of Istanbul in 1591.



### **SECRET FACE**

The scenario of one of the most extraordinary Turkish films, the Secret Face’s. A story which Orhan Pamuk and Omer Kavur edit together, and Orhan Pamuk writes “as he wishes”.



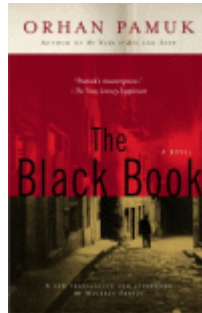
### **CEVDET BEY AND HIS SONS**

The story of a small shop owner in Abdulhamid’s last years and one of the first Muslim merchants Cevdet Bey and his sons...



### **THE WHITE CASTLE**

A Venetian serf captured by Turkish pirates who believes he is good at astronomy, physics and art... A Turkish master who shares the same interests and wants to learn the Western science...



### **THE BLACK BOOK**

In a snowy winter day in Istanbul, Galip starts looking for Rüya who is his childhood love, friend, daughter of his uncle, his sweetheart, and lost wife.



### **THE NEW LIFE**

“One day I had read a book and all my life has changed.” This is a novel about books and their magical effects which change our lives.



### **THE HOUSE OF SILENCE**

One historian, one revolutionist and another one eager to be rich... These three visit their grandmother and stay for a week in the house which is built by their grandfather when he was sent to exile 70 years ago.

**The participation of Orhan Pamuk to one of the dinners is subject to Mr. Pamuk’s schedule.**



## EXCLUSIVE TRANSFER FOR GALA DINNER by 'DOLMUS'



### THE STORY OF THE DOLMUS

Our story begins in the early 1930's during the Big Depression, when all of Istanbul felt the effect of the world economic collapse. During this time, even the wealthiest citizens had begun to use the public tram for transportation, instead of hiring private taxis. One elderly man -Leon- had been accustomed to taking a taxi every morning from his home in Nisantasi to his office in Eminönü. He typically had the same driver named "Halit, the Cook", named this by his friends because he was a cook before becoming a taxi driver. The ride to Eminonu usually costed him about 89 kurush, which in the troubled economy was the same amount needed to buy a whole chicken or five loaves of bread. One day, the man decided

to make a proposal to Halit. "These are difficult days my friend, for all of us. I can not pay you 25-30 lira every month but I have a new idea for you. If I find four other people that are going the same direction, you can drive five of us instead of one. If the meter shows 80 kurush, we'll pay you 100 kurush instead. Do you agree?" Halit was so happy that he adopted this pattern throughout the day. Whenever his car was filled with passengers, he would "press the pedal". Other drivers liked the idea too. As the owners of Kayik's that were transporting passengers between the two sides of the Bosphorus in the 19th century. That's how the legend was born in the city: The Dolmus (pronounced Dolmush). The Dolmus service became so established that overtime the Dolmus drivers even developed unwritten rules among themselves to protect their rights. For example, a man younger than 25 and bachelors were not able to be Dolmus drivers. There were mostly American cars in Turkey prior to 1960, and American automobiles were particularly well suited for Dolmus driving because of their width. Chevrolet, Dodge, Plymouth and Desotos were among the most popular. But there came a time when these old American Beauties were forced to retire from the transport business. Most were just buried in the car cemeteries or turned into scrap metal.

But since then there has been a sadness in the streets of Istanbul.

***It is possible to use old cars for restaurant/dinner transfers (Nomads, Sait Halim Pasa Mansion, Esma Sultan, Çırağan Palace Kempinski, Adile Sultan Palace and Feriye)***

## GIFT EXAMPLES

