

# TOURISM BULLETIN

ASSOCIATION OF TURKISH TRAVEL AGENCIES WEEKLY TOURISM BULLETIN 18-26 MARCH / 2024

**"TÜRSAB WHATSAPP LIVE SUPPORT LINE"**  
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**"WE EXPECT AROUND 20 MILLION TRIPS"**

Firuz Bağlıkaya, President of the Board of Directors, made evaluations to Anadolu Agency about the extension of the Eid holiday to 9 days. Stating that the decision will mobilize the domestic market, he said, "We expect our citizens to make around 20 million trips during this period, including visits to hometowns and relatives." he said.

Bağlıkaya's statement was widely covered in the press.

**ORDINARY MEETING OF TÜRSAB BOARD OF DIRECTORS TOOK PLACE AT OUR CENTRAL OFFICE**

TÜRSAB Board of Directors Ordinary Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 19 at TÜRSAB Central Office with the participation of our President Firuz Bağlıkaya, Vice Presidents, Board Members and Chief Advisors to the President. Uğur Hasbahçeli, who was appointed as Chief Advisor to the President, also attended our Board of Directors meeting. We wish Mr. Hasbahçeli success in his new position and hope that it will be beneficial for our industry.

**THE MEETING WAS HELD WITH THE DELEGATION FROM GREECE HOSTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISTANBUL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ŞEKİB AVDAĞIÇ**

A meeting was held at the office of Şekib Avdağıcı with the participation of Consul General of Greece in İstanbul, Ambassador Dr. Konstantinos Koutiras, İstanbul Chamber of Commerce President Şekib Avdağıcı, TÜRSAB Board Members Yıldırım Taş and Engin Ceylan, Head of Economic and Commercial Affairs and First Undersecretary of the Consulate General of Greece in İstanbul Christos Stampouloupoulos, Theofilos Georgakis, Consul of the Visa Department, Yorgo Papayiaris, CEO of Kosmos Visa Application Center, Fatma Baysan, General Manager and Senem Cesmecioglu Erdoğan, International Relations Manager of İstanbul Chamber of Commerce. Within the scope of the meeting, projects aimed at increasing mutual trade and tourism between the two countries, commercial and touristic Greece Shengen Visa applications and problems experienced in visa procurement and solution proposals were evaluated in detail and ideas were exchanged on expected developments.

**SOUTH MARMARA RRB MET WITH TRAVEL AGENCIES OPERATING IN YALOVA AT AN İFTAR ORGANIZATION**

Our South Marmara Regional Representative Board came together with travel agencies operating in Yalova at an iftar dinner organization.

The organization hosted by Murat Saraçoğlu, President of South Marmara RRB, was attended by Davut Günaydın and Hasan Eker, Vice Presidents of TÜRSAB, Aytekin Şahinbaş, President of East Marmara RRB, Deniz Pişkin, Deputy Governor of Yalova, Ziya Karatekin, Yalova Provincial Director of Culture and Tourism, Cemil Demiryürek, President of Yalova Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In his speech at the organization, Murat Saraçoğlu made evaluations about the steps to be taken in the coming period for the development of Yalova tourism.

**NORTHEAST ANATOLIA RRB COMMITTEE VISITED ERZURUM GOVERNOR MUSTAFA ÇİFTÇİ**

Our RRB Committee, headed by our Northeast Anatolia Regional Representative Board President Nuh Senol, visited Erzurum Governor Mustafa Çiftçi in his office and conveyed their good luck wishes. During the meeting, Mr. Çiftçi emphasized the importance of Erzurum being selected as the tourism capital of 2025 by the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and consultations were held on the Law No. 1618 on Travel Agencies and regional tourism. Our RRB Committee talked about the activities planned to be carried out within the scope of our Tourism Century project implemented by our Association.

**THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST TOURISM SPECIALIZATION PRESIDENCY OF TÜRSAB WILL BE HELD IN OUR CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING ON MARCH 29TH**

TÜRSAB Middle East Tourism Specialization Presidency election will take place at our TÜRSAB Central Office located at Dikilitaş Mahallesi Aşık Kerem Sokak No: 40 Beşiktaş İstanbul on Friday, March 29, 2024 between 10.00-16.00.

Travel agency officials who wish to be a presidential candidate for the Specialization Presidency: -Must be authorized to represent and bind the company, -Must apply until March 21, 2024, and must fill in the table in the link below and send it to [ihitsasbaskanlikleri@tursab.org.tr](mailto:ihitsasbaskanlikleri@tursab.org.tr). In the election to be held, travel agency representatives working in the Middle East Tourism specialization area and who are members of TÜRSAB Middle East Tourism Specialization Presidency have the right to vote. The election will take place in the ballot box to be established on the 2nd floor of our TÜRSAB Central Office.

**ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE AUCTION OF STATE RAILWAYS GENERAL DIRECTORATE, TCDD 3RD REGIONAL DIRECTORATE TICKET SALES PLACE**

According to the letter sent to our Association by the General Directorate of State Railways, TCDD 3rd Regional Directorate;

Balkesir Province, Bandırma District, Paşabağlı Neighborhood, 2365 13/3 parcel, 15,00 m2 closed (3x5) [with container placement permission], 15,11 m2 open area, a total of 30,11 m2 immovable property will be tendered by CLOSED BID PROCEDURE to be used as [Ticket Sales Place (office)]. For detailed information; <https://www.tursab.org.tr/announcements/announcement-on-the-auction-of-state-railways-general-directorate-tcdd-3rd-regional-directorate-ticket-sales-place>

**ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE WARNING TEXT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF FIGHTING THE CRIME OF FRAUD**

In the letter sent to our Association from the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Security;

There is a need to accelerate efforts to inform the public against the crime of telephone fraud, which causes citizens to be victimized.

In line with the information activities carried out by the Public Security Department, it is stated that the attached warning text should be published on digital screens in municipal buses and intercity passenger transportation buses and on digital boards in terminals within the scope of combating the crime of fraud through communication, as well as content for traffic safety.

**THE APPLICATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROMOTION AWARDS HAS STARTED**

In the letter sent to our Association from Antalya Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism; It has been reported that candidates who will apply for the 2024 European Entrepreneurship Promotion Awards, which are sponsored by the European Commission and open to local, regional and national public institutions and organizations, public-private partnerships, universities and SMEs, should fill out the application form at [www.kosgeb.gov.tr](http://www.kosgeb.gov.tr) or in the annex and send it to the Ministry of Industry and Technology, KOSGEB Entrepreneurship Department until 1 July 2024. For detailed information; <https://www.tursab.org.tr/announcements/announcement-on-the-european-entrepreneurship-promotion-awards>

**GEORGIA DESTINATION PROMOTION AND B2B MEETING EVENT WILL BE HELD IN OUR CENTRAL OFFICE**

On Wednesday, April 17, 2024, the Consulate General of Georgia in İstanbul and the Georgian National Tourism Office will organize a Destination Promotion and B2B Meeting Event. Presentations and video screenings will be used to introduce the fascinating experience with the fabulous beauty of the Caucasus, a unique holiday destination in the heart of the natural paradise and a delicious cuisine. B2B meetings will be held to develop new collaborations regarding travel, accommodation opportunities and tour packages. In addition, Georgian food will be served.

For detailed information and participation; <https://www.tursab.org.tr/announcements/announcement-on-georgia-destination-promotion-and-b2b-meeting-event>

**VISTING HOURS OF TOPKAPI PALACE AND DOLMABAĞÇE PALACE UPDATED TO BE APPLIED ON RAMADAN EID**

According to the letter sent to our Association by the Directorate of National Palaces Administration, Department of Museology and Promotion;

In accordance with the "Procedures and Principles for Visiting, Allocation, Archive, Research and Image Taking in Palaces, Mansions, Pavilions, Museums and Historical Factories under the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey National Palaces Administration", Topkapı Palace and Dolmabahçe Palace under the National Palaces Administration will be open to visitors between 10.00-17.00 on the 1st day of Ramadan Eid (Wednesday, 10.04.2024).

Other palaces, mansions, pavilions and museums of the National Palaces will be closed to visitors.

For detailed information; <https://www.tursab.org.tr/announcements/announcement-on-the-visiting-hours-to-be-applied-on-ramadan-eid>

**NATIONAL PALACES VISITING HOURS UPDATED DUE TO LOCAL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 31**

According to the letter sent to our Association by the Directorate of National Palaces Administration, Department of Museology and Promotion;

In line with the "Procedures and Principles for Visiting, Allocation, Archive, Research and Image Taking in the Palaces, Mansions, Pavilions, Museums and Historical Factories within the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey National Palaces Administration", the opening hours of the box office of the palaces, mansions, pavilions and museums affiliated to the National Palaces Administration have been changed due to the General Election of Local Authorities to be held on Sunday, March 31st.

The opening hours of Topkapı Palace, Dolmabahçe Palace, Beyberbeyi Palace, National Palaces Painting Museum, Palace Collections Museum, İhlamur Pavilions, Maslak Pavilions, Aynalıkavak Pavilion, Küçüksu Pavilion, Beykoz Mecidiye Pavilion, National Palaces Beykoz Glass and Billur Museum, Museum of Islamic Civilizations and Ankara Palace Museum will be 10:00 on Sunday, March 31, and there will be no change in closing hours.

**"RESIDENTIAL TOURISM COMMITTEE" TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE LEASING OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS FOR TOURISM PURPOSES**

Within the scope of the decision of the Board of Directors of our Association, it has been decided to establish a "Residential Tourism Committee" regarding the rental of residences for tourism purposes. Our members who wish to take part in the Residential Tourism Committee should fill out the attached application form and send their requests to [ihitsasbaskanlikleri@tursab.org.tr](mailto:ihitsasbaskanlikleri@tursab.org.tr) in a signed and stamped form. For detailed information; <https://www.tursab.org.tr/duyurular/konut-turizmi-komitesi-kurulmasi-hakkinda-duyuru>

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE INFORMATION OFFICER EXAM CONTINUE**

Pursuant to Article 46 and following articles of the Travel Agencies Regulation

The applicant, exam date and conditions for the Information Officer Tourism Knowledge exam, foreign language written exam and foreign language oral exam have been announced. Exam applications will start on March 4, 2024 and will end on April 14, 2024 at 23:59.

For detailed information; <https://www.tursab.org.tr/duyurular/enformasyon-memurlugu-sihavi-hakkinda-duyuru-1>

**WITH TÜRSAB MOBILE APPLICATION, ALL YOUR TRANSACTIONS ARE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS**

Our TÜRSAB Mobile Application is online! It has been applied as a part of our Association's Digital Transformation and will enable you to access our TÜRSAB services in the easiest and fastest way. You may easily access many of our services for our members and consumers, such as TÜRSAB Online, TÜRSAB KART, license plate inquiry, plate status notification, Digital Verification System, QR Code Verification, and member agency inquiry, via your mobile devices, and practically perform your transactions.

You can download our TÜRSAB Mobile Application, which will provide benefits to our members and users, to your mobile devices free of charge via the links below.

**Click to download the application for free.**

**TÜRSAB AGENCY SOFTWARE**

The "TÜRSAB Agency Software" continues to be used to enable our travel agencies to easily carry out their business, maintain customer inventories, and quickly organize tour programs. Our agencies can now easily access the reservation, reporting, and customer information program via the Internet through mobile devices and computers, free of charge.

The TÜRSAB Agency Software can be used by obtaining an agency code through TÜRSAB Online from the website [www.tursabyazilim.org](http://www.tursabyazilim.org).

For more detailed information, please visit: <https://www.tursab.org.tr/uyelerimiz-50-yilimize-ozel>

**THE WORLD FULL OF ADVANTAGES OF TÜRSAB CARD IS WAITING FOR YOU!**

You are invited to the advantageous world of TÜRSAB CARD, with increasing opportunities every day, ranging from fuel to clothing, food and beverage to vehicle services, white goods to foreign language courses. You can visit our website to take advantage of the privileges of TÜRSAB CARD, apply for TÜRSAB CARD, and get detailed information about discounts. After your application, you can start using your virtual card immediately without waiting for your physical card to be delivered.

For detailed information on campaign terms and free TÜRSAB CARD application, please visit: [www.tursab.org.tr/tursab-card](http://www.tursab.org.tr/tursab-card).

**LAST WEEK**

**OUR BOARD MEMBER YILDIRIM TAŞ MADE STATEMENTS TO KANAL D**  
 Our Board Member Yıldırım Taş made statements to Kanal D. In his interview, Taş mentioned that refunds can be taken back for 30 days in case of holiday cancellations and emphasized the importance of TÜRSAB and travel agencies in safe holiday shopping.

**KARAELEMAS EXPRESS TOURISTIC TRAIN**  
 The Karaelmas Express, which is planned within the scope of cooperation efforts to develop train tourism on the "Railway to Coal-Green Route" starting from Ankara and continuing to Zonguldak via Kalecik, Çankırı and Karabük, carried out a promotional tour before the Western Black Sea Touristic Train Tour services that will start on April 12. Passengers on the Karaelmas Express had the opportunity to see the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the Western Black Sea region. You can watch the entire unique train journey on TÜRSAB TV.

**SOUTH MARMARA RRB-YALOVA İFTAR DINNER ORGANIZATION**  
 Our South Marmara Regional Representative Board came together with travel agencies operating in Yalova province at an iftar dinner organization.

**PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FIRUZ BAĞLIKAYA SPEAKS TO CCTV**  
 Our President Firuz Bağlıkaya gave an interview to CCTV, China's state-owned Central Television. Bağlıkaya emphasized that Turkish TV series broadcasted in other countries are one of the factors that develop tourism in Turkey.

**DAVUT GÜNAYDIN, OUR VICE PRESIDENT, EVALUATED THE EID HOLIDAY IN A STATEMENT TO TRT HABER**  
 Our Vice President Davut Günaydın made statements to TRT News about the Ramadan Eid holiday. Referring to the works started within the scope of the Tourism Century project implemented by our Association, Günaydın also pointed out that citizens should pay attention to whether the travel agency they buy touristic products from is a member of TÜRSAB.

**DAVUT GÜNAYDIN PUT THAT THEY EXPECT OCCUPANCY RATES TO REACH 100 PERCENT**  
 Our Vice President Davut Günaydın made a statement to CNN Turk and made evaluations about the Eid al-Fitr holiday. Referring to the expected density during the holiday period, Günaydın said, "We think that the occupancy rate will reach 100 percent in some regions."

**OUR BOARD MEMBER TALİP ALDEMİR GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO TGR7 HABER**  
 Our Board Member Talip Aldemir made statements to TGR7 News. Stating that the reservations in Cappadocia exceeded expectations with the effect of the 9-day holiday, Aldemir said, "In our Tourism Century project, which we have put forward with the vision of the Tourism Century, we will contribute more to the country's tourism by exceeding the old records in 2024."