



EDIRNE TOUR GUIDE

(1 NIGHT ACCOMMODATION)



DAY 1: HIDIRLIK BASTIONS - BALKAN HISTORY MUSEUM - COMPLEX OF SULTAN BAYEZID II HEALTH MUSEUM - SARAYIÇI SVETİ CONSTANTINE AND HELENA CHURCH – KARAAĞAÇ

After our journey, we arrive in Edirne. Our first stop will be Hıdırlık Bastions, which was used as a centre of Edirne's defence during the Balkan Wars. The Bastions, built on the highest hill of Edirne, have been turned into the Balkan History Museum. In the museum, we witness the history of the Ottoman Empire's domination of the Balkans, the painful memories of the Balkan Wars and the heroic defence of Edirne. At the same time, we can watch the city of Edirne from Hıdırlık Hill. After meeting on the bus again at the specified time, we moved to our next stop, **Bayezid II Complex Health Museum**.

The complex building, built by Bayezid II, the son of Mehmet the Conqueror, is an important historical building that reflects the Ottoman State's management concept to the present day. The almshouse, hospital and medrese parts of the complex area have been designed as museums. In the Medrese-i Etibba part, we see scenes related to education; in the hospital part, we see the treatment where music and water are also used; and in the almshouse part, we see scenes related to Ottoman culinary culture. The mosque inside the complex is also worth visiting with its interior decorations and single dome structure.

After finishing our museum visit, we are heading to the **Sarayiçi** region, where the tradition of Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling started in Edirne and named after Saray-ı Cedid, the administration centre of the Ottoman Empire before Topkapı Palace. In the region where the Tunca River flows in two branches, we start walking over the Kanuni Bridge built on one of these branches and reach the other branch of the river by seeing the statues of the legendary chief wrestler, Kırkpınar Aghas and the Red Bottom Candle. Due to the transfer of Edirne Saray-ı Cedid to the Presidency of National Palaces and the ongoing renovation works, we see Fatih Bridge, Justice Tower, Matbah-ı Amire; Cihannüma Pavilion, Babüssaade, Balkan Martyrdom from the opposite coast.

Continuation of our tour, we visit the **Sveti Constantine and Helena Bulgarian Orthodox Church**, one of the two churches built in the name of the Bulgarians who lived in Edirne until the population exchange. In the church, named after the Roman Emperor Constantine and his mother Elena, who liberalized Christianity in Rome, we learn about Orthodox culture and Christianity.

We are heading to the west of the Meriç River to end our first day spent getting to know the history and culture of Edirne in Karaağaç, which joined the territory of Türkiye with the Treaty of Lausanne. Our first stop here will be Karaağaç Railway Station. We see and take photographs of the Historical Station building, one of the works of Architect Kemaleddin, the old waiting hall, which has been restored as the Natural History Museum, and the Lausanne Peace Monument, a gift of the Faculty of Fine Arts to the region. From here, we are heading to the edge of the Meriç River. On our way, we arrive at the riverside accompanied by the Gendarmerie Martyrdom, Gendarmerie Police Station, record holder fried liver (Tava Ciğer), and lavender gardens, which we see from the car. In the specified free time, our guests can walk on the bridge or drink beside the river.

After our free time, we go to our hotel.

Hıdırlık Bastions

Don't forget to enjoy the view of the city of Edirne from Hıdırlık Hill!



We are heading to the Sarayiçi region, where the tradition of Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling began and where competitions are still organized today.



Sarayiçi

We have arrived at Sarayiçi, which takes its name from Saray-ı Cedid, the former administrative center of the Ottoman Empire before Topkapı Palace.



Due to renovation, we are able to view Fatih Bridge, Tower of Justice, Matbah-ı Amire, Cihannüma Kasrı, Babüssaade, and Balkan Martyrs' Cemetery from the opposite shore.

Karaağaç

Crossing to the west of the Meriç River, we first visit Karaağaç Train Station. We take photos of the Treaty of Lausanne Monument and enjoy free time by the riverside.



Complex of Sultan Bayezid II Health Museum

We will visit an impressive historical artifact that reflects the governing philosophy of the Ottoman Empire and is worth seeing even in today's times.



Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen

During this stop, we are acquiring information about Orthodox culture and Christianity.

DAY 2: SELİMİYE MOSQUE - MURADIYE MOSQUE - NECMİ İĞE HOUSE ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM - ARCHEOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM OF EDİRNE CITY MUSEUM - OLD MOSQUE – MOSQUE WITH THREE BALCONIES GREAT SYNAGOGUE OF EDİRNE

After breakfast at the hotel, we are heading to Edirne city centre. On this day of our trip, where we will have the opportunity to get to know the city more closely, we start our journey on foot. During our walk, we see artefacts of the Ottoman Empire's architectural development through mosques, commercial development through bazaars serving different purposes and social life.

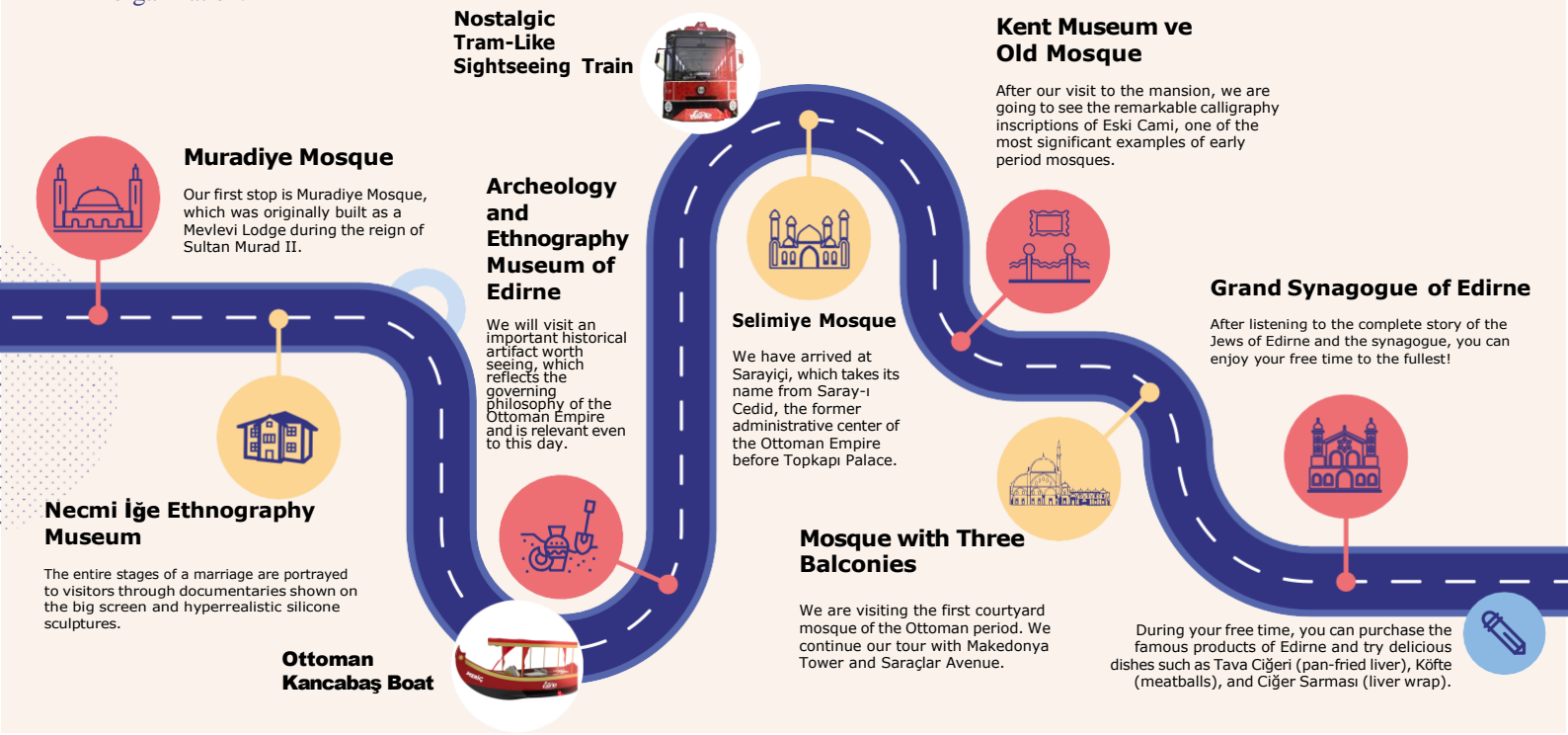
Our first stop will be Muradiye Mosque, built as a Mevlevi Lodge during the reign of Murad II. After watching the view of Selimiye from the mosque's courtyard, which is famous for its zawiya planned structure and tiles, we are going to Defterdar Mansion, one of the examples of civil architecture in Edirne. The mansion was abandoned after being used by Necmi İge and, after its renovation, reopened as **Necmi İge House Ethnography Museum**. In the museum, which is organized with the theme of Balkan weddings, all stages of a marriage are explained to visitors with documentaries shown by cinevision and hyperrealistic silicone sculptures. After our museum visit, we are moving to the Archaeology and Ethnography Museum of Edirne, where we witness the history of Edirne. After we visit the museum where Thracian, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman artefacts are exhibited, Selimiye Mosque will be our next destination.

Selimiye Mosque is considered the peak of the Ottoman Classical Architecture period and the masterpiece of Sinan, the architect. Due to renovation, only a small part of the mosque is open to visitors. However, its magnificence is still in front of the eyes. After getting information about this magnificent work from our guide, we go through Selimiye Arasta Bazaar and go to Hafızağa Mansion, another example of civil architecture. After visiting the mansion designed as the Edirne City Museum, we moved to the Old Mosque. The most important feature of the mosque, which is one of the early mosque examples, is the magnificent calligraphy at the entrance and inside. Afterwards, seeing the Bedesten Bazaar, we continue our walk towards **Mosque with Three Balconies**. With its unique structure, the mosque dates back to the Pre-Classical Period and is important in terms of its minarets and being the first courtyard mosque of the Ottoman period. Another feature of the mosque is the decorations on the door. From here, we see the inn and bathhouse built by Sokullu Mehmed Pasha and the Macedonia Tower nearby.

We continue our joyful walk on Saraçlar Street, one of the central streets of Edirne. When we reach the middle of the street, we enter the Ali Pasha Bazaar, which runs parallel to it and continues our way through the bazaar. After leaving the bazaar, we are coming to the Kaleiçi area. Built in 1905, the building, ruined after the Jewish community left the city, was restored and reopened in 2015. After listening to the story of Edirne Jews and the Synagogue, we give free time for you to explore the city more comfortably.

You can visit the historical bazaars during your free time and buy Edirne's famous products. **Edirne Cheese, Almond Cookies, and Almond Paste** are the products you can buy as gifts for your loved ones. You can also buy Mirrored Broom, Edirnekari Works and Mis Soap if you wish. If you get hungry, you can taste fried liver, meatballs and liver Wrap, one of Edirne's famous flavours.

After meeting at the specified place at the appointed time, we start our return and say goodbye to you to meet in another organization.



GENERAL INFORMATION

- The tour program is designed for groups staying in Edirne for 1 night. The program is arranged to be implemented within a 9-hour timeframe from 09:00 AM to 06:00 PM.
- If the organization is arranged by bus, Mehmet Müezzinođlu Viaduct should be used to go to the Karaađaç area. In map programs, the viaduct is referred to as Kunde Street. Vehicles weighing 3 tons and above are prohibited from crossing the old stone bridges.
- You can also see the city's most important tourist spots by taking the Nostalgic Tram-Like Tour Train, starting from in front of the Old Mosque and passing through Selimiye Square to Karaađaç. After your visit to Karaađaç, take a stroll to the pier along the river and enjoy a ride on the Ottoman Kancabaş Boat on the Meriç River.
- Hıdırlık Bastions Balkan History Museum is affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. According to the Ministry's Guidelines on Admission to Museums and Archaeological Sites, the Museum Card is valid, and entry is free for citizens over 65 and under 18, and for active teachers upon showing their cards. Disabled citizens can visit the museum free of charge with one accompanying person. Citizens with a Turkish ID Card can enter with a Museum Card. The entrance fee for foreign visitors is €3 (Euro). (Open seven days a week.)
- The Health Museum in the Complex of Sultan Bayezid II is affiliated with Trakya University. The Museum Card is not valid. Entry is free for citizens over 65 and under 18, all university students including those from Open Education Faculties, Ministry of Culture and Tourism personnel, and active teachers upon showing their official cards. The entrance fee is 40 TL for domestic tourists and 100 TL for foreign tourists. Only the Mosque part of the complex can be visited without a ticket. (Closed on Mondays.)
- Necmi İđe House Ethnography Museum is affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. According to the Ministry's Guidelines on Admission to Museums and Archaeological Sites, the Museum Card is valid, and entry is free for citizens over 65 and under 18, and for active teachers upon showing their cards. Disabled citizens can visit the museum free of charge with one accompanying person. Citizens with a Turkish ID Card can enter with a Museum Card. The entrance fee for foreign visitors is €3 (Euro). (Closed on Mondays.)
- Edirne City Museum is affiliated with Edirne Municipality. The Museum Card is not valid. As of the date the program was created, the entrance fees are 10 TL for adults and 5 TL for citizens eligible for discounts. Entry is free for children under 4, citizens over 65, relatives of martyrs, veterans, and disabled citizens.
- Edirne Archaeology and Ethnography Museum is affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. According to the Ministry's Guidelines on Admission to Museums and Archaeological Sites, the Museum Card is valid, and entry is free for citizens over 65 and under 18, and for active teachers upon showing their cards. Disabled citizens can visit the museum free of charge with one accompanying person. Citizens with a Turkish ID Card can enter with a Museum Card. The entrance fee for foreign visitors is €3 (Euro). (Open seven days a week.)
- Selimiye Mosque is under renovation. The renovation is expected to finish in 2025. Only a limited section of the mosque is open to visitors.
- Most of the historical artifacts in Sarayıçi and the surrounding area mentioned in the program are closed for visits due to ongoing work.
- It is recommended to continue your route through the Complex of Sultan Bayezid II for a panoramic visit.
- Always consult your Professional Tourist Guide when implementing the program. Do not forget to make additions or removals based on the time allocated for the city and the interests of your groups.
- This program was prepared as of January 2025.

