

turizm aktüel

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MINISTER ERSOY
REVEALED TURKEY'S
TOURISM STRATEGY
FOR 2023

FRESİN: HOTEL
OCCUPANCY
RATES IN ISTANBUL
ROSE TO 90 PERCENT

ISTANBULS **GALATAPORT**
TO OPEN NEXT YEAR

THE **JW** TREATMENT IN
ISTANBUL BOSPHORUS

MARRIOTT AIMS TO
LAUNCH MORE HOTELS
IN TURKEY

wtm
LONDON

MEHMET DİNLER
BECOMES HONORARY
CONSUL OF ROMANIA

ANTALYA HOSTS OVER 14
MILLION VISITORS FOR
FIRST TIME IN HISTORY

PEARL OF BOSPHORUS
OPENS IN ISTANBUL

ISTANBUL
TOPS LONDON,
BARCELONA FOR HOTEL
OCCUPANCY RATE

RIVALS TARGET
COOK CUSTOMERS
AND EXPAND HOTEL
CAPACITY

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Turkey



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UYMAYA SÖZ VERMİŞTİR.

2019 IS A YEAR WHERE BALANCE CHANGES IN TOURISM

Hello from the Tourism Special WTM London special issue...
The 2019 season is almost over. Again we are on the eve of an end and a new beginning. In these days when we are about to leave behind a beautiful, pleasant season, the developments that deeply affect the sector are experiencing a dizzying speed. It was a season with balance in itself in 2019.

Of course, it is not possible to stay stable in a sector where tourism is not lacking. We leave the full season behind without any trouble; there has been a development in the sector that upset the balance. One of the world's largest tour operators, England-based Thomas Cook, went bankrupt. Of course, this was a globally influential situation, and of course Turkish tourism was affected by this bankruptcy. Thomas Cook's guests in our country returned to their countries without any problems thanks to the Ministry of Tourism's good management of the crisis and the measures and of course, the hoteliers were left with the problems of this bankruptcy. The effects of this bankruptcy to the sector will emerge over time. We will see this by living together.

The payments of the contribution to be given to the Tourism Promotion Agency by the enterprises started as of October. This development, which created a debate in the sector, was another development that increased the burden on the sector before it was adopted by the enterprises. After that, the tourist will pay accommodation tax. The agenda of the tourism sector is quite intense due to these developments both abroad and in our country. Tourists, who are preparing to close the season, have to take these new developments into consideration as they take the fatigue of busy days and make plans for the coming year.

Yes, the season is over, but the fair marathon is just beginning. So keep running around. Now it's time to plan the new season. Our first stop will be the WTM London Tourism Fair. This fair is very important for the tourism sector as it is a meeting where the first signals of the new season are received. But this year WTM London's importance is a bit more. Because this year's meeting will be a fair where the effects of the bankruptcy of the British giant tour operator Thomas Cook will be monitored. Who will replace Thomas Cook in the British market? Will British market's interest in Turkey continue? What are the measures to be taken in this sense? WTM London 2019 will be a fair where these and similar questions will be answered, where the effects of bankruptcy can be observed, balances are re-established, and cards are reunited.

Of course, as of every year, Tourism Aktüel will take its place in WTM London as the representative of the sector. Our special issue prepared in English for this fair; introducing Turkey, pulse of the latest developments in the sector, hotels and interview will help you get better acquainted with hoteliers, place promos, you can find news of events. I wish all of you a good and fruitful fair with good readings and, of course, I wish to all tourismers which they can make good connection with one another. See you in our next issue, goodbye for now...

HASAN ARSLAN
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Istanbul tops London, Barcelona for hotel occupancy rate

Istanbul was among the top 10 European cities for highest hotel occupancy rates in August, according to Hotel Association of Turkey's (TÜROB) data.

Recovering from a several yearslong lag in tourism, Istanbul climbed its way to seventh on the list of 35 vacation destinations, surpassing Budapest, Barcelona and London. Istanbul recorded an 87.7% occupancy rate in August, up 4.4% year-on-year, in part boosted by fans flooding to watch the UEFA Super Cup final between Liverpool and Chelsea in the city. The average occupancy rate among European destinations was 77.7% in August. Edinburgh topped the list with 89.9%, followed by Dublin with 89.5% and St. Petersburg with 88.5%. Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Prague also made it into the top 10.

Hotel occupancy in Turkey's southern resort city of Antalya also increased by 4.4% year-on-year to 82.9% in August. Overall, Turkey had a 79.5% hotel occupancy rate in August, up 4.9% compared to the same month last year, according to TÜROB's country performance report. Turkey ranked 15th among 27 European countries on the list. Accommodation prices also rose in Turkey, but were still below the European average. The average daily rate (ADR) in Turkey rose 21.9% year-on-year in August, reaching 105 euros (\$114), according to TÜROB's data. The revenue per available room (RevPAR), calculated by multiplying the occupancy rate by the ADR, rose 27.9% to 83.4 euros.

The ADR in Istanbul increased by 20.1% year-on-year to 107.3 euros in August. RevPAR increased by 25.4% to 94.1 euros. The ADR among other European countries was 117.7 euros, while the RevPAR was 91.5 euros. Antalya topped the European average for ADR at 174.7 euros, an increase of 25.7% compared to August 2018. Turkey's average occupancy rate for the January-August period rose 1.2% year-on-year to 67.3%, while ADR during that period rose 11.5% to 79.6 euros and RevPAR rose 13.4% to 53.6 euros.

ISTANBUL WELCOMES NEARLY 10M VISITORS FROM 200 COUNTRIES

Turkey's biggest metropolis Istanbul, harboring ancient heritages and historical remnants of the Ottoman era, has welcomed 9.9 million foreign tourists from 200 countries in the period of January to August this year, according to data released by the provincial culture and tourism directorate yesterday. The number of foreign visitors coming to Istanbul in the first eight months recorded an increase of 13% compared to the same period last year. Germany, Iran, Iraq, Russia and Saudi Arabia topped the list of countries from which Istanbul hosted the highest number of visitors. The data of the Istanbul Provincial Directorate of Culture and

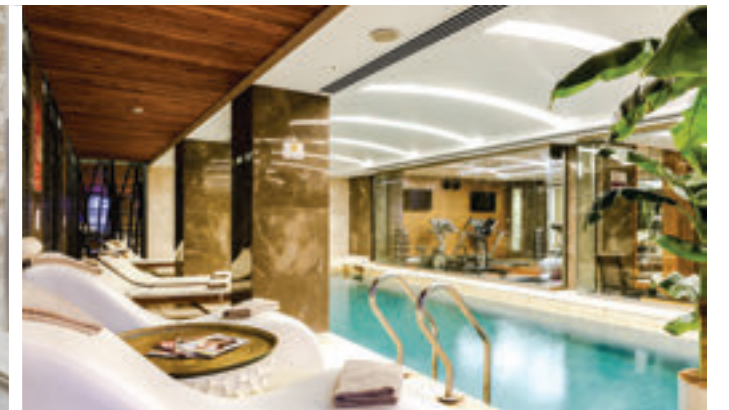
Tourism showed that the city recorded the highest number of foreign visitors in the last five years. While the city hosted 2.3 million foreigners in 1998, it welcomed 13.4 million foreigners last year. In August 2018, a total of 1.3 million foreigners visited Istanbul and the figure rose to 1.5 million this year in the same period. The number of visitors coming to Istanbul by air surged 12.5% while the number of foreigners who entered Istanbul by seaports rose 11.8%.

Germans topped the list of foreign visitors to Istanbul with a share of 7.6%. As is traditional for Istanbul's foreign visitors, Iranians followed Germans, whose numbers accounted for 6% of the total foreign tourists. Iraqi visitors grabbed a share of 4.7% and were followed by Russians with 4.6%. Saudi Arabians came fifth in the list of foreign visitors to Istanbul with 3.6%.

The number of visitors coming from Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Algeria, Lebanon and Palestine recorded a rise of 14% in the first eight months of the year. Last year, Istanbul welcomed 3.4 million visitors from Arab countries and the figure was recorded at 2.5 million in the first eight months of this year. According to the report of the Culture and Tourism Ministry, Istanbul has 590 certified accommodation facilities with a bed capacity of 119,969.



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Antalya hosts over **14 million** visitors for first time in history

As one of the leading tourist destinations in the world, the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya has hosted more than 14 million visitors for the first time in its history.



According to data from the Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, the number of tourists arriving at Antalya and Gazipaşa airports as of Oct. 15 reached 14.05 million. It had hosted some 12 million tourists in approximately the same period of last year. The city had welcomed some 13.6 million tourists throughout 2018, and with some two-and-a-half months left it is moving toward a goal of 16 million tourists. Russia took the lead in the number of tourists visiting Antalya among 193 countries. Between Jan. 1 and Oct. 15, the number of tourists from Russia

increased by 15% compared to last year, reaching 5.2 million. Germany came second with an increase of 16% with 2.3 million tourists, followed by Ukraine with 776,000 visitors, the U.K. with 656,000, Poland with 516,000, and the Netherlands with 397,000 tourists. Professional Hotel Managers Association (POYD) President Ülkey Atmaca told, that they had a good September and October compared to previous years. Pointing to the 20% growth achieved in the first half of October, Atmaca stressed the importance of this figure. He pointed out that the season was

also longer this year compared to the previous years. "From May to September, it was considered the high season. Mobility started in April this year, and it still continues in October, which shows that the season is prolonged. It is good for the tourism sector," Atmaca said. "We have broken a record in October. We had set the 16 million target for the end of the year, and Antalya will probably reach this target and set a new record. We set a new record every month. So 2019 has been the year of records for us," he added. Meanwhile, for the first time in history, tourists in Turkey's megacity Istanbul are expected to exceed the city's own residents in number, the city's chamber of commerce president has said. During a press meeting in Cannes, France on Oct. 18, Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (ITO) President Şekib Avdagiç said Istanbul was expected to receive 15.5 million tourists by the end of 2019.



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TURİZM 2023

TÜRKİYE 2023 TURİZM STRATEJİSİ

MINISTER MEHMET ERSOY REVEALED TURKEY'S TOURISM STRATEGY FOR 2023

"Turkey's Tourism Strategy is changing; it's being transformed into Income and Market-Driven Growth and Promotion Model..."



The Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mehmet Nuri Ersoy revealed Turkey's Tourism Strategy for 2023 at the conference with the distinguished members of the press and sector held in Dolmabahçe Palace, on September 27, World Tourism Day. The Minister also presented the new 2020 Commercial Films to be used for promotion of Turkey abroad, developed by the approaches of the strategy. Bringing Turkish tourism to a sustainable and income-driven growth model, Tourism Strategy for 2023 aims to welcome more than 75 million tourists and reach a tourism income of 65 billion dollars in 2023, following the studies to be conducted and multi-directional new practices. Tourism Strategy for 2023, within the scope of targets determined in 11th Development Plan and benefit from the outputs of 3rd Council of Tourism, summarizes the path to the great change and improvement expected to be made in Turkey's tourism sector. At the press conference, the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mehmet Nuri

Ersoy talked about Turkey's Tourism Strategy for 2023: "Turkey is a world leader that offers a wide array of travel opportunities and that can meet the ever-changing expectations of today's tourists. By putting new strategies into practice outlined in Tourism Strategy for 2023, we will ensure that Turkey will advance to the upper league in global tourism market with its number of tourists and size of income. We are aiming for more than 75 million tourists visiting our country and an income of 65 billion dollars in 2023. We are planning to realize that by increasing the average spending of a tourist and raising the number of average overnights to the ideal number of 10, thus reaching the average level of spending of 86 dollars per night."

SUSTAINABLE APPROACH IN PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

A central agency model for touristic promotion and development, in practice for long years in the countries that are our competitors across the world, is brought into action in our

country as well. It has been ensured that the sector has actively participated in tourism publicity through the Tourism Promotion and Development Agency of Turkey and it has paved the way for sustainable and effective promotion by broadening the budget resources. We have increased the Ministry's promotional budget that was (FROM) 18 million dollars in 2018 to 72 million dollars in 2019 thanks to the change of policy. We aim to raise the promotional budget to 180 million dollars with our Ministry and newly established Tourism Promotion and Development Agency of Turkey in 2020. In cooperation with the newly established Tourism Promotion and Development Agency, our Ministry aims to raise the promotional budget to 180 million dollars in 2020. We intend to meet the deficit with great promotional budgets of our competitors in tourism that are in use for the studies, which are the products of a long-time investment through yearly increments. In that line, we will work to reach a promotional budget

of 220 million dollars in 2023. We will increase our tourism incomes thanks to the promotions with the Tourism Promotion and Development Agency of Turkey and as our income increases, our promotional budget will expand as well.

DIVERSIFICATION OF PROMOTIONS

In line with these objectives, we will diversify our promotional activities on TV, outdoor, magazine, editorial scripts, digital and social media in a focused and intensive way. We are doing market researches in target markets to reach the expectations of the visitors and we're taking place in all channels by diversifying our promotional strategy following the said researches. We emphasize bringing experience-based Turkey portal and digital applications into action. Besides foreign visitors, we will also carry out promotional studies for domestic visitors to improve domestic tourism. We will focus on new product and destination studies, especially in newly-discovered or developing touristic regions. Furthermore, in this sense, we target to increase the package tour rates to 15 - 60 percent by ensuring the security of supply. We're also expecting an increase in the number of visitors with high spending potential. We will develop new products in this aspect. We will approach gastronomic promotion under a separate title. We will add new ones among our cities registered by UNESCO. We will draw a 'Taste Map of Turkey' and create gastronomy routes. We will take actions to improve health tourism and increase the shopping expenses of the tourists. We will focus on many fields ranging from educational tourism to sports, faith tourism, third age target group, congress tourism, festivals, and events and to cruise-yacht tourism. We will continue to open new museums across Turkey. We will increase the number of our items in UNESCO's World Heritage Lists. With new culture destinations, we will create routes

for land and road cycling bicycle tourism. We will increase the number of "Bicycle-Friendly Hotels" as well. By keeping digitalization at the center of all our studies, we will provide the experience that the new-generation tourists are looking for before their trip. For faith tourism, we will put 'Digital Faith Map and Faith Portal of Turkey' into practice."

NEW TARGET MARKETS

Our next promotional efforts will focus on the main markets that are currently sending large volumes of tourists to Turkey as well as the emerging Far East and Pacific markets; namely, China, India, South Korea, and Japan, that happen to fuel tourism industry's growth worldwide. Our target scope will expand to include the developing

our marketing and advertising activities in partnership with Turkish Airlines. We will increase Turkey-bound solo travels. "We will speed up our studies for sustainable and eco-friendly development in tourism. In this sense, we support the municipalities as we place importance, especially on the investments for treatment plants in coastal towns that are designated tourist areas. In the future, we will focus more on environmental certifications like Blue-Flag and Green-Star practices in the facilities. The Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mehmet Nuri Ersoy also shared the new promotional film that will be used in 2020 by Turkey and that will underlie the promotional campaign at the press conference. The film, with its impressive editing,



Central and Eastern European markets. Regulations on transportation, capacity, and direct flights will be in place in a bid to grow tourist arrivals from Far Eastern and Pacific countries. Our 2018-2023 estimations show annual average growth of over 30% in the number of incoming tourists from the Asia-Pacific Region. The Far Eastern and Oceanian regions are expected to send an approximate one million tourists in 2019, and another four million in 2023. All the Turkish Airlines destinations, current, and future, are now our target markets. We engage in mutual extra slot commitments with China, Japan, India, and South Korea. We will add to

puts forward that Turkey is an ideal target where today's visitors can have the unique travel and exploration experience they're looking for. The film also emphasizes that Turkey is a sought destination for family trips. Turkey's 90-second promotional film, which has three individual versions for Western, Asian and Far Eastern markets, underlines both the status and cultural diversity and depth of Turkey. Telling about the experience-based travel with an innovative and different approach, the film features the nature, history, cultural treasures, faith destinations, gastronomy, shopping, fashion and art world, and the entertainment life.




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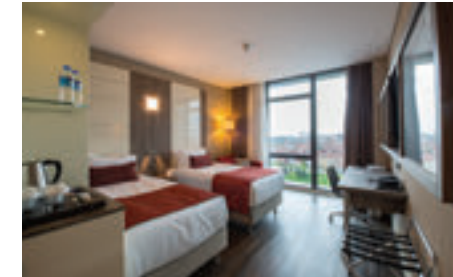
One of the **best hotels** in Istanbul Ramada Encore Istanbul Bayrampaşa

Ramada Encore Istanbul Bayrampaşa, is located in the very middle of Istanbul which is both close to the historical peninsula and business centers. It provides ease transportation with being in the walking distance to the public transportation such as metro and tram.

Ramada Encore Bayrampaşa serves its guests since 2014 with a brand standards of Wyndham hotel group. When we decided to make investment we choose Bayrampaşa because of its location. Bayrampaşa is just behind the city walls, near to the historical center, at the same time easy access to main roads of Istanbul. After 5 years, we have satisfied with our decision. We host people all around the world and in every reason such as business or leisure. It is completely a sparkling city

hotel. If we talk about facilities description, we have 130 rooms, 1 restaurant and 3 meeting rooms, 1 fitness. We are able to offer 3 types of accommodation such as bed and breakfast, half board and full board. Apart from accommodation, we are also organizing meetings and events. Our first hall is on the ground floor with high ceiling and day light. Also it has directly connected with the garden. Guests of the event can enjoy the unique garden during the breaks.

Capacity of this saloon is up to 320 person. This hall is mostly preferred by small fairs and launches as well as banquet events because of its direct connection with the car parking area and its wide gate. We very newly opened the teras under name of Teraspare which has outstanding view of Istanbul including the view of the princes islands and golden horn. Teraspare's ceiling can be opened and closed, so during the summer guests can enjoy with open air and view of stars. Teraspare's capacity is up to 200 person. In addition to these, as an investor, we are in the yacht business as well. It is a Gulet type yacht name is Almira and it can host 16 people with its 8 cabins. We will start crewed gulet yacht charters in 2020's summer. It is a very good alternative to make holiday in turquoise water of Aegean sea and its beautiful bays. Strongly recommended.



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British Airways to launch new flight to Turkey's Antalya after Thomas Cook collapse



British Airways announced the launch of a new flight from London's Gatwick Airport to the Turkish resort of Antalya, once among Thomas Cook's most popular routes, as airlines jostle to fill the void left by its collapse.

BA, owned by IAG, said on Wednesday the six-per-week service would begin next April, in conjunction with a promotional British Airways Holidays offer. Thomas Cook's British arm entered liquidation after the group's collapse last month. Antalya and Dalaman in Turkey were Thomas Cook Airlines' most popular destinations for UK travelers, according to data from airline database Cirium.

A company spokeswoman said that the route announcement had been a long time coming and was unconnected to Thomas Cook's failure. BA already operates a summer flight to Dalaman.

Thomas Cook's bankruptcy, which triggered a major repatriation effort aided by BA, easyJet and Virgin Atlantic, has prompted airlines to consider ways to replace its capacity

to holiday destinations or bid for its airport slots. Besides BA, operators that were already flying to the two Turkish destinations from London or Manchester before Thomas Cook's collapse include easyJet, Dart Group's Jet2, tour group TUI, Turkish Airlines and its SunExpress joint venture with Lufthansa.

Unless Britain crashes out of the EU without a deal, HSBC analyst Andrew Lobbenberg predicted on Wednesday, "easyJet should benefit this winter from the failure of Thomas Cook". Within days of its demise, easyJet began offering 15% discounts to Thomas Cook customers who had not yet left for their vacations and wanted to rebook.

Turkey expects an increase in flights by easyJet and Jet2 as well as BA, the country's tourism minister has

said. SunExpress laid on additional lower-fare flights from London Luton airport and has been targeting Thomas Cook customers left in the lurch, a spokesman said.

EasyJet is also looking at Thomas Cook assets, Chief Executive Johan Lundgren said recently - while ruling out a bid for its German Condor business, being kept airborne by a government bridging loan.

Leading European budget operator Ryanair may lease Airbus aircraft returned by Thomas Cook and deploy them at its Austrian carrier Lauda, group CEO Michael O'Leary said last week. He too denied any interest in Condor.

A spokesman for the UK court-appointed official overseeing Thomas Cook's liquidation declined to comment on the status of bidding for its airport slots.

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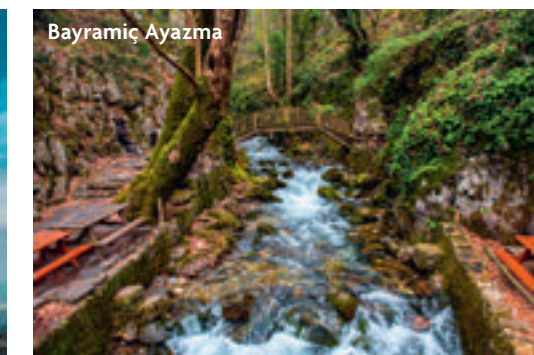
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Ayvaci Kucukkuyu Mihli Waterfall



Assos Ancient City



Bayramiç Ayazma



Burcu Esmer soy, Mine Tan Balto, Jonathan Tow, Vincent Miccolis.



Ali Ağaoğlu

Somerset Maslak Istanbul celebrates Inaugural World Travel Award Win

The first serviced residence-hotel of The Ascott Limited in Turkey, Somerset Maslak Istanbul, celebrated its first World Travel Award with special guests and dedicated partners on Thursday September 19th, awarded by the travel industry.

Somerset Maslak Istanbul General Manager Mrs. Mine Tan Balto hosted the celebration night that recognises the excellence of the tourism and hospitality sector, with winners being voted by worldwide travel professionals and travellers. Industry leaders, diplomatic names such as Jonathan Tow - Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore in Ankara, and notable celebrities including Ali Ağaoğlu, Sena Bayrak, Vedat Bayrak attended the celebrations.

Internationally known Turkish violinist, Suay Doğanay opened the night with her unique performance, setting the tone for the award ceremony to follow. Burcu Esmer soy, the anchor-woman of the award ceremony, gave the first words to Mrs. Mine Tan Balto, who deeply thanked their devoted partners for their assistance during the past two years of success. Named



Burcu Esmer soy, Mine Tan Balto



Sena & Vedat Bayrak



Mine Tan Balto

as Turkey's Leading Serviced Apartments 2019 at the World Travel Awards is the first accolade for Somerset Maslak Istanbul since it's opening in 2017. The Ascott Limited's Regional General Manager, Middle East, Africa, Turkey & India Mr. Vincent Miccolis shared insightful upcoming projects for

the group: "We look forward to even more successful years to come with Somerset Maslak Istanbul and our partners. It is our honor to be able to participate in the Turkish tourism and hospitality sector, as we aim to grow our footprint with new investments in the very near future." The event night continued with Tark Sezer Orchestra's upbeat and joyful tone and DJ Can Hatipoğlu jazzed up the night with his unique style. For more information and booking, please visit www.somerset.com.



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Full-board investment in

Hotel, Restaurant Products and Equipment Fair held in Dubai between 16-20 September, 73 Turkish companies participating in the Hotel Show 2019 followed closely the hotels and restaurants which are under construction in the Gulf.

30,000 visitors from more than 80 countries participated in the event held in Dubai World Trade Center. 370 companies and organizations opened a stand at the event which is the largest in the Middle East and North Africa. The Hotel Show national participation of Turkey, the first time in this year, held by the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (ICC). 73 companies from Turkey exhibited their products and equipment in a 1890 square meters area.

THERE ARE MORE THAN 700 HOTELS

Istanbul Chamber of Commerce President Şekib Avdagiç, said in a statement at the fair, the international hospitality industry and tourist trade, not only in Dubai but even in the Middle East is growing very fast. Şekip Avdagiç stated that the total value of the Gulf countries' hotel market reached 501 Billion Dollars by adding the projects in the planning, design, tendering or construction stages. 196 hotels are currently being constructed in the Gulf countries, and 708 hotels are being built and 94 hotels are in the planning phase. In Dubai, as of June 2019, there are more than 700 hotels and 120

thousand rooms. The number of hotel rooms is expected to reach 132 thousand at the end of 2019, and Expo 2020 will begin in October 2020 and it is expected to reach 160 thousand. All these hotels are a great opportunity for our Turkish entrepreneur, from the elevator, to the staff uniform and the paint on the wall. Avdagiç said: "We can see everything from A to Z, from hotel staff uniforms to low electrical voltage systems, everything about accommodation and restaurants. Hotel managers, architects, designers and purchasing managers come here. We see this as a serious opportunity for our entrepreneurs."

KARACABAY: 15 THOUSAND 393 TOURISTS TO ISTANBUL IN 6 MONTHS

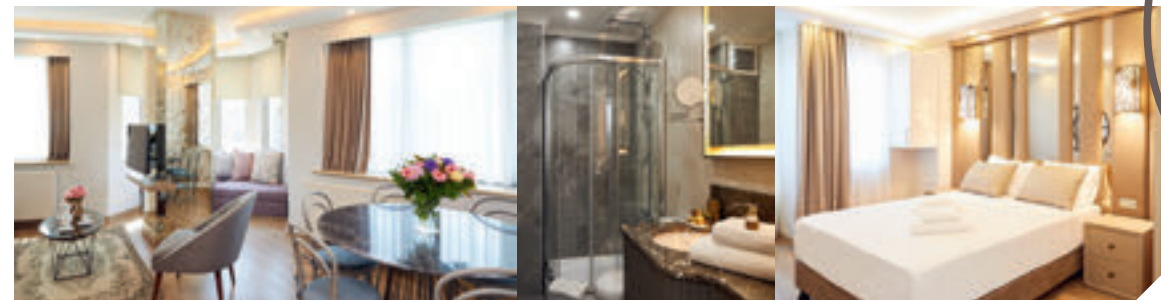
Aydın Karacabay, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Levni Hotels, Istanbul Chamber of Commerce 16th Hotels Professional Committee and Assembly Member who participated in the fair together with İTO Management, made important statements about the BAE market, indicating that the number of tourists coming to Istanbul from BAE, showed a 17 percent increase compared to last year

Karacabay, per-person national income of the country where 60 thousand dollars, tourists coming to Turkey, stressed the importance of increasing our tourism revenues behalf. In the first 6 months of 2019, the number of visitors from Arab countries to Istanbul increased by 17 percent compared to the same period last year, said Aydın Karacabay also stated that "We do not have a very busy tourist traffic with United Arab Emirates." When we think that the national income per-person is 60 Thousand Dollars, it is important to increase our tourism revenues. Potential tourists of 46 million people in the Gulf countries is important for our country's 2023 targets. " 40,000 new hotel rooms will be built in Dubai until Expo 2020. The second important reason: In the Gulf and the BAE, there is not enough local production in this area. Almost all supply of these hotels will be covered by imports. The third, perhaps most recent, reason is that the Expo 2020 will be held in Dubai between October 20, 2020 and April 10, 2021. It will be the first 'World Expo' held in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. There's an opportunity to do future business within every five years. "

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The Luxury Collection Debuts Its First Resort in Çeşme, Turkey

The Opening of Reges, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Çeşme Marks the Brand's Second Location on the Turkish Riviera.



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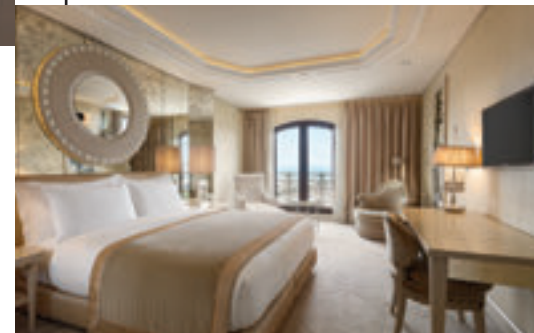
Come to Istanbul's Luxuries Paradise



The Luxury Collection, part of Marriott International Inc., today announced the opening of Reges, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Çeşme. Owned by Reges Turizm İnşaat A.Ş., Reges joins an impressive collection of more than 110 hotels and resorts in more than 30 countries and territories. The opening marks The Luxury Collection's third hotel in Turkey, joining the brand's existing properties in Bodrum and Ankara. Having set the tone for a regal experience from its conception, Reges derives its name from the Latin for King: Rex. The two buildings that comprise the resort even resemble a crown when viewed from above. Curved around an idyllic natural cove and bathed in sunshine for more than 300 days of the year, Reges is spread across two kilometres of Çeşme's Boyalık Bay. The 93 guestrooms

and 11 suites feature oversized floor-to-ceiling windows with panoramic views of the sapphire-hued Aegean Sea. Inspired by the surrounding lush nature, the guestroom design features gold-dipped leaves, peacock feathers and jacquard patterning, with splashes of turquoise energizing the neutral color palette. Crafted from locally-sourced marble, the sleek ensuite bathrooms combine traditional elements of fretwork and gold fixtures, with modern indulgences such as rainfall showers and signature Byredo products. State-of-the-art technology has been integrated discreetly, from ultra-modern flat-screen TVs to intuitive systems which personalise temperature and lighting preferences – reinforcing the hotel's commitment to an unmatched level of service. Influenced by the dancing lines of a Whirling Dervish, the tiered design

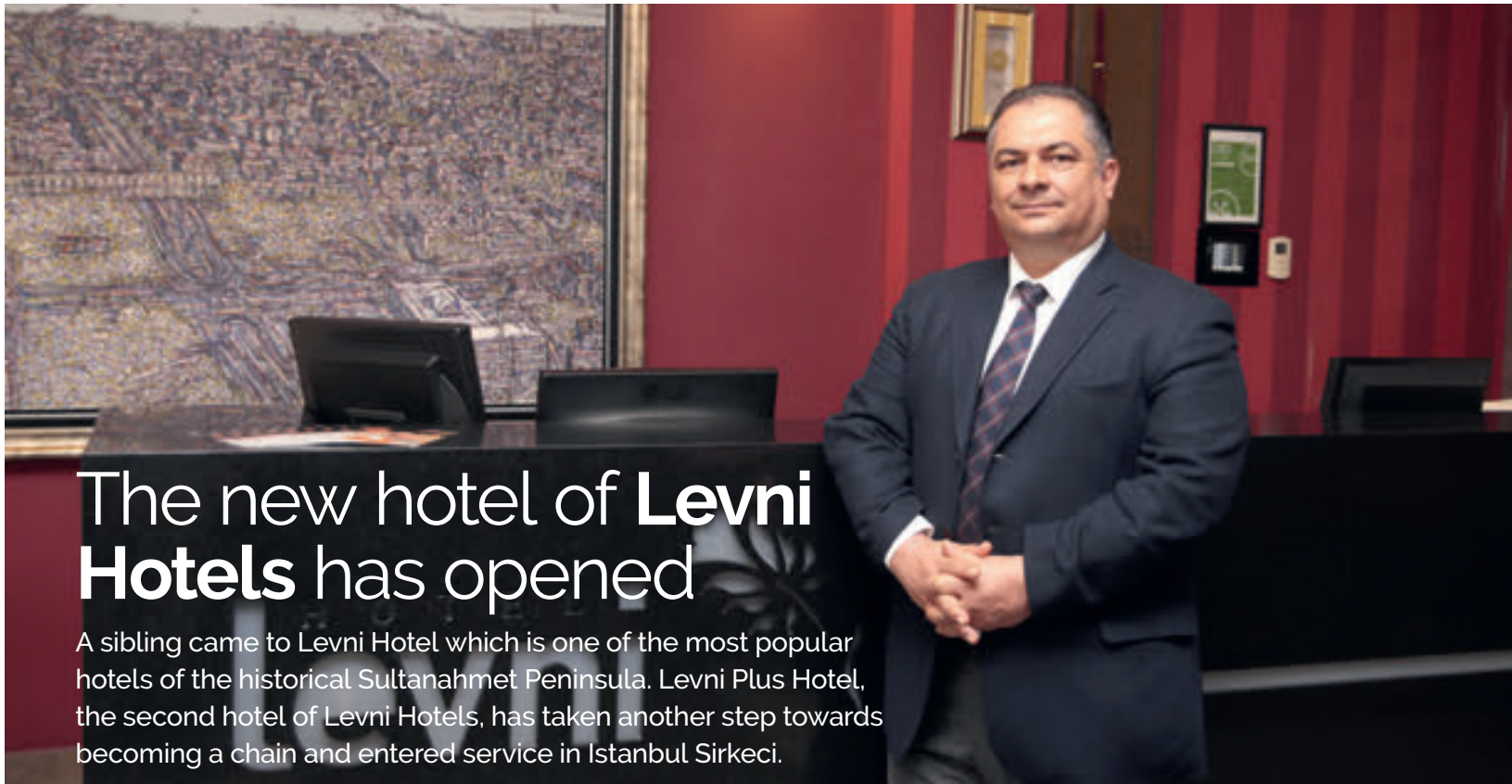
of the resort's architecture fans out like a spinning skirt, reinterpreting the ancient Sufi ritual for a contemporary audience. This thoughtful approach extends to the light-filled lobby, where the ancient Japanese practice of Kintsugi – the art of appreciating imperfection – is recrafted through modern Turkish design, with gilded embellishments adding depth and story. "Çeşme is a breath-taking Turkish resort town that overlooks the glistening Aegean Sea, and its natural beauty and offerings, including clear waters with unparalleled diving sites make this a truly special location for The Luxury Collection's third hotel in Turkey," said Anthony Ingham, Global Brand Leader, The Luxury Collection. "We are thrilled to uncover this hidden treasure for our global travelers who are sure to develop a deep connection with this remarkable destination."



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The new hotel of Levni Hotels has opened

A sibling came to Levni Hotel which is one of the most popular hotels of the historical Sultanahmet Peninsula. Levni Plus Hotel, the second hotel of Levni Hotels, has taken another step towards becoming a chain and entered service in Istanbul Sirkeci.

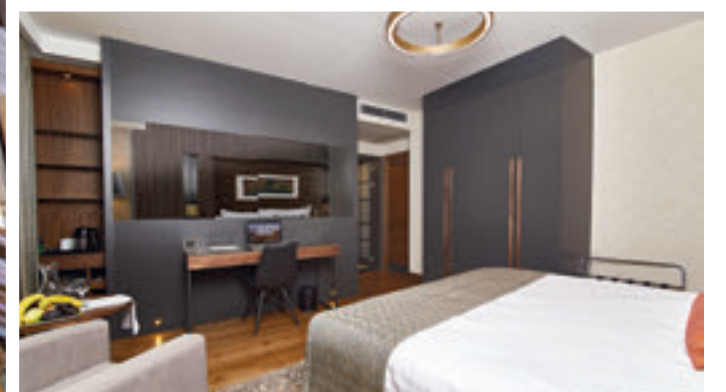
Adopting high guest satisfaction and superior service quality as a principle. Levni Hotel is rapidly moving towards becoming a chain. Levni Plus Hotel, newly opened in Sirkeci, serves as a Hip Hotel. Levni Plus Hotel, which makes a difference with its elegant rooms with luxurious furniture, appeals to the upper segment customers. The hotel's rooms vary between 20-25 square meters and all kinds of comfy is thought for the comfort of guests. Another detail that attracts attention in the hotel; paintings in the

rooms, corridors and lobby specially designed for the hotel. The paintings that make a separate contribution to the elegance of Levni Plus Hotel are presented by the painter Professor. Suleyman Saim Tekcan and paintings carry his signature. Located at the entrance of Levni Plus Hotel, which is also ambitious with its cuisine, Tiamo Restaurant offers examples of Turkish and international cuisine. Levni Hotels Chairman Aydın Karacabay said in a statement: The construction phase of the new Levni Plus Hotel, which we opened for the new service, took two

years. But at the end of this process, a hotel really came out. The reason why this process lasts for two years is that we sift very fine and weave frequently. I believe we built a hotel that adds value to Istanbul. The feedback we have received from our guests so far is also very positive." Aydın Karacabay, who gave the good news of the third hotel to be added to the Levni Hotels chain, said that the third facility of the chain, which will be built at the end of 2019, will be the biggest hotel of the Sultanahmet region.



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The JW treatment in Istanbul Bosphorus

For those seeking approachable luxury, JW Marriott Istanbul Bosphorus is the world-class hotel that doesn't use excess to create elegance. Foreign investors see business potential in Turkey, which attracts large, rising number of tourists

Situated on Bosphorus strait of Karaköy; historical Veli Alemdar Han, which was constructed by Italian architects 180 years ago is fully renovated to be the JW Marriott Istanbul Bosphorus. Discover luxury services, modern amenities and a stylish setting. 130 rooms and suites with contemporary elegant design comforts the modern travelers looking to escape for a recharge. Some rooms and suites have private balconies and terraces; even private jacuzzis at the terrace overlooking Bosphorus and Galata.

visitors in the first eight months of this year and 39.5 million last year, according to official figures. JW Marriott Istanbul Bosphorus' building Veli Alemdar Han used to be a caravanserai which housed foreign shipping agencies. Located in Karakoy district and established by Italian architects 180 years ago, it has been used as a business center. The building has now been renovated for the last 4 years by Marriott

ARTIC AIMS TO LAUNCH MORE HOTELS IN TURKEY

Foreign investors see business potential in Turkey, Sinan Koseoglu, the general manager of JW Marriott Istanbul Bosphorus and Sheraton Istanbul City Center, told. "Turkey has many attractive areas, it not only offers urban tourism but also offers several other opportunities such as culture and health tourism," he said. Noting that the country hosted a large rising number of tourists, he said: "We contribute to the Turkish economy with foreign currency inflow". Turkey welcomed 31 million foreign

Sinan Koseoglu,
the general
manager of JW
Marriott Istanbul
Bosphorus and
Sheraton Istanbul
City Center



International with the investment of Qatari firm Al Rayyan Tourism Investment Company (ARTIC), and will be in service by the end of this year. ARTIC, which has 27 hotels in different continents, has bought JW Marriott Istanbul Bosphorus and Sheraton Istanbul City Center hotels this July as its first investment in Turkey. Sheraton Istanbul City Center was put into service also in July.



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British tour operator aims to fill the gap in Turkey after **Thomas Cook** collapse

British tour operator Jet2holidays aims to fill the void after the collapse of Thomas Cook, the chief executive told Turkish tourism professionals in southern Muğla province.



Attending a meeting with hoteliers in the Dalaman district, Jet2holidays Chief Executive Steve Heapy said his company has become the largest tour operator in England and pledged to continue to carry out operations in Turkey. Heapy noted that the Turkish government has been cooperating with them following Thomas Cook's collapse to resolve the issue.

Turkish Hoteliers Federation (TÜROFED) Deputy President Bülent Bülbüloğlu, who attended the meeting with Heapy, said they were pleased about Jet2holidays' 2020 plans. "I believe they will achieve the goals they have specified," Bülbüloğlu said in regards to the planned flights and hotel reservations in the area. The 178-year-old British operator failed to get a last-ditch rescue deal in

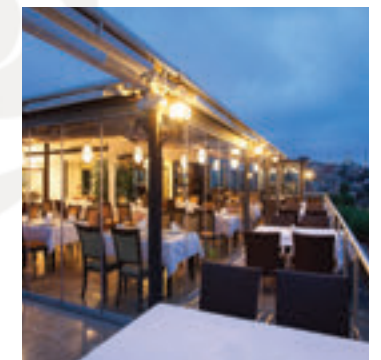
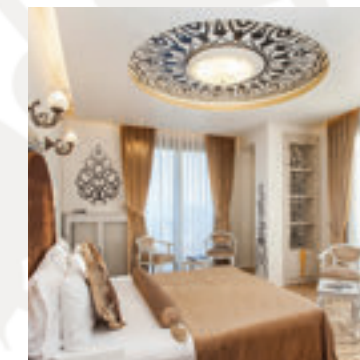
September and declared bankruptcy, leaving 600,000 tourists stranded worldwide, forcing governments and insurance companies to coordinate a huge operation to bring them all home. In the aftermath of the collapse, the Culture and Tourism Ministry said it was working with the Treasury and Finance Ministry on a loan package to be put in place as soon as possible to help affected businesses.



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Pearl of Bosphorus opens in Istanbul

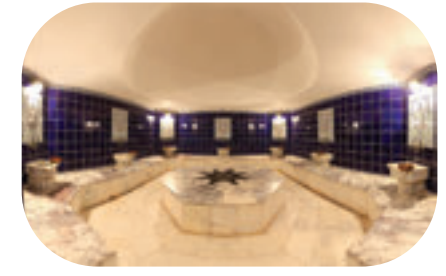
Treat your loved one(s) to one of the most historically rich cities in the world. Stretch out in the generously proportioned guest rooms and suites at the beautifully restored Ottoman-era Six Senses Kocataş Mansions.

Six Senses Kocataş Mansions, which also incorporates next-door Sait Paşa Mansion, is located in the prosperous Sarıyer district of Istanbul's European side, famous for its "Pearls of Bosphorus" waterfront properties. The urban resort recreates historic architectural features and artifacts from the site's former 19th century Kocataş Mansions, which were devastated in a fire years ago, paying homage to its original footprint. Opt for one of the Bosphorus Rooms for daydreamy views over the Strait, and ceilings up to 4.7 meters (15.41 feet). The en-suite bathrooms, complete with beautiful marble tiles, create an atmosphere evocative of heritage Turkish Baths. All rooms have a flat-panel television, iPad, WiFi and a Nespresso machine. The Bosphorus Suites add a separate seating area and living room for entertaining, with oriental touches adding authenticity, and original timber flooring and soft hued tones complementing the original architectural style. Tall windows looking out to the Bosphorus emphasize the high ceilings of the heritage mansions. The quirky Sky Loft on the top floor of Sait Pasa Mansion has windows in the ceiling to gaze up to the stars. The



one of a kind Cistern Suite transforms an original cistern to a brilliant oval bathroom, and offers a spacious seating area on the lower floor and a king bed upstairs. The two-bedroom Kocatas Mansion suite is the most spacious and gracious of all; the perfect palace to live the good life and socialize in style. In addition to in-room dining, guests will be invited to sample the specialty menu at the Toro Latin GastroBar. With its elegant décor styled by the restaurateur Richard Sandoval, Toro is inspired by Pan-Latin and Asian cuisines, featuring cocktails shaken or stirred by a resident mixologist. The all-day Kahve café is located in a bohemian-style gilded hall offering up sweet and sticky pastries and refreshing Bosphorus views in turn. An additional restaurant featuring high-

end cuisine from Istanbul's best-loved chef Mehmet Gürs will be open in mid-2020. As with all Six Senses properties, GEMs (Guest Experience Makers) will be on hand to help you relax and reconnect, while enjoying the exciting attractions of the picturesque Sarıyer district, sea and city. A private boat moored in front of the property will be available for sightseeing trips and excursions. The historic city center of Istanbul can be reached by boat in around 60 minutes, and the Istanbul New Airport, the largest hub in the world, is a 40-minute drive by private vehicle provided by the hotel. The stately heritage mansions and Toro Latin GastroBar are scheduled to open in November 2019, with more facilities to be added by next Spring.



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Hoteliers Association of Turkey (TÜROB) Chairman Müberra Eresin,

Müberra Eresin: Hotel occupancy rates in Istanbul rose to 90 percent

Hoteliers Association of Turkey (TÜROB) Chairman Müberra Eresin said, the hotel occupancy rate rose to 90 percent in Istanbul. Eresin, "European and Japanese tourists began to come back. There are also increases in our entry from India."



Hoteliers Association of Turkey (TÜROB) Chairman Müberra Eresin, stated that on the latest developments in the hospitality industry, Eresin pointed out that occupancy rates in Istanbul rose to 90 percent. "Our average room prices are well above last year.

Although we are looking a little behind on a yearly basis, we are trying to close the deficit at the end of the year, albeit a little. It had already started to rise gradually from last year, and European tourists started to come, even at low rates. Our Japanese tourists started to come back. Japanese, Chinese and Indians are able to get airplanes for traveling, which is very important for us. Anyone who wanted to come couldn't even come in because there was not enough seats. Therefore, the increase in Japanese tourists is observed. There are increases in our entry from India. This will continue," she said.

OUR PER-PERSON INCOME WILL GO HIGHER

TÜROB President Müberra Eresin, "Therefore, kinds of sporting events, culture and art opened in the cities, these cities will have the chance to host higher segment guests, and per-person income will go upward. We

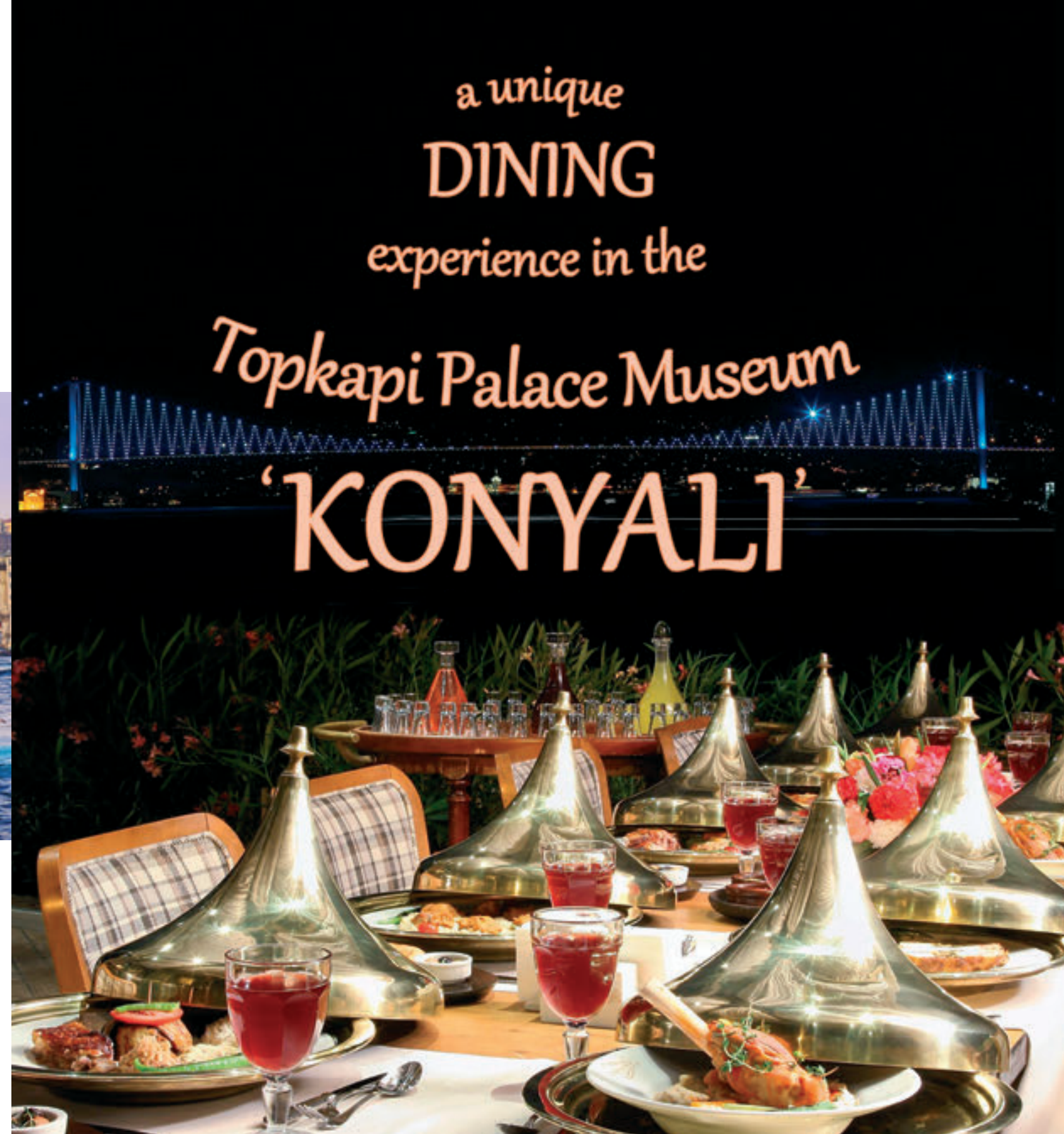
expect higher numbers for one-day stays, we do not find it enough that those one-day stays. THY, you know, gives a free city tour for full day waiting guests. This is very important for us, these people never actually come to Istanbul, thanks to them they know the city and fly. They're flying back, with the purpose of coming back later on which is a marketing tool for us."

EVERY DESTINATION OPENED BY THY IS A NEW GUEST CAPACITY

Stating that every new destination opened by Turkish Airlines creates a new guest capacity for hoteliers, Eresin said, "Therefore, every new plane that will come here will surely reflect on the number of tourists. the city will be reflected positively," she said. Hoteliers Association of Turkey

(TÜROB) Chairman Müberra Eresin, one of the world's largest tour operators English company Thomas Cook, and its bankruptcy related losses we experienced, will be very brief. Turkey destination is an important destination. "The space from Thomas Cook will surely fill the place vacated by other actors.

What Thomas Cook couldn't carry, others will aspire to carry. Mr. Mehmet Ersoy also announced that many companies have already started to increase the number of flights. For people who are currently buying the resort, the ways are open to come to Turkey. There is good news from Turkish Airlines and good news from SunExpress. There is also good news that British Airways will increase the number of flights. So we look to the future with hope.



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GOV'T VOWS TO PROTECT FIRMS FROM THOMAS COOK COLLAPSE

Turkish authorities have stepped in to mitigate the possible adverse effects on local companies from the collapse of the world's oldest travel firm Thomas Cook, promising financial support.

The Turkish Culture and Tourism Ministry said on Sept. 23 it would shortly provide a credit support package with the country's Treasury and Finance Ministry for tourism firms affected by the company's collapse. Local authorities also reassured tourists in Turkey who booked and paid for their holidays through Thomas Cook. Turkey's tourism establishments cannot request additional payments from Thomas Cook customers, the Tourism Ministry said on Twitter. "The payments of Thomas Cook U.K. guests staying in Turkish tourism establishments - including for over the weekend - are guaranteed by the Air Travel Organiser's Licence [ATOL] of the U.K. Civil Aviation Authority [CAA]," the ministry said. It noted that that as of yesterday, there were over 21,000 guests of Thomas Cook U.K. in Turkish accommodation facilities. "If establishments request additional payments from Thomas Cook U.K. guests or vacate them from their

rooms, these establishments will face legal action," the ministry said.

RESCUE OPERATIONS

Around 600,000 holidaymakers around the globe are stranded after the collapse of the travel firm, sparking the largest peacetime repatriation effort in British history. The CAA said yesterday Thomas Cook had ceased trading and the regulator and the U.K. government had a fleet of planes ready to bring home the more than 150,000 British customers over the next two weeks. The liquidation marks the end of one of Britain's oldest companies that started life in 1841 running local rail excursions before it survived two world wars to pioneer package holidays and mass tourism. The firm ran hotels, resorts and airlines for 19 million people a year in 16 countries, employing some 22,000 people around the globe. The group had seemed set for a rescue when it agreed the key terms

of a 900 million pound recapitalization plan with its biggest shareholder, China's Fosun, and the travel firm's banks in August.

But in finalizing the terms of the deal, the company was hit with a demand for another facility of 200 million pounds in underwritten funds by its banks.

In the longer term, the collapse of the company could also hit the tourism sectors in the company's biggest destinations, such as Spain and Turkey. Turkey could miss out on 600,000-700,000 tourists a year, the head of Turkey's Hoteliers Federation (TÜROFED) told Reuters. Osman Ayık noted that Thomas Cook owed 100,000-200,000 pounds each to some small hotels, which could suffer as a result of the travel agency's collapse.

Last year, 2.25 million British tourists visited Turkey, a strong 36 percent increase from 2017. In January-July this year, the number of British tourists increased 18 percent to 1.2 million.





Honorary Consulate of Lithuania in Cappadocia opened

Honorary Consulate of Lithuania in Nevşehir, Kirsehir, Aksaray and Kayseri was opened in Urgup district of Nevşehir.

After KAPTID President Yakup Dinler was appointed as the Honorary Consul of Lithuania in Cappadocia, the Honorary Consulate of Lithuania was opened in Cappadocia. Cappadocia Lithuanian Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania - Turkey Ambassador Audrius Bruzga to Lithuania Republic - Deputy Foreign Minister of Lithuania Honorary Neris Germanas and Cappadocia was opened by Consul General Jacob Religions. At a ceremony held at Kayakapi Premium Caves Cappadocia Honorary Consul Yakup Dinler in his speech, "7. The Republic of Lithuania honorary Consulate which is in The Republic of the Turkey, Nevşehir - Kayseri - Kirsehir and Aksaray for the Honorary Consulate opening ceremony and I would like to welcome all of you to Urgup. It made me very happy to share this proud and special day with you. Thank you so much for being with me today. As the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania, as the representative of the Republic of Lithuania, which has been hosting the Karaim Turks since 1397, in the Cappadocia region, further strengthening the ties of friendship

between Lithuania and Cappadocia and developing cooperation especially in tourism, education, trade, culture and sports. will be my goal. I would like to thank everyone who recommended, supported and approved me in my candidacy for the Honorary Consulate."

I AM VERY HAPPY AND PROUD

Republic of Lithuania Ambassador of Turkey Audrius Bruzga in his speech, "I'm very happy and proud, because as of today not only balloons but Lithuania Flag will wave in this rich history and breathtaking Cappadocia sky. I'm sure this Consulate will be an equal host for Turks and Lithuanians and will be a shining star of friendship and cooperation. Distinguished citizen of the Republic of Turkey, Cappadocia's true lover of Mr. Yakup Dinler due to his appointment as Honorary Consul of Lithuania's I'm extremely satisfied. In order to make Cappadocia more beautiful, Mr. Dinler has made many sacrifices until today. Therefore, I am sure that Mr. Dinler will not avoid any



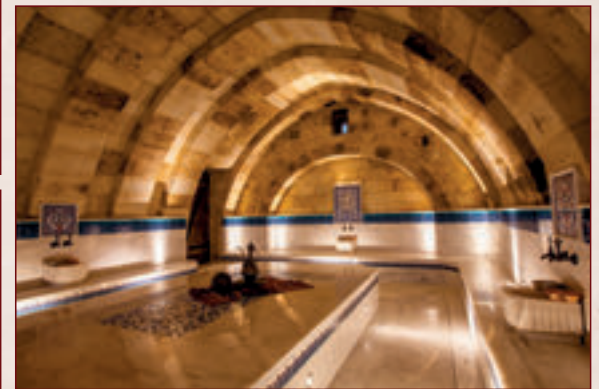
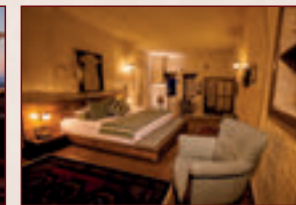
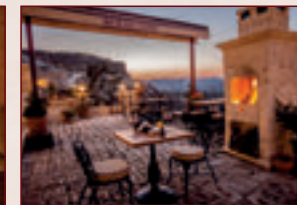
sacrifice as the safe representative of Lithuania." Nevşehir Governor İlhami Aktas in his speech, "Yakup Dinler with his brother Mehmet Dinler are working hard to introduce better of our Turkey's countries, and our regions. They crown these efforts with Honorary Consulates" he said. "The Republic of Lithuania - Deputy Foreign Minister Neris Germanas said: "I am very happy to open the Honorary Consulate of Lithuania in the beautiful UNESCO Cultural Heritage list of Cappadocia. I hope that the newly appointed Honorary Consul in providing the necessary assistance to the Lithuanian tourists visiting our region, and will carry out all necessary studies to introduce Cappadocia of Turkey. Next year we will celebrate the diplomatic relations between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Turkey 90th year. A few years later, in 2023, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Atatürk Republic together."

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Yacht tourism experiencing a good year: Tourism players

Turkey is observing a 20 percent increase in demand for boats and yachts rented by tourists, especially foreign, this year, tourism players have said.



“There is a 20 percent increase in the number of foreign tourists in the sector compared to the previous year. The increase in the number of British tourists is drawing attention particularly. Russians, Kuwaitis and Bahrainis are also coming to Turkey,” Bodex Travel Yachting Agency’s director Gül Gözütok.

“Although there is a fall in the number of Saudi tourists, the ones coming from Morocco and Tunisia are making the sector happy,” she said. Gül said that tourists accommodating on boats and yachts spend more than those staying in hotels and the daily cost of luxurious boats range between 4,000 euros and 20,000 euros, depending on the type of the vessel. The meal prices are not included in the costs of these boats, which usually accommodate up to 12 people, said Gül. “When they [foreign tourists] come, they do a lot of shopping and spend much more money compared to those who come for the all-inclusive hotels. They fly with Turkish Airlines [more expensive than budget airlines], eat in luxurious restaurants...They pay 300 euros for a dinner [on average],” she said.

Yacht tourism, which had been

going through a difficult period for the last couple of years, has entered a recovery process this year. The tourist and yacht charters industry had plunged in 2015, with the boats working only at a capacity of 40 percent. But, as of this year, this rate has risen to 60 percent, said Yacht Tourism Association Chair Begüm Doğulu.

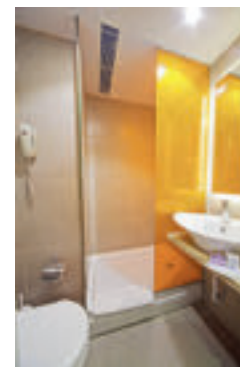
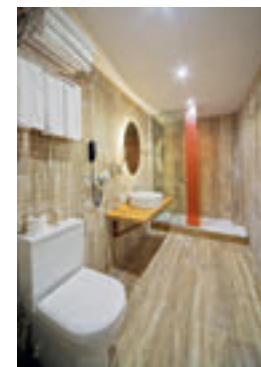
“The owners of gullet and boats are having a good season [this year]. In high season, it is now difficult to find a place on such boats and yachts. The ones that take off from Bodrum [district in the Aegean province of Muğla] and stop by Hisarönü and Göcek bays are very popular. Also it should not be forgotten that yacht customers are spending much more than hotel tourists,” said Doğulu. The founder of Viravia, which is Turkey’s largest yacht charter platform, has similarly told that demand for yacht tourism was quite high this year in the country.

Indicating that there are 4,000 yachts registered on the online platform, Emre Küçüközkan said: “We mediate in the rental of boats and yachts from 22 countries, especially Turkey, Greece, Italy and Spain. There is a marking increase in the interest for yacht

tourism from Turkish tourists in the last three years.”

About 2.5-fold increase has been recently marked in the number of people accessing the Viravia platform compared to the previous years, said Küçüközkan. “The perception that boat vacation is a luxury started to be demolished. A person can now make a vacation for 1,500 Turkish Liras (\$260) on the boat. The prices change depending on the season, the type of the vessel and the service give. The interest for blue cruise in Turkey comes at most from the British, German and French tourists,” he said. The head of yacht tourism department of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB), Gündüz Nalbantoğlu, has said that although there is a marking increase in the number of tourists in the sector compared to previous year, the settlements in the bays need to stop for this sector to be “sustainable” in the long-run.

“Tourists that come for the yacht tourism come to see the untouched bays. But if they see that the settlements have increased in the bays, they will not come again. As much as the number of tourists, the protection of bays is very important,” Nalbantoğlu said.



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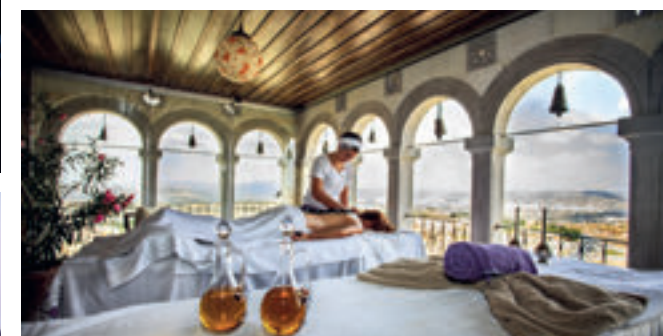


'Unique...' There is no other word that better describes **Museum Hotel**

Situated in a very special geographic region in Cappadocia, Museum Hotel has been designed and created from a distinctive combination of the land and historical features and ruins, some intact and some beautifully restored to their original glory. The hotel features 30 rooms & suites—each of them exceptional in their own inimitable way. No room can be alike, with each bringing its own special ambiance, contributing to Museum Hotel's evident character and charm. Steeped in thousands of years of history, there is a magical feel to the hotel. Our unusual 'living museum' concept means our cave rooms and specially restored traditional rooms are all decorated with priceless antiques and feature stunning views of Cappadocia—just some of the elements

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into the family of luxury hotels and special dining establishments that comprise Relais & Châteaux.



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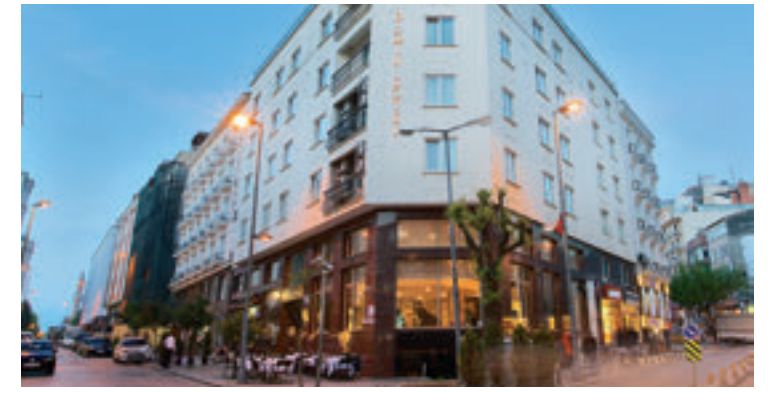
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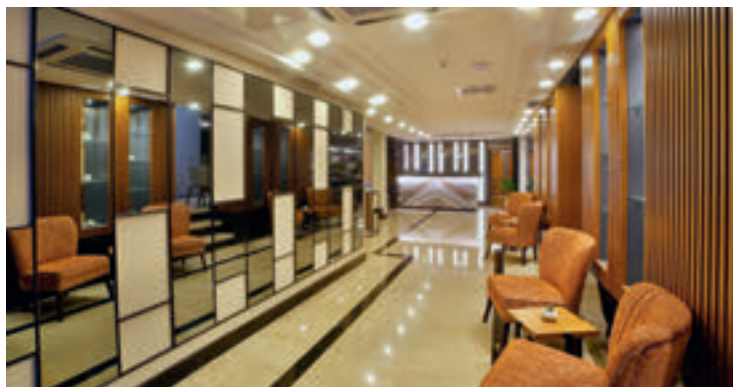
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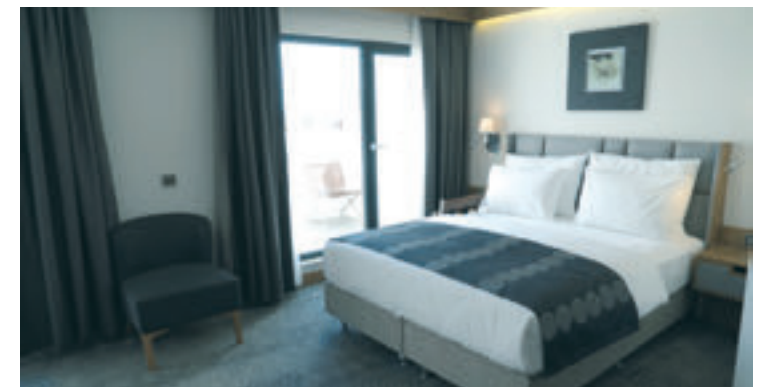
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Rivals target Cook customers and expand hotel capacity

Leading tour operators in Germany, including TUI, DER Touristik, FTI, Alltours and Schauinsland-Reisen, are trying to win Thomas Cook customers with special offers and have secured additional capacity from former Cook hotel partners after the insolvent tour operator cancelled all bookings up to December 31.

Thomas Cook Germany, with two million annual customers and 660,000 advance bookings through to summer 2020 at the time of its insolvency, this week cancelled all bookings up to the end of the year. Meanwhile, nearly all the 140,000 customers hit by the insolvency are now back in Germany.

Managing director Stefanie Berk said the latest cancellation step was necessary to provide 'planning certainty' for customers due to go on holiday over Christmas. She added: "We're working hard to resume business from December 1, 2019, so that we can offer holidays again from January 1, 2020, onwards."

In parallel, the company's insolvency administrators are currently in "intensive" talks with potential investors for Thomas Cook GmbH as a whole or individual parts of the company, whose tour operator brands include Neckermann Reisen, Öger Tours, Thomas Cook Signature, Bucher Reisen and Air Marin.

But amid uncertainty whether Thomas Cook can make any kind of comeback in Germany, competitors have been quick to offer affected customers various alternative holiday options and sign up capacity with hoteliers who previously marketed their properties exclusively or mostly through the insolvent tour operator.

TUI TARGETS 500,000 EXTRA CUSTOMERS IN 2020

TUI announced today that it expects

500,000 additional customers in 2020 and will expand hotel capacity "massively" in the major destinations of Majorca, Canaries, Greece and Turkey, including through many exclusive agreements. The group already held talks with tourism ministers in Greece, Turkey and Egypt.

The market leader will also expand summer 2020 flight capacity with more flights from Leipzig and is considering adding more services from other airports. In parallel, TUIfly is reportedly considering launching selected long-haul flights, possibly in winter 2020/21.

In terms of sales, TUI hopes to sign up "a three-digit" number of former Thomas Cook travel agencies to expand its network of sales partners. The company is offering Cook customers the option of booking an alternative TUI holiday until October 20 without having to make any advance payment and offering a €50 discount on holidays costing more than €699. Customers would be able to cancel free of charge with TUI if Thomas Cook was able to carry out the originally planned trip.

DER TOURISTIK REASSURES CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS

There was a similar message today from Rewe-owned DER Touristik, which will become Germany's second-largest tour operator in future. CEO Sören Hartmann declared: "We are a strong group. As Rewe Group we stand for reliability,

quality and solvency. Holidaymakers and hotel, airline and travel agency partners can be certain that they can rely on us."

ALLTOURS OFFERS FORMER COOK PARTNER HOTELS

Meanwhile, Alltours said it has "taken over a large part" of the hotel and bed capacity of Thomas Cook's German tour operators in many Mediterranean and some long-haul destinations. It is now taking bookings for these hotels, which include Sentido, Casa Cook, Cook's Club and Sunconnect properties as well as Iberostar and H10 hotels, for winter 2019/20 and summer 2020.

"This means that no holidaymaker has to give up on their usual hotel," explained Karsten Fricke, the tour operator's hotel procurement director. In addition, Alltours is offering all customers booking a winter or summer holiday by November 15 the option of a free cancellation or re-booking to an alternative destination.

Elsewhere, FTI is now offering holidays in 300 formerly exclusive Thomas Cook hotels (including Iberostar, Sentido and Sunconnect properties). Moreover, DER Touristik, FTI and Schauinsland are all offering the club resorts of Aldiana, which previously had a wide-ranging sales agreement with minority owner Thomas Cook. DER Touristik Central Europe chief Ingo Burmester said the Aldiana clubs "ideally extend" the group's product portfolio.



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GÖBEKLİTEPE PROMOTED IN ROME

Göbeklitepe, considered to be the oldest temple in the world with its 12,000 years of history and also included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, was introduced in Rome, the capital of Italy, with a comprehensive event including panels and photography exhibitions.



The panel and the photo exhibition titled "Göbeklitepe: The History of Humanity Rewritten" was organized by Yıldız Palace Foundation under the auspices of Yunus Emre Institute Rome Turkish Cultural Center. The president of Yıldız Palace Foundation, Professor Zeynep Karahan Uslu moderated the panel. The speakers were Milan Polytechnic University Professor Giulio Magli; Iğdır University Archaeologist Professor Bahattin Çelik; and Göbeklitepe Excavation Coordinator from the German Institute of Archeology, Lee Clare. Speaking to the state-run Anadolu Agency, Culture and Tourism

Deputy Director Özgül Özkan Yavuz said, "Göbeklitepe is an area where we, as the Culture and Tourism Ministry, have been working patiently and enthusiastically since the 1960s." Yavuz stated that Göbeklitepe was first declared as a registered area in 1963 and said, "As a result of a very long study, we registered Göbeklitepe in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 2018. Then the year 2019 was declared the year of Göbeklitepe." Yavuz emphasized that they increased the number of visitors with their promotional activities. "As the ministry, we did outstanding work in terms of publicity this year. As of the first half of 2019, we reached 175,000 visitors.

It was nearly 5,000 in 2018. Of course, as the ministry we carry out a lot of work for Göbeklitepe. However, as in this evening, we encourage the NGOs to work in this field and support the promotion." Uslu said that they were pleased to bring together Göbeklitepe with Italians in an exhibition, featuring the photos taken by İzzet Keribar and Francesco Cicconi. "We had the opportunity to host a group that can introduce Göbeklitepe to large segments of society such as Italian travel agency owners, columnists and bloggers," Uslu added. She said that they will also host such a group in Turkey's Şanlıurfa next month.





Ukrainian tourists are **discovering** the outside of Antalya, Turkey

Demand from the Ukrainian tourism market, which is expected to record this year, is spreading throughout the country. In addition to Antalya, Ukrainian tourists have started to prefer other destinations such as Istanbul, Cappadocia, Kayseri, Izmir and Sapanca. Turkey Hoteliers Association (TÜROB), the Culture and Tourism Ministry and Turkish Airlines; Ukrainian tourism market has been identified as pilot country for cooperation in the promotion activities are accessible to the target in the Ukrainian tourism market. Tourists from Ukraine are now in Antalya as well as Istanbul, Cappadocia, Ankara, Izmir and other destinations like Sapanca. Recently, demand from Ukraine also draws attention to Turkey's eastern and southeastern regions. TÜROB President Müberra Basin, stating that Ukraine is one of Turkey's

most stable tourism market, "in 2018 Ukrainian tourists to Turkey was 1 million 386 thousand while this number 10.5 percent in the first eight months of this year totaled 1 million 106 thousand. By the end of the year, we expect the number of Ukrainian tourists to exceed 1.5 million. Eresin pointed out that Ukrainian tourists are mainly focused on beach tourism and she added that this situation has changed and said that we added the Southeastern Anatolia to the promotional activities that they have started for the destinations like, Istanbul, Kayseri, Cappadocia, Izmir and Sapanca in order to Ukrainian tourists to go to all regions of our country. Eresin, Turkey's 2023 Tourism strategy, in order to achieve 75 million tourists it is important and necessary to spread tourism to whole country. President Eresin said, "It is our only

hope that the achievements of our sector will continue to increase in this way if we work together."

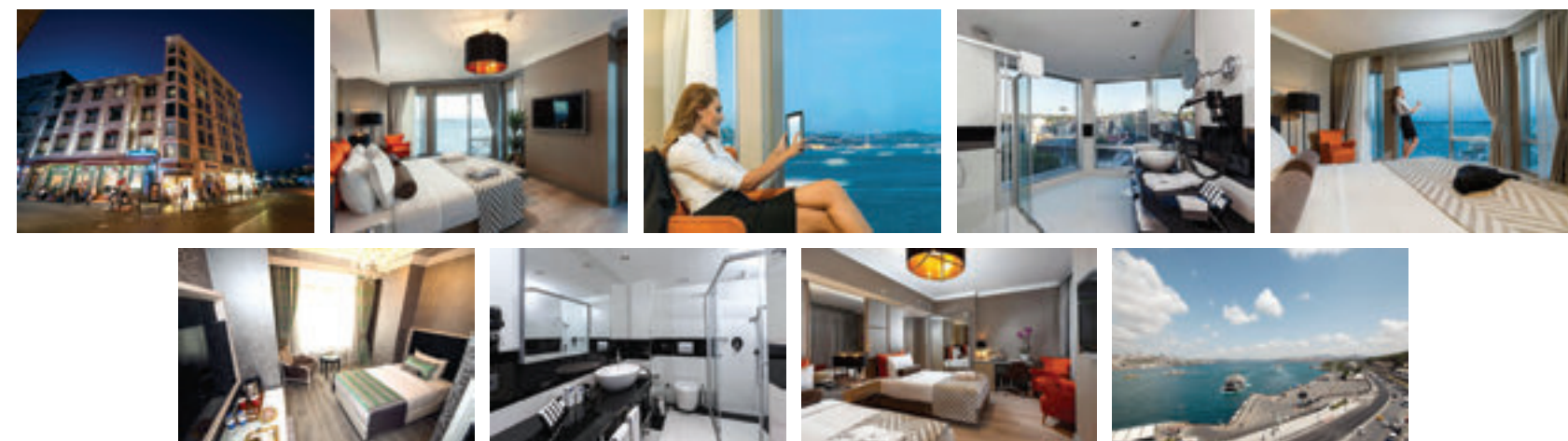
HOSTED IN ADIYAMAN, ŞANLIURFA, MARDIN, DIYARBAKIR AND GAZIANTEP

In the meantime, within the scope of the Promotion with all aspects of our country project carried out by TÜROB in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Turkish Airlines, a total of 20 travel agencies and tourism media representatives were invited from Ukraine to promote Adiyaman, Şanlıurfa, Mardin, Diyarbakır and Gaziantep. The delegation was hosted by Hilton Garden Inn Adiyaman, Hilton Garden Inn Mardin and Park Dedeman Gaziantep Hotel. The work is expected to make significant contributions especially to the tourism of the region.



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Mehmet Dinler becomes **Honorary Consul** of Romania

Mehmet Dinler, Royal Balloon Chairman and Dinler Tourism Vice Chairman of the Board, appointed to the Consulate of Nevşehir and Kayseri in Romania, officially started to work.



Honorary Consulate of Nevşehir and Kayseri of Romania was opened in Göreme town of Nevşehir with the participation of Romanian Ambassador Gabriel Şopanda .

In the opening ceremony of the Nevşehir-Kayseri Romanian Honorary Consulate in the town of Göreme of the central district of Nevşehir, Romanian Ambassador Gabriile Şopanda, KAPTİD President Yakup Dinler and the Romanian Honorary Consul Mehmet Dinler attended the ceremony.

After the opening ceremony held in the town of Göreme, it continued with a cocktail held in Kayakapı Premium Caves in Ürgüp.

Giving a speech at the cocktail program held here , Romanian Ambassador Gabriel Şopanda expressed his pleasure for the appointment of Mehmet Dinler as the Honorary Consul of Nevşehir and Kayseri of Romania and wished

Mehmet Dinler success in his new position. Speaking in the program, Nevşehir Governor İlhami Aktaş, businessman Mehmet Dinler has accomplished successful works so far, in success graph, as a Romania's Nevşehir and Kayseri Honorary Consul he will sign successful works, he said. Governor Aktaş said, "Today I congratulate businessman Mehmet Dinler for being the Honorary Consul of Romania in Nevşehir and Kayseri.

Mehmet Dinler, who has accomplished successful works as a businessman, will serve as a cultural ambassador for the tourists coming from our Cappadocia from Romania. I congratulate him once again and wish him success in his new position. Romania's Nevşehir and Kayseri Honorary Consul Mehmet Dinler in here talking, "All our hearts here today on our fellows who didn't leave us alone in here, I thank you. I wish this task I have been assigned to be

beneficial to Nevşehir and Kayseri. May God not embarrass us".

With the cocktail held at Kayakapı Premium Caves, the Governor of Nevşehir İlhami Aktaş, Romanian Ambassador Gabriile Şopanda, AK Party Nevşehir deputies Mustafa Acikgoz, Yucel Menekse, Nevşehir Chief Public Prosecutor Altug Kursat Sahin, Nevşehir Hacı Bektas Veli University Rector. Dr. Mazhar Bağlı, Rector of Cappadocia University. Dr. Hasan Ali Karasar, Chairman of the NTSO Arif Parmaksız, AK Party Provincial Chairman Mustafa Rauf Yanar, MHP Provincial Chairman İlhan Kaya, Urgup Governor Mehmet Maraslı, Urgup Mayor Mehmet Aktürk, Avanos Mayor Celal Alper Ibas, Provincial Police Chief Mehmet Artunay, Provincial Gendarmerie Commander Senior Colonel Hüsamettin Erol, Chairman of KAPTİD Yakup Dinler, Ürgüp Chamber of Commerce President Ahmet Aydın, as well as many guests attended.



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THY weathers headwinds in tough year

Turkey's flag carrier Turkish Airlines (THY) has exhibited a good performance despite major challenges, such as the MAX crisis and the move of operations to a new airport, said İlker Ayci, the chairman of THY's board of directors, adding that the carrier remains profitable.

"We are working to manage our revenues better and reduce costs, taking necessary measures to this end. We are working hard to post profit," Ayci said. When asked if the carrier would report profit at the end of this year, he said "it was obvious the MAX crisis and the move to the new airport would have some impact on financials. But, we moved to the new airport in the second quarter and in the next quarter the company is in the safe and profitable zone." In the second quarter of this year, THY reported a net income of 133 million Turkish Liras (\$22.8 million) while its revenues stood at 18.7 billion liras in April-June. THY had to ground 24 Boeing MAX jets after two fatal accidents earlier this year. "The grounding of those planes has affected our operations, creating costs", Ayci told journalists at the company's headquarters in Istanbul. He added that discussions to resolve to the MAX issue with Boeing is underway. "We are hoping to have a positive outcome. We have Plan B and Plan C," Ayci said, without providing further details. The executive also noted that the shifting operations from Atatürk Airport to the newly built Istanbul Airport also impacted the company's operations. Ayci, however, added THY's on-time performance improved greatly shortly after moving to the new airport, rising



Mehmet İlker Ayci,
Turkish Airlines Chairman Of The Board And Executive Committee

to as much as 85 percent within a space of two months. A third runway is expected to become operational at Istanbul Airport around June or July which will help THY boost its performance. He noted that the taxiing time for planes at the airport to around 18-19 minutes from 28-29 minutes. The new Istanbul Airport, whose first phase officially opened last fall and took over air traffic from the former main Ataturk Airport on April 6. "International transit passengers increased by 7.5 percent in the third quarter, showing that international travellers love the new airport," Ayci said. Taking into account the effects of the MAX crisis and the transfer

of operations, THY in September revised its sales revenue target for this year to \$13.4 billion from a previous \$14.1 billion. The carrier also revised downwards its passenger target to 76 million from 80 million for 2019. In January-September, THY served a total of 56.4 million passengers with international passengers rising 2.4 percent on annual basis to 33 million. With a full capacity of 200 million passengers annually after the completion of all four phases with six runways by 2028, Istanbul Airport is set to become a global aviation hub hosting more than 100 airlines and flights to over 300 destinations around the world.

Expand your point of view



More flights to boost number of Japanese, Chinese tourists

Gearing up to close the busy summer season, tourism operators have already started working on agreements for the upcoming 2020 season.

Accelerating the flow of tourists from the Far East, as well as Europe and Russia to increase market diversity, tourism operators have particularly concentrated on Japanese and Chinese tourists who have been coming to Turkey all year. Thus, Turkey's flag carrier Turkish Airlines (THY) has increased its flights to China and Japan in the recent period, followed by other airlines flying to Istanbul. Tourism operators pointed

new period. Other carriers such as Emirates, Korean Air, Astana, and Etihad Airlines, which have direct flights from Japan to Turkey, will also organize one flight each. Thus, eight aircraft, including four direct and four connected flights, will fly between Japan and Turkey daily. The number of Japanese tourists, expected to exceed 100,000 this year, will double to 200,000 by 2020. Determined as a target market for

the Silk Road's eastern end. It has recently received the necessary approvals to start the Xi'an-Istanbul flights. Carrier officials then said the scheduled flights to the Chinese city would be carried out seven times a week. China marked Turkey Tourism Year in 2018 and hosted dozens of events around the country. Around 400,000 Chinese tourists visited Turkey last year. This number is expected to exceed 450,000 this year and surpass 750,000 by 2020. The number of Chinese tourists in the country is expected to rise to 1 million in two years. After China's national carrier Sichuan Airlines, China Southern Airlines has also scheduled one daily direct flight to Turkey, while Qatar, Iran, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan's national airlines are also set to fly from China to Turkey. The number of Chinese tourists, expected to reach 450,000 at the end of this year, is estimated to surpass 750,000 by 2020.

Ahmet Serdar Körükçü, the head of Dorak Holding, which brings 80% of tourists from China and Japan, pointed out that the number of tourists from both markets increased over the last two years, adding that these tourists stay an average of 10 days. "Japanese and Chinese tourists occupy 85% of the hotels in Çanakkale, Ayvalık, İzmir, Kuşadası, Pamukkale, Cappadocia, and Safranbolu on a yearly basis," Körükçü said. "The intense flow of tourists brings along different tour routes. In 2020, we will see a significant increase in southeastern Anatolia tours as well."



to transportation as the most important step to increase the number of tourists from the Far East. "The number of flights started to increase with the opening of Istanbul Airport," tourism operators said. "By 2020, the number of tourists from Japan and China will double. This increase will continue in the coming years," they stressed. THY, which has one daily flight from Narita Airport in Tokyo, Japan, will launch flights from Haneda Airport in Tokyo as of April 2020. While it has recently resumed its Osaka flights, Japanese national airline ANA Airlines will also fly directly to Istanbul in the

Turkey, Japan has declared 2019 as the Year of Turkey, as part of which various exhibitions are being held throughout the year to bring Turkey's value to the forefront, covering many items, from cultural and archaeological heritage to art and gastronomy. Similar mobility is experienced in the number of Chinese tourists. THY, which has one daily flight from China's Guangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing airports, will launch one daily flight from Shanghai Airport as of April 2020. Turkish Airlines is also set to launch scheduled flights to China's central-northwest city of Xi'an, which marks



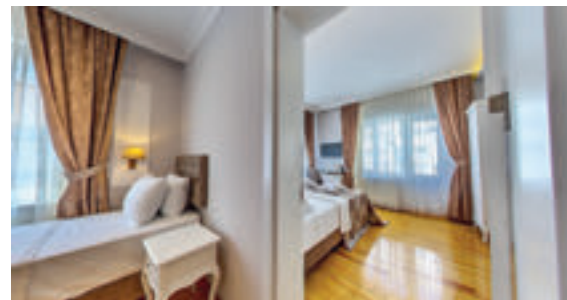
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DELUXE DOUBLE ROOMS... EXQUISITE ELEGANCE EXEMPLIFIED

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air conditioning, in-room safe, tea-coffee making facility, telephone and complimentary high speed internet access, slippers. Pampering extras include complimentary fruit and mineral water on arrival.

DELUXE TRIPLE ROOMS

Appointed with sleek furniture, our deluxe rooms offer the traditional comforts of home in one of the most time-honored hotels in Istanbul. This category has two options available, 1 King bed and 1 Single Bed or 3 Single Beds. Both business and leisure travelers will appreciate the accommodations of one our most popular room types.

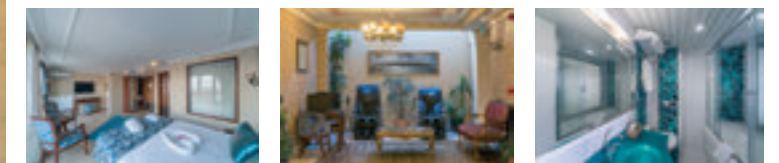
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Dedeman hotel is restructuring

In a statement made by Dedeman Tourism Group, Banu Dedeman, who is currently the Chairman of the Board of Directors, has assigned to the position of CEO of the institution as from October 21, 2019 in addition to her current duty.



In this statement, within the scope of the group's forward organizational restructuring

process, Banu Dedeman expressed his views on the subject as follows: "From 1966 to the present, I would

like to express our pride in serving our country and sector with our values, traditions and experience. I believe that we will carry our brand to the future in a strong and determined manner with the belief and perseverance we have inherited from previous generations by protecting our deep-rooted history with all my colleagues working in Dedeman Group. I am very pleased and excited to continue my work as the Chairman of the Executive Committee. As one of the Turkey's well-established companies and strong brand, we will continue to contribute to country's economy and Turkish tourism sector. "We will continue our efforts to strengthen our corporate structure and to grow by adding new rings to our chain"

RESTRUCTURING FOR EFFICIENT GROWING

In line with the Group's sustainable growth and change strategy, the Executive Committee" was formed and many appointments were implemented.

Within this scope, İbrahim Gündüz Yeşil was appointed as the General Manager of Dedeman Istanbul Hotel and as the Deputy General Manager of Park Dedeman Levent Hotel; Elçin Malkır Kırkağaç was appointed as Financial Affairs Director; Gülhan Balta Kuzu was appointed as the Executive Committee Member in charge of Sales and Marketing and Ertuğrul Çataltepe as Executive Committee Member in charge of Human Resources and Procurement. Dedeman Tourism Group will continue to grow with a new breath, corporate perspective and vision as it did yesterday.



Banu Dedeman

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Zeynep Sultan hotel is located in one of the oldest and most colourful quarters of Istanbul in the old historical peninsula. Whether you are in Istanbul for business or leisure, You will also be having a great access for all significant points in the heart of the city, in this historical peninsula, Sultanahmet.

Istanbul's Galataport to open next year

New cruise ship port, Galataport, which is being developed jointly by Doğu Group and Bilgili Holding in Istanbul's Karaköy district along 1,200 meters of coastline, will welcome its first cruise ship in April 2020.

A total of \$1.7 billion has been already invested in the project, which is expected to create around 5,000 new jobs.

Ferit Şahenk, Doğu Holding chairman and CEO, and Serdar Bilgili, Bilgili Holding chairman, attended a press meeting on Aug. 26 in Istanbul to share the details of the port development. Galataport is projected to host a total of 64 cruise ships in 2020. In 2021, 145 cruise ships are expected to dock at the port. The operators of the port aim to serve up to 500 cruise ships in 2020. Şahenk described Galataport as the "jewel of Istanbul." "This 1.2 kilometers-long coastline had been closed to the public for over 200 years. Now, we are opening it," Şahenk said, adding that the \$1.7 billion investment includes the offer made in the privatization.

Doğu Holding and its partner Bilgili Holding placed the highest offer for the privatization of Galataport with a \$702 million bid in May 2013, winning the rights to operate the port area in



Istanbul's Karaköy neighborhood for 30 years.

"The port's passenger terminal is built underground. The port will welcome 1.5 million visitors, including ships' crew, and it will energize cruise ship tourism activity from the Mediterranean up to the Black Sea," Şahenk added. "It has been a tough five years. Once Galataport becomes operational, Istanbul will become a much more modern city. It will provide people living in Istanbul with a new space to socialize," Serdar Bilgili said.

The venue will have a total of 52,000 square meters of leasable area for shops and restaurants and another 43,000 square meters for offices,

according to Hüsnü Akhan, deputy chairman at Doğu Holding. "Those cafes, restaurants and shops, as well as a hotel, will create jobs for 5,000 people," Akhan said. A 177-room hotel will be built at the port, according to Şahenk. "Hong Kong-based Peninsula Group, which operates nine hotels across the globe, will have a presence here, not as an operator but as an investor. The share of the Peninsula Group in the hotel investment at Galataport is 50 percent," Şahenk added. Akhan also informed that they held talks on restructuring a 1.02 billion euros loan secured for the Galataport project. "A verbal agreement has been reached," he said.



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Radisson Residences Avrupa Tem Istanbul Opens in Turkey

The 140-apartment Radisson Residences Avrupa Tem Istanbul in Turkey has now welcomed its first guests.



Located within the Avrupa Tem Residential Complex and close to the Istanbul Airport, the property is the perfect spot for business travelers and leisure guests seeking stylish accommodation in a central location.

Michel Stalport, Area Senior Vice President Eastern Europe, Russia and Turkey, said: "We are proud to open another stunning property in Turkey, with our 16th hotel in Istanbul. We thank our partners for their continued trust and look forward

to creating many more memorable moments for our guests."

The newly built property consists of 140 modern apartments, combining a mix of one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units. The residence also features a well-equipped gym and a spa, including an indoor swimming pool to accommodate both short- and long-term stays.

The Radisson Residences Avrupa Tem Istanbul is located within the Avrupa Tem Residential Complex,

close to Istanbul Airport. With its proximity to some of Istanbul's main business districts and the airport, the residence is expected to attract both business travelers and leisure guests seeking stylish accommodation in a central location.

The Radisson Residences Avrupa Tem Istanbul is approximately 30 minutes' drive from the new Istanbul Airport, and only 400m from the nearest exit of the Trans-European Motorway (E80), linking the residence to the city.



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All In One: **ALANYA**

Alanya, also with the ease in its accessibility, constitutes holiday route for many local and foreign tourists for so many days of the year.

The tourism movement that started to intensify in the 1960s with pensioning in Alanya became the locomotive of the city today. Alanya has about 400 facilities with 165 thousand beds. Alanya is also a holiday paradise which fascinates many foreigners with its beauty and its climate. There are about 40 thousand foreign residents who have chosen to live in Alanya through house acquisition and spend a remarkable part of the year in Alanya. Alanya, which is the destination that has the most variety of touristic products, apart from the sea, sun and sand trio, stands in an indispensable point in the Mediterranean tourism with its natural beauties of plateaus, historical texture, climate features that enable many sports, facility infrastructure, night life and entertainment choices. With its eye-catching ease in accessibility, Alanya is center of attraction. There are direct flights from many countries to Antalya and Gazipaşa Airports. In the city, which draws attention with its artistic activities, national and international music and cinema festivals, jazz days, art workshops are organized in different periods of the year.



In Alanya, which has an important position in sports tourism in Turkey, important and prestigious organizations like international road and mountain bike races, triathlon are organized as well. Apart from these, Alanya hosts athletes and followers interested in tennis, beach volley, fencing, ultra marathon, hall volleyball and basketball tournaments. After a short while Alanya will have an important place in terms of winter sports thanks to the Akdağ Ski Center which will be put in practice soon.

The project of golf courses, too, will come true soon. Alanya, bigger than 22 cities in Turkey with its population of about 300 thousand, offers a constantly moving and living city life with its shopping centers, cafes and restaurants. This beautiful holiday town, which takes the visitors to a journey in the depths of history with its ruins such as Alanya Castle reached by cableway from Damlataş district, Syedra, Hamaxia, Laertes, Aytap, is the mind and body relaxing place for many local and foreign tourists. In Alanya, which offers jeepsafari for motorists, motorcycle enduro tours, paragliding, diving, wave surfing, trekking, submarine tour and all kinds of individual sportive activities, it is possible to find an entertaining of relaxing activity that attracts your attention 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, in the air, on land and at sea.

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Istanbul will be the star of **TripAdvisor**

Istanbul Congress and Visitors Bureau (ICVB) will be managing Istanbul pages of TripAdvisor for one year. The target of the TripAdvisor platform, which is 490 million unique visitors per month, is to give Istanbul the title of World's No. 1 Destination.

TripAdvisor, the world-renowned travel site, has handed over the management of Istanbul pages to the Istanbul Congress and Visitors Bureau (ICVB), headed by the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce. The pages are managed through the One Istanbul brand, one of the important projects of ICVB. Information meeting about the project was held at ITO. Istanbul Deputy Governor Dr. Hülya Kaya, ITO Board Member and Vice President of ICVB Bahadır Yaşık, STK representatives and tourism operators joined to the meeting.



the attractive advantages of Istanbul from the digital world to the four corners of the world in real terms through our advertising efforts in 7 different languages by determining the target and region segments with 'smart targeting'. Through the interaction and data usage through the site, we will have the opportunity to provide in-depth and reliable reporting on a detailed visitor profile of Istanbul. We will have a communication channel that directs those who plan to travel to Istanbul to book."

SERVICE IN 28 LANGUAGES, 49 DIFFERENT MARKETS

ITO Board Member Bahadır Yaşık,

about TripAdvisor has shared the following data:

- 37 percent of Tourists search TripAdvisor to decide. This is followed by search engines with a rate of 10 percent.
- A 1-star increase in TripAdvisor rating brings additional revenue from 5 percent to 9 percent on average for businesses.
- The platform is visited by an average of 490 million unique individuals each month and serves in 28 languages in 49 different markets.

3 BIG COMPETITORS OF ISTANBUL

One Istanbul Manager Arda Kertmelioglu, who introduced the project, drew attention to the importance of the content reaching the right tourist segment on a global level and said that Istanbul's most important competitors in the platform are Barcelona, Rome and Paris. Arda Kertmelioglu, in general, 59 percent effective in the decision to purchase an online travel reviews, he said.

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Hilton Announces New **Leadership** for Middle East, Africa & Turkey Region

Rudi Jagersbacher to step down after 40 years of service for Hilton; Jochem-Jan Sleiffer to oversee growth strategy as new Area President for MEA&T

Hilton today announced that Jochem-Jan Sleiffer has been appointed to the position of Area President, Middle East, Africa & Turkey (MEA&T) in succession to Rudi Jagersbacher, who has chosen to step down following 40 years of service with Hilton. These changes, effective 1 January 2020, will see Jagersbacher assume a two-year advisory role, based in Dubai, to assist the transition. Over the last eight years, Jagersbacher has led Hilton through sustained growth in Middle East, Africa and Turkey by more than tripling the number of hotels in the region, by launching four new brands and by entering 12 new countries and territories. Furthermore, under his leadership, Hilton was crowned the #1 Best Place to Work for in Turkey and Saudi Arabia, and #3 Best Workplace in the UAE. Commenting on the news, Simon Vincent, EVP and President Europe, Middle East and Africa, said: "During his distinguished career with Hilton, Rudi has made a significant contribution



Jochem-Jan Sleiffer



Rudi Jagersbacher

to Hilton and most notably has built long-lasting relationships with owners, investors and partners. Therefore, I'm delighted that he has agreed to remain as an advisor to our business." Sleiffer takes on his new position following a three-decade career at Hilton, where he most recently acted as Senior Vice President Operations, Continental Europe, overseeing a portfolio of 57 Hilton-managed hotels across 26 countries and territories. Prior to this, he held a number of leadership roles across Europe, including Belgium,

UK, France and Greece. "Jochem-Jan is a high-performing and experienced leader from within our own ranks, who is well suited to further drive growth in this important region. Furthermore, I am confident that Jochem-Jan will ensure that Hilton continues to deliver both exceptional hospitality for our customers and exceptional returns for our owners," commented Vincent on Sleiffer's new role. Hilton expects to open 158 hotels across the MEA&T region in the next five years, including new markets such as Bahrain, Ghana and Sierra Leone. "As we continue to grow, we are focused on doing so in a way that promotes sustainable travel and tourism. I am proud to help shape the company's future journey in Middle East, Africa and Turkey, with market-leading brands, an award-winning culture and an incredibly committed team," Sleiffer commented on his appointment. Sleiffer will relocate to Dubai in January 2020. Originally from the Netherlands, he is married with one daughter.



Citadel Hotel Leaning against the historical city walls of Istanbul, Citadel Hotel offers its pink and white colored facade to the fluorescent blue of the Marmara Sea. A wonderful location, the hotel is situated at Sultanahmet, the heart of Istanbul (Old City), 5 walking minutes from Blue Mosque, Topkapı Palace, St. Sophia. You will have a pleasant stay in our authentic, yet well-equipped 25 rooms and 6 suites. In these rooms with air-conditioning, minibar, cable TV; Wireless, direct dial phone, hair dryer, you will feel at home. An additional restaurant with 90 persons capacity continues in the millennia old building tradition of Anatolia. Marmara Cafe, with a stained glass roof and facade, offers a beautiful view of the Marmara Sea. Here you can enjoy the view while listening to the music of water splashing down from a magnificent fountain. Citadel Hotel welcomes you with traditional Turkish hospitality





Number of tourists in Istanbul to exceed its **population** for first time

For the first time in history, tourists in Turkey's megacity Istanbul are expected to exceed the city's own residents in number, the city's chamber of commerce president said.

During a press meeting in Cannes, France, Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (ITO) President Şekib Avdagiç said Istanbul was expected to receive 15.5 million tourists by the end of 2019. Avdagiç's remarks came during a press meeting of MIPCOM 2019 - a prestigious film, content, TV and production industry exhibition - where he said hotel occupancy rate in Istanbul was around 87%. Demand by tourists in Istanbul also pushed hotel prices up 27% on foreign currency basis, Avdagiç added.

"The rapid commissioning of the Istanbul Finance Center will be a milestone for Istanbul," he said, adding that it would lead global capital to flow through the city. He underlined that Turkey should use the advantages of its geography, giving it the opportunity



to reach 1.7 billion people in its neighborhood with a value of \$27 trillion. "Turkey's main objective is to be the first or at least the second largest industrial and agricultural product supplier of our neighbors," he said,

adding that the country should further focus on the EU market as well. He noted that Turkey's industrial infrastructure and industrial exports were more powerful than its neighbors and that this would make the city a hub for world's culture, tourism and finance.



BW Best Western.



YOU, ALWAYS DESERVE THE BEST

This historical Ottoman house, built in the 17th century and situated in the old town of Istanbul, has been faithfully restored. The hotel also boasts a Turkish Bath, which is perfect for a bit of relaxation after a full days sightseeing.

Rooms: 40 Standard rooms, 5 Deluxe Suites All rooms benefit from: air-conditioning, double glazing, mini bar, telephone, Internet access, Satellite TV, en suite bath or shower, WC and hairdryer.

Facilities: Coffee shop in lobby (breakfast only), bar, Turkish Bath, sauna, lift.

Location: Centrally located in the old city of Istanbul, 05 minutes walk to the Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia and the Sultanahmet (Blue) Mosque and 10 minute walk to the Bosphorus, where the ferry goes to the Asian side of Istanbul.

Transfer: 20 minute transfer from Istanbul airport.



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Natural Beauties DALYAN

A poet once wrote "If the soul is sleeping dreams wonder naked". With our hectic modern lives, noise pollution, crowded streets and the constant traffic noise, the thought of peace, tranquility and the soothing heat of the sun is just a dream.

Our minds conjure up images of blue skies, warm sun, beaches with turquoise waters and golden sands, welcoming friendly people, a safe haven for all the family to relax and rejuvenate mind, body & soul. When you are ready to turn your dreams into reality, we suggest you experience our little piece of paradise. This place is Dalyan. When you enter Dalyan's border an infusion of orange, lemon and pomegranate trees with their subtle perfumed scents greet you. At this moment you can leave your stresses behind- now you are entering into the heart of nature. Dalyan once a small fishing village has become a popular destination for tourist who are fascinated by history and nature. The ancient city of Kaunos and the 3000 year old Rock Tombs are enchanting, along with the famous 8 km long İztuzu beach where the Aegean & Mediterranean seas meet, home to the rare and endangered Caretta Caretta turtle. Dalyan benefits from being close to the sea and fresh water lakes which are linked by a 12 km long canal that runs through the centre

of Dalyan, with Köyceğiz Wharf at one end, and İztuzu beach at the other – all of which present great swimming opportunity's. The canal natural water and dense, tall reeds are a haven and home to 180 bird species. Indigenous to the area are the wonderful Günlük Trees which resins produce a perfume known as Frankincense. In addition, nature has generously provided us with an array of butterfly species, along with exquisite flora and fauna. The history, nature, natural hot springs and mud baths makes Dalyan a memorable place to

DALYAN ROCK TOMBS

You look on in awe at the magnificence of history unfolding before your eyes. Rock Tombs that have been standing for thousand of years against the merciless of time, carrying the mysteries of the past to the future are everlasting. Many have said when up close to the tombs they here the Stones talking to them. Colossal rocks have been intricately carved from the entrances to the tombs, rising from the sea at an 80

degree angle; it perplexes the mind as to how so many thousand of years ago these amazing sites were constructed. According to the archaeologists, the intricacy of the tombs shows the power and wealth of those that are buried there. Most of the city is still protected with a 7-8 m high barrier, even today. There are three Stone lines side by side for the dead to be buried into the rock tombs that are carved like an Ionian temple. The Ionian columns which were elaborately decorated have since eroded. However on the facade the reliefs of two lions facing one another are still seen.

İztuzu beach is spectacular with its crystal clear turquoise waters, and fine golden sands- home to the rare and endangered Caretta Caretta turtle, who return year after year to lay their eggs in the sand. İztuzu beach is designated a conservation area, and has won the award for protecting the nature and environment. It has been stated that there is no other place in the world where fresh water lake merges with the Mediterranean sea.



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Ephesus



Pergamon



Sardis



Get Ready to Discover the Route of 7 Churches of Revelation in Turkey with SKYhub!

Do you know that the 7 Churches of Revelation is located in Turkey? Here you can find brief information about 7 Churches in Turkey.

THE HISTORY OF 7 CHURCHES

The letters to the Seven Churches are found in chapters 2 and 3 of the Book of Revelation. In the vision of apostle John, Jesus dictates letters to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor that are relevant to the Church in any age. There are different ways to understand the letters to the Seven Churches. They can be interpreted as relating to the church in universal terms or for the life of the church at different points during its long history. The apostle John is very interested in the number 7; he is instructed by Jesus to write seven letters to the seven churches. The letters follow identical formats, and each letter has 7 sections.

THE ROUTE OF 7 CHURCHES

Ephesus is one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1: 11). In ancient days, Ephesus was a bustling port town of 250,000, graced with wide, colonnade bordered streets. The St. Paul's first



Merve Özkök, SKYhub Inbound Manager

visit to Ephesus was brief- during his second missionary tour (Acts 18:19-21). His second visit lasted about three years- during his third missionary tour (Acts 19:1 to 20:31). Luke's account of the worship of Diana appears in Acts 19:34-35. The Great Theatre (stadium) mentioned in Acts 19:29-31 could seat 25,000 people. Walk the marble-paved street with grooves made by chariot wheels. See the Fountain of Trajan, the Library of Celsus, and the Great Theatre with a capacity of 24,000. After visiting Ephesus we also visit the Virgin Mary House. It is

the place where Mary may have spent her last days. Indeed, she may have come in the area together with Saint John, who spent several years in the area to spread Christianity. Mary preferred this remote place rather than living in a crowded place. Paul VI was the first pope to visit this place in the 1960s. Later, in the 1980s, during his visit, Pope John-Paul II declared the Shrine of Virgin Mary has a pilgrimage place for Christians. It is also visited by Muslims who recognize Mary as the mother of one of their prophets. Every year, on August 15th a ceremony is organized to commemorate Mary's Assumption. And also Basilica of St. John; early tradition associated John, the disciple of Jesus, the author of the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation with the city of Ephesus. As early as the 4th or 5th century a Christian church was built over a simple grave, supposedly the grave of St. John. In the 6th century, Emperor Justinian had an impressive domed basilica built to replace the earlier church.



Thyatira



Laodicea



Smyrna

Then **Smyrna** (Rev:2,8-11), Smyrna was poor and persecuted, the church at Smyrna suffered amidst prosperity for its refusal to worship the Roman Emperor. This proved to be the last stronghold of Christianity in Asia Minor. Home of the great second-century Bishop Polycarp who was burned alive at the age of eighty-six. Next one is **Pergamon** is a most memorable experience will be Pergamon, with its acropolis and Great Theatre, the steepest of the ancient world. Revelation 2:12-16 describes the city as "where Satan's seat is", a reference to the altar of Zeus, where we pause for reflection on the fulfilment of Scripture. Another one is **Thyatira** is one of the Seven Churches mentioned in Revelations tolerated the false prophetess, Jezebel (Rev. 1: 11; 2: 18-29) And **Laodicea**. The Christians of Laodicea, (Rev. 3: 14-22) were chastised for being lukewarm, "You are neither cold nor hot" (Rev. 3: 15), and for being too comfortable incorporating pagan and Christian beliefs. In the famous scripture from Revelation (3: 20-21). Jesus says to the Laodicean church:



Philadelphia

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock...". The other one is **Philadelphia** one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 3: 7-13). Christ told those who overcame that He would write upon them "the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem." (Rev.3: 12) Today, there is not much left to mark the spot. You will only see an ancient wall and the remains of a Byzantine basilica. The last one is **Sardis**. Jesus told Sardis, "I know thy works, that thou hast a name, that thou livest, and art dead"(Rev. 3: 1-6). Coins were minted and the dyeing of wool originated in Sardis. Merve Özkök, SKYhub Inbound Manager, introducing the Seven Churches route to the world and inviting everyone to

explore this special route: "Every year, millions of Christians from all around the World visit Turkey for these regions. As **SKYhub**, all the programs are being prepared by our experienced planning team and specialized tour guides. And can be adjusted based on our guests' needs. The tours also can be combined with other Biblical sites in Turkey such as; Hatay (Antioch), Tarsus, Cyprus, Konya... We can also combine the tours with the famous site-seeing places such as Cappadocia, Istanbul, and any other cities around. Are you ready to explore the Seven Churches of Revelation with **SKYhub** Turkey? You can see our pamphlet with detailed information and sample tour programs from the QR Code. For more information, please contact "inbound@skyhub.com.tr". We are looking forward to welcoming you here in beautiful Turkey"





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