

# **Oldways Cesme, Izmir and Ephesus Culinaria**

**With Chef Ana Sortun**

**May 1-8, 2026**

**Add-on Istanbul Tour**

**May 8-10, 2026**



**Friday, May 1, 2026**



Since we expect arrivals from the US will get in on the late side, we are planning an informal drinks and mezze reception at the hotel on the first night. If you're jet lagged, you can go directly to your room – or if you're a night owl – we look forward to seeing you for mezze and wine or beer. If you opt for sleep, not to fear, our official start will be on Saturday morning.

### **Saturday, May 2, 2026**



We'll start the day with an official welcome after breakfast, where you'll have a chance to meet and talk with your fellow travelers. The welcome will continue with an introductory session with Chef Ana, Sara from Oldways and our Turkish food expert and official guide.

We'll spend the rest of our first full day together in nearby Alacati. The Alacati market on Saturdays is legendary. There is everything in the market. Fresh vegetables, fruits, cheeses, olives, olives, walnuts, hazelnuts, lavender and black mulberry jam, coffee and paste with gum drops, various kinds of clothes, linen bedspreads, towels, ceramic and wooden household items, various kinds of flowers are all in this market. Alacati is also famous for its historical stone houses and narrow streets. You'll have a chance to explore the historical and traditional architecture by taking a walk in these streets.

We'll have a late lunch/early dinner at Asma Yapağı, a very special restaurant in Alaçatı that Ana and Oldways have loved and enjoyed for more than 10 years. We promise. You'll love it.

### **Sunday, May 3, 2026**



We'll start the day with Chef Ana's Spice Presentation and then a visit to the Sunday Market in Cesme. Afterwards, we'll drive 10 minutes to Ovacik, the agricultural center of Cesme. We'll visit the farm of the Deveci family who grow fruit. We'll follow the visit with lunch at [Noni's Place](#), and then return to Cesme to have the pleasure of a cooking demonstration by Chef Ana at a cooking school. In the evening, we'll be together for a group dinner in Cesme.

### **Monday, May 4, 2026: Germiyan**

We'll get an early start so we can begin our day in Germiyan, 30 minutes from Cesme, with breakfast. After breakfast, we'll continue our visit in Germiyani with a workshop about the famous bread and a tasting of Kopanisti cheese, a specialty of the region.

You'll have some free time to walk around the town, looking at the colorful paintings on the buildings or to visit the handicrafts store.

We'll then drive 20 minutes to Iksir to visit the ancient city Erythrai, where we'll take a walk to the highest spot, the Acropolis, and the ancient theatre, covered with poppy and artichoke fields.

We'll enjoy lunch and then we'll return to Cesme, where you'll be free for the evening. Please see our restaurant suggestions.

### **Tuesday, May 5, 2026.**





Today, we are going to Greece! We'll take an early morning ferry to the nearby island of Chios. Chios is famous for mastic, the dried resin of the mastic tree, used in Turkish and Greek cooking. We'll visit the Mastic villages and the Mastic Museum and then have a lunch in a beautiful historic section of the island, the Kampos, followed by a lesson in the production of spoon sweets. We're interested to learn about the similarities and differences between the cooking and cuisines of Greece (Chios) and Turkey (the Cesme peninsula, in particular. After a full day, we'll return to Cesme and our hotel to relax and pack for our checkout in the morning.

**Wednesday, May 6, 2026.**



After checking out, we'll start the day by attending the daily fish auction in Urla and then walking along the dock in Urla to Unal Kardesler Katmer Salonu, a katmer restaurant. There we'll have the opportunity to watch katmer—a breakfast dish—being made and have a taste of the delicious dish— pastry dough, cooked on a griddle, filled with meat or cheese. After walking through the old city of Urla, we will head over to the Klazomenai Antique City, where the first olive oil production took place in Anatolia and perhaps in the world!

We'll stay in Urla for lunch and a wine tasting at the Michelin-rated farm to table restaurant, Od Urla.

After lunch, we'll continue onto Izmir and check in at the Izmir Marriott. After a long late lunch and an early start on Thursday, we've left the evening free for you to explore Izmir and its seaside restaurants (see restaurant list).

### **Thursday, May 7, 2026**



Today we'll leave Izmir early and drive south to Selcuk for a guided visit to Ephesus, the legendary ancient city. Ephesus' ruins are well preserved, and with our guides, we'll spend a couple of hours exploring and learning about this legendary city and its famous inhabitants and visitors such as Cleopatra, Mark Anthony, Augustus, St. Paul, the Virgin Mary, and John the Apostle.

After our visit to Ephesus, we'll visit a local winery for a tasting and lunch before heading back to Izmir.

### **Friday, May 8, 2026**



Departures for home or Istanbul and Add-on days

ADD-ON Tour begins with Dinner in Istanbul with Banu and Sara

**Saturday, May 9, 2026**



Our day will start with the ferry to Kadikoy, on the Asian side of Istanbul. We'll enjoy a spice and food tour with Banu in the Kadikoy Market area, and then have lunch at CIYA—the famous Anatolian regional fare restaurant (Ana's favorite restaurant). After lunch, we'll get on our private ferry and cruise along the Bosphorus. If you have room for dinner after lunch at CIYA, you will be free to experience the Istanbul restaurant scene during your evening. You will have Banu's restaurant suggestions in the program book.

**Sunday, May 10, 2026**





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 the Culinarium with a visit to the Grand Bazaar. You will be free for dinner on your own.