



## **ISTANBUL Educational Trip Programme (17-19 March)**

### **DAY 1, March 17th**

#### **1- Visit of one of the most vibrant and burgeoning districts in the heart of Istanbul, Karakoy District**

*At once workaday part of town best known for its hardware stores that is now gearing up to become a new tourism & urban centre as hotel chains rush to get a foot in the door before the new Galata Port facilities for cruise liners materialize. This is a great place to while away a couple of hours, ambling along tight-knit streets that, as much as anywhere in the city, reflect its old multiculturalism in the many low-key churches and mosques. Best of all, the plethora of new cafes and restaurants mean that there is always somewhere close at hand to take a break whether your fancy runs to a sticky baklava blowout or a full-on three-course meal.*

**Walking to Beyoglu District-You can never leave Istanbul without a stroll along the iconic Beyoglu district.**

#### **2- A visit to Galata Tower**

*One of Istanbul's the most fascinating monuments; Galata Tower was built in 1348 by the Genoese in Istanbul. However, this is the second tower nearby this area. The first Galata Tower was built closer to the sea. But it was demolished by the Latin Crusaders during the Sack of Constantinople. Anyway, at the top of the 'new' Galata Tower, you can enjoy a panoramic landscape that covers a great deal of Istanbul. It is open to the visitors each day.*

#### **3- Short Tour and Dinner at The 1901 Café and Bistro Restaurant in Occidental the Public Hotel followed by short Istanbul CVB Presentation.**

*Located in the very heart of Taksim, Occidental The Public Hotel Istanbul is set in a historic building designed by the famous architect Hovsep Aznavur in 1901. It is also on lively Istiklal Street, housing numerous cafés, restaurants, malls and art galleries. Free Wi-Fi access is available in all areas of the accommodation.*

*The **52 rooms** stand out for their authentic and original décor, the work of well-known Turkish designers, and are the perfect combination of the hotel's original architecture and modern touches.*

*The hotel boasts its own **restaurant**, the 1901 Café and Bistro, which offers a selection of exquisite avant-garde European dishes. There is also a charming bar in the lobby, ideal for having a coffee or drink in an informal setting.*

#### **4- Drinks at Hard Rock Café Istanbul (Hard Rock Cafe International)**

***Hard Rock Café Istanbul** an alternative choice for meetings.*

*The multi-story cafe has more than 8,400 square feet of space, including spacious seating, several dining areas. The multi-floor, 781- square-meter cafe includes indoor seating for 244, an upscale vibrant bar, a live entertainment space that will feature Istanbul's unique local music scene, and a Rock Shop.*

## DAY 2, March 18th

### **1- Breakfast and short tour of Proposed Accommodation Hotel (will be decided later)**

### **2- Site visit of Elite World Europe Hotel**

*Elite World Europe Hotel with its unique facilities and exceptional service, will be equipped with the state of the art accommodation facilities and spectacular venues designed for special gatherings, private meetings, conferences, weddings and many other memorable celebrations.*

*The accommodation facilities consist of 401 rooms and suites, 9 meeting rooms with total capacity of 2500 guests, the top 5 floor of the hotel is allocated to the "Executive Floor" with a private breakfast room and a lounge.*

### **3- Site visit of Sheraton Istanbul Atakoy Hotel**

*Sheraton Istanbul Ataköy Hotel is positioned immediately alongside Ataköy Marina and just 8 minutes from the Ataturk International Airport. Just 10 minutes from Sultanahmet, the cultural and tourism highlight of Istanbul, and 20 minutes from historic Taksim Square and Istanbul Convention Center, easy access to the area's most popular attractions are offered. Sheraton Istanbul Atakoy Hotel is a short stroll to major shopping malls such as Galleria. We offer convenient transportation options all day long to major centers and fairgrounds including CNR and TUYAP Exhibition Centers.*

### **4- Matbah lunch presents the phenomenal traditional flavours of the Ottoman Palace Cuisine in the comfort of a vibrant ambiance, the Ottoman grandeur and Turkish hospitality!**

*Welcome to Istanbul's most exquisite dining experience providing you with a selection of exclusive dishes once served at the court of the Ottoman sultans. Being located right in the middle of the historic peninsula in Istanbul and surrounded by all the major highlights; especially just stone's throw away from the mesmerizing Hagia Sophia, "Matbah". We invite you to try something "real" traditional. Something that you've never tasted before.*

### **5- A visit to the Blue Mosque (Sultanahmet)**

*Arguably the symbol of Istanbul, the **Blue Mosque** (or more correctly the Sultan Ahmet Mosque) with its signature six minarets sits across a large square in counterpoint to the Hagia Sophia. A working mosque designed by Mehmet Aga, it was opened in 1616 with the aim of rivalling the Byzantine monument opposite. More than 20,00 blue ceramic tiles, which gave it its popular name, cover the interior in over 50 tulip designs – these are the famous craftsman-made tiles of Iznik that adorn mosques, tombs and palaces across Istanbul.*

### **6- A tour of 1001 Direk Cistern**

*According to Byzantium resources, the Binbirdirek Cistern was constructed in the 4th century as the second biggest water reservoir in Istanbul after Basilica Cistern (Yerebatan Cistern). While civilizations, countries, emperors and people have been changing and the time has been going by with the speed that we cannot catch up, the 1001 Direk Cistern has been watching around with a smile for more than 1680 years as it had predicted these changes. 1001 Direk Cistern, holding a distinctive place in Istanbul's cultural and artifice life, takes a very important place especially in Congress Tourism and Incentive Groups. It is open for museum visits and a place that you can live with its all smell and texture.*

*The charming atmosphere of 1001 Direk Cistern forms special alternatives for your invitations. In the Cistern, which has the capacity of 1.200 guests in sit-down dinner set up and 3.000 guests standing cocktail, we can also entertain small groups easily as well. With our professional service understanding and our experienced sales team, we are ready to support your Gala Dinners, Incentive Groups, Meetings, Special Events, Product Launch, Fashion Shows, Exhibitions, Lunchs, Weddings, or Theme Parties that have been in your dreams. Therefore, in these events, you will not only be able to have joyful hours in a heaven-sent atmosphere, but also you will add a character to your events through this building that extends from very old times until our time.*

#### **7- A tour of Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hammam**

*The Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hammam in Istanbul was designed and built by Mimar Sinan, the chief Ottoman architect. It was built at the request of Hurrem Sultan (Roxelana), the wife of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in the 16th century (1556-1557 AD). It was built where the ancient public baths of Zeuxippus (100-200 AD) used to stand, between the Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sophia. Although the hammam was built in the classical period Ottoman bath style, it was an innovation in Turkish bath architecture to have the sections for men and women constructed on the same axis as mirror images of each other.*

#### **8- A tour of the Grand Bazaar (Kapalicarsi)**

*The **Grand Bazaar** is one of the largest covered markets in the world with 60 streets, 5,000 shops. It attracts around 250,000 and 400,000 visitors daily. It is particularly known for jewellery, hand-painted ceramics, carpets, embroideries, spices and antiques. Many of the stalls are grouped by its type, such as special areas for leather, gold jewellery etc.*

#### **9- Dinner at Nar Restaurant**

A well-deserved dinner at **Nar Restaurant**, a touch of traditional & Ottoman food in a modern setting above the Armaggan Boutique Store (we will have a very quick stroll through Armaggan)

***Nar restaurant** serves a combined selection of Turkish cuisine, introducing and re-creating foods from their historical predecessors' past palace halls, to the homes from the corners of its hinterlands. Along with traditional gourmet, the restaurant is also loved for its synthesis of tastes, flavours and its detail on the culinary art of presentation.*

### **DAY 3, March 19th**

#### **1- Breakfast at the Accommodation Hotels;**

#### **2- A tour of Sait Halim Pasha Mansion with a historic talk**

*The stunning **Sait Halim Pasha Mansion** on the Bosphorus water-front, with its preserved white-washed historic architecture and unforgettable views creates the ideal mix of beauty, class and professionalism. Combining the grandeur of its history and high-ceiling rooms equipped with the latest technology, the venue forms an ideal ground for the smooth running of unique conferences, events and weddings. This historical mansion has a maximum capacity for cocktails of 1200 guests 800 and guests in a roundtable set up but also limited groups can be received.*

### **3- A visit to Portaxe, taking in the stunning Bosphorus views and Istanbul air!**

*Portaxe caters to a variety of events including weddings with its outdoor terrace in the spring and summer months and as an indoor venue in the wintertime. Looking over a breath-taking view of the Istanbul Bosphorus,*

*Portaxe can accommodate 2500 people at open-air cocktail organizations and 1100 people in seated organizations in 550 square-meter area. At Portaxe, it has been organized 600 invitations hosting about 60 thousand people in its indoors and outdoors organizations.*

### **4- Boat tour to Ortakoy :**

*It is one of the most popular, lively and attractive neighbourhood of Besiktas, Istanbul, located just by the Bosphorus and under the Bosphorus Bridge.*

*Ortakoy is also another popular nightlife and entertainment centers of Istanbul with its variety of great cafes, bars, pubs, restaurants, shops, boutiques, baked potato & souvenir shops.*

*Ortakoy also hosts the historical heritage with its beautiful Ortakoy Mosque. Ortakoy is also one of the best places to see in Istanbul. Strolling around the Ortakoy Square, watching the crowd, having a rest and drinking tea or coffee at the various cafes and restaurants nearby the sea in the company of Bosphorus is one of the best things to do in Ortakoy.*

*Many locals prefer to buy baked potatoes from numerous cafes and eat their baked potatoes by the beautiful views of the Bosphorus. The street markets are also very popular in Ortakoy. They are held in every weekend. Visitors may enjoy and buy variety of handicrafts, souvenirs, second hand books, various great items and more...*

### **5- Lunch and Site visit of The House Café & Hotel Bosphorus:**

*The House Hotel Bosphorus hotel is located across Ortaköy Mosque in Ortaköy, a lively and vibrant neighborhood on the European side of the city best known for its food stalls and night life.*

*The House Café's food and beverage menus, hosting both Turkish and international flavours, are updated twice a year during summer and winter. Seasonal changes, world trends and customer feedbacks are evaluated in the new menu preparations. While there are minor differences among the branch menus, all The House Café branches serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. Aside from summer and winter menus, some branches serve pocket menus that offer customers weekly new flavours.*

### **Transfer to the Hotels and Free Time**

**Day 4, 20 March**  
**Departure to IT & CM CHINA**