



The highlights of the tour

- Meeting with the members of Istanbul Culinary Institute
- The unique dishes of Assos and Ayvalik are cooked with the wild greens picked up from the forests, or along the beach. therefore, the emphasis will be on Greens cooked with olive oil
- Fish and sea products of the Aegean Sea
- The local wines that we will taste will be the wines made in an island, bozca Ada and wines traditionally made with fruits other than grapes
- Three Cooking classes
- Learning about the history, culture and the people of Turkey

The map of the tour



Day and Date	Itinerary	Description.Comments	Included	Not included
Day 01 It will be best if we can start the tour on a Saturday ISTANBUL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive • Transfer to the hotel • Visit to Galata Tower to give a 360 degree view of Istanbul • Dinner at a Restaurant where excellent Turkish Food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can give a 5 Star Hotel Price and a Special Hotel Price • (Special Hotels are located in Old Istanbul and generally they are renewed old Ottoman Mansions . The prices of the special hotels run 100 to 200 euros per day per room less than the International 5 star hotels) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer from the Istanbul air port to the hotel • Transportation for the evening • The guide • The A la card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks served with the meals

	<p>is served in a very elegant setting (Borsa Restaurant) www.borsarestaurant.com</p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer to the hotel will take depending on time of traffic 30 to 45 minutes • We like to start the tour on Saturday so we can have a Sunday in Istanbul to meet with the members of the Istanbul Culinary Society • Dinner tonight will be included in the price but it will NOT be a set meal. The clients can choose from the menu what ever they like to order. <p>Galata Tower The tower was built as <i>Christea Turris</i> in 1348 during an expansion of the Genoese colony in Constantinople. It was the apex of the fortifications surrounding the Genoese citadel of Galata. During the Ottoman Era, the fame of the tower came when in the 16th Century a man tried to fly out of the tower using eagle wings.</p>	<p>dinner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel in Istanbul • Entrance fees 	
Day and Date	Itinerary	Description.Comments	Included	Not included
Day 02 Sunday ISTANBUL B/L/D	Istanbul site seeing and Lunch until 02:00 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aya Sophia • Blue Mosque • The Byzantine Cistern • The Byzantine Hippodrome • Lunch <p>Free time at the hotel</p> <p>Meet with members of Istanbul Culinary Institute for wine tasting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be able to do the interaction with the members of the culinary Association, it has to be Sunday afternoon . • Interacting with the like minded people will probably add a nice local color to our tour • After meeting with the Turkish members of the cullinary Association they will be invited to join our group for Wine tasting • The wine tasting will be at a nice little club so it will be cosy enough for socializing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrance fees for the sites and the museums mentioned in the itinerary • The guide • Hotel in Istanbul • One glass of Wine for happy hour with the Turkish guests • Lunch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks served with the meals

and social interaction about the activities of the institute.

Dinner at a wonderful Fish Restaurant in the back streets of Istanbul where no tourist will be in sight.

<http://www.nevizaderestaurant.com>



Aya Sophia (Closed on Mondays)

is a 1500 year old building which stands as a witness to the history of Constantinople and Christianity. The size of its dome remained to be the highest for one thousand years until the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral was built in the 16th Century. The synthesis of cultures can be traced in the building with the pillars from a Temple of a Mother Goddess, Hellenistic urns, Islamic-Ottoman calligraphy and Christian symbols all intermingle to create the grandeur that time could not defeat. Hagia Sophia, was dedicated in the name of Sacred Wisdom of Jesus. Known as St. Sophia, the Church was used as a church for 1000 years and as a Mosque for close to 500 years. It is a living record of the history of Christianity.



The Byzantine Hippodrome



When Constantinople became the capital of the Roman Empire, The Byzantine, trying to compete with the grandeur of the city of Rome, built this Hippodrome three times larger than the biggest stadium of Rome. The Hippodrome had a sitting capacity of one hundred thousand people. The obelisks lined up in the middle of this building were brought from Egypt and Greece representing the lands which were ruled from Constantinople




The Basilica Cistern



Is one of many cisterns in Istanbul built during the Byzantine era to give life to this grand city. For the Christian of Constantinople, the pagan temples of the city were nothing more than architectural material for recycling for new constructions. When you walk down





- Dinner
- Transportation



	 	<p>to the Basilica cistern which is now under one of the busiest streets of Istanbul, you can see the breath taking pillars of former temples creating a mystical ambiance.</p> <p>The Blue Mosque The Blue Mosque was completed in 7 years (1609 – 1616) The blue tiles of this mosque had impressed the Europeans of the 17th Century so much that the mosque is called “ The Blue Mosque” . The building is a marvel of engineering with its half and quarter domes supporting its huge dome</p>		
Day and Date	Itinerary	Description.Comments	Included	Not included
<p>Day 03 Monday ISTANBUL B/L/D</p>	<p>Half a day of Site seeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Topkapi Palace • The Spice Market • Lunch at a meat restaurant famous for their kebab specialties Gelik restaurant http://www.gelik.com.tr/atakoy/english/index.asp • Cruise on the Bosphorus • Dinner will be served at a restaurant on the Bosphorus 	<p>In the afternoon Cruise on the Bosphorous On the boat, wine of the Marmara Region will be offered</p> <p>Topkapi Palace (closed on Tuesdays) Was the first palace of the Ottomans built in Istanbul in late 1400s. The palace is a complex made up of four main courtyards and many smaller buildings. At the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation • Hotel • Guide • Entrance fees • Lunch • Private Boat ride • Wine service on the boat • Dinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks served with the meals

		<p>height of its existence as a royal residence, the palace was home to as many as 4,000 people, formerly covering a larger area with a long shoreline. The complex has been expanded over the centuries, with many renovations such as after the 1509 earthquake and 1665 fire. It now used as a museum to displays the treasury of the Ottomans. Built in 4 court yards, the palace also gives a good idea of the Ottoman architecture of the pre-european architectural influence.</p> <p>Cruise on the Bosphorus One hour cruise on the Bosphorus will be superb with purple slopes of Asia framing the 2-3 hundred year old Ottoman mansions.</p>		
Day and Date	Itinerary	Description.Comments	Included	Not included
<p>Day 04 Tuesday ISTANBUL B/L/D</p>	<p>Cooking class Lunch Grand Bazaar Afternoon time for shopping Dinner</p> 	<p>The Grand Bazaar Is a 15th century trade center where the products of the Silk Road found merchants from all over the world. The arched narrow streets of the Grand Bazaar still offer the riches of Anatolia and of Central Asia. The hectic , caotic nature of the Grand Bazaar is not necessarily an ideal place to shop, but it certainly is a place to see.</p> <p>Cooking Class</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation • Hotel • Guide • Cooking class in istanbul • Lunch • Dinner • Turkish Cook book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks served with the meals

	 	<p>In the cooking class 3 course meal will be prepared Lunch will be at the place where the cooking class will be conducted. It will be a hands on cooking class. The clients will be given a turkish cook book as a gift after the class</p> <p>Byzantine cistern Restaurant Sarnic</p>		
Day and Date	Itinerary	Description.Comments	Included	Not included
<p>Day 05 Wednesday ASSOS B/L/D</p>	<p>Cross the Sea of Marmara in a Ferry boat (2 hours) Visit Troy Drive to Assos Overnight at the most beautiful boutique hotel of Turkey Hotel Manici Kasri</p> 	<p>Ferry Boat The Ferry Boat leaves Istanbul at 07:00 AM From istanbul to Bandirma it is a 1 hour 45 minute ferry ride The boat is a speed boat – Catamaran – so there is no deck for the people to walk around</p> <p>The Specialty of the hotel Manici Kasri</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a boutique hotel with 10 rooms only 2. It is located in the mountains where according to the mythology, Zeus and Hera got married. 3. The cheff of this hotel picks up the wild greens from the forest and prepares the most unique dishes. <p>After trying the food .those who are interested in getting a cooking class, can stay at the hotel and have a cooking class tomorrow</p> <p>Troy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer to the dock • Transportation through out the tour • Ferry tickets • Guide • Lunch • Dinner at the hotel • Entrance fees • The room and board of the guide and the driver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks served with the meals

		<p>was a city, both factual and legendary, best known for being the focus of the Trojan War, as described in the Epic Cycle and especially in the <i>Iliad</i>, one of the two epic poems attributed to Homer.</p>		
Day and Date	Itinerary	Description.Comments	Included	Not included
<p>Day 06 Thursday B/L/D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short hike in the IDA MOUNTAIN forest • Cooking class • For those who are not interested in cooking class We will have an alternative itinerary • Overnight at Manici Kasri 	<p>Hike in the Mount Ida The forests here are under the protection of the Turkish Republic for having the most endemic plants and flowers. The short walk will enable us to identify the edible greens that we will cook in the cooking class today</p> <p>Assos Is a city by the Aegean Sea overlooking at the Greek Island of Lesbos. Aristotle had been accepted here in Assos as a groom when he fell in love with a girl from the town. St Paul had preached the teachings that we can read in Act 20 in Assos making the fame of Athena fade in the darkness of the history</p> <p>Alternative Itinerary for those who do not take the cooking class Those who are not interested in the cooking class can have a walk in the village, visit village homes, interact with the IMAM of the only mosque in town and visit an olive orchard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hotel • Transportation • The cooking class • The guide • The room and board of the driver and the guide • The entrance fees for the sites • The service of wine in Assos • Lunch • Dinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks served with the meals



	 	<p>Sun Set in Assos We will celebrate the sun set sipping the local BOZCA ADA wine. A wine that is produced on an island off the shore of assos</p>		
Day and Date	Itinerary	Description.Comments	Included	Not included
Day 07 Friday AYVALIK B/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit an olive oil museum • Visit an Olive oil production Center • Visit with the villagers and here their stories on olive • Overnight in Ayvalik • Dinner at Bay Nihat 	<p>The special restaurant in Ayvalik Bay Nihat is a legendary restaurant since 1922 Their specialty is fish and greens cooked with olive oil. Excuisite local dishes . they have no menus you pick up your choice from the refrigrator</p>  <p>The guide and the driver will be available for taking the group to dinner The dinner today is not included in the price but the guide will take the group to the restaurant and the transportation for going to the restaurant is included</p> <p>Why is the dinner not included tonight By not including the meal in the price, the people can have the freedom of choosong from dozens of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hotel • Transportation • The guide • The roomand board of the driver and the guide • The entrance fees for the sites • Lunch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks served with the meals • Dinner




		<p>different and unique dishes that is available at this restaurant.</p> <p>Lunch For lunch we will have barbaque by a waterfall in the mountains . those who enjoy hiking can have a hike . We will have a competition to see who can find the most different species of wild flowers we will cool our white wine in the cold waters of the waterfall</p>		
Day and Date	Itinerary	Description.Comments	Included	Not included
<p>Day 08 Saturday PERGAMOM KUSADASI B/L/D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via the biggest Pine nut forest of Turkey drive to Pergamum • Visit the Ausculapion and the Acropolis of Pergamum. • Continue to Kusadasi via Izmir. • Overnight in Kusadasi at Charisma De luxe Hotel 	<p>Pergamum</p> <p>The Attalids ruled with intelligence and generosity. Many documents survive showing how the Attalids would support the growth of towns through sending in skilled artisans and by remitting taxes. They allowed the Greek cities in their domains to maintain nominal independence. They sent gifts to Greek cultural sites like Delphi, Delos, and Athens. They defeated the invading Celts. They remodeled the Acropolis of Pergamo after the Acropolis in Athens. When Attalus III (138-133 BC) died without an heir in 133 BC he bequeathed the whole of Pergamon to Rome, in order to prevent a civil war.</p> <p>In Izmir we will try Izmir's famous snack which can only be found in Izmir – Kumru with nice Turkish Tea. This bread made with chick pea flower is covered with sesame and stuffed with a special cheese tomatoes and peppers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hotel • Transportation • The guide • The roomand board of the driver and the guide • The entrance fees for the sites • Lunch • The dinner • Treats served in Izmir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks served with the meals



We will have opportunity to purchase the best pine nut that grows in the Mediterranean

Day and Date	Itinerary	Description.Comments	Included	Not included
Day 09 Sunday Village visits Wine tasting Museum of Ephesus B/L/D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village breakfast at Kirazli village 8 km away from Kusadasi After Breakfast Drive to Sirince Visit the museum of Ephesus in the afternoon Dinner at a fish restaurant Overnight in Kusadasi at Charisma De luxe Hotel 	<p>Kirazli Is a village known for their cherries and unique village breakfast. The village is the haven for organic agriculture. We will feel many tastes that we might have forgotten in our corporate agriculture world</p> <p>Sirince Only 9 km out of Ephesus up at the top of a mountain, there is a wonderful village. The Christians abandoned this village in 1922 in the population exchange with the Moslems coming from Mesadonia When the immigrants arrived, they could not afford to build new houses so they simply started using what they found here. Eventually this thousand year old village became a historic monument for its unique architecture in a fabulous setting: Peach orchards, olive grooves and vineyards surround the village. The ladies either make wine or make lace and they sell their hand crafts either in front of their homes or on wooden stands lined in the streets.</p> <p>Museum of Ephesus Before we visit Ephesus, we will see what is remained from the ephesians to help us understand the human factor of this grand city</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hotel Transportation The guide The room and board of the driver and the guide The entrance fees for the sites Lunch The dinner Village breakfast Wine tasting in sirince 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinks served with the meals

				
Day and Date	Itinerary	Description.Comments	Included	Not included
Day 10 Monday Ephesus virgin Marys house B/L/D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the city of Ephesus • Virgin Mary's House • Half day free for shopping or rest • Overnight in Kusadasi at Charisma De luxe Hotel 	<p>Ephesus Was built 6000 years before our time. The city first became popular in the 8th Century BC when the Temple of Artemis of Ephesus was considered to be the one of the 7 wonders of the world. After ephesus was renevated by the order of Alexander the Great, the Roman emperors competed among each other to beautify and renavate the city. St Paul had visited ephesus twice and addressed one of his letters to the Ephesians.</p> <p>Restaurant tonight Our dinner tonight will be very special Out side of Kusadasi at Degirmen Restaurant we will taste the specialties of the Aegean cuisine</p> <p>The last home of the Virgin It is believed that after crusifixion Virgin Mary came to Ephesus along with St John since she was entrusted to him by Jesus when he said "Thy is your mother, Take care'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hotel • Transportation • The guide • The room and board of the driver and the guide • The entrance fees for the sites • Lunch • The dinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks served with the meals

				
Day and Date	Itinerary	Description.Comments	Included	Not included
Day 11 Tuesday Farmers Market Cooking class B/L/D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning visit to a farmers market • Cooking class and lunch at our farm • Farewell dinner • Overnight in Kusadasi 	Cooking Class A gourmet cook will teach the cooking class On Tuesdays we have a big farmers market for organic produce  We will have our cooking class at Meli's Farm kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hotel • Transportation • The guide • The room and board of the driver and the guide • The cooking class • Lunch • The drinks served at lunch • The dinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks served at dinner
Day 12 Wednesday Enf of the tour	Transfer to the Izmir air port Flight to Istanbul to connect to the international flight	If the flight is too early we can have them stay in Istanbul for one night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast included this morning • Transfer to Izmir air port 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals are not included • The tip to the guide and the driver is not included

			• Flight to Istanbul	
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The price of the tour

Number of Pax	Special Hotel in Istanbul	If International 5 star hotels are requested for Istanbul accommodations, the price will be adjusted according to the quotation of the hotel for the particular time of the year		
	The names of the hotels are given below	The Four Seasons Sultan Ahmet	The Four Seasons Bosphorus	Ciragan Kempinski
8 people	US \$ 5,562.-			
10 people	US \$ 5,096.-			
12 people	US \$ 4,777.-			

The price includes:

- Transfers
 - Arrival transfer
 - Transfer to the dock in Istanbul
 - Transfer to the air port from Kusadasi to Izmir air port
- Air fare from Izmir to Istanbul
- Ferry from Istanbul to Bandirma
- Transportation through out the tour
- Private boat for Bosphorus cruise
- Hotels as mentioned below 11 Breakfasts – 10 Lunchs – 10 Dinners
- Guide through out the tour
- 3 Cooking classes – Istanbul – Assos – Ephesus
- Wine service where mentioned in the itinerary
- Special food service where mentioned in the itinerary (Izmir – Kirazli village etc)
- Meals as per list below
- Drinks during lunch on Day 11
- Entrance fees to the sites and the museums mentioned in the itinerary
- Parking fees

- 1 glass of wine for Happy hour in Istanbul
- Tips at the hotels
- The tips at the restaurants where meals are included

The price does not include

- 1 dinner in Ayvalik
- Tip for the guide
- Tip for the driver
- Drinks served with the meals unless it is mentioned in the itinerary

The Meal List

Day and Date	11. BREAKFAST	10 LUNCHS	10 DINNERS
Day 01 Saturday ISTANBUL	NOT INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED	1. INCLUDED
Day 02 Sunday ISTANBUL	INCLUDED	01. INCLUDED	2. INCLUDED
Day 03 Monday ISTANBUL	INCLUDED	02. INCLUDED	3. INCLUDED
Day 04 Tuesday ISTANBUL	INCLUDED	03. INCLUDED	4. INCLUDED
Day 05 Wednesday ASSOS	INCLUDED	04. INCLUDED	5. INCLUDED
Day 06 Thursday ASSOS	INCLUDED	05. INCLUDED	6. INCLUDED
Day 07 Friday AYVALIK	INCLUDED	06. INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED
Day 08 Saturday KUSADASI	INCLUDED	07. INCLUDED	7. INCLUDED
Day 09 Sunday KUSADASI	INCLUDED	08. INCLUDED	8. INCLUDED
Day 10 Monday KUSADASI	INCLUDED	09. INCLUDED	9. INCLUDED
Day 11 Tuesday KUSADASI	INCLUDED	10. INCLUDED	10. INCLUDED
Day 12 Wednesday Enf of the tour	INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED

NOTE:

1. If clients decides to arrive in Istanbul before the tour starts, we can arrange for transfer from the air port at no extra charge
2. We can offer pre tour excursions should the client decides to arrive early
3. Please advise if you have allergies so we can warn the cooking teachers for their choice of meal they plan to prepare

The Hotel list for the given price

CITY	HOTEL NAME	WEB PAGE
ISTANBUL	Hotel Arena, Hotel Ayasofya or similar Special Hotel Category in Sultan Ahmet region	Hotel Arena : www.arenahotel.com 13-15 Küçükayasofya Mah.sehit Mehmet Pasa Yok.ucler Hamam SkSultanahmet/ Istanbul, 34400 Phone : 0212 458 0364 Hotel Ayasofya www.ayasofyahotel.com 28 Küçük Ayasofya CaddesiKüçükayasofya, İstanbul 34400 Phone: 0212 516 94 46
ASSOS	MANICI KASRI SPECIAL BOUTIQUE HOTEL DE LUXE	www.manicikasri.com Manici Kasrı Yeşilyurt Köyü Küçükkuyu/Çanakkale Phone: 90 (286) 752 17 31 Fax: 90 (286) 752 17 34
AYVALIK	AYVALIK BUYUK BERK RESORT HOTEL 4 STAR HOTEL (Best Available)	www.ayvalikberkotel.com Atatürk bulvarı Kahramanlar Mah Kumsal Sok No:1 Sarımsaklı Ayvalık BALIKESİR phone: 90 2663241045 Fax: 90 2663241194
KUSADASI	OTEL CHARISMA DE LUXE HOTEL 5 star spa Hotel	www.charismahotel.com Akyar Mevkii N:5Kuşadası, 75000 Phone 01190 256 618 3266

Payment info

Payment can be made by credit card (Master Card or Visa)

We do not accept American Express

Your Card should be open for mail order and you need to inform your bank that your card will be charged from Turkey

Arrival Suggestions:

VISA

US citizens need a visa to travel in Turkey. You may obtain this visa upon your arrival at the Istanbul airport. The fee is \$ 20 in US currency for the USA citizens. The visa is valid for three months. When you come out of your plane please proceed to the Visa Booth. They only accept cash.

POLICE CHECK AND LUGGAGE /MEETING MELITOUR REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRANSFER

After paying for your visa, please proceed to police control. Baggage claim is immediately down the ramp after the police check. If you need a cart, you will need to pay one US dollar cash to a person who stands by the carts. It will be nice if you have a change. The Melitour representative for transfer to the hotel will meet you outside the custom area.

When you leave the customs area, there is only one gate you can not miss it, you will see many people waiting outside with signs. It is very confusing to find MELITOUR sign among that crowd. **So please ignore them.** Keep walking to your LEFT. Pass the information desk. 5 feet from the information desk, in the ceiling there is a big white pointed sign saying :**MEETING POINT 1**. Please meet the person who will meet you under that sign.

LOOK FOR A PERSON WITH MELITOUR SIGN.

It generally takes 30 minutes to 45 minutes to get out of the customs area. The person who will meet you will be there knowing that it will take you almost an hour before you get off the plane. Do not worry he will be waiting for you.

ATMS and BANKS TO CHANGE MONEY

There are a number of ATMs and banks at that location. AFTER you meet the person who will pick you up from the air port, it is recommended that you use the ATM or banks to change money. Air port rates and city rates are identical.

EMERGENCY INFO FOR TRANSFER

In case of unexpected delay or change of your flight, should there be a problem in meeting the person who should be waiting for you at the airport please call Meli 90 532 345 9987 or Asli 90 533 368 3113 .

Yesilyurt – the village where our hotel is located**OLIVE AND OLIVE OIL**

The main source of livelihood of the village is olive. 90% of the territory of the village and most olive grooves are old trees. In this region olive oil and olive oil production is used in almost all aspects of life. Extra virgin olive oil produced in the region is obtained by traditional wet print system

HONEY PRODUCTION

Honey production is also done in the village. This region of the honey of Anzer honey quality ranking second after Rize.

MILK AND CHEESE

The region is known for excellent cheese. The milk from goats and sheep produces the most wanted cheese of Turkey

**CURATIVE NATURAL PLANTS**

Abundant in the vicinity of the village of Mount Ida specific, natural herbs are grown. Some of these are: Thyme, Sage, Capers, Mint, Nettle, etc. dir.

You can find these plants in any season in the village.