

JANUARY 2018

OPENED BOX

exchange
experience
explore

A WRONG STORY

CULTURELOVE

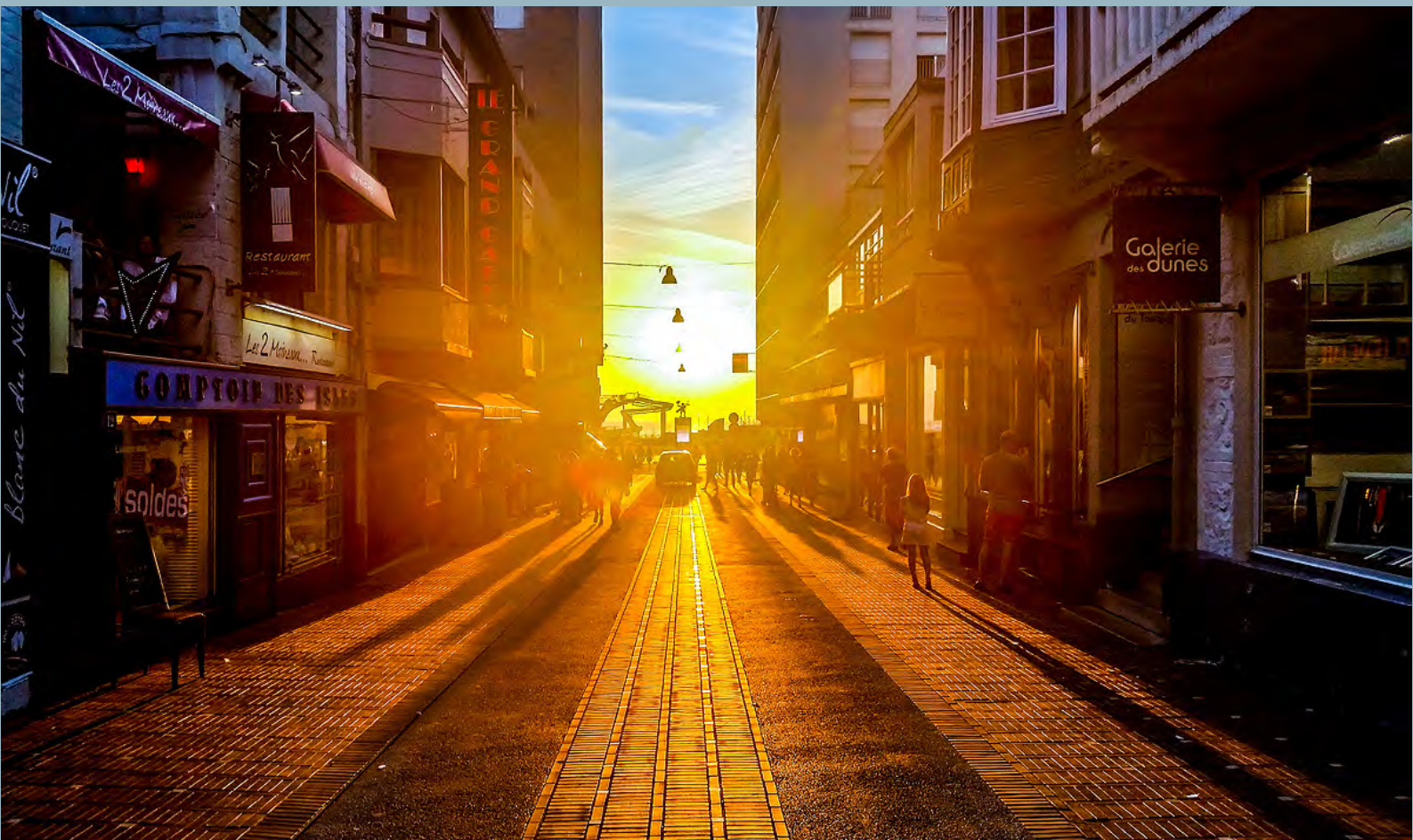
...AND DON'T FORGET
TO HAVE FUN

TURKEY: HEAVEN ON
EARTH



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A WRONG STORY

Many people, almost everyone, have experienced discrimination in their life once or more.

Some have experienced this bad feeling in financial situation, some in nation and some in clothing, religion etc.

I have been discriminated in different fields in different periods of time.

In my high school, I was discriminated because of my financial situation and status. The students were just in puberty like me and they wanted to make groups according to their financial situation and the jobs of their fathers. I saw many students especially girls pretending rich, different than they are even if they are very poor. Because I was just me, I was discriminated.

Furthermore, I was discriminated for my clothing too for covering my hair with scarf. Even if the majority of Turkey is muslim, I started to be discriminated in my own country. The hardest one was being discriminated by your friends' calling you aunty and your teachers telling you "Don't lose your mind Ayse". I am a teacher now and I never interrupt my students' decisions as long as they don't come and ask my opinion. Beside, I never tell my opinions in offensive way.

Later on, I started to go abroad but discrimination, weird looks and some uneducated people's offensive questions continued to be with me. I learned how to overcome it. But many people can't do it and because they are afraid of other people's thoughts and actions. They don't feel enough power and confidence for doing new things and improving themselves. People don't have right to demoralize, make other people sad or make a bad influence on other people's lives if they are different than them. Variety enrich us, not impoverish.

Ayse Elmali

First of all, a custom (also called a tradition) is a law or right or usual way, which is not written and is in practice since a long time. It is any thing which lots of people do, and have done for a long time. Also, the word "tradition" itself derives from the Latin tradere literally meaning to transmit, to hand over, to give for safekeeping. Usually, the people come from the same country, culture, or religion.

It is believed that customs are the values that support the backbone of everyones country, family, and faith will have drifted for so long that the fabric of our society will be torn.

Tradition contributes a sense of comfort and belonging. It brings families together and enables people to reconnect with friends. Tradition reinforces values such as freedom, faith, integrity, a good education, personal responsibility, a strong work ethic, and the value of being selfless. Also provides a forum to showcase role models and celebrate the things that really matter in life. Moreover offers a chance to say "thank you" for the contribution that someone has made. Tradition enables us to showcase the principles of our Founding Fathers, celebrate diversity, and unite as a country. The last one is that serves as an avenue for creating lasting memories for our families and friends. Tradition offers an excellent context for meaningful pause and reflection.

Culture, therefore, influences the manner we learn, live and behave. Because of this, many theorists believe that culture is an important shaper of our personality.

Culture refers to characteristic patterns of attitudes, values, beliefs, and behaviors shared by members of a society or population.

Cultural differences will affect the receptivity of a individual to indivudal education and willingness to accept information and incorporate it into his or her lifestyles.

Within a culture there are norms and behavioral expectations.

These cultural norms can dictate which personality traits are considered important. The researcher Gordon Allport considered culture to be an important influence on traits and defined common traits as those that are recognized within a culture

To sum up, traditions are so strong and they influence our differemt daily lives. The way we thinking, to act, to behaviour, to unsterstand things. We can assure that affect our daily lives by 100%.

Andri Andronikou

Travelling abroad for the first time and feeling a little bit too lost? Don't know exactly what to bring together with you? Well, I think that I can help you a little bit with that!

- Medication. Well, health is the most important thing and it should come first. Especially if you're on a special prescription.
- Identity card or passport and/or visa (if it's outside of the EU). Any paper actually that the country that you're going to visit requires it's super important.
- Get some copies of your papers in case of getting lost or stolen and optionally register at your countries embassy.
- Money and currency exchange. And try to find the cheapest currency exchange that you can.
- If your going to use your credit card, check out if it's suitable for shopping abroad. In any case, always have some local cash.
- Book tickets. Not only airplane, but museum, site, events and etc so as to avoid never-ending queues.
- Buy a guidebook. Sounds old-fashioned, but they are actually pretty handy.
- Install applications that may be of use. Maps, underground, taxi, tourist apps etc.
- Check for ongoing events. Festivals, concerts, try not to miss a thing!
- Bring charge adapters for plugs. Not every country has the same plugs, so you might not be able to charge your devices.
- Activate your phone's global capabilities. And load it with internet data.
- Pack an extra set of clothes for any case.
- Avoid extra luggage (and luggage check in). It's going to be a time saver and it's also going to make it easier for you to carry your stuff around.
- Bring snacks. In case the local cuisine disappoints you. However, give it a shot and try as much of it as you can.
- And don't forget to have fun!

Nicolas Karakitsios

TURKEY: HEAVEN ON EARTH

Imagine a country. Imagine that it has spectacular landscapes fresh air great climate. It is a peninsula it reserves countless varieties of culture, custom. Its population is around 80 million and each of these 80 million people is bonded with it by heart. Yes, as you understand, I am talking about Turkey.

First of all, I would like to introduce you to my country. My country is the best because it has the best location in the world, it is on the crossroad of Europe, Asia and Africa. Turkey has Bosphorous and the Dardanelles. As you know, those places are some of the most substantial areas for the world trade.

Secondly, we can consider Turkey as the paradise on Earth regarding its numerous, natural beauties like forests, waterfalls, thermal springs, the Pamukkale, the valley of butterflies, the valley of Ihlara, Oludeniz, Mount Nemrut, Mount Erduvan, Mount Palandoken and Mount Agri. Turkey is surrounded by many different seas like the Aegean sea, the Black sea and the Mediterranean Sea. These are all marvellous places that attracts tourists from all over the world.

There are excessive places to see in Turkey like Ephesus, Hasankeyf, the Maiden Tower, Zeugma Mosaic Museum, Aspendos, Pool of Abraham, Sumela Monastery, Ankara Castle etc. As you see, there are innumerable places, museums, ancient cities to visit in Turkey. I assure you that you just won't believe your eyes.

Someone can actually experience all four seasons in Turkey and enjoy them all equally. In summer you can swim in Antalya, go skiing in Palandoken, Erzurum and do rafting in Artvin. Likewise you can experience the other way round in winter. I can't say it enough times, but Turkey is heaven.

Turkey has a cultural wealth on a large scale. Throughout time countless civilizations migrated and settled all over Turkish county, like Hettites and Phryges, making notable contributions to the cultural diversity of Turkey.

It's almost impossible for someone to get hungry in Turkey. There is a variety of options and I can assure you that our traditional cuisine will get you addicted. In addition, Turkish people are quite generous. Knock anyone's door randomly and present yourself as a hungry tourist and they will not refuse you. They will actually be glad to share their food with you.

To sum up, my country is the best because it's like paradise on earth with all its great qualities. I am proud of my country and my people. They are irreplaceable.

Dogus Aykol

QUIZ: HOW CULTURED ARE YOU?

1. What is the name of the Cypriot goddess?
 - a. Aphrodite
 - b. Jasmine
 - c. Artemis
2. Which of the following is not a sweet in Cyprus?
 - a. Loukoumades
 - b. Pitta tis satziz
 - c. Pastourma
3. How many islands does Greece have?
 - a. 300
 - b. 200
 - c. 175
4. What is the main ingredient for greek salad?
 - a. olive oil
 - b. honey
 - c. parsley
5. Which continents is Turkey in?
 - a. Europe and Africa
 - b. Europe and Asia
 - c. Asia and Africa
6. Who is the founder of the Turkish Republic?
 - a. Mustafa Kemal
 - b. Mustafa Akinci
 - c. Donald Trump
7. When was Lithuania founded?
 - a. 1918
 - b. 1993
 - c. 1950

8. What is the capital of Poland?

- a. Athens
- b. Ankara
- c. Warsaw

9. What is the currency of Romania?

- a. Lira
- b. Euro
- c. Lei

10. What is the most famous spirit of Sardinia?

- a. Mirto
- b. Raki
- c. Polinka

Answer key:

1-a. 2-c. 3-a. 4-a. 5-b. 6-a. 7-a. 8-c. 9-c. 10-a.

Scores:

8-10: You're a culture master

5-7: You're OK, but you need to learn more.

0-4: You need to travel... like... a lot.

