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## SERHAN GÜNGÖR

### Tour Guide

#### What is your favorite view?

From my apartment in Kuzguncuk - the Asian side gets the best views. You can see the Bosphorus and the whole of the European side. On the skyline to the left, the city hasn't changed for centuries and in the skyline to the right it changes every day. You get a real sense of the İstanbul.

#### What is your first memory of the city?

In 1984, when I was in high school, I did a project on Rüstem Paşa mosque, so rather than looking it up in an encyclopedia, I came to İstanbul and took pictures myself. It's an İstanbul cliché but arriving in Haydarpaşa Station and seeing the seagulls over the Bosphorus was pretty magical.

#### Which are your favorite restaurants?

Meze by Lemon Tree, which never fails to surprise and please, or for meat, I love Günaydın, Nusr-Et, Özgür Şef, Nakkaş Kebap.

#### What is your favorite thing to show tourists?

The Bosphorus – I believe in geography as the witness of history, more so than monuments. The topography of the city is what makes it so interesting.

#### What is your favorite İstanbul historical sight?

I think the Hagia Sophia is world class. Also, along with the Atatürk Mausoleum in Ankara it is one of the biggest symbols of secularism in Turkey. It was the temple for two religions but now it stands for universal peace and welcomes everybody.

#### If you left İstanbul, what would you miss the most?

Certainly not the crowds! Not even the cultural life. But I'd miss the Bosphorus.

#### What is İstanbul's best kept secret?

The diversity of this city. Century old orientalist clichés still come to people's minds when they think about İstanbul. But this is a city where both the Spice Bazaar and Kanyon thrive, where the diverse districts of Eminönü and Nişantaşı remain equally popular.

#### Favorite book about İstanbul

I recommend *İstanbul: The Ultimate Guide* by Pat Yale and *Saffet Emre Tonguç*. However for learning about Turkey, I always suggest people read *Atatürk: The Rebirth Of A Nation* by Patrick Kinross.

Rumeli Hisarı

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