

TRAVELLER

+

Return to Middle Earth
Discover the Alpine inspiration behind *The Hobbit*

Tee time
Why Lisbon is a true year-round golfing mecca

Joy ride!

Saddle up in Amsterdam for cafés, canals and the coolest modern art in Europe (bicycle optional)

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OCTOBER 2012
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CONTRIBUTORS

MEET SOME OF THE TALENTED PEOPLE BEHIND THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

**TRISTAN RUTHERFORD**

"From European Beyoğlu to Balat, the up-and-coming neighbourhood on the Golden Horn", travel writer Tristan believes Istanbul is a city on the rise. Heading there to write a piece on local movers and shakers (p72), he enjoyed every minute, except for one thing... "Getting my Turkish friends to commit to an exact hour for an interview is tricky," he says. When not trying to track down interviewees, Tristan writes regularly for *The Independent* and *The Sunday Times Travel Magazine*. He's been a contributor to *easyJet Traveller* for 10 years.

**MAGGIE LI**

For her lovely illustration in this issue (see p92), Maggie had to brush up on her knowledge of golf, which was pretty limited beforehand, she says. Still "the best thing about being an illustrator is all the interesting subjects you get exposed to", so she didn't mind at all. At least it wasn't as 'interesting' as that commission when she had to illustrate bowel movements for young children! When not sketching fairways or, ahem, fecal matter, she also draws for clients as varied as Google, *Time Out* and Conde Nast.

**CHRIS BEANLAND**

It's not often that you get to spend an evening "listening to burly Icelandic blokes bellowing Viking sea shanties" in a bar part-owned by Damon Albarn, but for Chris it was just one more day at the office. As well as delving into Iceland's music scene for this month's *Traveller* (see p82), Chris has written for *The Independent*, *The Daily Mail* and the BBC in a glittering career that he puts down to his talents for "scopophilia [the love of looking]; unabashed, dogged determination and a devil-may-care attitude to rubbish wages".

**MARCUS KOPPEN**

Given the opportunity to explore his city's trendy Noord region, Marcus jumped at the chance. It was just one more reason for Marcus to take a job documenting its burgeoning modern-art scene. "I'd wanted to explore the art city for a long time," he says. "It's a very special place with a crazy bunch of people: a must-do when in Amsterdam." Starting out as a photographer in the raves of the 1990s, Marcus still works for *Afisha-Mir*, *Esquire*, *Spiegel*, KLM and Cathay Pacific, among others.

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INSIDER'S
GUIDE TO

ISTANBUL

It may be steeped in ancient tradition, but the Turkish metropolis is also a thoroughly modern destination, with nightlife, culture and food to rival anywhere in Europe or Asia. It makes for a beguiling city break – so long as you know where to go

Words **TRISTAN RUTHERFORD** Photography **JONATHAN LEWIS**

ISTANBUL NEED TO KNOW

6

Minarets on the city's famous Blue Mosque

7

Hills, like Rome and London, that it's built on

1,400

The number of public toilets here in the Middle Ages



Try the Çırağan Palace Kempinski Istanbul, a refurbished 19th-century palace, or the Swissotel Living for cutting-edge modernity. *Book online at hotels.easyJet.com*



easyJet FLIES TO ISTANBUL from Basel-Mulhouse and London Luton. See our insider guide on page 178. *Book online at easyJet.com*

Clockwise from left,
A ferry sails on the
Bosphorus towards
the Hagia Sophia
mosque; Istanbul's
bazaar; Fulya Gemici



Gemici on shopping

◆ “The offbeat **Çukurcuma** area is best for vintage. For 1970s dresses and 1980s sneakers try **Bin Bavul Vintage** [Galipedede Caddesi].”

◆ “Turkey’s up-and-coming designers are based by the **Galata Tower**. One-off outfits start at €50 but can get pricey. Also hit **Lastik Pabuc** [Murakıp Sokak 18, lastikpabuc.com] for hip international footwear.”

◆ “The **Grand Bazaar** is the world’s oldest shopping mall. Fill up on kaftans, rugs and bangles, plus acres of silk and cashmere.”

◆ “For a far more modern mall, try **Istinye Park** [istinyepark.com]. Movie and soap stars shop here for Turkish designer labels such as Vakko and Mavi.”

◆ “People in Istanbul generally follow fashion on the street rather than on blogs. But **Off Ne Giysem** [it translates as What Should We Wear – offnegiysem.com] is where cool-hunters look first.”

THE FASHIONISTA Fulya Gemici

It’s clear where Fulya Gemici’s passion for fashion comes from: “As a child, my mother taught me how to sketch figures of girls and boys, but I quickly moved on to drawing women with beautiful clothes.” And that’s not all. The 28-year-old designer also thanks her mother for her quirky dress sense. “She made fabulous dresses for my sister and me, so the house was always full of fabrics, buttons and beads.”

Given this crafty upbringing, it’s no surprise that she has grown up to become one of the city’s hottest new fashion

faces. After studying textiles at Istanbul’s prestigious Marmara University – where Turkey’s prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan studied – she was seconded to Milan’s Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti. After graduation, she designed collections for Sweden’s H&M and she now jets between Istanbul, London and Sri Lanka as part of her role at the British fashion house George. “My generation of Turks are experiencing many cultures on different continents. I feel like I can go, live, be inspired anywhere.”

THE PARTY PROFESSIONAL

Daniël Stork

Is this the most enviable job in the world? Each morning Daniël Stork walks the seven minutes from his home in Istanbul's buzzing Beyoğlu area to his office in the grand Netherlands Consulate General building, overlooking the Bosphorus Straits. As First Secretary, he spends the day promoting Dutch culture – from film to architecture, jazz and visual arts – to 75 million Turks.

He also attends pretty much every party in the city – meaning he's just the person to ask about the latest venue

or the best cocktail in town. "It's a city of opportunity," Stork says. He sees diversity as one of Turkey's delights, from a multi-ethnic mix of cultural attractions to Istanbul's cornucopia of regional cuisines. "When I arrived in 2008, I was astounded by how modern and hip the city was. And also how cosmopolitan, compared even to Amsterdam.

"The huge increase in wealth in recent years has given the Turks incredible energy and optimism. I'm in the right place at the right time."



“
The increase in wealth
has given the Turks
energy and optimism”



Stork on nightlife

◆ “A host of city-wide events will celebrate 400 years of Turkish-Dutch relations this October [*nltr400.nl*]. The visiting sailing clipper **Stad Amsterdam** will have art and music events on board.”

◆ “The **Akbank Jazz Festival** [*akbanksanat.com/jazz_festival*] is a yearly cornucopia of blues, ska and electronica. This October’s line-up includes Lebanese trumpeter Ibrahim Maalouf and the American vocalist Gregory Porter.”

◆ “Best year-round music spots? Over 400 people can bop as one at **Babylon** [*babylon.com.tr*], while **Ghetto** [*ghettoist.com*] hosts pumping DJs under finely frescoed ceilings.”

◆ “**Salon Istanbul** [*salon1.org*], an Amsterdam concept within this autumn’s Istanbul design biennial, is a city-wide show of industrial design and fashion.”

◆ “For disco dancing and cocktails, **Kiki** [*kiki.com.tr*] near the Galata Tower and **Lucca** in Bebek [*luccastyle.com*] are hard to beat.”

Left, Daniël Stork; above, one of the Salt art spaces with rooftop garden and cinema

Topaloglu on culture

◆ “The Topkapi Palace and Hagia Sophia are Istanbul’s cultural must-sees. But don’t miss the tiny **Kariye (Chora) Museum**. It’s stood here for 15 centuries, and its gold-leaf icons are among the most spellbinding in the world.”

◆ “For contemporary Turkish art, check out Pinar Öğrenci’s **Galeri Mars** [marsistanbul.net]. In the same artsy area, **Rampa** [rampaistanbul.com] and **Art Sümer** [artsumer.com] offer groundbreaking exhibitions.”

◆ “If you visit only one mosque, make it the freshly renovated **Kılıç Ali Pasha Camii**, also in Tophane. It’s one of the last creations from the Ottoman era’s finest architect, Mimar Sinan, who designed until his death at age of 99.”

◆ “Istanbul’s best new cultural attractions are the two **Salt** contemporary art spaces [saltonline.org]. One has revolving art exhibitions, a rooftop garden and walk-in cinema. The other has an Ottoman museum, art library and gourmet restaurant.”



Right, Sema Topaloglu; above, the Kariye Museum with its stunning icons



THE DESIGN GURU

Sema Topaloğlu

Welcoming potential punters to her studio with a cup of tea, Sema Topaloğlu sits out on its roof terrace gazing at the Golden Horn. “This is how we do business in Istanbul,” she says. “Slowly and seductively!” It seems her method works, if the buzz is anything to go by. *Wallpaper** magazine hailed her as a name to watch in 2010, and she’s still very much on trend.

Her latest project, designing a new objets d’art collection in Milan for Pennyblack fashion, is a big change for someone

who studied landscape design at Ankara University.

This Anatolian education may explain her adoration of raw materials, from unfinished steel to Japanese parchment paper. She has mastered Ottoman-era glass-blowing techniques for her latest line of lighting.

As one would expect of a cutting-edge designer, her studio is even in Balat, Istanbul’s new hip neighbourhood. “Surrounding us are ancient houses, little markets and trails of bougainvillea,” she says. “It’s Istanbul’s hidden corner.” ➤

THE ARCHITECT

Sedat Aklan

Softly spoken Sedat Aklan sums up the experience of building his first guesthouse in one word: “Challenging”. The reason? The owner of the Adahan, a historic Istanbul hotel, wanted “to keep every original feature of a dilapidated Rococo mansion built in 1874”.

Only someone with Aklan’s background in wooden-framed building and marquetry could restore a building like Adahan (adahanistanbul.com): once the grand home of an Ottoman banking magnate. Using building

methods seldom seen in a luxury hotel, he created a unique landmark in the city. “There is no plastic, no concrete – just pure, natural materials.” Stucco walls are covered by a breathable lime whitewash; fabrics are blends of silk, cotton and linen; photovoltaic panels hidden on the rooftop garden heat the hotel’s water. There is also a top-floor gourmet restaurant. “We were busy before we opened in May and busy after,” he laughs. “But when I saw the chance to open up this piece of Istanbul history, I couldn’t resist.”

Left, Sedat Aklan; below, his favourite hotel, the Tom Tom Suites



AKLAN ON HOTELS

- ◆ “Architecture aficionados should visit **Sumahan** on the Water [sumahan.com]. It’s a hip hotel within an old raki factory. Its Bosphorus-side brunch is sublime.”
- ◆ “Dining aside, my favourite hotel is **Tom Tom Suites** [tomtomsuites.com]. It’s even older than Adahan! It was a former Franciscan monastery, dating back to the 1850s. Instead of newspapers at breakfast, they have iPads.”
- ◆ “The city’s best budget beds under €100 are inside the two historic mansions of **Galata Rooms** [roomsgalata.com].”
- ◆ “Istanbul’s best business hotel? Definitely the 270-room **Marti Hotel** [martiistanbulhotel.com], which opened in July. It was overseen by Zeynep Fadilloğlu, the first woman to design a mosque in Turkey.”
- ◆ “If I were entertaining a newly arrived guest, I’d head to the **Maçka Park Hyatt** [istanbul.park.hyatt.com]. They can decompress in the rooftop pool, while I sip cocktails alongside!”



SATANA ON FOOD

◆ “Our hottest young chefs are Üryan Doğmuş and Cihan Kıpçak. These 20-somethings run **La Mouette** [lamouetterestaurant.com].”

◆ “Organic farmers’ markets are new to the city. The most colourful is **Feriköy Halk Pazarı** organic market on Bomonti Caddesi every Saturday.”

◆ “For the best street food under €5, grab a fresh kokoreç sandwich, made from barbecued sheep intestines and finished with cumin, oregano and chilli flakes. It’s a wicked hangover cure, too.”

◆ “Buy a local transportation card, then ride the ferry, historic tram and cable car around Europe’s biggest city – or join one of my private food tours instead.”

◆ “Kebab, if expertly made, is one of my favourite foods. Look out for **Gaziantep kebabs**, which use a special species of fat-tailed sheep. **Mabeyin Restaurant** [mabeyin.com] serves the best ones.”



Left, Tuba Şatana; above, tomatoes on sale in the local food market

THE FOODIE
Tuba Şatana

Like many young Turks, Tuba Şatana’s roots betray a multicultural past – and it’s one that has greatly influenced her passion for food today. Her grandmother introduced her to seafood from the Aegean, her grandfather cooked with spices from Eastern Anatolia and her mother forced mussels, offal and edible roots upon her at a formative age.

It’s no surprise, then, that this blogger and photographer has become a mouthpiece for the city’s seriously diverse food scene. “Every region of Turkey has its own individual

flavours, customs and street food,” she explains. “Yet no one in Istanbul was writing about food in a fun, edgy and professional way.” Her acclaimed food blog (istanbulfood.com) was the answer. Now read in 99 countries, it weaves in rare recipes, new openings and mesmerising images, some of which can also be seen in the cookbook *Günesin ve Ateşin Tadı* (Taste of Sun and Fire), which she took the photographs for. She is also a member of France’s Chaine des Rotisseurs and Italy’s Slow Food movement.