

Full Day Excursion Cruise in Marmara Sea to Princes' Islands

When: Saturday, 31.5.2014

Departure: 09.00 from Eminonou port

Return: 17.00 at Eminonou port

Description

Cruise in Marmara Sea to Princes' Islands, stop at Heybeliada (Greek: *Halki*) and Buyukada (Greek: *Prinkipos means Prince*). The Princes' Islands are a chain of nine rather small islands in the Sea of Marmara. They evolved from a place of exile during the Byzantine era, to a popular destination for tourists and domestic people.

Heybeliada (meaning "Saddlebag Island"; Greek: Χάλκη *Chalki*) is the second largest of the Princes' Islands in the Sea of Marmara.

At the top of the central mountain is an eleventh-century Greek Orthodox monastery, it housed the Theological Seminary of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

We will visit the library of the Seminary which will be opened especially for us.

The large Naval Cadet School overlooks the jetty to the left as you get off the ferry. There are two interesting pieces of architecture on the grounds of the school. One is Kamariotissa, the only remaining Byzantine church on the island, and more importantly the last church to be built before the conquest of Constantinople. The other is the grave of the second English Ambassador to be sent to Constantinople by Elizabeth I of England, Edward Barton, who chose to live on Heybeli to escape the bustle of the city.

The only motorized vehicles permitted on the island are service vehicles such as ambulances, fire trucks, police cars, and the like. The only forms of transport are by foot, horse and buggy and service transport.

Büyükada Lunch at a restaurant.

Central square of Büyükada, with the historical harbor building at the back

Upon getting off the ferry, you'll recognize the clock at the square just a block up in front of you. This is the main square of Büyükada, and around it is the town centre. From the clock, major roads of the island diverge left (east), right (west), and straight ahead (south) among some mansions (best of which are lined on the main road to right) towards the hill, as well as narrower streets and alleys connecting these. From that square, whether you take the road to left or right, you will end up in the same square, as that road encircles the southern half of the island, at a distance to the sea. The Church of St George lies at the end of another cobbled uphill path starting from *Birlik Meydanı*. (source: http://wikitravel.org/en/Istanbul/Princes%E2%80%99_Islands)

English speaking tour guide will accompany the group.