

WELCOME TO THE HOTEL DIONYSIA



CONTACT INFORMATION

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HOTEL DIONYSIA



DIANA APARTMENTS



VILLA DIANA

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE OTHER ACCOMMODATION WE HAVE, FOR FUTURE VISITS TO KALKAN, PLEASE SPEAK TO AHMET IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- The currency of Turkey is the Turkish lira - shown as ₺
- Currently there are approximately 40 TL to £1.00 (3 April 2024)
- Many shops and restaurants happily accept Sterling, Euros and debit/credit cards.
- The hotel wifi code (for all networks around the hotel) is **aldi07960**
- The water from the taps is fine for cleaning your teeth or to make hot drinks. Bottled water is recommended for drinking.
- The hotel operates a "slate" system for your food and drinks. You can either settle your account daily or at the end of your stay. Payment, at the end of your stay, can either be in Turkish lira, Sterling or by debit/credit card.
- You may make use of the direct telephone line in your accommodation. Please note that you will be charged for calls made, aside from hotel reception.
32.....Dionysia reception
0 + local number.....Kalkan & Patara
00 + area code + local number.....National calls
000 + country code + area code + local number.....International calls
- In a lot of shops "haggling" is common place, if not expected! Shops that do not operate on this basis will usually display a sign to advise fixed prices apply.
- Thursday is market day in Kalkan, and is the ideal place to buy holiday souvenirs as well as fruit and vegetables – again haggling is the norm!
- Books and magazines are dotted around the hotel for guests to read; please feel free to help yourself to them. Maybe, if you've brought a book or magazine to read on holiday you can do a swap before you leave?
- If you are "old school" and still like to send a postcard, most shops that sell the postcards can also sell you the appropriate stamps. Alternatively the post office (PTT) is located on the main street on the way to the harbour and shops – look out for the yellow sign.
If you would prefer, bring your postcards to the office and we will post them for you.

Practical Information

BANKS & CURRENCY

NORMAL BANK OPENING TIMES ARE 08.30 TO 16.30 MONDAY TO FRIDAY WITH LUNCHTIME CLOSURE BETWEEN 12.00 AND 13.30, BUT THIS CAN VARY BETWEEN DIFFERENT BANKS.

THE BANKS WITH CASH POINT FACILITIES ARE SHOWN ON THE MAP OF KALKAN ENCLOSED IN THIS INFORMATION PACK. CASH POINT INSTRUCTIONS ARE WRITTEN IN ENGLISH ON THE SCREEN.

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS ARE WIDELY ACCEPTED IN SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS – LOOK FOR THE USUAL SIGNS ON THE DOORS. STERLING IS ALSO ACCEPTED IN SOME ESTABLISHMENTS.

ADDITIONALLY, THE HOTEL MANAGER WILL EXCHANGE CURRENCY FOR YOU – THE RATES ARE SHOWN IN THE HOTEL RECEPTION.

CRIME

TURKEY IS A VERY SAFE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY OUTSIDE OF THE CITIES, BUT ALWAYS KEEP YOUR HANDBAGS, WALLETS, MOBILE PHONES AND CAMERAS CLOSE TO YOU AT ALL TIMES.

ELECTRICITY

THE VOLTAGE IS 220 IN TURKEY, AND YOU WILL REQUIRE A STANDARD CONTINENTAL 2 PIN ADAPTOR. IF YOU REQUIRE AN ADAPTOR, PLEASE SPEAK TO THE MANAGER.

POWER CUTS ARE A COMMON FEATURE IF STRONG WINDS ARE PREVALENT.

MOSQUITOES AND OTHER PESTS

CREAMS, SPRAYS AND REPELLENTS ARE ALL AVAILABLE FROM SHOPS AND CHEMISTS.

ALSO ENSURE THAT YOU CLOSE WINDOWS AND DOORS BEFORE DUSK WHEN THE MOSQUITOES BECOME MOST ACTIVE.

NEWSPAPERS

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS ARE AVAILABLE AT MOST SUPERMARKETS – BUT ARE USUALLY 1 DAY OUT OF DATE.

PLUMBING

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE PIPES IN TURKEY ARE NARROWER THAN THOSE AT HOME, SO IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO NOT FLUSH ANYTHING DOWN THE TOILET.

POSTAGE

STAMPS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE POST OFFICE (P.T.T) AND MOST SHOPS SELLING POST CARDS WILL ALSO SELL STAMPS.

SHOPPING

GENERALLY THE SHOPS ARE OPEN FROM 09.00 TO 23.00 WITH NO LUNCHTIME CLOSING. THE LOCAL MARKET IS ON THURSDAY.

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU ARE INVITED INTO A SHOP AND OFFERED TEA, THIS IS NORMAL PRACTICE TO ALLOW A SHOPKEEPER TO SHOW YOU HIS WARES. TREAT IT AS AN EXPERIENCE AND DON'T FEEL PRESSURED TO BUY THE GOODS – A POLITE REFUSAL WILL USUALLY BE ACCEPTED WITH GOOD GRACE.

SUNBATHING

WHEN SUNBATHING, IN ADDITION TO TAKING CARE NOT TO BURN, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT TOPLESS AND NUDE SUNBATHING ARE EXTREMELY OFFENSIVE TO TURKISH PEOPLE.

SWIMMING

MOST BEACHES HAVE NO FLAG WARNING SYSTEMS OR LIFEGUARD, THEREFORE GREAT CARE MUST BE EXERCISED WHEN SWIMMING IN THE SEA AND IT IS VITAL THAT CHILDREN ARE CLOSELY SUPERVISED. THE USE OF INFLATABLE SUNBEDS AND SIMILAR ITEMS IN THE SEA CAN BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND STRONGLY DISCOURAGED.

WHEN USING THE SWIMMING POOL ALWAYS OBSERVE THE SAFETY RULES INDICATED. NEVER DIVE INTO THE POOL AND ALWAYS BE AWARE OF THE DEPTH OF EACH AREA WHICH ARE CLEARLY MARKED. NEVER RUN ON THE POOL SURROUND AS IT MAY BE SLIPPERY. PLEASE SUPERVISE CHILDREN CAREFULLY AS THE POOL IS UNATTENDED. IF THERE IS ANYTHING AROUND THE POOL WHICH GIVES YOU CAUSE FOR CONCERN, PLEASE SPEAK TO EITHER YOUR HOLIDAY REPRESENTATIVE OR THE MANAGER.

REMEMBER THAT SWIMMING AND ALCOHOL, OR ON A RECENTLY FULL STOMACH, CAN BE A LETHAL COMBINATION.

TRANSPORT

THE MAJOR FORM OF TRANSPORT IS THE DOLMUŞ (LITERALLY – STUFFED, AN APT DESCRIPTION AT BUSY TIMES). THEY ALL RUN REGULARLY FROM ONE DESIGNATED POINT TO ANOTHER, BUT CAN BE HAILED AT ANY POINT ALONG THE WAY AND A SIGN IN THE FRONT WINDOW WILL SHOW YOU THE FINAL DESTINATION. THEY ARE CHEAP AND FUN BUT NOT NECESSARILY COMFORTABLE ON LONGER JOURNEYS.

COMFORTABLE AIR CONDITIONED COACHES OPERATE ON THE LONGER JOURNEYS AND TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED TO GUARANTEE A SEAT.

TAXIS (TAKSI) ARE BRIGHT YELLOW AND METERED BUT FOR LONGER JOURNEYS IT IS ADVISABLE TO NEGOTIATE A FIXED PRICE BEFORE SETTING OFF. FARES ARE ALWAYS HIGHER AFTER MIDNIGHT. CAR HIRE CAN BE ARRANGED FOR ONE DAY OR LONGER. PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR HOLIDAY REPRESENTATIVE OR FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS, THE HOTEL MANAGER, IF YOU WISH TO HIRE A VEHICLE.

WATER

THE LOCAL WATER, WHILST SAFE TO DRINK, HAS A HIGH MINERAL CONTENT SO ALWAYS DRINK BOTTLED WATER WHICH IS CHEAP AND AVAILABLE IN ALL THE SHOPS. WATER SUPPLIES ARE NOT USUALLY A PROBLEM – EVEN DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.



KALKAN HARBOUR

SOME ADVICE FOR DRIVING IN TURKEY

PLEASE SPEAK TO KATE FOR INFORMATION REGARDING CAR HIRE.

AS WITH MOST OF EUROPE, TURKS DRIVE ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE ROAD.

DRIVING IN TURKEY CAN BE A PLEASURABLE EXPERIENCE ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE USED TO BUSY AND CONGESTED ROADS. ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT ALTHOUGH ON THE WHOLE THE ROADS ARE GOOD, LOCAL DRIVING STANDARDS AREN'T. IT IS COMMON FOR DRIVERS TO OVERTAKE ON A BEND OR THE BROW OF A HILL SO ALWAYS DRIVE SLOWLY AND BE PREPARED TO BRAKE TO LET THEM IN. IT IS ALSO COMMON FOR A DRIVER TO INDICATE LEFT AND TURN RIGHT, OR NOT INDICATE AT ALL!

IF AN ONCOMING VEHICLE FLASHES YOU IT USUALLY MEANS THAT HE IS COMING THROUGH RATHER THAN GIVING WAY TO YOU OR ALTERNATIVELY, ON THE MAIN ROAD, IT WILL MEAN THAT YOU SHOULD SLOW DOWN AS THERE IS A POLICE SPEED CONTROL AHEAD.

THE SPEED LIMIT ON MAIN ROADS IS 90 KM PER HOUR, REDUCING TO 50 IN BUILT UP AREAS, BUT SPEED RESTRICTION SIGNS ARE NOT ALWAYS VISIBLE. THERE ARE NUMEROUS POLICE SPEED CONTROLS WITH ON THE SPOT FINES (OR A REQUEST FOR A DONATION TO THE POLICEMAN'S BALL!).

IT IS NOW COMPULSORY TO WEAR SEATBELTS AND DRINK DRIVING COULD LEAD TO IMPRISONMENT.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS APPLY IN BUILT UP AREAS AND VEHICLES CAN BE TOWED AWAY AS WELL AS ATTRACTING FINES.

ALWAYS CARRY YOUR PASSPORT, DRIVING LICENCE AND CAR HIRE CONTRACT WITH YOU AS IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY THE POLICE THEY WILL NEED TO SEE THEM. **IF INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT, DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE VEHICLE BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVE.**

DRIVING THROUGH BUSY TOWNS CAN BE A LITTLE DAUNTING TO BEGIN WITH, BUT JUST TAKE CARE AND REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL NOT BE THE WORST DRIVER AROUND.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS ARE OFTEN SWITCHED OFF OR LEFT FLASHING AND THIS MEANS THAT YOU SHOULD PROCEED WITH CAUTION. ALSO BEWARE AT SOME JUNCTIONS AS IT IS NOT APPARENT WHEN THEY ARE ROUNDABOUTS AND NOT EVERYONE USES THEM AS SUCH.

SIGNPOSTS ARE OFTEN A LITTLE MISLEADING AS THEY DO NOT ALWAYS POINT IN EXACTLY THE RIGHT DIRECTION FROM EACH ANGLE AND STRAIGHT AHEAD IS OFTEN INDICATED BY A DOWNWARD, RATHER THAN UPWARD, POINTING ARROW.

FINALLY, NEVER LEAVE BELONGINGS IN AN UNATTENDED CAR, EVEN IF IT IS LOCKED AS THIS USUALLY INVALIDATES YOUR TRAVEL INSURANCE.

A to Z OF SAFETY

IN ORDER TO ENSURE A SAFE AND TROUBLE FREE HOLIDAY, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU SPEND A FEW MINUTES READING THROUGH THESE IMPORTANT GENERAL SAFETY POINTS.

BALCONIES

ALWAYS TAKE CARE ON BALCONIES, AND NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN UNSUPERVISED ON BALCONIES. IF YOU ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE SAFETY OF YOUR BALCONY PLEASE SPEAK TO EITHER YOUR HOLIDAY REPRESENTATIVE OR, FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS, THE HOTEL MANAGER.

BITES & STINGS

IF YOU HAVE AN ALLERGIC REACTION TO GENERAL BITES AND STINGS PLEASE ENSURE YOU ALWAYS CARRY YOUR MEDICATION, ESPECIALLY WHEN WALKING IN RURAL AREAS.

THE LIKELIHOOD OF BEING BITTEN BY A SNAKE IS EXTREMELY SLIM BUT IF THIS SHOULD HAPPEN TRY TO REMEMBER THE COLOUR AND ANY DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE SNAKE. SIT QUIETLY AND WATCH FOR SWELLING AND ANY INDICATION THAT POISON HAS BEEN INJECTED. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE SEVERITY OF THE BITE PLEASE CONTACT A DOCTOR AS SOON AS IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE. SCORPIONS IN TURKEY ARE NOT USUALLY DANGEROUS BUT CAN DELIVER A NASTY AND PAINFUL STING AND FOR YOUR OWN PEACE OF MIND IT IS WORTH CONTACTING A DOCTOR. STANDING ON A SEA URCHIN CAN ALSO BE VERY PAINFUL AS THE SPIKES BREAK OFF IN YOUR SKIN. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO EXTRACT THEM WITH A NEEDLE AS THIS WILL INCREASE THE PAIN. AVOID PUTTING WEIGHT ON THE FOOT AND SOAK IN WARM WATER WITH A LITTLE OLIVE OIL TO BRING THE SPIKES TO THE SURFACE.

IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT YOU ARE BADLY SCRATCHED OR BITTEN BY A CAT OR DOG, FOR YOUR OWN PEACE OF MIND, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT YOU CONSULT A DOCTOR.

CHEMISTS (ECZANE)

CHEMISTS ARE PLENTIFUL AND ARE OPEN DURING NORMAL SHOPPING HOURS. THERE IS ALWAYS A LOCAL ROTA TO PROVIDE NIGHT AND WEEKEND COVER. MOST ITEMS CAN BE BOUGHT OVER THE COUNTER WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION. PLEASE TAKE CARE THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE INGREDIENTS OF ANYTHING THAT IS OFFERED TO YOU AND DO NOT USE ANY PREPARATION THAT YOU ARE UNSURE OF WITHOUT CONSULTING A DOCTOR.

COTS & HIGHCHAIRS

LOCAL SAFETY STANDARDS VARY BUT THESE ITEMS ARE CHECKED REGULARLY. IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE COT OR HIGHCHAIR PROVIDED PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR HOLIDAY REPRESENTATIVE OR, FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS, PLEASE SPEAK TO ONE OF THE HOTEL STAFF.

DOCTORS & DENTISTS

THERE ARE GOOD ENGLISH SPEAKING DOCTORS AND DENTISTS IN THE AREA – PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR HOLIDAY REPRESENTATIVE OR, FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS, TO THE MANAGER FOR A RECOMMENDED ONE.

FIRE SAFETY

PLEASE FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH YOUR ROOM LAYOUT AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR STAY AND ESTABLISH THE WHEREABOUTS OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND YOUR BEST EMERGENCY EXIT ROUTE IN THE HOTEL. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF A FIRE VACATE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY AND LEAVE THE HOTEL STAFF AND LOCAL FIRE SERVICE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM. THE FIRE EMERGENCY NUMBER IS 112.

GAS & ELECTRICITY

EXTREME CARE MUST BE TAKEN WHEN USING GAS AND ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES. THE VOLTAGE IN TURKEY IS 220. IF YOU FEEL THAT THERE MAY BE A FAULT, PLEASE INFORM EITHER THE MANAGER OR ONE OF THE HOTEL STAFF IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT TRY TO RECTIFY THE PROBLEM YOURSELF.

STOMACH UPSETS

THESE CAN OCCUR FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, MANY OF THEM EASILY AVOIDABLE. A COMBINATION OF TOO MANY COLD, ACIDIC OR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOO MUCH UNFAMILIAR FOOD IS USUALLY THE REASON RATHER THAN ACTUAL FOOD POISONING. SOME SENSIBLE PRECAUTIONS ARE ALWAYS TO DRINK BOTTLED WATER, NEVER EAT ANYWHERE THAT HAS FOOD DISPLAYS UNREFRIGERATED OR EXPOSED TO THE AIR. BE ESPECIALLY VIGILANT WITH CHICKEN AND FISH. IF YOU DO SUFFER FROM AN UPSET STOMACH, SICKNESS OR DIARRHOEA REHYDRATING REMEDIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM CHEMISTS OR YOU CAN TRY AYRAN (YOGHURT, SALT AND WATER) THE LOCAL REMEDY. IF THE CONDITION PERSISTS FOR MORE THAN 24 HOURS PLEASE CONSULT A DOCTOR.

SUNBURN

NEVER UNDER ESTIMATE THE POWER OF THE SUN, ESPECIALLY ON CLOUDY OR WINDY DAYS OR WHEN SWIMMING. USE A HIGH FACTOR SUN CREAM AND RENEW IT REGULARLY ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU ARE IN AND OUT OF THE WATER. ALWAYS WEAR A SUNHAT AND SUNGLASSES AND DRINK PLENTY OF WATER – 2 LITRES PER DAY IS THE RECOMMENDED MINIMUM. REMEMBER TO TAKE PLENTY WHEN YOU ARE OUT WALKING OR VISITING A BEACH WITH NO CAFETERIA FACILITIES. IT IS ALSO WISE TO LIMIT YOUR ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION WHEN OUT IN THE SUN.

NATURAL YOGHURT HAS AN EXCELLENT COOLING EFFECT ON SUNBURNT SKIN AND IF YOU BEGIN TO FEEL POORLY DRINK PLENTY OF FLUIDS (NON-ALCOHOLIC) AND STAY IN A COOL DARK ROOM. IF THIS DOES NOT RELIEVE THE CONDITION PLEASE SEE A DOCTOR.

SWIMMING

MOST BEACHES HAVE NO FLAG WARNING SYSTEMS OR LIFEGUARDS THEREFORE GREAT CARE MUST BE EXERCISED WHEN SWIMMING IN THE SEA. THE USE OF INFLATABLE SUN BEDS AND SIMILAR ITEMS IN THE SEA CAN BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND SHOULD BE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED.

WHEN USING THE SWIMMING POOL ALWAYS OBSERVE THE SAFETY RULES INDICATED. NEVER DIVE INTO THE POOL AND ALWAYS BE AWARE OF THE DEPTH OF EACH AREA WHICH IS CLEARLY MARKED. NEVER RUN ON THE POOL SURROUND AS IT MAY BE SLIPPERY. IF THERE IS ANYTHING AROUND THE POOL THAT GIVES YOU CAUSE FOR CONCERN, PLEASE SPEAK TO THE MANAGER OR ONE OF THE HOTEL STAFF.

IT IS INADVISABLE TO SWIM IN THE SEA OR POOL BETWEEN 08.00 AND 19.00, AND REMEMBER THAT SWIMMING AND ALCOHOL, OR A RECENTLY FULL STOMACH, CAN BE A LETHAL COMBINATION.

USEFUL WORDS & PHRASES

ENGLISH	TURKISH	PRONUNCIATION
BEER	Bira	Beer-a
WHITE WINE	Bayaz şerap	Bay-az cher-ap
RED WINE	Kırmızı şerap	Ker-miz-er cher-ap
GLASS	Bardak	Bar-dak
BOTTLE	Şişe	She-shay
TEA	Çay	Ch-eye
APPLE TEA	Elma çay	Elmer ch-eye
INSTANT COFFEE	Nescafé	Nescafé
TURKISH COFFEE	Kahve	Car-vey
WATER	Su	Sue
ORANGE JUICE	Portakal suyu	Porter-kal sue-you
BREAD	Ekmek	Ek-mek
MILK	Süt	Soot
SUGAR	Şeker	Sheck-er
ICE	Buz	Booz
MINERAL WATER	Maden su	Mar-den sue
One beer, please	Bir bira, lütfen	Beer beer-a, lewt-fen
A glass of white wine, please	Bir bardak bayaz şerap lütfen	Beer bar-dak bay-az cher-ap, lewt-fen
A bottle of water, please	Bir şişe su, lütfen	Beer she-shay sue, lewt-fen

RELIGION AND BELIEFS

ALTHOUGH TURKEY IS OFFICIALLY A SECULAR COUNTRY ABOUT 98% OF THE POPULATION ARE MUSLIM.

PERHAPS THE MOST EVOCATIVE SOUND FOR VISITORS TO TURKEY IS THE REGULAR CALL TO PRAYER FROM THE MINARETS IN THE CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES ALIKE – ALBEIT NOW PRE-RECORDED IN MANY CASES.

DURING THE DAYTIME IT IS POSSIBLE TO VISIT A MOSQUE TO GAIN AN INSIGHT INTO THE ISLAMIC FAITH, BUT IT IS VITAL THAT YOU DEMONSTRATE PROPER RESPECT FOR THE FAITH AND ITS CUSTOMS. VISITS SHOULD NOT BE MADE AT PRAYER TIMES OR ON FRIDAY, WHICH IS STILL THEIR HOLY DAY, EVEN THOUGH SINCE ATATÜRK THE COUNTRY'S OFFICIAL DAY OF REST IS SUNDAY.

LADIES SHOULD COVER THEIR ARMS, LEGS AND HEADS AND MEN SHOULD WEAR TROUSERS RATHER THAN SHORTS. SHOES SHOULD BE REMOVED BEFORE ENTERING THE MOSQUE AND A SMALL DONATION IN THE COLLECTION BOX IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. WHEN INSIDE THE MOSQUE IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO WALK IN FRONT OF SOMEONE AT PRAYER AS YOU WILL COME BETWEEN HIM AND MECCA.

SHOULD YOU WISH TO VISIT A LOCAL MOSQUE, PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR HOLIDAY REPRESENTATIVE OR FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS, PLEASE SPEAK TO THE HOTEL MANAGER. PLEASE NOTE THAT VISITS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE AT CERTAIN TIMES OF THE DAY AND SEASON.

SEKER BAYRAMI IS A THREE DAY FESTIVAL WHEN SWEETS ARE EATEN TO CELEBRATE THE END OF THE FAST OF RAMADAN.

IN ADDITION TO RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, THE INFLUENCE OVER THE CENTURIES OF SO MANY DIFFERENT CULTURES, HAVE RESULTED IN A WHOLE HOST OF SUPERSTITIONS AND FOLKLORE.

IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT TURKS ARE BY NATURE A MODEST NATION, AND FIND OTHER PEOPLES NUDITY OFFENSIVE. TOPLESS SUNBATHING ACTUALLY CONTRAVENES THE TURKISH OBSCENITY LAW; ALBEIT A LAW NOT ENFORCED ON FOREIGN VISITORS BUT PLEASE RESPECT TURKISH TRADITIONS.

THE NAZAR BONCUK



EVERYWHERE YOU GO IN TURKEY, YOU WILL SEE THE NAZAR BONCUK, OR "EVIL EYE". THIS BLUE GLASS EYE PROTECTS FROM EVIL. HOUSES HAVE IT ABOVE THE DOOR, CARS HAVE ONE HANGING FROM THE REAR VIEW MIRROR OR ATTACHED TO THE BACK BUMPER, BABIES HAVE ONE PINNED TO THEIR CLOTHES AND THE DESIGN IS INCORPORATED INTO HUNDREDS OF EVERYDAY ITEMS – FROM PURSES – TO PROTECT YOU FROM SOMEONE WHO WISHES TO STEAL YOUR MONEY – TO FOOD CANISTERS – TO PROTECT YOUR DRIED GOODS FROM DECAY.

THE BELIEF IN THE PROTECTIVE POWERS OF THE EVIL EYE GOES BACK OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS. IT IS THOUGHT THAT THE EYE REFLECTS BACK ANY ILL INTENTIONS, EITHER DELIBERATE OR NOT, TO THE ILL WISHER. BABIES, EVEN IN THE MOST SOPHISTICATED FAMILIES, ARE ALWAYS PROTECTED BY A SMALL EVIL EYE. THE PRAISE AND COMPLIMENTS LAVISHED ON THE CHILD BY FRIENDS AND RELATIVES CAN RESULT IN JEALOUSY AND ILL WISHES, SO THE EYE OFFERS PROTECTION AND WILL CRACK IF THERE ARE BAD THOUGHTS AROUND.

A CRACKED OR BROKEN EVIL EYE IMMEDIATELY SIGNIFIES THAT SOMEONE HAS TRIED TO WISH YOU ILL BUT HAS NOT SUCCEEDED AND IT MUST BE IMMEDIATELY REPLACED WITH A NEW ONE TO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

BONCUKS COME IN EVERY SIZE IMAGINABLE. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ARE STILL HAND BLOWN AND OF THE DEEPEST BLUE. BUT WHETHER MASS PRODUCED IN A FACTORY OR HAND MADE IN AN ARTIST'S WORK SHOP IN ANATOLIA, THEIR POWER IS EQUALLY STRONG ... SO GET YOURS TODAY.

THE TURKISH FLAG



IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN THE REAL MEANING OF A FLAG; THERE ARE LEGENDS, ACTUAL STORIES, AND OUTRIGHT MISINFORMATION ABOUT THE REASON OF CERTAIN COLORS OR DESIGNS WERE PUT ON NATIONAL FLAGS. ALSO INDIVIDUALS MAY HAVE THEIR OWN INTERPRETATION OF THEIR OWN NATIONAL FLAG. RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM CAN ALSO BE EXPRESSED VIA COLOR, SUCH AS THE CRESCENT MOON WHICH IS A TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC SYMBOL.

HISTORICAL FACTS

RED HAS BEEN PROMINENT IN TURKISH FLAGS FOR 700 YEARS. THE STAR AND CRESCENT ARE MUSLIM SYMBOLS, BUT ALSO HAVE A LONG PRE-ISLAMIC PAST IN ASIA MINOR. THE BASIC FORM OF THE NATIONAL FLAG WAS APPARENTLY ESTABLISHED IN 1793 UNDER OTTOMAN SULTAN SELIM III, WHEN THE GREEN FLAGS USED BY THE NAVY WERE CHANGED TO RED AND A WHITE CRESCENT AND MULTI-POINTED STAR WERE ADDED. THE FIVE-POINTED STAR DATES FROM APPROXIMATELY 1844. EXCEPT FOR THE ISSUANCE OF DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS, NO CHANGE WAS MADE WHEN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE BECAME THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND THE CALIPHATE (RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY) WAS TERMINATED BY ATATURK. MANY TRADITIONS EXPLAIN THE STAR AND CRESCENT SYMBOL. IT IS KNOWN THAT DIANA (ARTEMIS) WAS THE PATRON GODDESS OF BYZANTIUM AND THAT HER SYMBOL WAS A MOON. IN 330, THE EMPEROR CONSTANTINE REDEDICATED THE CITY - WHICH HE CALLED CONSTANTINOPLE (TODAY'S ISTANBUL) - TO THE VIRGIN MARY, WHOSE STAR SYMBOL WAS SUPERIMPOSED OVER THE CRESCENT. IN 1453 CONSTANTINOPLE (ISTANBUL) WAS CAPTURED BY THE OTTOMAN TURKS AND RENAMED ISTANBUL, BUT ITS NEW RULERS MAY HAVE ADOPTED THE EXISTING EMBLEM FOR THEIR OWN USE.

LEGENDS

A REFLECTION OF THE MOON OCCULTING A STAR, APPEARING IN POOLS OF BLOOD AFTER THE BATTLE OF KOSOVO IN 1448, THE BATTLE DURING WHICH THE OTTOMANS DEFEATED THE CHRISTIAN FORCES AND ESTABLISHED THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN EASTERN EUROPE UNTIL THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY, LED TO THE ADOPTION OF THE TURKISH FLAG BY SULTAN MURAD II ACCORDING TO ONE LEGEND.

OTHERS REFER TO A DREAM OF THE FIRST OTTOMAN SULTAN IN WHICH A CRESCENT AND STAR APPEARED FROM HIS CHEST AND EXPANDED, PRESAGING THE DYNASTY'S SEIZURE OF CONSTANTINOPLE (ISTANBUL). THERE ARE OTHER LEGENDS EXPLAINING THE FLAG.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

- HOTEL DIONYSIA 0242 844 3681
- POLICE 155
- JANDARMA 156
- AMBULANCE 112
- FIRE 110
- FOREST FIRE 117
- TURKISH TELEPHONE OPERATOR 131
- INTERNATIONAL OPERATOR 115
- COAST GUARD 158
- BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL – ISTANBUL 0212 334 6400
- DALAMAN AIRPORT 0252 792 5291
- ANTALYA AIRPORT 0242 330 3030
- BRITISH EMBASSY – ANKARA 0312 455 3344

FOOD & DRINK

The hotel offers a range of food and drink throughout the day, and you will find menus at the poolside bar, garden bar and at the rooftop terrace a la carte restaurant.

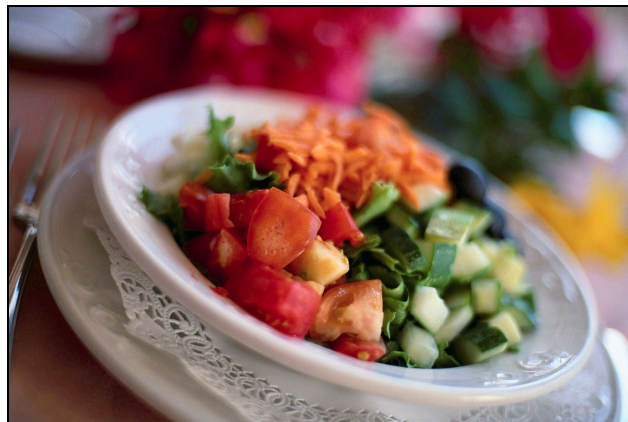
The hotel offers a traditional Turkish style breakfast with bread, cheese, olives, fruit, yoghurt, cucumber, tomatoes, honey and jam on offer, with plenty of tea and coffee. Additionally you can enjoy cereal and eggs cooked in a variety of ways.

Additionally you may order items such as full English breakfast, orange juice, omelets etc., at an additional price.

Kalkan has a wealth of restaurants for dining in the evenings ... you are sure to find something to suit every palate and wallet in the town, from small cafes offering traditional Turkish dishes right through to harbour front eateries offering fine international cuisine.

It is difficult for us to make recommendations for where to eat, as everyone has their favourite places, but do speak to us if you are eating at a particular restaurant as we can telephone and reserve a table for you (subject to availability at the eaterie).

For a different dining experience why not try one of the trout restaurants located in the mountains just outside of Kalkan. With stunning views and excellent cuisine they are well worth a visit. Also due to their mountain locations they are ideal for a cooling place to eat at during the hot summer months. They open both at lunch time and also evening meals. If you are interested in going to a trout farm restaurant please speak to Ahmet with regards to transport to and from the restaurants. They are located about 10km outside of Kalkan at a village called Islamlar. These restaurants are wonderful to visit for lunch on a hot day as their mountain location means it is cooler than in the town.



As they say in Turkey ... Afiyet Olsun (enjoy your meal)!

Food and Drink in Turkey

Turkish cuisine has evolved from many influences and at its finest is recognised as amongst the best in the world. The scale of the country and the range of climatic zones means that Turkey can be self sufficient in food productions and the influences of the many cultures have produced a wide range of regional, traditional dishes. The Ottoman Sultans placed great importance on food and the grand houses of the time followed the example of the palaces. They, in turn, would open their houses during festivals to anyone who cared to stop by and this in turn filtered down to the ordinary people.

Today there are countless places for the visitor to eat ranging from high class restaurants to small traditional "lokantas" as well as a wide selection of cafes and fast food outlets serving international food of all standards. Here is a short guide for those wishing to eschew international dishes and eat in the traditional Turkish way.

BREAKFAST

"Kahvaltı" will normally consist of fresh bread, olives, tomatoes, cheese and sometimes a boiled egg.

MEZE (hors d'oeuvres)

Often such a tempting and varied display that a selection can be a meal in itself, especially for vegetarians. Some example of the dishes are:

Cacık – yoghurt with cucumber, garlic, herbs and watercress

Sigara börek – cheese and herbs wrapped in filo type pastry (yufka)

Piyaz – haricot bean salad Turşu – pickled vegetables

Dolma – stuffed vegetables – peppers, cabbage, vine leaves or tomatoes

Imam bayıldı – aubergines stuffed with minced meat, onion and tomato

Octopus, squid, fish and a variety of salads also feature prominently

MEAT

Lamb is the most commonly eaten meat in Turkey, but chicken and beef are also widely available. Pork can be unavailable ... but as Kalkan attracts a large number of British tourists you will find bacon and pork served in quite a few of the restaurants in the town. Kebabs are a traditional way of serving meat, dating from the time of the nomadic Turks who grilled them over camp fires. The varieties are numerous and are generally named after the area of their origin. Some examples are:

Adana kebab – spicy with a sprinkling of purple sumac

İskender kebab – döner lamb on bread, topped with tomato sauce and yoghurt

Köfte – spiced meatballs which come in a number of different varieties

Karsışık ızgara – mixed grill

VEGETARIAN DISHES

A great deal of Turkish food is suitable for vegetarians as Turkish people cook in vegetable and olive oil and use seasonal vegetables. Turkish pilau rice is especially good, as are the cracked and bulgar wheat pilau dishes.

FISH AND SEAFOOD

There is a huge variety of fish, depending on the season and conditions. It is normally more expensive than meat and priced by weight. The normal etiquette in a fish restaurant, after being seated, is to visit the display, choose your fish, have it weighed and establish both the price and the way you would like it prepared and cooked.

SNACKS

Popular Turkish snacks and "fast food" are:

Gözleme – flat bread stuffed and rolled, usually with cheese and herbs

Lahmacun – thin pizza with minced meat on top, rolled up to eat

Pide – Turkish pizza

Street vendors sell a variety of other traditional snacks such as corn on the cob, roasted nuts and mussels stuffed with rice ... however do be careful with shellfish.

DESSERTS

Turkish people have a very sweet tooth so there are a number of sticky desserts with names like "Lips of the beloved" and "Lady's Navel". Milky desserts such as rice pudding and crème caramel are common as well as pastries, baklava (filo type pastry with honey and pistachio nuts) and of course, ice cream. Fresh fruit is still the most popular dessert, and a beautifully presented, peeled and sliced seasonal selection is usually brought to the table.

DRINKS

Çay – Turkish tea is served strong and without milk in a small tulip shaped glass with sugar lumps on the saucer. If you like weak tea, ask for "açık çay".

Elma çay – this apple tea is usually served to you whilst shopping, but is rarely drunk by the local people

Kahve – Turkish coffee is thick and strong with a sediment, often used to tell your fortune. It is served in tiny cups and you can ask for "sade" (without sugar), "orta şekerli" (medium sweet) or "çok şekerli" (very sweet).

Ayran – This yoghurt and water drink is mixed with a little salt and served chilled. It is an excellent drink for the summer to counteract the hot weather and sweating salts from the body.

Wine – Turkey's climate is good for wine production but this is not fully exploited due to the country's Muslim religion. White wine is "beyaz", red is "kırmızı" and rose is "pembe". The brand, Angora, is an excellent wine and widely available in Kalkan

Raki – Known locally as "lions milk", raki is the national drink. It was originally developed as a literal way around the Koran's ban on the fermented grape. It is a clear aniseed tasting spirit which changes to a milky white once you add water.

Spirits – Local brands of gin (cin), vodka (votka), and brandy (konyak) are good value as the imported brands are heavily taxed.