

**Black Sea Region & Istanbul, Turkey: Ingredients, Traditions & More**  
**An Oldways Culinarium with Chef Ana Sortun**  
**September 10-17, 2027 - Updated**



**September 10, 2025**

Check into The Bank Hotel, our Istanbul hotel, unpack and relax before we meet at 6:00 PM for a Welcome Session, Wine Tasting & Dinner.

**September 11, 2025**

In the morning, you'll have a choice of a cultural tour or a food tour. Join our Turkish cultural guide, Oguz, for a tour of Topkapi, or take a morning food walking tour of the Egyptian (Spice) Bazaar and the Eminönü neighborhood with our food expert Banu. We'll have a group lunch before we leave for the Istanbul Airport and our Turkish Air flight to Samsun, a city known as the place where Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founding father of the Republic of Turkey, began the steps toward independence in 1919. After arriving in Samsun, we'll check into the Sheraton Grand Samsun, a hotel with views of the Black Sea. After getting settled, we'll meet for a group dinner.

**September 12, 2025**

After breakfast, we will meet for Chef Ana's Spice Talk, where she'll discuss the essential spices and herbs and other ingredients that make Turkish food so very special. You'll have a chance to ask Ana all of your cooking questions! We'll leave the city center and venture into the countryside to visit farms and learn about production. Our lunch will feature pide, a classic Samsun dish. You'll have some free time in the afternoon for exercise or to enjoy the hotel's Turkish bath or spa. You'll be free for dinner on your own, with help from Banu's restaurant list.

**September 13, 2025**

The morning will start with presentations – one on regional Turkish cuisine from Banu, and the other about Oldways cultural food traditions from Sara. Next, our cultural guide, Oguz will lead us to a historical museum in Samsun, followed by a local lunch. In the late afternoon we'll have the pleasure of Chef Ana's cooking demonstration at a culinary school in Samsun. After Ana's demo, we'll enjoy an early seafood dinner, while looking out at the Black Sea.

**September 14, 2025**

We'll fly back to the airport on the Asia side of Istanbul, so that we can easily arrive in the Kadikoy Market area for a food tour by Ana and Banu, and then have lunch at CIYA—the famous Anatolian regional fare restaurant that Chef Ana calls one of her favorite restaurants anywhere. After lunch, we'll take the ferry from Kadikoy to Karakoy, very close to The Bank Hotel, where we'll check back in. Your luggage will be delivered to the hotel before we arrive! If you have room for dinner after lunch at CIYA, you will be free to experience the Istanbul restaurant scene during your evening.

**September 15, 2025**

After The Bank's Turkish breakfast, we'll travel to the Old City and divide into two groups. Both groups will learn about Turkish textiles and rugs and Iznik tiles. After these presentations, you'll be free for lunch and in the afternoon – to explore the parts of Istanbul that most interest you. In the early evening, we'll meet and walk to a restaurant for dinner in the new Galataport area – close to the hotel and with a view of the Bosphorus.

**September 16, 2025**

In the morning after breakfast, we'll visit a baklava shop for a baklava-making demonstration, followed by a börek and baklava tasting along with tea. Afterwards, we'll take a private boat to the Black Sea along the Bosphorus to visit the Sadberk Hanım Museum, a private museum in an Ottoman Villa. After our visit, we'll have a Farewell Dinner along the Bosphorus and then take the bus back to the hotel.

**DEPARTURES OR ISTANBUL ADD-ON DAY****September 17, 2025**

Departures OR Take a cultural tour with Turkish cultural guide Oguz. You'll visit the Hagia Sophia, the Cistern, the Blue Mosque, and the Roman Hippodrome. We'll enjoy lunch as a group and conclude with a visit to the Grand Bazaar. Our bus will take us back to The Bank Hotel after the Grand Bazaar.