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SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

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"We are aware of and committed to our responsibilities regarding sustainable tourism and development. For future generations."
We strive to leave a better world behind. Our corporate vision, mission, culture, values, and ethics.
Our principles guide us in fulfilling these responsibilities.

**SUSTAINABILITY
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

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As one of the leading boutique brands in the tourism sector, we are committed to sustainable tourism.

We are aware of our responsibilities. That's why we want not only our guests but also our employees to be aware of these responsibilities.

We attach great importance to it. We are constantly increasing social responsibility awareness and adopting an environmentally friendly management approach.

We apply it consistently.

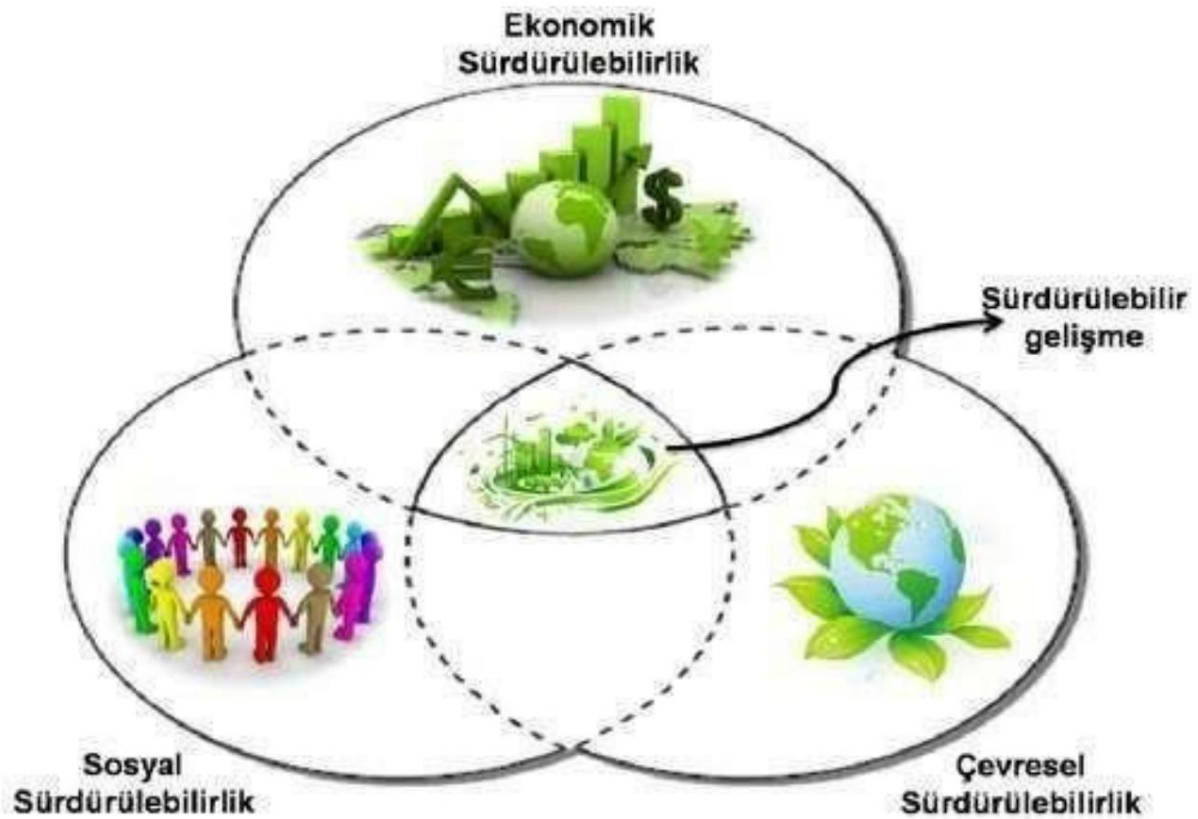
Our approach to governance is based on "sustainable tourism." We aim to leave a more livable environment for future generations.

To this end, we must sustainably utilize our natural resources while maintaining the highest quality of our products and services.

We use it in this way.

As a company, one of our main mottos is to offer a new product by recycling the old, rather than creating something completely new.

HerShe is one of them.



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ABOUT THE REPORT

As a facility, we place special emphasis on informing our stakeholders transparently and effectively about our activities and their impacts. In this regard, the sustainability reports we aim to publish annually will be an important tool in our efforts to be a transparent and accountable organization.

Since the day we started operating in the business world, we have made and continue to make many investments in both social and environmental aspects for the sustainability of our business. Starting in 2025, we have begun working to share our triple performance with all our stakeholders. With this first sustainability report, we aim to communicate our economic, environmental, and social performance to our employees, customers, and other stakeholders. In the process of preparing this report, we have begun researching and examining the expectations of our key stakeholders regarding sustainability at our hotel. We see this report, which we plan to prepare regularly, as an important communication tool through which we will share the steps we will take to manage our impact in the future.

As a facility, we are aware that sustainability efforts in tourism minimize the negative impacts on the environment and cultural heritage, and we understand the responsibilities that sustainable tourism brings. We strive to leave a better world for future generations. In this regard, we continue our work on many issues within the concept of sustainability, such as reducing environmental impacts, energy, water and waste management, protection of cultural and social heritage, providing economic and social benefits to the local people, and protecting the environment. In today's world, where the importance of climate change and global warming is felt more and more every day, we aim to fulfill our responsibility in the best possible way and strive to ensure that environmental awareness is embraced by our employees. We aim to increase our success every day by focusing on effectively managing sustainability risks and ensuring sustainable growth through long-term strategies.

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1. ABOUT US

On our way to achieving our vision;
With this sustainability report published in its name, our facility's sustainability is...
Its performance and impacts are presented to the attention of all our stakeholders.
Deniz Houses Hotel is an 18-room boutique hotel located in Sultanahmet, Istanbul. Our hotel is situated in the Küçük Ayasofya neighborhood, close to the sea, in a quiet and safe area. Sultanahmet Square and the tram stop are within a 5-6 minute walk from the hotel. The Kumkapı area and the Arasta Market are also within walking distance.

Our hotel operates year-round and is a tourist facility. Every detail has been considered to ensure our guests' comfort. All our hotel rooms feature a private bathroom, 24-hour hot water, central heating, air conditioning, satellite TV, minibar, and hairdryer. Clean towels and shampoo/soap are provided to all guests upon arrival. Rooms are cleaned daily, and fresh linens are provided every three days. Some rooms offer sea views, and we also have rooms with gardens. Breakfast is included in the price and is served as a set menu every morning on our scenic terrace.

If you ever find yourself in Istanbul, we would be delighted to welcome you.

...

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SUSTAINABILITY POLICY We promote

the efficient use of energy and water resources and aim to reduce waste. We also aim to protect the local ecosystem and... biodiversity

To support this, we minimize environmental impact. We raise awareness among our staff and guests about recycling and waste management.

Social and Cultural Sensitivity: We

support economic and social development by collaborating with local communities. We protect and promote local cultural values and heritage.

We ensure that all our staff adhere to the principles of fair labor practices, equality, and diversity.

Economic Sustainability:

We encourage working with sustainable suppliers and aim to contribute to the local economy.

We continuously review our processes to improve efficiency and achieve cost savings.

Quality Management:

We adhere strictly to quality standards to ensure the highest level of guest satisfaction. Based on the principles of continuous improvement, we are committed to the continuous training and development of our staff. **Human Rights and Employee Rights:** We

fully comply with business ethics standards and human rights.

We support fair working conditions and reject all forms of discrimination.

Health and Safety:

We take all necessary measures to ensure the highest level of health and safety for our guests and employees.

We ensure a safe environment by continuously reviewing our hygiene and cleanliness standards.

Risk and Crisis Management:

We assess risks, take precautions, and continuously improve our management processes. We prepare and update crisis plans to ensure we can act quickly and effectively in crisis situations.

We organize training and awareness programs to prepare our staff for emergencies and strengthen their response capabilities.

This sustainability policy reflects our efforts as a facility to achieve our sustainability goals and fulfill our commitments for a better future.

We continuously review and update our policies and share them with all our stakeholders.

SUSTAINABILITY
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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APPOINTMENT LETTER FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM RESPONSIBLE

We manage the practices within our company as part of the Sustainable Tourism Program.

We have assigned one of our staff members to coordinate, execute, and report on behalf of the company.

We have appointed a Sustainable Tourism Officer.

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2. SCOPE

This document can be adapted to cover all management processes of our hotel and the basic framework of a Sustainable Management System (SMS) that can be developed along with creating, our organization's policies and practices It places.

This document has been prepared for all stakeholders, guests, and staff of the hotel. Our system is constantly being adapted to the size and scope of our hotel. It is being developed.



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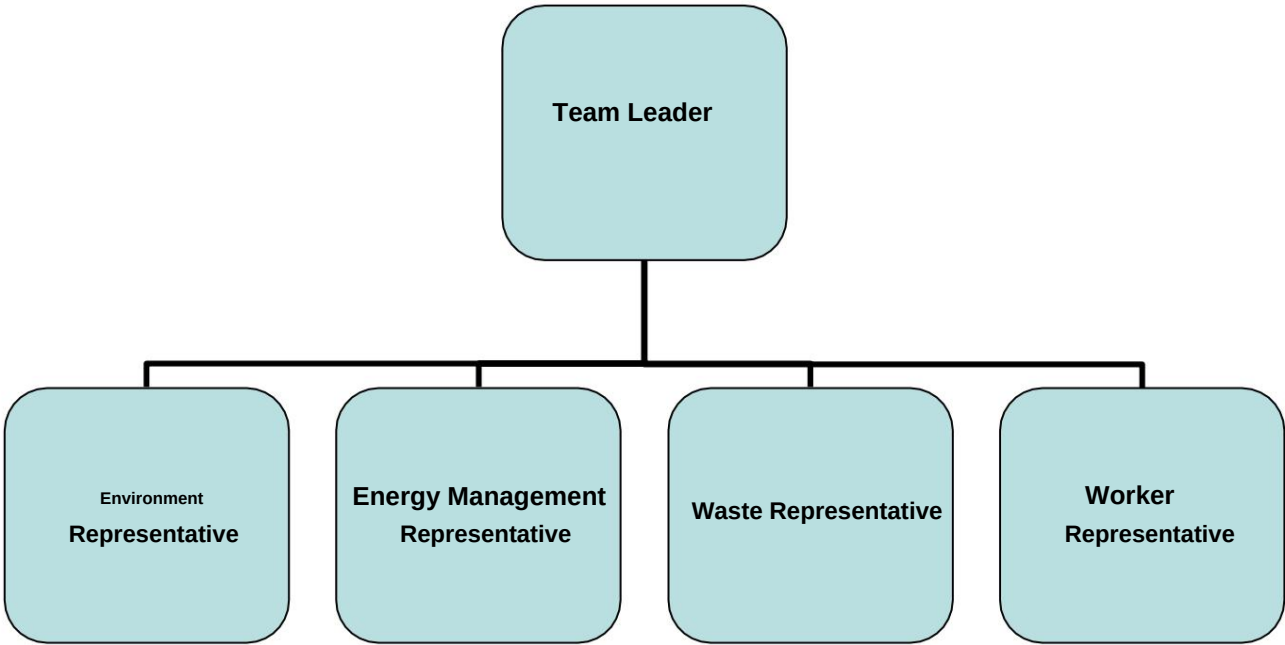
3. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Tourism and sustainable practices combined with luxury and guest comfort.
We believe it can be found. By embracing our sustainability philosophy,
while actively contributing to the protection of our planet for our guests
We aim to offer an unforgettable and environmentally conscious experience. Our group
In line with our sustainability values, we are committed to promoting environmentally friendly
practices and developing a philosophy of environmental responsibility. We believe sustainability
is not just a trend, but a fundamental principle that guides our operations and guest experience.
We believe that.

Sustainability plays a vital role at the heart of our vision and values.
It plays a role. Hospitality contributes to the well-being of our planet and our communities.
We believe they can coexist harmoniously. Our energy efficiency,
our use of renewable energy, water conservation, waste minimization and sustainability
We are constantly working to improve our supply chain.



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Our sustainable management system is based on risk analysis. Risk analyses are conducted in the areas of environment, natural disasters, society, culture, economy, quality, human rights, health, and security. New areas can be added as needed.

After analyzing the risks, we also have a crisis management policy and system that determines what to do if the risks materialize. The appendix to this document includes instructions on how to conduct risk analysis and crisis management.

SYS involves the implementation of specific policies by all employees in the areas of quality, economics, management, environment, culture, human rights, health and safety, the setting of goals, and the monitoring of whether these goals are achieved, thus ensuring the continuous improvement of business management processes.

When the established goals are achieved, new goals are set. If the goals are not achieved, our objectives, policies, and practices are reviewed. This allows us to strive for continuous improvement.

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3. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Our hotel is committed to fulfilling the third-stage obligations of the Türkiye Sustainable Tourism Program and to continuously improving its sustainable management system to enhance sustainability performance.

Due to the state of the sector, environmental, social, technological, economic and cultural risks, and legislative changes and updates, our management system is continuously reviewed, and systems and policies are updated when necessary.

The steps mentioned above can be summarized as the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) approach.



Figure 1. PDCA Cycle

Plan: Our hotel prioritizes and sets goals regarding the environment, community, culture, national economy, and governance systems. To achieve these goals, we plan a roadmap and actions to be taken.

Implementation: Our hotel establishes fundamental policies and practices relating to environmental, cultural, social, human rights, health, and safety. These are monitored, measured, and recorded at defined intervals by relevant personnel.

Check: Feedback from both staff and guests is monitored and recorded at our hotel. Corrective actions are taken if necessary.

Take action: This is the step where our hotel takes action to correct the problems identified during the inspection phase. Corrective actions and procedures are recorded and archived.

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4. LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Our hotel is committed to complying with all applicable laws, regulations, and international agreements. It keeps a current list of these and regularly trains its staff on them.

It provides information and necessary training to the staff.

Our hotel will provide all necessary permits, certificates, and documents to the relevant individuals and institutions upon request or demand.

These documents include the Business Opening and Operating License, and the employee insurance statement for the last month. Tax registration certificate, emergency action plan, staff training and certifications, sewage connection certificate from the municipality, documents proving pest control measures.

and other necessary documents.

As a facility, we are aware of all our legal obligations and we keep up with new legislation. We track legal requirements using the LEGAL COMPLIANCE TABLE list we created. We are doing it.

[illegible]

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5. STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNICATION

Our hotel provides accurate information to all segments of the audience in its promotions. We always use real visual material in our promotions. On our website, social media accounts, and other print and print promotional channels and marketing communications, our hotel maintains a transparent and realistic approach regarding its products and services.

Our hotel also shares its policies, actions, and processes related to sustainability openly and transparently with its employees and customers. This is done through our hotel website, where periodic reports on sustainability performance are published. These reports are prepared at appropriate intervals.

Our hotel has a system in place to gather feedback from our customers, public institutions, municipalities, employees, local community, and all other relevant individuals and organizations regarding our sustainability performance, policies, and practices. Through this system, we receive feedback from both our staff and our customers.

Our system is designed to enable and encourage our customers and staff to provide feedback quickly, simply, and effectively.

This system includes survey applications for guests, regular monitoring of social media accounts, email, messaging services and other communication channels for employees, and email communication and regular monitoring for all other stakeholders.

Customer experience: Customer satisfaction is a priority at our hotel. Customer satisfaction includes feedback from the sustainability system described above. The results are analyzed. Negative feedback and responses are recorded, and necessary measures are taken.

Staff involvement: Our employees are the most important element of our hotel's management system.

Our employees are aware of their responsibilities within our management system and our sustainability policies and practices. Their duties are defined in writing, communicated to them, and regular training and guidance are provided. These training sessions are recorded.

Our employees play an active role in developing and continuously improving our management system and sustainability performance. We review and improve our system based on feedback from our employees.

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STAFF LIFE

In line with our sustainability policies and management system, we provide employees with periodic training programs related to sustainability and their work areas, including orientation training, on-the-job training, training required by legislation, and guidance support. We implement annual training plans on occupational health and safety, hygiene training for kitchen/service/massage etc. personnel, water and energy conservation, chemical usage rules, fire protection, first aid, etc. Our employees have free and open access to all our training materials.

Our hotel is committed to complying with the relevant provisions of the Labor Law No. 4857 and pays its employees at least the minimum wage.

Our hotel also guarantees compliance with Law No. 5510 on Social Security and General Health Insurance and Law No. 6331 on Occupational Health and Safety.

We support the presence of young people and women in the sector.

Increasing the number of female employees and supporting local employment are among our main goals.

Our staff have received training and certification from experts in Occupational Safety, Hygiene and Sanitation, and Sustainability.

Our hotel is committed to providing equal opportunities and prioritizing gender balance among its employees. To this end, we ensure that employees are hired based on their skills and experience, and gender discrimination is never tolerated.

The happiness of our customers and employees is our priority.

As always, we will continue to strive to improve the quality of our services.

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6. ACCESSIBILITY

Our hotel is committed to providing accessible tourism services for everyone within its capabilities and informs its customers and stakeholders clearly and accurately about the level of accessibility through its website. Our facility has 15 rooms; there is no requirement for rooms specifically designed for disabled guests.

7. PURCHASING

Our purchasing policy includes local, environmentally conscious, fair trade-based, and efficient procurement practices.

Our hotel monitors our sources of goods and services. We hold regular meetings with our suppliers.

Local Procurement: When purchasing goods and services, our hotel prioritizes local suppliers, provided they offer quality and reasonable prices. Therefore, we update our supplier list and keep our suppliers informed. The percentage of goods and services sourced from the local community is measured.

When purchasing goods and services, our hotel prioritizes fair trade suppliers, provided that imported products are of high quality and reasonably priced.

Environmentally conscious procurement: Our hotel follows an environmentally conscious procurement policy, prioritizing efficient purchasing to reduce food and solid waste, and focusing on energy and water conservation.

Our hotel prioritizes environmentally friendly products (products with eco-labels) in its procurement. If there are no eco-labeled products in the product group to be purchased, we select the relevant products from suppliers and manufacturers whose production and all other processes do not harm the environment.

Examples of certifications that can be sought from suppliers include ISO14001, ISO50001, ISO14064, and ISO20400. If suppliers do not possess the required certifications, fair trade rules apply.

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7. PURCHASING

For wood, fish, paper, and other food products, environmentally certified (FSC, MSC, EU-EcoLabel, etc.) or traceable source products are preferred.

Threatened species and species whose sale is prohibited (fish, trees, plants, game, etc.) are not purchased or used at our hotel. The ratio of our purchases from environmentally certified, local producers and suppliers, and fair trade suppliers, to our total purchases is measured.

Our hotel has environmentally certified goals and aims to procure locally and through fair trade. Within this framework, we aim to increase the proportion and number of local and fair trade suppliers in our procurement processes, and we are committed to doing so.

Efficient purchasing: Our purchasing policy prioritizes reusable, returnable, and recycled goods.

Our hotel also prioritizes bulk purchasing and purchasing products in bulk. This reduces the number of deliveries to the hotel and lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

Our primary priority and preference is to avoid unnecessary and excessive plastic, nylon, paper, glass, and wooden packaging in the products delivered to our hotel.

In the procurement of consumables and toiletries, single-use products and unnecessary packaging (especially plastic) are avoided. The purchase and use of consumables and single-use products are monitored and managed.

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8. ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION

Our main goal is to prevent environmental pollution and protect nature by conserving our resources in the most efficient way, reducing the amount of our waste, and recycling or rendering it harmless. We are aware of our environmental impact and strive to take the necessary precautions and actions.

In our business, we are committed to being an environmentally friendly organization with a sense of social responsibility, by ensuring pollution prevention and sustainability in the delivery and provision of our products and services in accordance with internal and external customer requirements, as well as international and national legal requirements and regulations.

In fulfilling this commitment, we identify and control our environmental impact.

We are prepared for emergencies (fire, explosion, flood, earthquake, leak, etc.) related to pollution risks and comply with legal regulations.

We strive to minimize our waste, prevent pollution at its source, use energy efficiently, and reduce the environmental impact of our operations.

We are continuously improving our environmental performance through waste sorting and waste reduction activities, and the efficient use of natural resources.

We monitor the recycling and disposal of waste. We train our employees on chemical use, environmental impacts, and waste management. We encourage our employees and guests to be environmentally conscious, and we develop our employees by providing them with training on environmental awareness and efficient energy use.

We use energy and water-saving systems in our hotel. We raise awareness and encourage our suppliers and stakeholders regarding energy efficiency practices.

To minimize the environmental damage caused by carbon emissions, we donate trees to environmental organizations and the theme of environmental protection.



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9. ENERGY MANAGEMENT

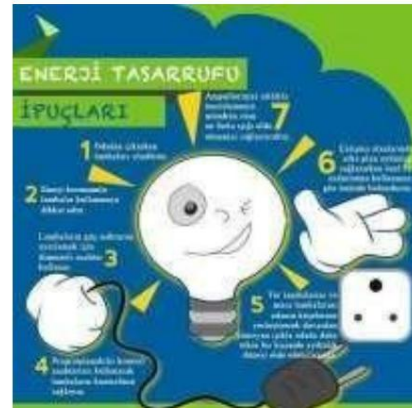
Energy saving: Our hotel has an energy saving policy. This policy includes regularly measuring, monitoring, and reducing energy consumption.

Our hotel groups energy consumption according to energy type, and the energy consumption of different units is monitored.

The total energy used in our hotel is measured by type.

Our hotel identifies activities with high energy consumption and plans and implements corrective measures to reduce energy consumption in these areas and activities (thermal insulation systems, choosing low-consumption appliances from those with energy efficiency ratings, using LED bulbs instead of high-energy-consumption incandescent lighting, etc.). Furthermore, our hotel uses energy-efficient equipment.

Our hotel informs and trains its employees and stakeholders on energy saving.



As part of our hotel's sustainability efforts, we have implemented environmental measures, including a digital record-keeping system for suppliers, purchasing, and office operations to minimize paper consumption.

In accounting, e-invoicing has been implemented for billing processes.

Packaging waste is collected and delivered to the local authority in a controlled manner.

Awareness campaigns have been conducted to minimize the use of electricity, water, and energy resources in shared areas.

Water flow rates on taps in all rooms and areas are adjusted to fill a 1-liter container in 12 seconds.

All air conditioning system temperatures are set to 18-30 degrees.

The use of ecolabel products has been prioritized by suppliers.

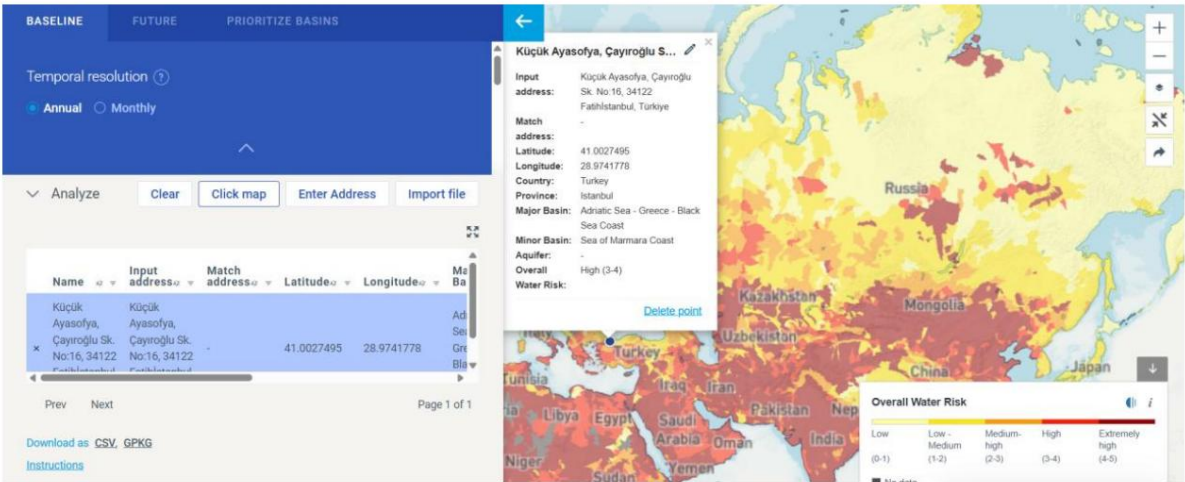
To reduce carbon emissions, priority is given to local and nearest suppliers.

CONTINUE
MANAGEMENT

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10. WATER MANAGEMENT AND WASTEWATER

Our hotel has a water conservation policy. This policy includes regularly measuring, monitoring, and reducing water consumption. The water risk situation in the area where our hotel is located has been assessed. For this purpose, we use the Water Risk Atlas prepared by the World Resources Institute.



Water risk was also assessed in the risk analysis, and a water management plan was developed. This plan includes measurement and monitoring of water usage, as well as targets and reporting for reducing water consumption.

Our hotel's water usage activities do not harm aquatic life in seas or lakes. Nevertheless, the possibility of harm to these organisms has been assessed in a risk analysis, and necessary precautions have been taken.

Our hotel complies with all legal requirements and regulations regarding water usage. The water comes from a legal and sustainable source.

We measure our water consumption. The total water used per guest or overnight stay is calculated and reported. The file attached to this document is used for measurement purposes.

We have goals to reduce water consumption. To this end, our hotel is planning and implementing corrective measures. Water-saving equipment is used in our hotel. Good practices such as changing linens and towels upon guest request are implemented in our hotel.

Our hotel informs and guides its employees and stakeholders on water conservation. The hotel utilizes all its resources to ensure that its wastewater does not harm the environment.

Wastewater disposal complies with regulations set by the local government. All legal requirements are being complied with in this regard.

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11. FOOD WASTE AND SOLID WASTE

Our hotel has a Solid Waste Management Plan. The plan includes the regular measurement and monitoring of waste production, waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and waste disposal.

Solid waste is separated according to its type, such as food, recyclable, toxic/hazardous, and organic, with recycling and reuse considerations taken into account during the separation process.

Our hotel regularly informs and guides its employees and stakeholders on waste management through various visual and communication materials.

Solid waste, including food waste, is measured by type. At our hotel, the amount of solid waste per guest or per night is calculated and reported.

Our hotel has also identified activities and risk areas with high solid waste generation. We are planning and implementing corrective measures to reduce food waste and spoilage.

The aim is to ensure that solid waste disposal does not have a negative impact on the local population or the environment. Compliance with the "Zero Waste Regulation" legislation regarding solid waste management is ensured.



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12. PLANNED TO BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF SUSTAINABILITY.

Continuously improving annual training plans to reduce energy and water consumption rates is our top priority.

Ensuring sustainability through environmentally friendly and energy-efficient machinery, equipment, and consumables.

To develop projects to reduce waste through effective waste management programs and to prevent recyclable waste from mixing with household waste, thereby promoting zero-waste awareness.

To help reduce carbon emissions and environmental damage, we plan to increase our annual donations to TEMA and environmental protection organizations by 1%.

To reduce carbon emissions, our priority in selecting our approved suppliers will be to expand awareness campaigns promoting the use of electric and new green vehicles with the lowest carbon emissions. We will choose energy sources

that produce less carbon. Recognizing that

climate change is a global issue, we will work together with the private sector, government, local administrations, and NGOs to be part of a shared solution. We will develop projects for stray animals to protect natural life and support wildlife.

We are planning projects to reduce the amount of waste by 1% each year.

We will develop projects to reduce the use of single-use toiletries in at least 50% of guest rooms through a phased transition program.

CARBON FOOTPRINT MANAGEMENT

A carbon footprint is a measure of the environmental damage caused by human activities in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide, and consists of two main parts: a direct (primary) footprint and an indirect (secondary) footprint. The primary footprint is a measure of direct CO2 emissions resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels, including energy consumption and transportation (e.g., cars and airplanes), while the secondary footprint is a measure of indirect CO2 emissions associated with the entire life cycle of the products we use, from their manufacture to their eventual disposal.

Our greenhouse gas and carbon footprint reduction

activities include preventing food waste by purchasing only the necessary amount to mitigate spoilage, decay, and waste.

By separating paper, glass, and plastic waste at the source, we support recycling and reuse.

All electronic products continue to be used until they break down.

Unnecessary and unnecessary purchases are not made.

Care is taken to switch off lights that are not in use, and a considerate attitude is displayed.

Purchases are made in bulk.

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13. Sustainable Management System Policies

QUALITY POLICY

At our hotel, where we serve our valued guests, we are delighted to welcome you with our friendly and experienced staff, each skilled in their own field. You've come to the right place for a comfortable, peaceful, and high-quality stay, just like at home.

With the belief that there is always room for improvement, we continuously measure and work to improve the services we offer our guests.

We prioritize quality, customer focus, increased environmental awareness, occupational safety and food safety, and continuous training for our employees to ensure they perform their jobs consciously, correctly, and safely, and we provide the necessary resources for this. We work in accordance with national and regional policies, make new investments, and aim to be a leader in our field.

In our investments, we take guest expectations into account, apply evolving and up-to-date technology, and positively utilize our experience, knowledge, and skills to improve ourselves.

We build our open and transparent management style on our principles of professionalism, honesty, diligence, and reliability.

The importance we place on our guests, the respect, love, and trust we have for each other and the service we provide, ensure that both our guests and our employees feel privileged.

Operating and competing in both national and international markets, our hotel is committed to maintaining its commitment to "superior quality" in order to always remain a leader.

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CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Presentation of Cultural Heritage: Our hotel respects the intellectual property rights of the local community. Authentic elements of traditional and contemporary local culture are incorporated into our cuisine, design, and decoration.

Artifacts: Our hotel does not buy, sell, or broker the trade of historical and archaeological artifacts, nor does it exhibit them.

Promoting Sustainable Local Gastronomy: Our hotel prioritizes the promotion and consumption of local products. In all its operations, it implements innovative and creative practices to ensure sustainability in gastronomy.

Historical Places to Visit in Istanbul

Istanbul, a city that has served as a capital throughout history, embraced civilizations, and inscribed its name on the world as a legacy, today offers us its unique values in every corner.

Bearing the traces of all the civilizations it has hosted on its soil, the dozens of historical artifacts found in the city transform Istanbul into a museum in itself. This is the most important feature that distinguishes Istanbul from other cities.

In Istanbul, where you can encounter a different beauty in every neighborhood, the places to visit are endless. Palaces, mosques, museums, parks, mansions, and many other natural and historical destinations are among the must-see places. In this article, you will discover many places to visit in Istanbul. Before you start exploring Istanbul, you will also find answers to frequently asked questions. If you're ready, let's start exploring Istanbul.

What is Istanbul famous for?

Istanbul is famous for its strait connecting Europe and Asia, its bridges, museums, mosques, history, and culture.

What is the symbol of Istanbul?

The Judas tree has been a symbol of Istanbul throughout history. Identified with the Judas tree, which reflects the color of the Bosphorus, Istanbul has carried this color for centuries.

Why is Istanbul important?

Istanbul, which has served as the capital of three empires, is a unique city built on seven hills, connecting two sides of the Bosphorus and situated on a peninsula.

Hagia Sophia Mosque

There are numerous places that we could place at the top of a list of places to visit in Istanbul.

Although it's difficult to choose, Hagia Sophia always comes first. Built by Eastern Roman Emperor I.

Hagia Sophia, built by Constantine in 360 AD, is one of the oldest cathedrals in the world.

Known as Megale Ekklesia during those times, Hagia Sophia acquired its closest appearance to its present state as a result of the work of Anthemius of Tralles and Isidorus of Miletus, commissioned by Emperor Justinian.

Completed in 5 years and 10 months through the work of two architects, Hagia Sophia became the fastest-built cathedral in the world compared to other structures of its time. It was given the name Hagia Sophia in the 5th century and bore this name until the conquest of Istanbul in 1453. Becoming a museum in 1935, Hagia Sophia regained its status as a mosque in 2020.

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Topkapi Palace Museum

Located in the Historical Peninsula, the most touristic area of Istanbul, Topkapi Palace should of course be at the top of any list of places to visit in Istanbul. Situated in Sarayburnu, in the Fatih district, Topkapi Palace was built after the conquest of Istanbul and served as the administrative center of the Ottoman Empire for 400 years. Converted into a museum on April 3, 1924, Topkapi Palace is also the first museum of the Republic of Turkey. Covering an area of 300,000 square meters and housing approximately 300,000 archival documents, it is one of the largest palace museums in the world.

When you visit the museum, you can see the Harem section, the Chamber of the Holy Mantle, the Private Chamber, Babü's Saade, and the Garden of Pavilions. You should also definitely visit the Istanbul Library, which houses portraits, clothing, and weapons of the sultans.

Sultanahmet Mosque

Sultanahmet Mosque, the most famous mosque in Istanbul, is quite renowned not only among domestic tourists but also among foreign tourists. Foreign tourists know the mosque as the Blue Mosque, mainly because its interior is decorated with 21,043 Iznik tiles, giving it a deep blue appearance.

Built in the 17th century by Sedefkar Mehmet Aya, a student of the architect Sinan, on the orders of Sultan Ahmed I, the mosque is located directly opposite Hagia Sophia. The Sultan Ahmed Mosque has 16 balconies, symbolizing Sultan Ahmed I's status as the 16th ruler of the Ottoman Empire. Its dome is 43 meters high and has a diameter of 23.5 meters.

Sultanahmet Square

Sultanahmet Square is the starting point for tourist tours in Istanbul. Used as a hippodrome during the Roman Empire's rule and also during the Byzantine Empire, it was therefore known as the Horse Square. In those days, the local people would gather here for entertainment. Obelisks such as the Obelisk, the Serpent Column, and the Woven Obelisk, whose remains are still visible today, were used to divide the hippodrome in two. Sultanahmet Square is a special place that forms part of Istanbul's Historical Peninsula and is home to many historical sites.

Gülhane Park

From the moment you enter Gülhane Park, which we know from Nazım Hikmet's poem "The Walnut Tree," you'll find yourself humming the song that Cem Karaca composed based on the poem. Formerly used as the backyard of Topkapi Palace, this park was a place that hosted sultans, as you can imagine. Gülhane Park, one of the cleanest parks in Türkiye, receives extra care in its cleanliness and landscaping to maintain its pristine condition. The tea gardens within the park are a popular spot for those who want to cool off under a tree after exploring every corner of the Historical Peninsula.

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Basilica Cistern

The Basilica Cistern (Yerebatan Sarnıçy) is one of the most valuable structures remaining in Istanbul from the Byzantine Empire. Built in 532 AD on the orders of Emperor Justinian, it was used to supply water to the palace and the public. It even continued to be used as a water source for some time after the conquest of Istanbul. Because the Stoa Basilica once stood above it, it was also known as the Basilica Cistern, and due to the columns emerging from the water, it was also called the Yerebatan Palace. Measuring 140 meters in length and 70 meters in width, the most mysterious artifact in the Basilica Cistern is the Head of Medusa. Located beneath two columns in the northwest of the cistern, the statue is one of the most important artifacts of the Roman period, but how it got there remains unknown.

The Basilica Cistern has been restored and reopened with a new look. The addition of modern sculptures has taken the atmosphere of the cistern to a whole new level. The lighting in the Basilica Cistern, where various art events are held, makes the atmosphere even more impressive.

Binbirdirek Cistern

Another important and beautiful cistern in Istanbul is the Binbirdirek Cistern. The second largest water reservoir in Istanbul, the Binbirdirek Cistern currently boasts 212 original columns. Covering an area of 3584 square meters, the Binbirdirek Cistern now offers visitors a unique atmosphere with light and laser shows.

Yerefiye Cistern

With a history spanning 1,600 years, the Yerefiye Cistern, one of Istanbul's oldest water reservoirs, is built on an area of approximately 24 meters by 40 meters. Named Yerefiye after the neighborhood it was located in during the Ottoman period, the cistern now captivates visitors with its atmosphere integrated into a 360-degree projection mapping system. You absolutely must see the show, which depicts the Conquest of Istanbul and the legacy of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Hagia Irene Museum

Among the places to visit in Istanbul are many sites remaining from the Byzantine Empire, but Hagia Irene Church is the first church built by the Byzantines in Istanbul. After the conquest of Istanbul, the church remained unconverted into a mosque, and in the 19th century it was decided to turn it into a museum. Called the Imperial Museum, it became the first museum opened in the Ottoman Empire. Later used as a Military Museum, the church has been under the ownership of the Istanbul Culture and Arts Foundation since 1973.

Turkish and Islamic Art Museum

Most of the places to visit in Istanbul are concentrated in and around Sultanahmet Square. The Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art, the first museum in our country where you can see all the important works of Turkish Islamic art in one place, is also located in Sultanahmet Square.

This museum was built by Pargalı Damat Ibrahim Pasha, the son-in-law of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent.

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It was established in a palace he had built. While Ibrahim Pasha was alive, the palace was called At Meydanı Palace, but after his death it was renamed Ibrahim Pasha Palace. In 1983, the palace began to be used as a museum.

Istanbul Archaeological Museums

Housing some of the world's most important archaeological collections and comprising three separate museums, the Istanbul Archaeological Museums are essential for truly understanding and appreciating Istanbul. Founded under the leadership of Osman Hamdi Bey, one of the key figures who laid the foundations of Istanbul's current cultural heritage, the three museums you will see during your visit are listed below:

Archaeology Museum: Founded in 1891, the museum houses artifacts from various periods. It contains many different types of artifacts, including sculptures, ceramics, mosaics, and written documents from Egypt, Mesopotamia, Anatolia, and the Aegean regions. The most important artifacts you should see at the Archaeology Museum are the Sarcophagus of Alexander and the Sarcophagus of the Weeping Women.

Museum of Ancient Oriental Works: Founded in 1883, this museum displays artifacts brought from the eastern regions of the Ottoman Empire. Among the artifacts, spanning a vast geographical area from Central Asia to Anatolia, are manuscripts, miniatures, metalwork, and stone carvings.

The Tiled Pavilion: This is the section of a pavilion built in 1472 and later purchased by Sultan Ahmed III, which was restored and named the Tiled Pavilion. It houses artifacts from the Seljuk, Ottoman, and Islamic periods, as well as ceramic collections.

Dolmabahçe Palace

This palace, where Mustafa Kemal Atatürk passed away, holds a special place in all our hearts. Therefore, Dolmabahçe Palace is perhaps one of the most emotionally charged items on the list of places to visit in Istanbul. Dolmabahçe Palace was built in 1856 on the orders of Sultan Abdülmecit. Abdülmecit wanted the palace to have a European style and to consist only of beautiful things. With 285 rooms, 26 halls, 6 baths, and 68 toilets, the construction of the palace was quite expensive for the Sultan, and he was only able to reside in this third largest palace in Istanbul, which he had built with such care, for 5 years.

The palace, which was used in different ways by the sultans who came after Abdülmecit, also served as the modern face of the new state when the Republic of Turkey was founded. On November 10, 1938, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk breathed his last in room number 71.

Today, when you visit Dolmabahçe Palace, you can see this room and Atatürk's personal belongings.

Galata Tower

Galata Tower, one of the structures that make up Istanbul's skyline, attracts so many tourists that long queues always form in front of it. Among the oldest towers in the world, Galata Tower was built in the 500s at the request of the Byzantine Emperor Justinian. It acquired its current appearance in the 1340s. Damaged by fires and earthquakes, the tower underwent its last restoration in 1967.

SUSTAINABILITY
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

At our company, we prioritize protecting the environment, preventing pollution, and minimizing our negative impact on it.

To achieve this, we comply with legal regulations and strive to reduce our environmental impact. We take care to efficiently separate our waste according to its source, type, and hazard class.

We understand that using hazardous materials and chemicals only when necessary and in the required quantities will reduce both their negative environmental impact and the amount of waste. We contribute to protecting nature by prioritizing materials with "recycling" and "eco-friendly" labels in our business. We strive to create opportunities for reuse. We use single-use materials such as paper, napkins, toilet paper, and packaging only as needed, minimizing waste. We store waste correctly, in separate areas according to its characteristics, and deliver it to licensed/authorized companies without exceeding legal storage time limits, maintaining records in the process. We strive to use water, energy, and all natural resources efficiently. We share this sensitivity with our employees, guests, and suppliers. We measure our environmental management performance, monitor this data against targets, and work to improve our performance. We aim to educate our employees on environmental issues and increase their awareness. We take necessary measures to protect biodiversity in the environment and comply with all legal requirements.

We comply.

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CHILD RIGHTS EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE POLICY

Children are our custodians of the future. Recognizing them as individuals, respecting their rights, and protecting them from all forms of psychological, physical, commercial, and other forms of exploitation is our primary responsibility.

To ensure this, we do not allow child labor in our own institutions and expect the same sensitivity from all our business partners. Within the workplace, we provide environments and opportunities that contribute to children's development, where they can freely express their thoughts, desires, and feelings, and where they feel free and comfortable. We provide our employees with training on preventing and recognizing child abuse. We ensure that children are under adult supervision during any activities they participate in.

We organize training sessions to raise awareness about the protection of children's rights and support related projects. When we witness suspicious activities involving children, we first inform the hotel management and, if necessary, seek assistance from official institutions.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICY

To protect our planet from potential threats, we use our energy efficiently and set targets to reduce our energy consumption.

To this end, we follow national and international standards, laws, and regulations to fulfill both our responsibilities towards nature and our legal obligations, and we voluntarily carry out activities that will reduce energy consumption and/or ensure the continuous improvement of our energy consumption performance, and we monitor the results of our efforts.

We set goals and include energy efficiency in our training programs to ensure employee participation.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICY

We value collaborating with all our stakeholders to create shared goals and outcomes in energy management. We strive to maintain interaction with our guests, employees, visitors, and all business partners to achieve a comprehensive level of awareness and understanding on these issues.

We strive to research, find, purchase, and use energy-efficient and suitable product, equipment, and technology alternatives.

We aim to document our Energy Management System, disseminate it to all our departments, update it as needed, review it, and continuously improve it.

We assess energy risks or potential emergencies such as energy shortages, and plan possible countermeasures.

We take care to efficiently separate our waste according to its source, type, and hazard class.

We understand that using hazardous materials and chemicals only when necessary and in the required quantities will reduce both their negative environmental impact and the amount of waste. In our business, we

contribute to protecting nature by preferring materials with "recycling" and "eco-friendly" labels. We strive to create opportunities for reuse. We take care to use single-use materials such as paper, napkins, toilet paper, and packaging only as needed, leaving less waste in nature. We store waste properly, in separate areas according to its characteristics, and deliver it to licensed/authorized companies without exceeding legal storage time limits, maintaining records of each transaction.

We strive to use water, energy, and all natural resources efficiently. We share this commitment with our employees, guests, and suppliers. We measure our environmental management performance, monitor this data against targets, and work to improve our performance. We aim to educate our employees on environmental issues and increase their awareness.

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HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY

At our core, our most important resource, the very essence of who we are, is our employees. With this awareness, employee social and fringe benefits, performance management, rewards, training and career management, and employee safety are always our top priorities.

Our Human Resources Vision is to

create a qualified workforce that is highly motivated, protects and enhances the corporate image, prioritizes innovative work, values service, and views its work as part of a whole; to prioritize local employment; and to be a pioneer in the sector and in Turkey in integrated human resources practices with promotion programs.

Our Human Resources Mission is to

plan and train the human resources that will achieve the facility's goals and strategies, to optimize personnel work and processes, and to have personnel who are specialized in their fields, have the ability to represent the organization, can create new perspectives in their areas, and have high self-confidence. Through human resources management, we provide strategic support to all company and department departments to improve business results, create and encourage a high-performance culture, and contribute to creating value for all stakeholders. Our employees know what they need to do within our management system and our sustainability policies and practices. Their responsibilities are defined in writing, communicated to them, and necessary training and guidance are provided regularly. These trainings are recorded.

Our employees play an active role in developing and continuously improving our management system and sustainability performance. We review and improve our system based on feedback from our employees.

Fair wages

Our employees are informed about their salary, working conditions, working hours, and payment schedule before starting work at our facilities.

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HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY

Education and Career Management

All our employees have equal access to training. In addition to the legal and professional training required by the hotel industry, we provide periodic training programs related to sustainability and their work areas, on-the-job training, legally mandated training, and guidance support in line with our sustainability policies and management system, including orientation training. We implement annual training plans on occupational health and safety, hygiene training for kitchen/service/massage personnel, water and energy conservation, chemical usage regulations, fire protection, first aid, etc. Our employees have free and open access to all our training materials.

In career management, employee promotions are managed according to predetermined criteria using a personnel tracking system.

Our hotel is committed to complying with the relevant provisions of the Labor Law No. 4857 and pays its employees at least the minimum wage. Our hotel also undertakes to comply with the Social Security and General Health Insurance Law No. 5510 and the Occupational Health and Safety Law No. 6331.

Labor and Human Rights

Ensuring the absolute satisfaction of employees is a top priority. From this perspective, it is the responsibility of management to ensure the employee's overall comfort at work, including their legal rights, benefits provided by the company, their work environment, psychology, self-motivation, and performance.

While we do not employ foreign nationals in our hotels, as an international establishment catering to guests from diverse backgrounds, discriminating against guests based on nationality, race, language, etc., is contrary to both our hotel management and operational principles. Therefore, all personnel matters for our employees from different countries or nationalities are handled in accordance with legal procedures, and all employees are offered equal opportunities within the hotel without any discrimination based on their background.

Local employment

Our organization has a performance-based employment system that prioritizes local recruitment. Priority is given to hiring people from the local area.

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PROMOTION INSTRUCTIONS

1.

OBJECTIVE: To recruit the required personnel from within the existing workforce through written and oral promotion exams, thereby encouraging promotion, increasing motivation, and ensuring that the necessary personnel are recruited from within the existing workforce.

2. SCOPE

This includes all personnel working at the FACILITY operations.

3. DEFINITIONS

Promotion: To advance in rank within a position or role.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

The General Manager and Department Managers are primarily responsible for the implementation of this instruction.

5. INSTRUCTION

FLOW Personnel requesting promotion are reported to the General Manager by their respective Department Manager.

No consideration is given to language, religion, race, age, or gender when selecting personnel for promotion.

Personnel to be promoted must meet the following qualifications.

There must be vacancies in the positions to be promoted.

The employee to be promoted must have worked at the company for at least one year and must not have received any disciplinary action in the last year.

The promotion request must be consistent with the job description of the position for which the qualifications are required (education, skills, etc.).

Managerial and mid-level promotions require candidates to possess competencies in communication, motivation, and management skills.

Personnel to be promoted will be evaluated equally without discrimination based on language, religion, sect, race, age, gender, or political views.

APPOINTMENT LETTER FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

A staff member has been appointed as a Local Community Communications Officer within the facility to foster stronger communication with local communities, listen to their feedback, promptly resolve any complaints, and relay them to senior management.

Customers can report any issues related to our facility by visiting the hotel in person or by submitting their feedback, suggestions, and complaints through any of our communication/social media accounts.

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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

With the aim of protecting our workplace, our employees, our guests and our suppliers, creating and ensuring a safe working environment;

We comply with all legal and other obligations regarding occupational health and safety. We embrace the principle that occupational health and safety and improvement activities are the shared responsibility of all employees.

We set targets for participation in Risk Assessment and Risk Reduction activities at all levels. By continuously

improving our Occupational Health and Safety culture, we aim for a sustainable "Zero Jobs".

We aim to achieve the goal of "minimizing

accidents." We share the work we do in the field of occupational health and safety with all our employees and the environment in order to be a pioneer and an example.

OUR RISK GROUP

Our staff over 65 years of age

Our disabled employees

Our Minority Staff

Our staff with chronic illnesses

Our female employees

Our interns

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY POLICY We

value gender equality in our company.

We ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all our employees, regardless of gender.

We support women's participation in the workforce across all our departments, providing equal opportunities. We offer.

We operate with a policy of "equal pay for equal work," without discrimination based on gender.

We distribute tasks based on the principle of equality.

We provide the necessary environment to ensure equal access to career opportunities.

We develop education policies and support women's participation and increased awareness. We create work

environments and practices that protect work-life balance.

We support women in company management and provide equal opportunities.

We will not tolerate women being subjected to any form of abuse, harassment, discrimination, oppression, coercion, defamation, etc. We are always aware of and support the value they bring to the world and to us.

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SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY

We believe that all our employees have the right to work in healthy and safe conditions that respect human dignity. Recognizing that our employees are our most valuable asset, ensuring and protecting their safety is our top priority.

Beyond legal obligations, our hotel is always ready to implement the best environmental solutions, develop and promote the use of eco-friendly technologies, and support initiatives that raise environmental awareness.

We strive to fulfill our social and environmental responsibilities to the community in the cities where we operate, in harmonious cooperation with our shareholders, employees, the public, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders.

We believe that our human resources are the most important element of sustainable growth. We ensure that our employees' rights are fully and accurately exercised.

We treat our employees honestly and fairly, and we are committed to providing a non-discriminatory, safe, and healthy working environment.

We make every effort to support the individual development of our employees and to help them maintain a balance between work and personal life.

We manage the environmental impacts of all our activities with a sense of responsibility.

In line with our corporate social responsibility principles, we strive for the development of our society. We encourage our employees to volunteer in appropriate social and community activities that demonstrate their sense of social responsibility.

We are committed to developing and implementing approaches that encourage all our business partners, especially our suppliers, to act in the field of social responsibility.

We are sensitive to the traditions and cultures of Türkiye and the countries in which we operate, and we comply with all legal regulations.

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HUNTING POLICY

As a facility, we have implemented a hunting policy to protect wildlife and create a sustainable future. With this hunting policy, the hotel aims to contribute to: Protecting wildlife's natural habitats; Ensuring the survival of wildlife; Improving the quality of life for wildlife; Contributing to the peaceful coexistence of wildlife with humans. Adhering to the hotel's hunting policy will help reduce the hotel's environmental impact and create a sustainable future. The hotel's hunting policy includes: Hunting is prohibited in the vicinity of the hotel.

It is forbidden to destroy the habitats of wildlife around the hotel. It is forbidden to harm wild animals around the hotel.

It is forbidden to engage in any behavior that would degrade the quality of life for wild animals in the vicinity of the hotel.

Adhering to the hotel's hunting policy is important for protecting wildlife and creating a sustainable future.

WILDLIFE INTERACTION POLICY

Purpose The purpose of this policy is to manage the Facility's interactions with wildlife and to provide a safe and respectful environment for both wildlife and visitors.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees and visitors of STesis. **Obligations** All employees are responsible for conducting their interactions with wildlife in accordance with this policy. All visitors are responsible for conducting their interactions with wildlife in accordance with this policy.

Instructions:

Do not feed wildlife.

Do not approach wildlife.

Do not disturb the wildlife.

Do not disturb wildlife nests or offspring.

Be careful when photographing wildlife.

If you encounter any problems related to wildlife, please report them to your local authorities.

By adhering to this policy, the facility will strive to manage its interactions with wildlife and provide a safe and respectful environment for both wildlife and visitors.

Our facility does not deal with species whose hunting is prohibited. We do not support the hunting trade and do not buy or sell them as souvenirs or decorative items.

Thank you for your understanding.

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Karbon ayak izinizi azaltmak için neler yapabilirsiniz



Yürüyün ya da bisiklete binin.



İhtiyacınız kadar yiyecek Tüketin.



Gereksiz su tüketiminden kaçının



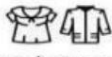
Gereksiz temizlik kimyasal tüketiminden kaçınınız



Gereksiz ışıkları söndürün.



Atıkları geri dönüşüm veya yeniden kullanım için atık kutularına atın.



Çamaşırlarınızı kurutucu kullanmak yerine asarak kurutun.

Her gün daha fazlasını yaparak canlılığı ve doğayı koruyun!

Cami veya mescitte

- Temiz elbise ve düzgün kıyafetle girmeliyiz.
- Kapalı giyinmeye özen göstermeliyiz.
- Ayaklar ve çoraplar kirli olarak camideki halı ve kilimlere basmamalıyız.
- Bağırıp çağırmamalı yüksek sesle konuşmamalıyız.

Kültürel yerlerde

- Yüksek sesle ve argo sözlerle konuşmamalıyız.
- Kültürel alanlardaki arkeolojik ve kültürel eserlere zarar vermemliyiz.
- Başkalarını rahatsız edici davranışlardan sakınmalıyız.

Toplu taşıma araçlarında

- Yaşlı, çocuklu, engelli ve hamilelere her zaman binerken öncelik, seyir halinde oturacak yer ve inerken varsa yüklerine, engelli ise engel durumuna göre yardımcı olmalıyız.
- Her zaman ön kapıdan binip arka kapıdan inmeliyiz.
- Metro otobüs tranvay ve benzeri duraklı araçlarda inilecek duraktan önce hazırlığımızı yapıp zamanında araçtan inmeliyiz.

Doğal alanlarda

- Çevreyi temiz tutmalıyız, çöpleri yere atmamalıyız.
- Ağaç ve bitkilere zarar vermemliyiz.
- Evcil hayvanların peyzaj alanlarına zarar vermemliyiz.
- Çocukları yeşil alanların korunması ile ilgili bilgilendirmeliyiz.

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THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN VISITING HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS SITES

8 RULES

Historical sites are considered part of humanity's common heritage. Almost every tourist includes historical sites in their travel plans, both domestically and internationally.

Historical sites, which sometimes enchant us with their beauty and sometimes help us feel the significance of an event to the core, are strictly protected both by the countries in which they are located and through various international organizations.

However, a large part of the responsibility for preserving historical sites falls on the tourists who visit them.

If we want these cultural heritage sites to be passed on to future generations undamaged, there are certain rules we must follow during our visit.

1. DO NOT TAKE ANY OBJECTS FROM HISTORICAL SITES.

One of the most common problems encountered in historical sites is visitors taking objects from those locations. It's especially common to come across tourists who try to break off even small pieces from works of architectural value.

Many sacred sites are also considered historical sites. Taking stones or soil from historically significant locations, such as cemeteries, is strictly forbidden. While many tourists claim to do this for souvenirs, this well-intentioned approach can cause irreparable damage to historical artifacts.

WHAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER WHEN VISITING HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS PLACES

8 RULES

Historical places are places that are considered the common heritage of humanity.

Historical sites are among the places included in the travel plans of almost every tourist, both domestically and internationally.

Historical places, which sometimes fascinate with their beauty and sometimes help us feel an important event in our bones, are strictly protected both by the countries where they are located and by various international organizations.

However, a large part of the task of preserving historical sites falls on the tourists who visit these spots.

If we want these cultural heritages to be passed on to the next generations without any damage, there are certain rules we must follow during our visit.

DO NOT TAKE ANY OBJECTS FROM HISTORICAL PLACES

One of the most common problems in historical places is that visitors take any object from that point. It is possible to come across tourists trying to take even small pieces from works of architectural value.

The majority of sacred places are considered historical places. It is completely forbidden to take stones or soil, especially from places of historical importance, such as cemeteries.

Although many tourists say that they do this to buy souvenirs, this well-intentioned approach can cause irreparable damage to the historical artifact.

DO NOT POLLUTE THE SURROUNDINGS OF

HISTORICAL SITES One of the most common warnings you'll see during tourist trips is "Do not litter."

The problem of littering, especially at historical sites known as archaeological ruins, sometimes reaches unmanageable levels. A single piece of litter thrown on the ground causes environmental pollution...

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Also, waste like glass or paper can ignite due to the hot weather, damaging the archaeological site.
This can lead to unseen conditions and the destruction of historical sites.

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DO NOT POLLUTE THE ENVIRONMENT OF HISTORICAL PLACES

One of the most common warnings you will see during touristic trips is the phrase "do not throw garbage on the ground". The problem of garbage disposal sometimes reaches unbearable proportions, especially in historical places known as ruins.

Garbage thrown on the ground not only causes pollution of the environment, but also garbage such as glass or paper can catch fire due to hot weather, causing damage to the ruins and destruction of historical places.

DO NOT LIGHT FIRES IN HISTORICAL SITES.

Lighting a fire is generally quite risky. Lighting a fire, especially in areas of historical value, directly endangers the entire site. Therefore, lighting a fire is prohibited under all circumstances in almost all historical sites. So, you should not light a fire around a historical site, and if you see someone lighting a fire, you should report it to the authorities.
You should report it.

DO NOT LIGHT FIRES IN HISTORICAL PLACES

Lighting a fire is generally quite risky. Lighting a fire, especially in places of historical value, directly puts this entire area at risk.

That's why lighting fires is prohibited under all circumstances in places where almost Every historical site is located. Therefore, you should not light fires around a historical area, and when you see someone lighting a fire, you should report the situation to the authorities.

DO NOT CLIMB ON OBJECTS FOUND IN HISTORICAL SITES.

Taking photos is one of the most cherished moments during tourist trips. It's a way to immortalize your travels. Countless photos are taken throughout the trip to capture the moment. Social media also plays a role. We share the photos we take immediately on our social media accounts.

Avoid climbing on or near historical artifacts in order to take better photos.

Avoiding actions that could cause harm is one of the most important rules to follow.

DO NOT CLIMB OBJECTS LOCATED IN HISTORICAL PLACES

Photography is one of the most popular moments during touristic trips. Countless Photographs are taken throughout the trip to make the trips immortal. We share the photos taken with the influence of social media on our social media accounts as soon as possible.

One of the main rules to be followed is not to climb on historical monuments for the sake of taking better photographs or not to take actions that could damage these structures.

DO NOT TOUCH HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS.

Many museums and archaeological sites containing historical artifacts are located both in Türkiye and around the world. various

They are available in their original locations. Today, historical artifacts are preserved in almost all museums. They are inside glass display cases. However, pieces that cannot be placed in glass display cases are openly displayed in the museum. Touching or even handling these pieces may cause deformation of the historical artifact's texture. Therefore, this...

You need to visit the works without touching them.

DO NOT TOUCH HISTORICAL ARTWORKS

There are many museums and ruins containing historical artifacts both in Turkey and in various parts of the world. Today, in almost many museums, historical artifacts are

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housed in protected glass cases. However, pieces that cannot be placed in glass
The compartments are exhibited openly in the museum. Handling or even touching these
Pieces may cause the texture of the historical artifact to deform. That's why you need to
Visit these works without touching them.

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DO NOT WRITE OR DRAW ON HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND ARTIFACTS.

One of the main reasons why many historical artifacts are irreversibly damaged is writing and drawing on the artifacts and buildings.

Although some may violate this rule for religious and cultural reasons, writing and drawing on historical artifacts is strictly forbidden due to the damage it causes. You must also abide by this rule and report anyone you see damaging historical artifacts in this way to the authorities.

DO NOT WRITE OR DRAW PICTURES ON HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND ARTWORKS

One of the main reasons why many historical artifacts are irreversibly damaged is writing and drawing on artifacts and buildings.

Although some people violate this rule based on religious and cultural reasons, writing and drawing are completely prohibited due to the damage it causes to historical artifacts.

You should also comply with this rule and report the situation to the authorities when you see someone damaging historical monuments in this way.

BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR BAG WHEN VISITING HISTORICAL SITES IN NATURAL

AREAS. One of the reasons many historical artifacts in open-air museums and archaeological sites are damaged is by bags. Especially when visiting historical sites,

make sure your backpack doesn't rub against anything in narrow and crowded areas. While passing through crowded areas, your bag could cause a historical wall to be scratched from end to end or hit and damage an object on display.

BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR BAG WHEN VISITING HISTORICAL ARTWORKS LOCATED IN A Narrow Area

One of the situations that causes damage to many historical artifacts in open-air history museums and historical sites is the damage of these artifacts by bags.

Make sure that your backpack does not rub against any point in narrow and crowded areas, especially when visiting historical places. While passing through crowded areas, your bag may scratch the length of a historical wall or hit an object on display, causing damage.

RESPECT RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SENSITIVITIES DURING YOUR VISIT.

Especially when traveling abroad, it is important to respect certain sensitivities when visiting historical sites belonging to a different culture and belief. You should behave respectfully, particularly when visiting monuments that hold traumatic memories for communities.

On the other hand, when visiting historical sites of religious significance, you need to act respectfully and in accordance with the rules of that faith. For example, when visiting mosques and tombs, you should choose clothing that is appropriate for Islamic dress code.

We have discussed the general rules that both domestic and foreign tourists should follow when visiting historical and touristic sites. You should also take care to adhere to these rules during your tourist trips and avoid damaging historical structures. For these world heritage sites, which are protected and passed down to the present day by various institutions, to be preserved in all their beauty for future generations, every individual must possess the utmost awareness.

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8. VISIT IN A WAY SUITABLE FOR RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SENSITIVITIES

It is important to comply with certain sensitivities, especially when you go abroad and visit a historical point belonging to a different culture and belief. You should behave respectfully, especially when visiting monuments that have been traumatized in the memories of societies. On the other hand, when visiting historical sites of religious importance, you need to act both respectfully and in accordance with the rules of that belief. For example, when visiting mosques and tombs, you must choose clothing suitable for hijab.

We talked about the general rules that local and foreign tourists must follow when visiting historical tourist areas. You should also take care not to comply with these rules during your touristic trips and avoid damaging historical structures. It is necessary for each individual to have maximum consciousness in order to pass on these world heritages, which have been preserved as much as possible by institutions and handed down to the present day, in all their beauty to the next generations.

MANDATORY RULES TO BE FOLLOWED IN PROTECTED AREAS

Within protected areas, rare, endemic, endangered, or potentially endangered native plant species cannot be harmed in any way. These species cannot be collected, uprooted, or have parts of them cut off; the eggs of wild animals cannot be collected, and their nests cannot be disturbed.

Regardless of the method, visitors are required to take their litter with them.

No activities that pollute the areas, damage the flora, or disturb the fauna are permitted. - Lighting fires in the areas is prohibited.

Wildlife cannot be destroyed.

Any interventions that cause or may cause the loss or alteration of the characteristics of protected areas, as well as any works or activities that cause soil, water, and air pollution and similar environmental problems, are prohibited. Visitors to protected areas may not go outside the designated areas and routes (this is important both for the protection of resource values and for visitor safety).

The conditions and level of use and utilization of the areas are determined by the Administration, and "the carrying capacity cannot be exceeded."

In protected areas, services and facilities related to conservation, management, research, visitor information, and guidance are intended to be implemented in accordance with plans for these areas, minimizing negative impacts, and are carried out through implementation plans.

MANDATORY RULES TO BE FOLLOWED IN PROTECTED AREAS

Rare, endemic, endangered or endangered natural plant species within protected areas cannot be harmed in any way. These species cannot be collected, disassembled or some of their parts cut off, eggs of wild animals cannot be collected and their nests cannot be disturbed.

Under any circumstances, visitors must take back the garbage they produce.

No activities that pollute the areas, damage the flora or disturb the fauna can be carried out. - Fires cannot be lit in the areas.

Wildlife cannot be destroyed.

All kinds of interventions that cause or may cause the loss or change of the characteristics of protected areas, as well as any work or operation that will cause soil, water and air pollution and similar environmental problems, cannot be carried out.

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In protected areas, visitors cannot go beyond the designated areas and routes (This is important for both the protection of resource values and visitor safety).

The conditions and level of use and utilization of the areas are determined by the Administration and "carrying capacity cannot be exceeded."

It is envisaged that services and facilities for protection, management, research, visitor information and guidance in protected areas will be provided in a way that will create minimum negative impact in line with the plans made for these areas and are carried out with implementation plans.

No activities that would affect the water regime are permitted in wetlands.

No foreign species may be introduced or released into wetlands, or collected from wetlands, for any purpose whatsoever.

These rules have been prepared in accordance with the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks Circular No. 2007/1, and those who act contrary to the provisions of the circular will be subject to the penalties stipulated in the Environmental Law No. 2872. For travel agencies and other legal entities, penalties will be doubled if the acts prohibited by the Forestry Law No. 6831 and the Fisheries Law No. 1330 are committed in areas where the National Parks Law No. 2873 is applied. The complete implementation of the above-mentioned rules is crucial for sustainable hunting and wildlife management, the sustainability of resources in protected areas, effective management, protection, transmission to future generations, visitor safety, monitoring and guidance of visitors to protected areas, and the identification of visitor needs and expectations.

No activities that will affect the water regime in wetlands can be carried out.

Alien species cannot be thrown or released into wetlands for any purpose, and the species cannot be collected from wetlands.

These rules have been prepared in accordance with the Circular 2007/1 of the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, and those who act contrary to the provisions of the circular will be subject to the penalties stipulated in the Environmental Law No. 2872. Regarding travel agencies and other legal entities, it is counted as 1330 with the Forestry Law No. 6831. If the acts prohibited in the Fisheries Law are committed in places where the National Parks Law No. 2873 is applied, the penalties are increased by one fold. It is important to fully implement the above-mentioned rules in terms of sustainable hunting and wildlife management and the sustainability, effective management and protection of the resources of protected areas, their transfer to future generations and visitor safety, as well as monitoring and guiding visitors to protected areas and defining visitor needs and expectations.

Forest fires are fires that partially or completely burn forests, caused by natural or human factors. Natural causes include lightning strikes, volcanic eruptions, and high temperatures, while human-caused fires include those resulting from cigarettes or agricultural products. Forest fires cause significant ecological damage, with climate change and drought being among the primary consequences. Preventive measures...

Some of the things we should do to protect forests from fires include: Glass and glass shards should not be thrown into forests. (Glass can focus sunlight.)

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Focused light can ignite the grass, causing a fire.

Barbecue ashes should not be dumped without being extinguished. This is because they can ignite the grass and cause a fire. The public should be educated by officials and environmental organizations, and seminars and conferences should be organized on this subject.

We should not light fires in the forest; if we must, we should light them in a grassless area, surrounding the fire with stones. The causes of forest fires, which result from negligence, carelessness, and natural causes, are listed

below: Lighting a fire in the forest without taking safety precautions.

Leaving a fire burning without extinguishing it, especially a barbecue fire.

3. Throwing unextinguished cigarette butts and matches on the ground.

4. Burning unwanted weeds or field stubble in or adjacent to forests.

5. Walking through the forest with a fire for light at night.

Leaving glass and glass shards in the forest can cause sunlight to reflect off the glass and ignite the grass.

Children playing with fire in the forest.

Doing something with a fire in the forest for entertainment or display; lighting a fire.

Planting tall trees like cypress trees in hilly areas can cause the tree to attract lightning, catch fire, and the fire to spread.

It results from firearms firing bullets into the air. 11. Effects of extreme heat and climate change. Deliberately started

forest fires. 1. Fires started to conceal illegal activities carried out in the forest.

2. To drive away wild animals.

Generating income.

Burning a forest to enlarge or clear land for farming, or a fire getting out of control after setting a forest on fire for this reason.

A forest fire is a fire caused by natural or human causes that partially or completely destroys forests. burning Fires caused by

natural causes such as lightning strikes, volcanic eruptions and high temperatures, and human fires caused by smoking, agricultural products caused by wildfires. Burning forests causes a lot of ecological damage, with climate change and drought being the main consequences.

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Precautions

Some of the things we need to do to protect forests against fires; Glass and glass shards should not be thrown into forests. (Glass can focus sunlight. The focused light can cause grass to catch fire through ignition and and may therefore cause a fire).

Barbecue ashes should not be poured before extinguishing. Because there is a possibility that the grass may ignite and start a fire.

Public awareness should be raised by officials and environmental organizations, seminars and conferences should be organized on this issue.

We should not light a fire in the forest, and if we have to light a fire, we should do so by placing stones around the fire in an area without grass.

List of causes of forest fires caused by negligence, carelessness and natural causes

Lighting a fire in the forest without taking safety precautions.

Leaving the fire unextinguished. Especially leaving the fire lit for barbecue unextinguished.

Throwing unextinguished cigarette butts and matches on the ground.

Burning unwanted weeds or stubble in the fields within or adjacent to the forest.

Walking around with fire in the forest for lighting at night.

Leaving glass and broken glass in the forest, sunlight reflecting off the glass and burning the grass.

7.Children playing with fire in the forest.

Doing things with fire in the forest for entertainment or demonstration, lighting fires.

Planting tall trees such as cypresses in hilly areas, as a result of which the tree burns by attracting lightning and the fire spreads.

It is caused by bullets fired into the air. 11.Extreme heat and the effects of climate change Intentional forest fires Fires set to hide illegal activities in the forest.

To drive away wild animals.

To generate income.

Burning the forest in order to enlarge fields or open fields, or when the forest is burned for this reason and the fire gets out of control.

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Environmental Impacts

What are the side effects of perfumes?

For many people , **perfume is a part of their daily beauty routine.** However, perfumes can be irritating or even harmful for some people . The drawbacks of perfumes include health problems due to their chemical components and environmental damage .

Many perfumes contain synthetic chemicals, which can cause allergic reactions and respiratory problems in some people. Symptoms such as shortness of breath, headaches, nausea, and eye and skin irritation are among the most noticeable harms of inhaling perfume. For some people, the scent of perfume can trigger sinus problems and even asthma. **According to research, prolonged exposure to strong perfume scents is as harmful as passive smoking.**

Perfumes also have the potential to harm the environment. Chemicals can harm the environment at many stages, from perfume production to waste. Perfumes can also cause air pollution and damage vegetation. Refill perfumes are another example of such a problem. In short, it's important to remember that perfume use can cause health problems for some people, harm the environment, and inconvenience others. It's recommended to use perfume sparingly, especially in enclosed spaces and in the presence of other people.



What are the harms of perfumes?

Perfume is part of the daily care routine for many people. However, perfumes can be irritating and even harmful to some people. Harmful effects of perfumes include factors such as health problems and environmental damage due to their chemical components.

Many perfumes contain synthetic chemicals, and these chemicals can cause allergic reactions and respiratory problems in some people. Symptoms such as breathing difficulties, headache, nausea, eye and skin irritation are the most important points to be considered among the harms of breathing perfume. For some people, the smell of perfume can trigger sinus problems and even asthma. According to research, being exposed to intense perfume smells for a long time is as harmful as passive smoking.

Perfumes also have the potential to harm the environment. Chemicals can harm the environment at many stages, from the production of perfumes to waste. Additionally, perfumes can cause air pollution and damage vegetation. We can also give refill perfume types as examples of these perfumes.

In summary, it should be noted that the use of perfume can cause health problems for some people, damage to the environment and discomfort for other people. It is recommended to use perfume sparingly, especially in closed environments and places where there are other people.



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Why are insect repellents harmful?

The most commonly used chemical in fly and insect repellents is DEET, which stands for N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide. Developed and patented by the American military in the 1940s, research has shown that this poison affects brain cells. Almost all fly repellent sprays contain DEET as their active ingredient. Numerous scientific publications demonstrate the dangers of this chemical. For example, prolonged exposure to DEET in mice has shown behavioral disorders and death. Therefore, you wouldn't want your child to inhale or have this poison come into contact with their skin.

Insect repellents containing DEET as the active ingredient have been proven to cause allergic reactions and seizures. The risk is even greater, especially in young children. These products are also known to negatively affect concentration, causing memory problems and learning difficulties.



Why are fly repellents harmful?

The most commonly used chemical in fly and insecticides is a chemical called DEET, that is, N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide. There are studies showing that this poison, developed and patented by the American army in the 1940s, affects brain cells. The active ingredient of almost all fly repellent sprays is DEET. There are many scientific publications showing how dangerous this chemical is. For example, effects such as behavioral disorders and death are observed in mice exposed to DEET for a long time. In other words, you do not want your child to breathe these poisons or touch their skin. It has been proven that fly repellents whose active ingredient is DEET cause allergic reactions and seizures. The risk is even greater, especially in young children. It is also known that these drugs negatively affect concentration and cause memory problems and



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The Effects of Sunscreen on Marine Life and Corals:
Seas and oceans are incredibly rich ecosystems in terms of biodiversity. However, these delicate ecosystems are facing environmental changes caused by human activities. Sunscreens can be one of these effects. It is known that some chemical substances in sunscreens have negative effects on marine life and corals.



Harmful Sunscreens : Some sunscreens that are thought to be harmful to marine ecosystems include : 1. Sunscreens Containing Oxybenzone: Oxybenzone is a chemical filter agent commonly used in sunscreens. However, sunscreens containing oxybenzone can cause coral bleaching. Therefore, sunscreens containing oxybenzone should be avoided due to their impact on marine ecosystems .

2. Sunscreens Containing Octinoxate: Octinoxate is another chemical that provides effective protection against UV rays and is frequently used in sunscreens. However, it is thought to have negative effects on some marine organisms . Therefore, to protect ocean life, sunscreens containing octinoxate should be avoided.

3. Paraben-Containing Sunscreens: Parabens are common chemicals used as preservatives in sunscreens and cosmetics. However, parabens are thought to have the potential to harm marine ecosystems. Therefore, by adopting an environmentally friendly approach, sunscreens containing parabens should be avoided.

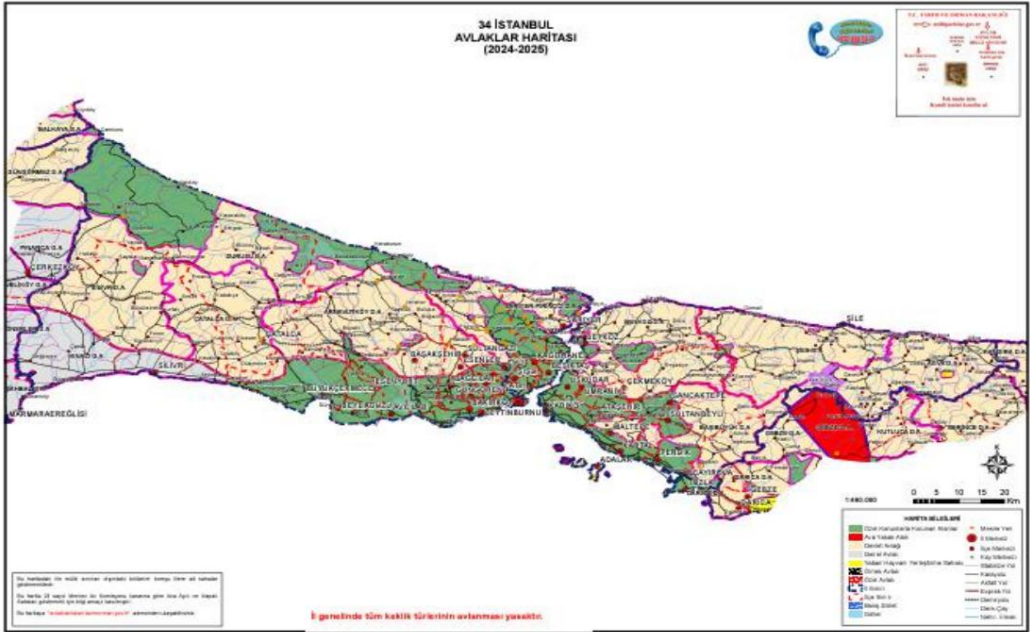
The Effect of Sunscreen on Seas and Corals Seas and oceans are biological sources on Earth. They are ecosystems that are very rich in diversity. However, These fragile ecosystems face environmental changes caused by human activities. Sunscreens may also be one of these effects. It is known that some chemicals in sunscreens cause negative effects on marine life and corals.



Harmful Sunscreens
Some sunscreens thought to harm marine ecosystems include:
Sunscreens Containing Oxybenzone
Oxybenzone is a commonly used sunscreen.
It is a chemical filter material. However, sunscreens containing oxybenzone may cause coral bleaching. Therefore, sunscreens containing oxybenzone should be avoided due to its impact on marine ecosystems.
Sunscreens Containing Octinoxate
Octinoxate is another chemical that provides effective protection against UV rays and is frequently used in sunscreens. However, it is thought to have adverse effects on some marine organisms. Therefore, to protect ocean life, sunscreens containing octinoxate should be avoided.
Sunscreens Containing Paraben
Parabens are common chemicals used as preservatives in sunscreens and cosmetic products. However, parabens are thought to have the potential to harm marine ecosystems. Therefore, sunscreens containing paraben should be avoided by adopting an environmentally friendly approach.

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HUNTING GROUND AND BIODIVERSITY



THE FAUNA OF ISTANBUL

The island's rich natural environment, with its mountains covered in maquis and surrounded by oak, chestnut, and plane trees, also harbors a considerable amount of wildlife. Besides the island rabbit, partridge, woodcock, and other game animals, the protected Great Horned Owl, foxes (whose exact numbers are unknown), and wild horses (in groups of 5-6) roam freely.

The Marmara Rabbit is a grey-colored Australian rabbit. In the second half of the 19th century, British families in Istanbul used to come to Marmara Island for summer holidays.

They would bring rabbits from Australia to the Marmara Sea in cages and raise them. The meat of this animal was said to be very delicious, and they would occasionally slaughter them and use them in their meals. They would try to breed these rabbits in the gardens of the Greek families whose homes they stayed in. Sometimes the breeding rabbits would escape from the breeding areas and disappear. Every summer, these comings and goings would repeat, and the rabbit breeding process would continue. Today, these grey, mottled rabbits, found in the mountains and low hills of the island, have multiplied rapidly in their natural habitat. Although their numbers have decreased from time to time, they still have a considerable population.

Island hares, whose numbers decreased significantly after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, are still hunted today. The area from the hills of Asmalı Village to the Kastırela Monastery is one of the places where they are frequently seen. According to information I gathered from livestock owners and hunters in the mountains, the foxes encountered on the island are dark yellow-reddish in color. Since they quickly leave their surroundings upon seeing humans, it has been difficult to approach them closely. The island has extensive green areas and water sources. Thanks to this, it has been a resting place for migratory birds for centuries. For example, pelicans migrate in waves during the migration season.

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The movements of the herds can be tracked.

Amidst all this biodiversity, there was a legend about beaver hunting that has always fascinated me. Fishing has been one of the most important sources of livelihood on Marmara Island for centuries. We know, more or less, from scientific studies and local accounts, that Mediterranean monk seals lived in these waters, where even swordfish fishing was practiced until the late 1970s. However, it is also said that some families made their living through hunting, specifically beaver hunting.

Although I lacked any visual evidence, everyone I spoke to from the Marmara region talked about beaver hunting as if they were all speaking with one voice. I was determined to unravel this beaver story. However, my research led me to another animal, the sea otter (*Lutra*).

Because the beaver was a rodent mammal species that lived in streams and lakes, constructing dams on streams that could be considered the ancestors of modern dam technology, and sustaining its life in these artificial lakes, consuming tree bark and grass.

Beavers lived in pairs and could fell an average of 400 trees a year, using the wood to build nests and dams. Access to their nests was only possible via waterways. They avoided humans, but when they sensed danger, they would tap their thick, flat, leathery tails on the ground to warn other family members.

However, what the islanders said and what science said were very different. If we look at concrete data, we see that there is no lake large enough for a beaver to live in, or streams with high flow rates on Marmara Island. And if we consider that a single beaver can fell 200 trees a year, the streambeds should have become completely bare over the years. Therefore, it doesn't seem very plausible.

Upon examining local sources, I came across information and even images of otters being sighted on the coasts of Tekirdağ, Çanakkale-Gelibolu, Yalova, and Karabiga. The otter (*Lutra lutra*) is a good swimmer because its hind feet are webbed, and its tail acts as a rudder. Its body is covered in thick brown fur. Due to its valuable fur, it is facing the threat of extinction. Therefore, hunting it is also prohibited in Türkiye! It is a carnivorous mammal belonging to the 'Weasel' family, found in reedbeds, all kinds of rivers, streams, lakes, and seas, living in burrows it digs along the edges of lakes and streams, and consuming fish and crustaceans.

It is even known that when hungry, it enters trout farms and feeds on poultry. Based on the stories told by the people of the island, I researched and learned with great curiosity about where the otter lives, where it is seen and hunts, who earns income from this hunting, and how it feeds.

The information I gathered suggested that the otter was closer to the marine species. This is because fisherman İbrahim Pala had described seeing two otters, shot by hunters, as they emerged from the water; they were 1-1.5 meters long and dark brown, almost black.

Pervin Özenç explained that the otter builds its den inside the Marmara cemetery or in the hollows of trees on the old dune beach in front of the cemetery, which is now a park area, and that it uses a tool to feed itself, just like the sea otters living on the northern and western coasts of the North Pacific Ocean. That is, it lies on its back on the surface of the water, places a flat stone on its chest, and then repeatedly and forcefully hits the mussels against this stone to break them, then cleans and eats them with its hands. This explanation struck me as both unbelievable and funny. To be honest, I even thought she was exaggerating. But when I saw these images in documentaries, I couldn't believe my eyes.

Another witness, İsmail Mersin, stated that during the port construction, he found an otter lying on its back.

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He described seeing it swimming and that it fed on crabs and fish. In Marmara Central, otter hunting was carried out by Katipaki Mustafa (Özkaya), Piçaz Ali (Gören), Kuvvit Mehmet (Gören), Kunel Ahmet (Gören), and Fafut Mustafa (Geyik).

Some of the areas where ambushes were laid were: firstly, the reed bed area and its surroundings at Aba Point, the fine sandy beach in front of the Central Cemetery, the reed bed and Davulcu Stones below the house of Decorator Mazhar Resmor in Kamara, the Fisherman's Shelter Breakwater, the old pier belonging to the Meat and Fish Corporation's icehouse, and Kerasya (Kirazlıyk). It was the stream and its surroundings. Generally, they were seen in the areas where the streams flowed into the sea. In fact, my father's close friend, Hasan Mersin, caught an otter swimming with his bare hands in the area where the seaside tea gardens are today, scared his friends at the table with a joke, and then released it back into the water. The expert in otter hunting was Ali Gören, nicknamed 'Piçaz'. He handled the skinning and bagging processes. He would dry and collect the skins of the hunted animals, and then take them to Istanbul to sell.

Apart from that, hunters in Kılazak (Topağaç Village) would collect and sell the furs of the animals they hunted. So why did the islanders call the otter a beaver?

I can only answer this question as follows: In the island, the boats used for fishing with "Alamana" and "İyryp" are commonly called "Piyade." However, the boats used for net fishing are officially called "Kancabağ" or "Alamana Kayyry" in the literature. In fact, Piyade and Kancabağ are very different boats in terms of structure and use. If we consider the similarity between beavers and otters, both of which are furry and swim, we can accept this as a misnaming.

Although it is unknown how the otter came to Marmara Island, its natural habitat, and when it hasn't been seen there for a long time, it is clear that it was hunted. The story of Bico Hilmi (Kıryk) resembled the legends about fishermen from Gallipoli feeding otters that came onto their boats. "It was before I got married, when I was 13 or 14, we were fishing with my uncles' fishing boat at dawn on the Aba coast, near Doctor Faruk's hotel. We pulled up the nets and there were sardines... The air was calm and the sea was still. They filled the boat with sardines up to the gunwale and asked me to slowly take the fish to the Toksöz's fish shop. I pulled at the oars... Suddenly, a head appeared on the surface of the water, right next to the stern of the boat. That's childhood for you... I was rowing and throwing handfuls of sardines to this otter. It was diving in and out of the water and swimming. It followed me all the way to the Toksöz Salted Fish Shop pier. When I docked the boat, it swam towards Kile Point and disappeared from sight," the veteran fisherman concludes his memory.

Environmentalists and scientists, who constantly voice concerns about the damage that planned coal-fired power plants on the Karabiga coast will cause to the Mediterranean Monk Seal habitat, were they perhaps aware of the otters that once lived in the Marmara Sea and on Marmara Island? A thorough study of the habitats of these otters, which have been rediscovered in Çanakkale and Tekirdağ after many years, is necessary.

Because seafood is still fished in this region, and there are untouched, deserted bays. Even if we accept that beavers do not live on our islands, how the fishing spot near Araplar (Yiyitler) Village on Avya Island, known as 'Kunduz Suyu' (Beaver Water), got its name is a detail worth investigating.

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UNDERWATER LIFE OF ISTANBUL

Bath Sponge

They prefer rocky bottoms. They are found at depths of 50-60 meters. They feed on plankton, small organisms, and organic matter.

Black Coral

They are found at depths of 30 to 100 meters in shaded and hard bottoms. They are used in jewelry making.

Seahorse

They are found in all our seas. They live in areas with abundant algae, in regions where Posidonia seagrass is present. They are generally found in shallow waters, at depths of 0-10 meters. They feed on the eggs of some fish and small invertebrates.

Jellyfish

Jellyfish do not have brains. Instead, their nervous systems are highly developed to be sensitive to light and smell. They feed on small fish and other small marine creatures.

KIDNEY BEAN

They live in schools in sandy, muddy shores of warm and temperate seas at depths of up to 300 meters.

SEA BREAM

They live in shallow waters during the summer and at depths of 35-40 meters during the winter. Those over two years old descend to even greater depths.

EŸKŸNA

It lives in rocky, stony, and coral areas at depths of 100-150 meters in warm and temperate seas. It is also known as stonefish and mavruŸgil fish.

POPPY

It lives in warm and temperate waters near shores on rocky, stony bottoms. It feeds on fish fry and crustaceans. It is agile, predatory, and aggressive.

SILVER

During the day, they swim at depths of 30-40 meters, and at night they roam near the surface. When they swim near the surface in flocks, they become prey for water birds.

ANCHOVY

They live in herds. During the day they swim at depths of 30-40 meters, and at night they roam closer to the surface.

SCORPION

Its life cycle is the same as that of Lipsoz, which belongs to the same family. The differences are that scorpionfish is smaller than lipsoz and has a darker color.

HORSE MACKEREL

They are migratory fish. They feed on the young of small fish such as anchovies, sprats, and squid. They breed in flocks between May and August.

BUTT

It is agile and cunning. It comes close to the beaches during the summer months. Its upper, front spines are dangerous.

SHIELD

The turbot, a bottom-dwelling fish, is rarely found in the Bosphorus, Marmara, Aegean, and Mediterranean Seas.

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It's not a migratory fish. It spends its whole life lying at the bottom.

KARAGÖZ

It is one of our abundant and beloved native fish that lives in the rocky areas of the temperate waters of the Marmara and Aegean Seas. It lives in schools.

SPANISH MACKEREL

Although found in all our seas, it is mostly considered a fish of the Marmara Sea. It also lives in schools in the Pacific Ocean.

CUP

It is also called the golden belt. It lives in temperate and warm seas. It feeds on algae, fish fry, and crustaceans.

SEA BASS

It lives in our seas and in brackish water areas where seas mix with rivers. Not very migratory, sea bass live in groups when young, but later live alone.

BLUEFISH

Bluefish, a migratory fish, travels between the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea. It lives at depths of 10-200 meters. Its breeding season is from late spring to early summer.

THE FLORA OF ISTANBUL

Istanbul, Türkiye's largest metropolis, also serves as the country's industrial and financial development center. Beyond its historical and cultural significance, the city's location at the transition point between the Mediterranean and European-Siberian phytogeographical regions, and its diverse landscape characteristics, contribute to its remarkable floral richness and biodiversity. Situated at the crossroads of Central European and Mediterranean climate regimes, Istanbul possesses significant potential for biodiversity and a wide variety of natural habitats. Furthermore, the various civilizations that have inhabited the city throughout history have enriched it culturally in an immeasurable way. This cultural interaction has also influenced the diversity of plant species brought to and planted in the city at various times.

Istanbul's vegetation is diverse, reflecting its varying climate and soil conditions. The city offers a wide range of plant life, from pine forests to Mediterranean flora, coastal ecosystems to urban parks. Green spaces along the Bosphorus form the city's lungs, while the natural beauty of the Islands is home to rare plant species. The city's parks and gardens are adorned with a variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers, as well as native and exotic plant species. Istanbul boasts a rich plant biodiversity due to its diverse climate and soil conditions. The city has a variety of habitats that allow for the growth of diverse plant species. Here are some examples of the plant biodiversity commonly found in Istanbul:

Forested Areas: The forested areas located north and east of Istanbul are home to tree species such as pine, oak, chestnut, and hornbeam. Various shrub and herbaceous plant species can also be found in these regions.

Wetlands: In Istanbul, various plant species grow in areas such as wetlands, ponds, stream banks, and wet meadows. Reeds, rushes, water lilies, and other plants frequently found along water edges are particularly important for wetland biodiversity.

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It forms part of it.

Parks and Gardens: Located throughout the city, parks and gardens are home to both local and exotic plant species. Many types of plants, including trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses, are cultivated in these parks, contributing to the city's biodiversity.

Islands and Green Spaces: Istanbul's islands are famous for their natural beauty and green spaces. In addition to the local vegetation, ornamental plants and exotic plant species can also be found here.

Agricultural Areas: The agricultural areas surrounding Istanbul allow for the cultivation of various plant species, including grains, vegetables, fruits, and medicinal herbs.

EASTERN RAZY

This species, which has a very limited distribution worldwide, grows naturally in northeastern Greece and northwestern Türkiye.

ISTANBUL SNAKE PILLOW

In Türkiye, it is known to grow in only one location in Thrace and two locations around Istanbul. The areas where it grows in Istanbul are threatened by urbanization.

BEACH ASPERULA

It is a slow-growing, perennial dune plant found on the sand dunes of Istanbul's Black Sea coast.

ISTANBUL UNLUCASI

It is an annual plant and an endemic species that grows on the coast. It is found in small numbers in the dune areas of Istanbul's Marmara Sea coast.

SAND PEARL

It is a perennial species that flowers in autumn. It is found in small numbers on sand dunes along the southwestern Black Sea coast (Turkish and Bulgarian coasts) and only 3 colonies have been observed on Türkiye's northern Aegean coast.

PENDİK YELLOW GRASS

This plant, which can live for one year, is found in the province, especially in pastures with clay soils. The species, which was introduced to the world with specimens collected from Pendik in 1895, had its original habitat destroyed as a result of the city's excessive growth.

ÇATALCA PROPHET'S FLOWER

It is a perennial plant that grows in moist heathlands and marshy areas. Well-developed populations are found in the northern regions of the European side of Istanbul. On the Asian side, Mount Aydos is home to this species.

THORNLESS PROPHET'S FLOWER

It is a perennial species that grows in the scrublands and on dry rocks on the Asian side of Istanbul.

Kilyos Prophet's Flower

It is an endemic, deciduous perennial species found in the sand dunes of the southwestern Black Sea coast of Türkiye. A large portion of the world's population is particularly widespread in the sand dunes of Istanbul.

MULTI-HEADED VILLAGE MIGRATOR

It is an endemic, tall, perennial species found in the dry marshes and heathlands of Istanbul.

Kadıköy Bitter Crocus

It is a species of bulbous plant that flowers in autumn and grows especially in the rocky, high hills and scrublands of the province. The largest populations are found on the Asian side, as well as

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It is possible to find only a few examples in the ğkitelli area.

DELICATE BITTER CROCUS

It is a bulbous plant that grows in damp heathlands and pastures. It is a type of bitter crocus that blooms in autumn and is found only in Istanbul in the world. Except for Kemberburgaz, it is seen in small numbers in the city, especially on the Asian side.

ISTANBUL CROCUS

It is a type of crocus that typically blooms in open heathlands in early spring. It grows in limited numbers in three locations on the Asian side of the province.

Umraniye Crocus

It grows in the damp heathlands, meadows, and moist rocky areas of Istanbul. It is a type of crocus that blooms with small to large flowers in early spring. This bulbous plant grows only in Türkiye in the world, and its most important population is in Istanbul.

BEACH IVY

It is a creeping-stemmed perennial species that grows in coastal sand dunes. Four of the six populations in Europe are found in Istanbul.

YARIMBURGAZ MUSTARD

First introduced to the world through specimens collected from Halkalı and Yarımburgaz, this is a perennial rock-dwelling species. The best populations of this species are found in Istanbul.

BAHÇEYEHİR GLOBE

It is a tall, perennial plant that grows in swamps and meadows. In Istanbul province, it grows in 3 different areas.

ISTANBUL THOUSAND AND ONE HOLES

It is a perennial species that grew in limestone meadows around Istanbul. Due to rapid urbanization in the Halkalı area, where the first specimen was collected, this species has become extinct in that region.

DUNE INDIGO

It is a perennial endemic species. Of the 6 areas where it is known to grow in the Black Sea coastal sand dunes of Türkiye, 4 are in Istanbul.

KILYOS PURPLE

This fascinating type of coastal sand dune was first introduced to the scientific world through specimens collected from Kilyos and Riva, hence its name Kilyos. It grows abundantly in the coastal sand dunes of Istanbul.

ISTANBUL BALLIBASI

It is a perennial species that mostly grows in agricultural areas. Although it has been recorded growing in 5 different areas, no specimens collected after 1936 have been found.

ISTANBUL'S BELOVED

This beautiful-looking perennial wild pea species is endemic to northwestern Türkiye, and particularly abundant on the Asian side of Istanbul.

ISTANBUL LINEN

It is a perennial flax species that grows in limestone pastures. In Türkiye, it is mainly harvested in the western part of Istanbul province.

BOSPHORUS LINEN

This flax species, which grows in limestone pastures and stable coastal sand dunes, is found in Istanbul.

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It has a limited distribution along the western border of the province and in Riva, near the entrance to the Bosphorus.

RINGED PACIFIER

It is a biennial species that grows in open limestone pastures. Its populations are limited in the limestone pasture areas that harbor endemic species of Istanbul.

COASTAL CELERY

This species, which grows in small numbers in coastal sand dunes and has a creeping stem, can be considered endemic to the southwestern Black Sea coast of Türkiye. Records regarding its presence in Greece are questionable. Around 15 populations are known in Türkiye.

COASTAL ROCKET

There are specimens of this species, a member of the mustard plant family, collected from Yeşilköy and Kilyos. However, there are no records of it growing in Istanbul in recent years.

BLACK SEA CLUSTER

It is a perennial endemic species found in coastal sand dunes. The majority of its populations are located within the boundaries of Istanbul, with 11 out of 14 areas containing it.

BOSPHORUS CAGE

It is a perennial, endemic species that grows in forests and field edges. It grows in 5 areas in the valleys extending to the slopes of Beykoz. It has also been found in one area in Dereköy, near the Bulgarian border.

THRACIAN MINE

It is a perennial species that grows in limited numbers in limestone meadows and coppice forests. Although it is relatively abundant on the European side of Istanbul, there are no records for the Asian side of Istanbul.

RIVA COW'S TAIL

It is a perennial species that is difficult to grow and has a short lifespan. Its flowers, which grow in clusters, are a mixture of yellow, green, brown, and purple colors. It prefers dry scrublands and acidic rocky areas.

COAST COW QUEUE

It was first introduced to the scientific world with the specimens collected in Kilyos in 1890. Today it grows on a few coastal sand dunes in northwestern Türkiye.

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TRANSPORTATION ROUTES TO

ISTANBUL Everyone wants to visit and see Istanbul, the spiritual capital of Turkey, right?

Despite being Türkiye's most populous and vibrant city, people can't resist coming here. Because Istanbul is as captivating and cosmopolitan as they say. There are people of every religion, language, and nationality, and this diversity is the city's most important characteristic. Millions of people live in the shadow of its tall buildings.

This city is home to both the rich and the poor, the happy and the sad. Therefore, choosing the right time to visit Istanbul can be difficult. But remember, Istanbul will captivate you in every season, every day, and every night.

So how can you get to Istanbul? There are many flights to Istanbul from other cities in Turkey operated by various airlines. Flights are available from almost every city with an airport, primarily İzmir, Antalya, and Ankara. International travelers can find direct or connecting flights to Istanbul from almost every country.

After arriving at Istanbul Airport, you can reach the city center using Havaist buses or public transport. It's also possible to reach Istanbul from other cities in Turkey by road using bus lines. If traveling by private car, you can use the ring roads leading to Istanbul.

Within the city, metrobus, subway, buses, trams, minibuses, and taxis are very popular. In this extremely crowded city, using rail systems as public transportation can help you avoid traffic to some extent. While private car rental is not preferred due to traffic problems, it can be considered suitable for trips to destinations outside the city such as Yile or Ayva. If you want to go to the islands away from the noise and crowds of Istanbul, you can use the ferry services departing from Eminönü, Beşiktaş, and Kadıköy.

How to get to Istanbul by private car?

Traveling by private car is always a fun and comfortable journey. Traveling and seeing new places along the way is always an enjoyable and pleasant trip.

If you wish to travel from Ankara to Istanbul by private vehicle, you can use the Northern Marmara Highway, the O-7 highway, the Anatolian Highway, and the O-4 highway. The journey from Ankara to Istanbul takes a total of 4 hours and 40 minutes.

If you wish to travel from İzmir to Istanbul by private vehicle, you can use the Istanbul-Izmir Highway, as well as the D300 and E96 highways. The journey from İzmir to Istanbul will take approximately 4 to 4 hours and 30 minutes in total.

How to get to Istanbul by bus? People

who don't have a private vehicle generally prefer buses. Bus travel is the preferred choice for both those who enjoy long journeys and those who like to travel while sightseeing. Traveling by bus, as opposed to a private vehicle, is quite enjoyable and fun.

If you want to travel from Ankara to Istanbul by bus, you can take a bus from Ankara AYTİ (Ankara Intercity Bus Terminal) and get off at Alibeyköy or Esenler bus terminal. The 517 km journey from Ankara to Istanbul takes approximately 4 hours and 59 minutes.

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You can also

come here. If you want to travel from Izmir to Istanbul by bus, you can take the bus from Izmir Intercity Bus Terminal and get off at Alibeyköy or Esenler bus station. The 525 km journey from Izmir to Istanbul takes approximately 7 hours and 25 minutes.

How to get to Istanbul by plane?

Air travel has always been a fast and convenient mode of transportation. People who dislike long journeys or prefer not to travel by bus choose to travel by plane. Air travel has always been both a fast and practical mode of transportation.

If you wish to travel from Ankara to Istanbul by plane, you can take a flight from Ankara Esenboğa Airport in Ankara and land at Sabiha Gökçen Airport in Istanbul. The flight time from Ankara to Istanbul will be approximately 1 hour and 5 minutes. If you wish to travel from Izmir to Istanbul by plane, you can take a flight from Adnan Menderes Airport in Izmir and land at Sabiha Gökçen Airport in Istanbul. The flight time from Izmir to Istanbul will be approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

How to get to Istanbul by train?

Many people enjoy traveling by train. Most prefer train travel to private cars, buses, or planes. Train travel is also quite fun and enjoyable.

If you want to travel from Ankara to Istanbul by train, you need to take the Ankara – Istanbul High-Speed Train. Once you board the train in Ankara, the journey will pass through Eryaman, Polatlı, Eskişehir, Bozüyük, Bilecik, Arifiye, İzmit, Gebze, Pendik, Bostancı, Söğütözü, Bakırköy, and back to Istanbul in a total of 4 hours and 20 minutes. If you want to travel from Izmir to Istanbul by train, you need to take the Izmir – Istanbul High-Speed Train. The train journey from Izmir to Istanbul will take approximately 4 hours.

What is the city transportation like

in Istanbul? If you want to travel within Istanbul, you can use municipal buses, minibuses, and taxis. Due to its size and large population, Istanbul experiences very heavy traffic. While minibuses don't go everywhere, municipal buses do. If you want to take a municipal bus to your destination, you need to take the bus that serves that route. Although taxis are known for being a fast option, they aren't actually that fast in Istanbul due to the heavy traffic.

The Most Beautiful Cycling Routes in Istanbul

As you cycle along the tree-lined path next

to Dolmabahçe Palace **in Florya, near Beşiktaş Dolmabahçe Street**, you should know that you're turning your pedals towards the traces of history. Unfortunately, there is no bike path for approximately 1.5 km along this route. However, you can cycle via Kabataş, Tophane, and Karaköy.

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As you cross the bridge and reach the historic Galata Bridge, you'll be greeted by historical structures such as the Süleymaniye Mosque, Topkapi Palace, the New Mosque, and the Spice Bazaar. From the Galata Bridge, you can choose to head towards Sirkeci or Balat. Heading towards Sirkeci, you can reach the bicycle path and continue uninterrupted along the route to Florya-Yeşilköy, enjoying views of the 15 July Martyrs Bridge and the Bosphorus. This route in Istanbul also runs parallel to historical areas such as Gülhane Park and Sultan Ahmet.

If you're continuing

your bike route **along the Golden Horn's coastline** in the historical peninsula, heading in the opposite direction from Sirkeci will take you towards Balat. While the Golden Horn may not be experiencing its former glory, the recent landscaping and bike paths have transformed it into a pleasant cycling route. As you cycle along the Golden Horn, you might stop in Balat for a coffee and stroll through its historic streets. You can also follow the Golden Horn coastline all the way to Eyüp and pedal towards Pierre Loti Hill.

The Beşiktaş-Sarıyer Coastal

Road is actually a route with quite heavy car and pedestrian traffic. Therefore, cycling early in the morning or during weekday daytime hours when it's less crowded will be more enjoyable. While cycling along the most pleasant route of the Bosphorus, you can breathe in the wonderful scent of the sea and enjoy the views of the mansions and the Bosphorus. Along the 26 km coastal road, there are also wonderful cafes and restaurants where you can have coffee and breakfast.

The Garipçe - Rumeli Feneri - Kilyos route ,

starting from Sarıyer, is one of the most enjoyable driving routes, offering unique sea views and tree-lined roads that are rarely seen in Istanbul anymore. Rumeli Feneri, an old fishing village, still evokes that fishing village atmosphere and warmth.

Garipçe, the stop before Rumeli Feneri, is one of the fishing villages that has become quite popular in recent years. You can reach Garipçe Village by cycling down a pleasant slope. However, if you don't like touristy places, Garipçe might seem crowded to you. Continuing from Rumeli Feneri and heading towards the Black Sea, you can reach Kilyos, the vibrant coastal area of Istanbul. Cycling along this approximately 12 km long coastal road is quite enjoyable.

Belgrad Forest in

Sarıyer boasts an approximately 20 km long cycling trail. This trail, a magnificent path through the forest, is sure to provide an enjoyable experience. However, unfortunately, Belgrad Forest can get quite crowded on weekends, and you might see people walking on the trail. To avoid interruptions to your cycling experience, we recommend using this route during the weekdays.

Anadolu Feneri – Yoros Castle – Polonezköy Bicycle Route Anadolu

Feneri, one of the most beautiful routes on the Anatolian side for both walking and cycling, can rightly be called the greenest area of Istanbul. Cycling amidst the historical Yoros Castle and its views, as well as the magnificent color of the trees and, in season, the Judas trees, will be a unique experience. From Yoros Castle...

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This unique route starts at Poyrazköy, passes through Anadolu Feneri, and finally ends in Riva. You can enjoy a pleasant break at the restaurants along the Poyrazköy coast, with a view of the 3rd Bridge. We wish you enjoyable drives along this 19 km route, with its unique sea and forest views.

Aydos Forest ,

the largest forest on the Anatolian side of Istanbul, is a popular destination when it comes to cycling routes in the city, offering a blend of green and blue. The 12 km Aydos cycling trail starts on asphalt but gradually becomes dirt and gravel as you approach the hilltop. Watching the sunset here is an invaluable experience. Aydos Hill stands out as one of the best places to enjoy the view of Istanbul. You should definitely climb Aydos Hill at sunset and enjoy the panoramic view of Istanbul.

The Polonezköy Cycling and Walking Trail is a

popular weekend destination for Istanbul residents and a perfect escape for those longing for nature. If you haven't cycled in a long time or aren't very good at it, this trail might be challenging. The 4.5 km long, hilly trail also offers the option of hiking, allowing you to spend a weekend immersed in nature. If you want to start your weekend with a pleasant breakfast and then rent a bike, Polonezköy is the perfect place for you.

When it

comes to cycling, the Princes' **Islands** come to mind, etched in our memories as one of Istanbul residents' escape destinations. While the Islands have become quite crowded in recent years, you can choose weekdays to enjoy a peaceful day cycling. If you prefer, you can easily reach the Islands with your own bike, but there are also bike rental shops available. You can rent bikes on all of the islands: Büyükada, Heybeli, Kınalı, and Burgaz. On the Princes' Islands, one of Istanbul's most beautiful routes, you can enjoy cycling amidst nature and sea views, free from car traffic.

Caddebostan-Bostancı-Pendik Coast

When it comes to cycling routes on the Anatolian side of Istanbul, Caddebostan is undoubtedly the first place that comes to mind. This approximately 5 km long cycling route is one of the best options for those who want to enjoy cycling within the city while admiring the sea view.

This path, where you can relax on the grass overlooking the sea when you get tired, is also ideal for walking. The Caddebostan bike path actually extends all the way to the Pendik coast. The most enjoyable stop on this approximately 25 km route is arguably the Bostancı coast. With relatively fewer people than Caddebostan, you can enjoy cycling all the way to Pendik from this location.

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ÿ OUR GOALS REGARDING SUSTAINABILITY

ALL OUR EMPLOYEES WHO PROVIDED SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE THIS.
AND WE THANK OUR STAKEHOLDERS .