



# SPUS ISTANBUL 2023 SOCIAL PROGRAM

## October Weather Forecast:

(Changes might occur, all in Celcius)

5 October **+20°+16°**

6 October **+20°+16°**

7 October **+21°+16°**

8 October **+20°+16°**

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### ALL

Following the Business Meeting at 18:00, all will meet in the Geneva room for a presentation by Nil Tekgül on Ottoman History. Just before we proceed to the hotel's rooftop for the welcome reception, Tony Khoury will deliver a brief 5-minute talk about our upcoming meeting on the River Nile in 2024.

19:30 - 21:30 Cocktail on the Roof of Swissotel – full open buffet dinner.

**Dress code:** Smart Casual (shawl/jacket might be necessary due to end of summer, early fall breezy nights)

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Dress code:** Extremely comfortable shoes and outfits, depending on the weather, a shawl or an extra jacket might be necessary for the night.

### PARTNERS

09:30 - Departure from the Swissotel by bus

10:15 - 11:30 - Arrival at the Grand Bazaar and Roof Visit (Visit lasts 15 minutes for each group of 10 people) The roof is where they have shot one of the Bond movies with Daniel Craig. It has exceptionally beautiful view of old city part of Istanbul.

11:30 - 12:30 - Grand Bazaar (Kapalı Çarşı) Tour

The Grand Bazaar was established in 1455 by Mehmed the Conqueror shortly after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople (now Istanbul). It was designed as a center for trade and commerce, and over the centuries, it grew into a sprawling complex of covered streets, alleys, and courtyards.



The Grand Bazaar's architecture is a blend of Ottoman and Byzantine styles. The market is known for its intricate and colorful mosaics, ornate decorations, and impressive domes. The interior is a labyrinth of narrow alleys and passages lined with thousands of shops.

The Grand Bazaar is famous for its wide range of products. Visitors can find everything from traditional Turkish carpets, jewelry, textiles, ceramics, spices, and leather goods to modern items like clothing, accessories, and souvenirs. The market is known for its craftsmanship and the quality of its goods, making it a popular destination for both tourists and locals.

*If you'd like to buy things like carpets, leather goods, please let us know in advance so we could make an appointment with the trusted stores that we know are legitimate.*

Grand Bazaar to Galeyan: 10 minutes walk

12:45 - 14:00 Lunch at Galeyan Restaurant

Tasting Menu

PU's leaving Swissotel at 13:15

Galeyan to Basilica Cistern: 10 minutes walk

**Basilica Cistern is where we will meet the rest of the party who will only have a half day scientific meeting on Friday.**

**ALL**

14:15 - 15:15 Visit to Basilica Cistern (Yerebatan Sarnıcı)

The Basilica Cistern, known as "Yerebatan Sarnıcı" in Turkish, is an ancient underground water reservoir located in the historic district of Sultanahmet in Istanbul, Turkey. It is one of the city's most intriguing and atmospheric historical sites.

The cistern was built during the reign of Emperor Justinian I in the 6th century, during the Byzantine period. Its purpose was to store and supply water to the Great Palace of Constantinople and other buildings in the area. The cistern gets its name from the fact that it was constructed beneath a former basilica, which no longer stands today.

The Basilica Cistern is an awe-inspiring example of Byzantine engineering and architecture. It measures approximately 138 meters (453 feet) in length and 64.6 meters (212 feet) in width, with a capacity to hold around 80,000 cubic meters of water.

Columns: The cistern is supported by a forest of 336 marble columns, each standing around 9 meters tall. These columns are not uniform; they were sourced from various places, and their designs are eclectic, including Ionic, Corinthian, and Doric styles.



Medusa Heads: Two large Medusa heads, which were repurposed from earlier structures, can be seen in the northwest corner of the cistern. One head is placed sideways and the other is upside down, adding to the mysterious atmosphere of the place.

Visiting the Basilica Cistern feels like stepping into another world. The dim lighting, cool air, and reflections on the water's surface create an enchanting and somewhat eerie ambiance. The sound of dripping water and the quiet echoes of footsteps add to the experience.

The Basilica Cistern's unique atmosphere has attracted attention from various forms of media. It has been featured in movies like "From Russia with Love" and "Inferno," as well as in video games and literature.

Basilica Cistern to Archaeology Museum: 15 minutes walk

15:30 - 16:30 Visit to Archaeology Museum-

The Istanbul Archaeology Museums are among the oldest and most important archaeological museums in the world. The collection dates back to the mid-19th century and originated during the Ottoman Empire.

The complex consists of three separate museums: the Archaeological Museum, which contains artifacts from ancient civilizations such as Greek, Roman, and Byzantine; the Museum of the Ancient Orient, which focuses on artifacts from Mesopotamia, Anatolia, and Egypt; and the Tiled Kiosk Museum, which exhibits Ottoman tiles and ceramics.

The museums house an impressive collection of artifacts, including sculptures, sarcophagi, pottery, coins, jewelry, and more. These artifacts span a wide range of historical periods, from prehistoric times to the Ottoman Empire.

16:30 - 17:30 After few minutes of walk we will go to Sultanahmet Square to visit Hagia Sophia, and Blue Mosque from outside for photos and information.

17:30 - Transfer to the Hotel (Eventough we'd like to go directly from here to the boat, Nil and Lale insisted we stop by in the hotel even for 15 minutes to change before the boat trip )

19:15 - Transfer from the Hotel to Kabataş by bus

19:30 - 23:00 - Dinner Cruise- Cocktail followed seated dinner

**Dress Code:** Casual, comfortable shoes, shawl and extra jacket in case it might be a bit chilly.



## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### **PARTNERS**

**Dress Code:** Casual, comfortable shoes

09:00 - 12:30 Ali Saraç / Ebru Workshop (Swisshotel)

Ebru, also known as paper marbling, is a traditional Turkish art form that involves creating colorful patterns and designs on water's surface and transferring them onto paper or other surfaces. It's a unique and mesmerizing artistic technique that has been practiced for centuries. We will have a workshop by the Ebru Artist Ali Saraç to provide us with the opportunity to learn and experience this fascinating art form firsthand.

13:30 - Departure from the Swissotel

14:00 - Tour at Balat Area

Balat is a historic neighborhood in Istanbul, known for its colorful houses, diverse culture, and rich history. It's a destination for exploring the city's unique neighborhoods and experiencing its authentic atmosphere.

Balat is situated on the European side of Istanbul, along the western bank of the Golden Horn. It's relatively close to other historic neighborhoods like Sultanahmet and Eminönü

Balat is characterized by its narrow cobblestone streets, colorful houses, and a distinct blend of cultures and religions. The neighborhood has a rich history of hosting various communities, including Jewish, Greek, and Armenian populations. This diversity is reflected in the architecture, religious buildings, and cultural heritage of the area.

Bulgarian Church to Patriarchate: 10 minutes walk

14:30 Visit to the Patriarchate

14:30 - 15:00 Walk in Balat

15:00 - 15:45 Free Time for Photos and Coffee Break

15:45 Departure to Koç Museum by bus

16:15 Arrival at Koç Museum

16:15 - 17:15 Museum Visit

17:30 Transfer to Swissotel

18:15 Arrival at Swissotel



## ALL

Saturday Night Gala Dinner 20:00 – Swissotel  
Dinner&Dance

Dress Code: Formal

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**(Optional to all who are staying, we will make reservations according to demand, please fill in the excel form mentioned in the mail)**

**Dress Code:** Casual, comfortable

9:30-12:30

**Kılıç Ali Paşa Hamamı:**

For those who are staying and are willing to participate we will organise a hamam visit (this item will be extra and paid by everyone individually)

We will need to know the number of people going beforehand to make a reservation.

Scrubs: 50 USD Scrubs+Massage 100 USD

**Kılıç Ali Paşa Hamamı**, often referred to as Kılıç Ali Pasha's Hamam, is a historic Turkish bathhouse located in the Tophane neighborhood of Istanbul, Turkey. It's one of the most well-preserved and beautiful hamams in the city, known for its stunning architecture, historical significance, and contemporary use as a spa and cultural venue.

Kılıç Ali Paşa Hamamı was commissioned by Kılıç Ali Pasha, an Ottoman admiral, during the 16th century. It was designed by the renowned Ottoman architect Mimar Sinan and completed in 1580. The hamam served as a place of relaxation and socialization for sailors and the Ottoman navy during the era. It's a testament to the architectural and engineering brilliance of the Ottoman Empire's golden age.

The hamam's architecture is a prime example of Ottoman classical design. Its exterior features a symmetrical and elegant facade with intricate stonework and decorative elements. Inside, the hamam follows the traditional layout of Turkish bathhouses, with separate sections for men and women.

The main hall of the hamam is particularly impressive, with a large central dome and smaller domes that allow for a stunning play of light. The marble used in the construction adds to the sense of luxury and grandeur. The attention to detail in the decorative elements, including calligraphy and tilework, showcases the artistic mastery of the time.

After centuries of use, Kılıç Ali Paşa Hamamı underwent extensive restoration efforts to bring it back to its original splendor. The restoration project aimed to preserve the hamam's historical and architectural significance while adapting it for modern use. Today, the hamam serves as both a cultural monument and a luxurious spa where visitors can experience traditional Turkish baths and relaxation treatments.



Visitors to Kılıç Ali Paşa Hamamı can enjoy a variety of traditional Turkish bath experiences, which typically include a series of steam rooms, hot and cold pools, scrubbing, and massage. The soothing and rejuvenating rituals are designed to cleanse the body and provide a sense of relaxation.

A Turkish hammam, also known as a Turkish bath, is a traditional bathing and cleansing ritual that has been a significant part of Turkish culture for centuries. It combines elements of bathing, relaxation, and social interaction, and it's an experience that reflects the historical importance of bathing in Turkish society. It is not just about cleanliness but also about relaxation, rejuvenation, and cultural immersion. It's an opportunity to disconnect from the outside world and focus on self-care while indulging in a centuries-old tradition that continues to be an integral part of Turkish lifestyle and wellness.

12:30 Walk to lunch (15 min)

13:00: Lunch by Serdar& Nil @ Galataport - Liman Restaurant  
(Those who will not go to Hammam could go to lunch directly from the Hotel)