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Ramazan in Istanbul...An Iftar to Remember

Spending time in Turkey during Ramadan is a top choice for cultural travelers

Dubai - May 28, 2018: Ramadan a magical time for the Muslim world. Travelers looking for a truly authentic Muslim cultural experience know that Ramadan is the month to soak in traditions and seasonal cultural happenings, including succulent food. [Spending time in Turkey](http://www.tcfnewswire.net/en/company/turkey-tourism) during Ramadan is a top choice for cultural travelers.

In Turkey, Ramadan, known locally as Ramazan, is considered a season of peace. A time for family and friends to get together and spend quality time, enjoying the traditions of the season and specialized cuisine.

So if you find yourself in Istanbul this [Ramazan season](http://www.tcfnewswire.net/en/company/turkey-tourism/features/eid-travel-turkish-delight), be sure to enjoy a home cooked Iftar meal, and spend long periods eating a wide array of delicious food, while talking and family socializing. And since this Ramazan falls in the summer, travelers will experience very pleasant and mild weather.

When the cannon strikes to announce Maghrib, the fasting would usually break their fast with water and a few Medjool dates, the traditional way. After a few minutes, red lentil soup, which is like the national soup of Turkey, with a twist of lemon juice, leads the menu of dishes to come.

The soup is usually accompanied by a piece of Pide bread, a Turkish flatbread prepared traditionally during Ramazan. Pide bread is merged with numerous toppings and baked, usually in a stone oven.

Along with the fresh Pide bread, the Iftar table would be adorned with small plates containing black and green olives, Turkish white cheese, fresh and aged ka_ar cheese, spiced beef slices, known as past_rma and a plate of peeled, sliced tomatoes and cucumbers.

Cold dishes, like Turkish-style artichoke bottoms called Zeytinya_I_Enginar, which can be served as an alternative to salads, with light flavors, enough seasoning and fresh dill, always a Ramazan favourite.

After a short break, you will be presented with an array of main courses that are usually shared. These include highly popular dishes such as Karn_yar_k, a homestyle featuring eggplant and ground beef. The meat is browned with tomatoes, onions and garlic before being stuffed into the eggplant and baked to perfection.

Another favourite is 'Kuzu Tand_r', the most beloved lamb dish in Turkey. The name Tand_r comes from the ancient cooking technique where the meat is cooked in a special pit in the ground that, after smoldering wood is added to the bottom of the pit and sealed shut, acts like a natural oven. The lamb is suspended in the pit by hooks over the hot coals for hours on end.



The meal comes to an end with a selection of classic Turkish desserts and Turkish coffee or tea. Turkish 'Kazandibi' dessert, which means 'bottom of the pan' is a milk-based pudding that is cooked especially to stick to the bottom of the pan to create a caramelized layer that is scraped off the face of the pan in long, wide strips. The 'Kazandibi' is the folded into portions with the darkened side up to make a roll.

Istanbul is also very well known for its group, outdoor Iftar experiences during Ramazan. For example, the Hippodrome in Sultanahmet would be set up with food stalls for people to buy food from to break their fast, or they bring their own food from home and break their fast and picnic in the Square.

The area would be packed from Iftar time into the late evening. Despite being very crowded, the experience is wonderful and the food is very traditional and authentic. Streets and mosques are illuminated with festive lights and as the sun sets and darkness comes down on the city, the atmosphere takes on a festive ambiance, with families and friends coming together to break their fast and soak in their surroundings.

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About Turkish Cultural and Tourism Office:

The Turkish Cultural and Tourism Office in Dubai is the official representative of the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism. One of the main aims of the Tourism Office is to bridge the gap between cultures and foster relationships with the travel industry by organising promotional activities throughout the GCC. The Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism participates in travel exhibitions and conferences to position the country as a leading tourist destination. With its breath-taking views, unique historical and archaeological sites, steadily improving hotel and touristic infrastructure and a tradition of hospitality and competitive prices, it's no wonder Turkey is among the most sought-after travel destinations in the world.

The primary functions of The Turkish Cultural and Tourism Office in Dubai are:

- Supervises all promotional activities relating to Turkey in the GCC
- Liaise with travel agencies
- Organises roadshows to further promote Turkey as a destination for leisure, shopping, health, sports and invest in the MICE (meetings, incentives, conference and exhibitions) Middle East market.

To read aggregated news about Turkish Tourism please click "here": http://www.tcf-me.com/client_portal/turkey-tourism/content_items

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