

MEP DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

DEDICATED TO PERFECTION



October 2012

Suggested Itinerary

Pre-Arrival (Visa Information)
Transfers Arrival & Departures
Evening Transfers

Saturday -6 October

- Ⓜ Arrival, Meet & Greet
- Ⓜ Transfers to the hotel will be discussed at a later stage
- Ⓜ Check-in to the hotel
- Ⓜ “ City of Splendour Splendor –Istanbul” ; Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque & Underground Cistern
- Ⓜ Dinner at Nar Gourmet Restaurant – Ottomon Cuisine

Sunday – 7 October

- Ⓜ Breakfast will be served at the hotel
- Ⓜ 08:00 a.m – 01:00 p.m Congress program
- Ⓜ “Piers of Bosphorus” Tour
- Ⓜ Dinner at Sardunya Restaurant –International Cuisine

Monday– 8 October

- Ⓜ Breakfast will be served at the hotel
- Ⓜ 08:00 a.m – 01:00 p.m Congress program
- Ⓜ “A Stroll in Old Pera”- Taksim
- Ⓜ Dinner at “Seviç Restaurant” (Seafood) or “Venge Restaurant” (Kebab)

Tuesday - 9 October

- Ⓜ Breakfast will be served in the hotel
- Ⓜ 08:00 a.m – 01:00 p.m Congress program
- Ⓜ Optional Activities ; - Bazaars of Istanbul
 - Discovering Turkish wine and cheese at Sensus
 - Relaxing and Rejuvenating Turkish Bath
- Ⓜ Special Dinner at “Nomads Restaurant” –Oriental Cuisine
Or “360 Istanbul Restaurant” – International Cuisine

Wednesday -10 October

- Ⓜ Breakfast will be served in the hotel
- Ⓜ Departure transfers- will be discussed at a later stage

Pre-Arrival (Visa Information)



Turkey requires a visa from the citizens of Belgium and most European countries. This is only a formality and mostly the visa stamps can be bought at the airport upon arrival.

However, MEP will buy these visa stamps in advance and send them to you to be distributed to the guests. This will be preventing a possible queue at the airport to buy the stamps.

This is a **free service of MEP** and we will only charge the cost for the visa stamps and courier.

Any unused visa stamps can be given back to MEP at the end of the event and these will be deducted from the final invoice.

Visa cost

Euro 15 per person for Belgium citizens

Please let us know if there are any guests from other countries and we will advise you the relative procedure/cost.

This will be a warm start to the programme...

Transfers Arrival & Departures

The busses in Turkey are with maximum capacity of 45+1 person. We do highly recommend having maximum 40 guests on busses as the back rows are relevantly uncomfortable. We may arrange 2 busses for your esteemed group. (Considering the luggage)

Evening Transfers

🕒 We will arrange the buses according to participant number.

You may find below pictures of some of our vehicles;



SATURDAY- 6 October

🕒 Arrival, Meet & Greet

Uniformed MEP staff will meet appropriate signage.



guests at the arrival's lounge with



All signage for the airport and to be used on the coaches will be prepared by MEP free of charge (A3 size nicely laminated on the coaches, foam hand held smart ones to be used to meet the guests). There will be a team of MEP hosts/ hostesses to meet & greet guests inside the airport. There will also be a separate one outside to manage the vehicles.

@ Transfers to the hotel

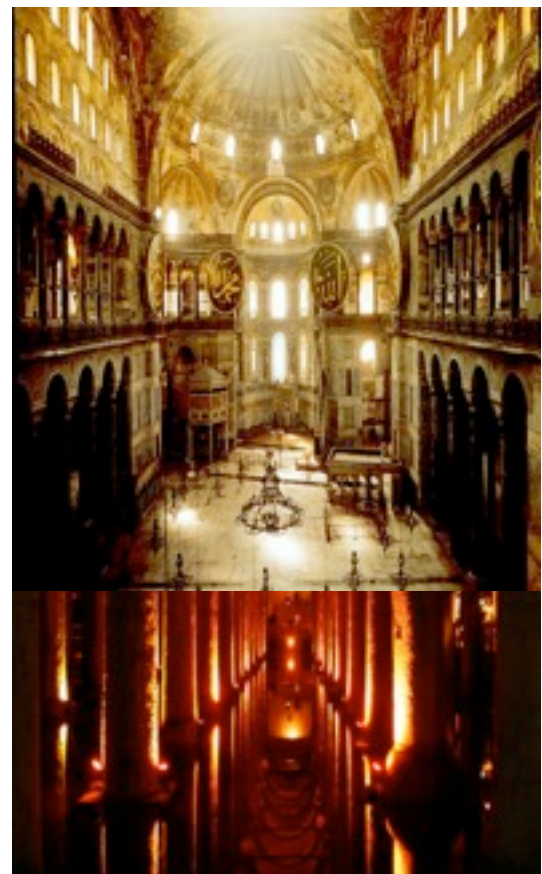
Transfer details have been explained above, according to group arrivals, we will arrange the vehicles.

@ “ City of Splendour Splendor –Istanbul” ; Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque & Underground Cistern

First stop is the “**Hippodrome Square**” in Old City, which was built by the Roman Emperor Septimus and it was the centre of Byzantium’s social life for a 1000 years and of Ottoman’s for another 400 years. It was the scene of countless political and military events during the long life of this city.

Then, we will proceed to see the famous “**Blue Mosque**” – Sultan Ahmet Camii in Turkish. Being the only mosque built with 6 minarets, it is very famous in Turkish and Islamic worlds. Inside is decorated with very nice “Iznik” tiles which brings the name Blue Mosque and the main colour theme is blue. Built in 17th century **Haghia Sophia** was built by Constantine the great and considered as a masterpiece of Byzantine art. Its first construction dates back to the end of the 4th century. Haghia Sophia served as a church for 916 years and as a mosque for 477 years until Ataturk’s orders converted it into a museum, now displaying the pieces both from Christianity and Islam.

Last stop will be the **Underground Cistern**. In this historical place one discovers the grandiose nature of the past while touring through Istanbul’s largest and the most magnificent **Underground Cistern**. It was built by the Emperor Justinian in the 6th century to supply water to the nearby palace complex. The cistern has 336 decorated columns and the ceiling of this beautiful column forest is cross-vaulted and made of bricks. During the restoration works, two spectacular Medusa head carvings were discovered.



@ Dinner at Nar Gourmet Restaurant

I choose dinner restaurants which are close to tour area and walking distance.

Nar Gourmet Restaurant

NAR Restaurant is based on the principle of adapting the traditional cooking methods and food culture of Ottoman and Turkish cuisine that evolved in this country over many centuries, to our modern values and lifestyle. The aim is to preserve a shared heritage that is beginning to disappear for the benefit of present and future generations.



In cooperation with its sister organization NAR Gourmet, which is dedicated to the production of healthy traditional foods, NAR Restaurant uses traditional ingredients from all over Turkey for a cuisine with real flavor. These include olive oil, sour juices, fruit jams, dried vegetables, fruits, spices, vinegars and pickles prepared by traditional methods without any additives. NAR Restaurant is devoted to the principle of natural, healthy eating, inspired by Turkey's diverse provincial food cultures, which are the flavors of the future

SUNDAY– 7 October

- 🕒 Breakfast will be served at the hotel
- 🕒 08:00 a.m – 01:00 p.m Congress program
- 🕒 “Piers of Bosphorus” Tour

Piers of the Bosphorus

In Istanbul, all roads lead to the Bosphorus. No trip to the city would be complete without a cruise along this winding strait, meandering between the continents of Europe and Asia. The Bosphorus, the 20-mile strait that joins two seas and two continents, has been, through the ages, the subject of much legend and art. Small fishing villages line the inlets while the many churches, monasteries, and summer palaces along its shores add to its natural beauty.

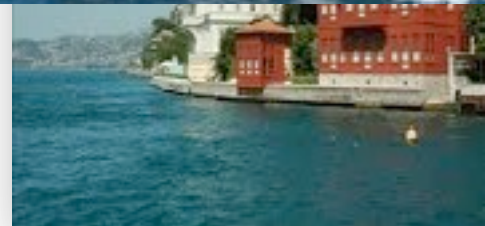
We shall start this wonderful tour by cruising along the Bosphorus and crossing over to the lesser-known Asian side. First, we will stop at Beylerbeyi Palace, built during the reign of Sultan Abdulaziz in the year 1865 and used as the summer palace of the sultans.

Our second stop will be at Kuzguncuk with its synagogues, mosques, and churches, where, again, the three religions meet.

We will then be transferred to Sabanci Museum, formerly the home of one of the richest family in Turkey, which is surrounded by lavish gardens and is now open as a museum, where we shall find a rich collection of calligraphy and drawings from the 19th and 20th centuries.

Dinner at Sardunya Restaurant

Sardunya Restaurant



www.sardunyafindiklicom

Sardunya Findikli Restaurant offers Turkish Cuisine and seafood with a stunning view of Bosphorus. It offers great moments with its lovely ambiance especially through the nights.



MONDAY– 8 October

- Ⓢ Breakfast will be served at the hotel
- Ⓢ 08:00 a.m – 01:00 p.m Congress program
- Ⓢ “A Stroll in Old Pera”- Taksim”

Stroll Through Old Pera

In the Ottoman times, Grand Rue de Péra (today called Istiklal Avenue) was the European part of then Constantinople with its grandiose embassy buildings, where the western merchants met the eastern world. It was favored by the Sultan’s Christian and Jewish subjects, to date hosting the most charming synagogues and churches in town. The architecture, still evident today is a blend of Genovese, Byzantine, Ottoman and Early Republican Turkish styles.

The area boasts hubs of numerous mindsets, like the local Freemasonry Headquarters, the Grand Galata Convent of Mevlevi’s and the building of ‘Teutonia’, the German Cultural Center where Propaganda Minister Goebbels visited during the war itself. If these weren’t enough to lure visitors in, the fact that among all this history the Istiklal Avenue still is the cultural and commercial center of modern Istanbul would surely do the job.

The tour will start in front of the Galatasaray Highschool, and then continue on to visiting an icon of Beyoglu's past and present, the Flower Passage, the liveliest and most colorful spot in Beyoglu. Cité de Péra occupies a stunning rococo arcade, the original of which dates to 1876. It is lined with boisterous meyhanes, curbside taverns where one can enjoy a draft beer or raki...

Next visit will be to walk along the Food Market which is a hustling, bustling place with beer houses and mussel vendors. All kinds of fresh fish, fruits and vegetables can be found on this street which extends to Istiklal Caddesi.



Carry on walking to the historical building of the British Consulate, called Pera House, built in 1801 with the permission of Sultan Selim III. Guests will then visit the St. Antoine Church, the largest of all Catholic Churches in town and then continue the tour along this famous avenue.

Visit art galleries, cool boutiques in newly renovated buildings.

🕒 Dinner at “Seviç Restaurant” or “Venge Restaurant

Seviç Restaurant – Flower Market Beyoğlu

www.sevicrestaurant.com

Sevic Restaurant is located inside the atmospheric Cicek Pasaji (Flower Passage) on Istiklal Street. The restaurant was founded as a beer house in 1948, and is now a common meeting place for Turkish artists. The evening begins like a usual meyhane (Turkish Pub) night, with a few glasses of raki and various mezes. Then the famous accordionist Ibrahim walks between the tables and sings popular songs as requested by the visitors. Fasil and belly dancers are also provided on request for special group nights. Hot and cold mezes, salads, drinks and fresh seafood can be found in abundance at Sevic Restaurant.



Sevic Restaurant is located at 10 minutes walking distance to all hotels we offered.

Venge Kebap Restaurant - Nişantaşı

Venge is a very nice restaurant which is famous for its grilled meat and kebab specialties, served in a relaxed, nicely decorated atmosphere.

Terrace is also available depending on the weather.

Venge restaurant is located at 15 minutes driving distance to all hotels we offered.



TUESDAY– 9 October

- 🕒 Breakfast will be served in the hotel
- 🕒 08:00 a.m – 01:00 p.m Congress program
- 🕒 Optional Activities ; - Bazaars of Istanbul
 - Discovering Turkish wine and cheese at Sensus
 - Relaxing and Cleansing Turkish bath



Bazaars of Istanbul

Shopping in Istanbul is a lot of fun as well as being a cultural experience. You will remember being offered by merchants, feverishly bargaining, and the interesting conversations that will take place during your shopping. All entrance tickets will be bought beforehand to prevent a possible queue to buy the tickets. We will also distribute socks to wear and bags to carry the shoes, in front of the Blue Mosque.

Spice Market



The tour will
minute stop
Market'. This
Istanbul's



start with 30-
at the '**Spice**
market is one of
covered bazaars

– but one which smells like all mysteries of '1001' nights. It is very cosy. It offers herbs and spices, dried fruits and nuts and lokum – Turkish Delight.

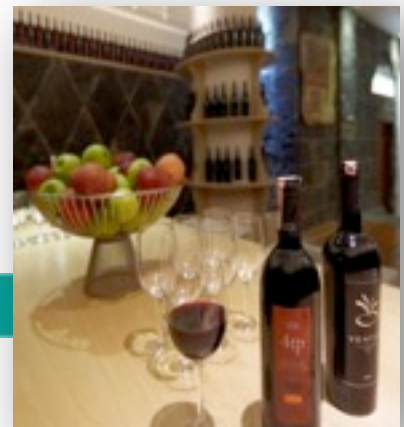
Grand Bazaar



The next stop will be the "**Grand Bazaar**", to explore its mysterious atmosphere and wander the aisles, smell the spices and discover the gold merchants in this largest covered market in Istanbul; there are over 4400 shops to choose from when one hits this fabulous shopping Mecca.

Discovering Turkish Wine & Cheese

Sensus wine and cheese is a brand new, gorgeous and best-of its type wine and



cheese cellar located in the historically European part of town, right next to the famous Genoese Tower. Venues collection consists solely of Turkish grapes, wine and cheeses.

Here the guests will be given a mini introduction to Turkish wine culture and grapes while sampling various prominent bottles of wines and cheeses suggested alongside them.

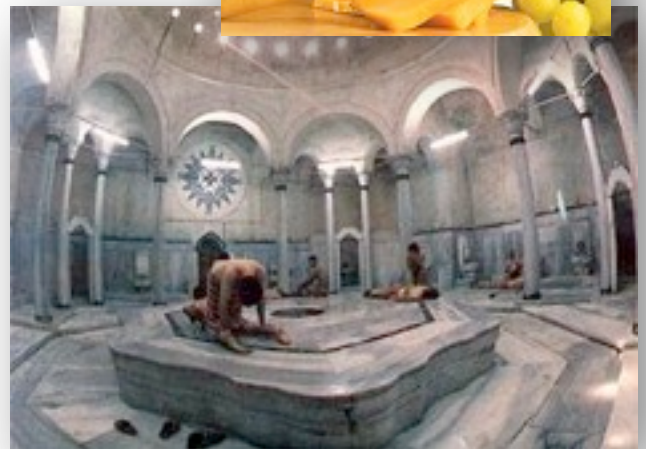
Note: Max. 25 people can join the tasting at once



Relaxing and Cleansing Turkish bath

No trip to Turkey is complete without indulging in a traditional Turkish bath – “Hamam”. The introduction to this ancient tradition will be at the 100-year old Cagaloglu Bath.

This relaxing and rejuvenating experience begins in private changing rooms where you will change into your swimsuit and given a large wrap around towel. Then you will enter the dry heat of a sweating area. Your skin will be washed with soap foam and warm water and your muscles will be massaged. After being attended to from head to toe, you can enjoy refreshments in the garden of the bath.



- 📍 Special Dinner at “Nomads Restaurant” –Oriental Istanbul
- Or “360 Istanbul Restaurant” – Trendy Istanbul

Nomads Restaurant – Oriental Istanbul

The location of Nomads is perfect, right next to supperclub and across the street from Club Reina. The building has a large balcony, allowing guests to enjoy dinner outside as the sun sets on the Bosphorus. In the evenings the restaurant will function as a nightclub/lounge. Nomads has belly dance shows (male and female) along the night and guests will also witness different dance shows performances.

Nomads Istanbul, like the original Amsterdam location, presents a world of fairy tales behind its doors. Nomads is a European concept based on Eastern culture, bringing European style and flair to the interior and the cuisine. Result: An excellent place where you can be as comfortable as you are in your own home yet still evoking the



feeling of being in a far away distant land. Everything in the restaurant is specially designed and produced in mystical & oriental way. This makes every corner of Nomads unique and seamless , while at the same time being warm and familiar.

You lie on soft sofas like a king and if you wish, you sip your drink under the spectacular lights of the bar, decorated with hundreds of handmade exotic oriental lamps.

360 Restaurant Istanbul – Trendy Istanbul

The multi award winning 360 Istanbul is set in a penthouse perched on a 19th century apartment building overlooking the embassy row in Beyoglu. It commands a 360 degrees breath-taking landscape view of Istanbul all the way from the up close steeple of St. Antoine’s Church and across the Bosphorus strait to the Hagia Sophia and out to the Sea of Marmara. 360 offers a twist on the modern Turkish mezze fused with international cuisine and an exclusive wine selection to compliment it. 360 turns into Club360 on the weekends where you can enjoy your drinks while listening to the talented DJs and vocalists along with live dancers and performances. 360istanbul also endocrine’s the 360 concept of dining experience. This concept consists of four crucial elements; Cuisine-Design-Entertainment and Atmosphere. No element in 360istanbul is more or less important than other and they coexist in harmony.█

Open every night for two sessions:

1) 20:00-22:00

2)22:00-24:00



WEDNESDAY– 10 October

- Ⓢ Breakfast will be served in the hotel
- Ⓢ Departure Transfers will be discussed at a later stage



ACCOMODATION ALTERNATIVES

1. Midtown Hotel – *Taksim*
2. The Marmara Pera - *Pera*
3. Mia Pera Hotel - *Pera*
4. Elite World Prestige– *Taksim*
5. Larespark Hotel – *Taksim*

MIDTOWN HOTEL – 4* Boutique Hotel

<http://www.midtown-hotel.com/>

Midtown Hotel Istanbul rises in a matchless location, i.e. Taksim, for everyone who wants to feel the heart beats and rhythm of the city and at the same time seek a quiet and tranquil place. Being located in an advantageous spot close to conference and fair centers of Istanbul, to culture and entertainment centers like Beyoğlu, Sultanahmet, Dolmabahçe and Atatürk Culture Center, to shopping centers like Nişantaşı and Maçka featuring worldwide brands, and to Atatürk airport in terms of transportation, Midtown Hotel unites modern decoration with needs of its guests and features specially-produced furniture and ergonomic designs.



MARMARA PERA HOTEL -4* Boutique Hotel

<http://www.themarmarahotels.com/The-Marmara-Pera/index.asp#>

The Marmara Pera is a superior 4-star hotel with an enviable location in



Istanbul, in the historical Pera District that delivers the amenities you are looking for business and leisure travel alike. During your stay at The Marmara Pera, you can spend your day enjoying the artistry of Pera, the mystique of Old Istanbul and the charm of Istiklal Street, a pedestrian mall. Each turn around the hotel will lead you to a street filled with eclectic shopping, outstanding cuisine, cultural attractions and side streets boasting lots of nightlife: chic cafe-bars, bistros, restaurants and music clubs.

MIAPERA HOTEL -4* Boutique Hotel

www.miaperahotel.com/

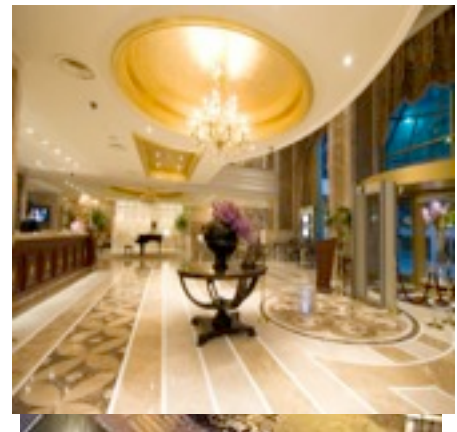
In the heart of the city of Istanbul, Beyoğlu district, a hotel which welcomes you with your homelike coziness, reflects the imperial glamour of the past along with the comfort of modernity established with the elegance of the 19th century French architecture... Miapera, located in Pera district which possess a history back to the Byzantine era is just 30 minutes of distance to Atatürk Airport. Pera; recently named Beyoğlu, represents a wide range of shopping and entertainment as well as cultural and art activities with its 24 hours alive nature.



ELITE WORLD PRESTIGE HOTEL - 4 * Hotel

<http://eng.eliteworldhotel.com/>

Elite World Prestige located at the meeting point of İstanbul in Taksim is very close to the business, shopping, convention, congress, culture and entertainment centers. You will enjoy extensive accommodation facilities with high quality standards for your business travels or leisure getaways. You will find comfort, elegance, security and modern technological infrastructure all in one. After a tiring day you may rest in the comfortable rooms and rooms offer everything you need. You can perform efficient meetings in our meeting rooms equipped with the latest technology. In our restaurants we present our guests a wide selection of exclusive colours from Turkish and World cuisines with a high quality. The health center is offering you an attractive choice for relaxation and fitness in an



exclusive ambiance...

LARESPARK HOTEL - 4 * Hotel

<http://www.laresparktaksim.com/dining-en.html>

Hotel is the perfect base for discerning visitors to our exciting city. Excellent location and modern facilities are ideal for meeting the needs of the business or leisure traveller. Luxury hotel in Istanbul combines exceptional service with warm Turkish hospitality. Larespark Hotel Taksim provides deluxe comfortable rooms and sophisticated facilities for enjoyable stay

