



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

4th PLENARY SESSION OF PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY of the MEDITERRANEAN
23-25 October 2009
İstanbul, Turkey

ACCOMPANYING PERSONS PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23rd 2009

10:00 **Departure by bus from the Conrad Hotel İstanbul to “Dolmabahçe Palace”:**

During the six hundred years of Ottoman rule, the seat of the empire changed several times, from Bursa to Edirne and later to İstanbul. The site of the imperial 'palace', center of Ottoman government, changed also over the centuries in İstanbul itself. The earliest palace to post-date the Ottoman conquest of İstanbul was the Saray-ı Atik-i Âmire (the Old Palace - 1453/1478). After which the Ottoman imperial seat of government removed, at some point, to Topkapı Palace, known as the Saray-ı Cedid-i Âmire (Built between 1478 and 1856). In subsequent eras, the sultans inhabited Topkapı, the Çırağan Palace, the shore palace at Beşiktaş and Beylerbeyi Palace at various intervals, until the completion of Dolmabahçe Palace in 1856, when this became the official Ottoman seat.

In 1877 the sultan moved once again, this time to Yıldız Palace, where the Ottoman court remained until 1909. From that date until the dissolution of the sultanate in 1922, Dolmabahçe regained its status as official imperial residence. The Palace of Dolmabahçe, completed in 1856, is the third largest Ottoman Palace in İstanbul. It embodies, in its very form the social and cultural structure of the period, of which it is stylistically typical. Dolmabahçe was a prestigious addition to the urban silhouette of İstanbul built on a prominent site at the entrance to the Bosphorus. It stands at a focal point in the fast growing 19th century city, and was built at a time of increasing enthusiasm for all things occidental...

Dolmabahçe Palace has 285 rooms, 46 lounges, 6 Turkish Baths, 68 toilets, 45.000 m² of use area and 4454 m² of laid out carpet.

12:30 Guest will return to hotel by bus



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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24th 2009

14:00 Departure by bus from the Conrad Hotel İstanbul to “Grand Bazaar”:

İstanbul Grand Bazaar (*Kapalı Çarşı*, or Covered Market) is Turkey's largest covered market offering excellent shopping: beautiful Turkish carpets, glazed tiles and pottery, copper and brassware, apparel made of leather, cotton and wool, meerschaum pipes, alabaster bookends and ashtrays, and all sorts of other things.

It has been claimed that it has 4000 shops. Because of consolidation and replacement of shops by restaurants and other services the number is certainly lower, but you get the idea: it has lots of shops. Not all of them, by the way, are for tourists; locals shop here as well, lending a welcome dose of authenticity.

17:00 Guests will return to the hotel by bus



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EXCURSION PROGRAMME
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th 2009

10:00 Departure by bus from the Conrad Hotel İstanbul to
"Turkish – Islamic Arts Museum":

Turkish and Islamic Works Museum

- Turkish and Islamic Works Museum has been awarded with the Special Jury Award of Museum of the Year Competition of the European Council in 1984 and with the prize given by European Council - Unesco for its studies for making the children love the culture inheritance.

Turkish and Islamic Works Museum, that is among the important museums of the world in its class has works from almost all periods and all types of Islamic art with its collection exceeding forty thousand works.

Blue Mosque

- This mosque was built by Sultan Ahmet I during 1609-1616 in the square carrying his name in Istanbul. The architect is Sedefkar Mehmet Aga. It is the only mosque in Turkey with six minarets. The mosque is 64 x 72 m in dimensions. The central dome is 43 m in height and is 33.4 m in diameter. 260 windows surround the mosque. Due to its beautiful blue, green and white tilings it has been named the "Blue Mosque" by Europeans. The inscriptions were made by Seyyid Kasim Gubari.

Hagia Sophia

-Hagia Sophia is considered a unique monument in world architecture, and it's magnificence and functionality has been a good example in construction of countless Ottoman mosques. Hagia Sophia with its exceptional history constitutes a synthesis between east and west. This monument is one of the wonders of the world that has remained intact until the present day. One can find many attractions in Hagia Sophia - interesting forms of Byzantine architecture, mosaics of the Christian period as well as structures added during the Ottoman era.

Topkapı Palace

- Topkapı Palace is located on the promontory of the historical peninsula in Istanbul which overlooks both the Marmara Sea and the Bosphorus. The walls enclosing the palace grounds, the main gate on the land side and the first buildings were constructed during the time of Fatih Sultan Mehmet (the Conqueror) (1451 - 81). The palace has taken its present layout with the addition of new structures in the later centuries. Topkapı Palace was the official residence of the Ottoman Sultans, starting with Fatih Sultan Mehmet until 1856, when Abdulmecid moved to the Dolmabahce palace, functioned as the administrative center of the state. The Enderun section also gained importance as a school.

14:00 Lunch at "Konyalı Restaurant" at Topkapı Palace Museum

15:00 Return to the hotel