



## High Level Conference on the Future of the European Court of Human Rights



### SOCIAL TOURS

The Turkish Chairmanship would like to invite you to social activities organized on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 on the occasion of the High Level Conference on the Future of the European Court of Human Rights in Izmir.

Participants are kindly requested to inform organizers **by 22 April 2011** at the latest and send this form to Ms. Bahar AKBULUT by e-mail ([bahar@markakongre.com](mailto:bahar@markakongre.com))

Please note that social programmes may change due to participation and weather conditions.

### GUEST DETAILS

Mr.  Ms.

NAME – LASTNAME:

DELEGATION:

GSM:

### TOUR PARTICIPATION DETAILS

**Please check the box(es) convenient for you:**

- TOUR 1:** HOUSE OF VIRGIN MARY & EPHEBUS & SIRINCE VILLAGE (25 April 2011)
- TOUR 2:** ALAÇATI – ÇEŞME (26 April 2011) (**Alternative 1 for spouses**)
- TOUR 3:** SPA & HAMMAM DAY (26 April 2011) (**Alternative 2 for spouses**)

## SOCIAL TOURS

### TOUR 1 – EPHEBUS – VIRGIN MARY’S HOUSE – SIRINCE

Tour Date: 25 April 2011

DRAFT PROGRAMME\*

08:50 – 09:00 Meeting at the hotel lobby (Buses will leave from Swissôtel)  
 09:00 – 10:30 Transfer by bus from Izmir to Ephesus  
 10:30 – 10:45 Arrival at the House of Virgin Mary  
 10:45 – 11:15 Visiting House of Virgin Mary  
 11.15 – 11:30 Arrival at Ephesus ancient city  
 11:30 – 13:15 Visiting Ephesus  
 13:15 – 13:30 Arrival at Sirince  
 13:30 – 14:45 Lunch at Sirince  
 14:45 – 16:30 Free time and wine tasting in Sirince  
 16:30 – 18:00 Arrival at the Swissotel in Izmir

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Ephesus:** An ancient Greek and Roman city, on the west coast of Asia Minor, near present-day Selçuk, Izmir Province, Turkey. It was one of the twelve cities of the Ionian League during the Classical Greek era. In the Roman period, for many years it was the second largest city of the Roman Empire; ranking behind Rome, the empire's capital. Ephesus had a population of more than 250,000 in the 1st century BC, which also made it the second largest city in the world.

The city was famed for the Temple of Artemis (completed around 550 BC), one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The temple was destroyed in 401 AD by a mob led by St. John Chrysostom. Emperor Constantine I rebuilt the city and erected new public baths. The town was again partially destroyed by an earthquake in 614 AD. The city's importance as a commercial center declined as the harbour was slowly silted up by the Cayster River (Küçük Menderes).

Ephesus was one of the seven churches of Asia that are cited in the Book of Revelation. The Gospel of John may have been written here. It is also known as the site of gladiators' graveyard.

Today's archaeological site lies 3 km southwest of the town of Selçuk, in the Selçuk district of Izmir Province, Turkey.

**The House of the Virgin Mary:** A Christian and Muslim shrine located on Mt. Koressos (Turkish: Bulbuldagi, "Mount Nightingale") in the vicinity of Ephesus, in modern-day Selçuk Turkey (7 kilometres from Selçuk).

It is believed that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken to this stone house by Saint John and lived there until her Assumption (according to Catholic doctrine), or Dormition (according to Orthodox belief).

**Sirince** is a village of 600 inhabitants in Izmir Province, located about 6 kilometres east of the town Selçuk. It was settled when Ephesus was abandoned in the 15th century but most of what one sees today dates from the 19th century. There is a story that the village was settled by freed Greek slaves who named the village Cirkince (meaning "ugly" in Turkish) to deter others from following them. The village's name was changed to Sirince (meaning "pretty") in 1926 by the governor of Izmir Province. Sirince is famous with fruit wines.

**TOUR 2: ALAÇATI – ÇEŞME (Alternative 1 for spouses)**

**Tour Date: 26 April 2011**

DRAFT PROGRAMME\*

08:50 – 09:00 Meeting at the hotel lobby (Buses will leave from Swissôtel)

09:00 – 10:15 Transfer by bus from Izmir to Alacati

10:15 – 12:30 Free time and sightseeing in Alacati

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch at Alacati

14:00 – 14:15 Arrival at Cesme

14:15 – 16:30 Free time and sightseeing in Cesme

16:30 – 17:30 Transfer to the Swissotel in Izmir

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Alacati** is a unique Aegean town on the western coast of Izmir Province, which has been famous for its architecture, vineyards and windmills for over 150 years. It has now made its name in the world of windsurfing and kite surfing, with its crystal clear water, consistent and steady wind and well acclaimed Turkish hospitality.

There are numerous stories about the name Alacati. According to some, Alacati is the name only for the harbour area which is about two kilometres from the old town. Some claim that the name for the town was Agrilia, and there is also another name Alaca At (Red Horse) used for the whole area. Their claim is based on a story, that the ruler of Alacati had a red horse to ride. When riding the horse, bystanders would refer to him as "Alacaatli (the man with the red horse)", in time the name was somehow changed to Alacati.

During the exchange of ethnics between Balkan countries and Turkey, Turkish refugees from the Balkans were settled here, and ever since then the name Alacati has been adopted both for the town and the harbour area. The harbour area was the export port of Izmir until World War II. After the war the harbour's use declined, and the bay, in which the harbour was, is now popular with windsurfers.

**Cesme** is a coastal town and the centre-town of the district of the same name in Turkey's western-most end. It is a popular holiday resort and the district centre. The name "Cesme" means "fountain" and possibly draws reference from the many Ottoman fountains scattered across the city.

Its name in Classical antiquity was Kysos under the Romans, possibly a mere locality at the time. The name Kysos is nevertheless associated with Homer since the king Rhesus of Thrace, ally of the Trojans during the Trojan War and slain together with twelve of his men by Diomedes who had plotted with Odysseus to steal the magnificent horses of the Thracians, had his wife Argantona (sometimes also spelled as Argantone), a mythical beauty and a master of animals like her husband, who inhabited the forests of Kysos.

The town itself dominated by Cesme Castle. While the castle is recorded to have been considerably extended and strengthened during the reign of Ottoman Sultan Bayezid II, sources differ as to their citation of the original builders, whether the Genoese or the Turks at an earlier time after the early 15th century capture.

A few paces south of the castle, there is an Ottoman caravanserai built in the early centuries of the Ottoman conquest in 1528 by the order of Süleyman the Magnificent, and it is now restored and transformed into a boutique hotel. The imposing but redundant 19th century Greek Orthodox church of Ayios Haralambos is used for temporary exhibitions. Along some of the back streets of the town are old Ottoman or Greek houses, as well as Sakiz house-type residences of more peculiar lines, for the interest of strollers.



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### **TOUR 3: SPA & HAMMAM DAY (Alternative 2 for spouses)**

**Tour Date: 26 April 2011**

DRAFT PROGRAMME\*

- 09:50 – 10:00 Meeting at the hotel lobby (Buses will leave from Swissôtel)  
10:00 – 10:20 Transfer by bus from Swissôtel Grand Efes to Kaya Izmir Thermal Center  
10:20 – 16:30 Free time at the spa center  
*Lunch and snack buffet will be served at the spa.*  
16:30 – 17:00 Transfer to the Swissotel in Izmir

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Kaya Izmir Thermal Center is the best address to spend time in a spa and to have a Turkish hammam experience in Izmir. Guests may spend their day resting and enjoying open buffet snacks.

Thermal Centre offers special massage and treat packages.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

\* Social programme may change due to participation and weather conditions.

**In April the temperature in Izmir usually ranges between 20 – 24 degrees Celsius during day. For Tour 1 and 2, participants are recommended to bring a hat and a bottle of water with them. They are also advised to wear comfortable shoes for long walks.**

For participation in social activities please contact:

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Reservations should be made by **22 April 2011** at the latest.