

DUP Türkiye,  
DUP Middle East,  
& Beyond Initiative

Dances of Universal Peace  
Caravan Türkiye 23 Sept - 7 Oct 2024



## Bridges Beyond Borders

With Murshidas & Mentors from all over the World



Visiting Cities of  
İstanbul  
Konya  
Pamukkale  
Selçuk

Middle East  
Training Camp  
1-6 Oct  
Stoa - Şirince

Registration:

[dupmiddleeast@gmail.com](mailto:dupmiddleeast@gmail.com)

# BRIDGES BEYOND BORDERS

## PUENTES MÁS ALLÁ DE LA FRONTERAS

### SINIRLARI AŞAN KÖPRÜLER

*DUP Caravan and Middle East Training Camp - Chapter 5*

*Join us as we connect beyond borders during these challenging times. This is high time we bring action to Murshid Sam's dream about peace in the Middle East. While we are aware of the challenges to build bridges in these critical times, we acknowledge the power of love, harmony and beauty that gather together hand in hand in Dances of Universal Peace circles. We are meant to build bridges not only by power, strength and determination but mostly by our sacred feminine power which is the source of limitless love and compassion while walking and dancing on the path of the Goddesses in Anatolia. We will focus on reinforcing the practice of tolerance, understanding and solidarity to respond collectively to our need for a bridge that unites us, while acknowledging the diversity of our traditions and languages with unity of our hearts while moving together in the dance circle. Inspired by the transformative spirit of the sacred feminine within our dance lineages, we will move together Towards the One. In this journey the guidance of our five mentors; Darvesha, Munira, Lakshmi, Roxana Nur Jahan and Malika will enlighten our path as we visit Rumi and Shams, the Goddess's temples of Cebele and Artemis and the House of Mother Mary.*

*Ya Salam*



**Murshida  
Darvesha  
Victoria  
MacDonald**



**Sheikha  
Munira  
Elizabeth  
Reed**



**Sheikha  
Lakshmi  
Lorena  
Tamariz**



**Nur Jahan  
Roxana  
Campos**



**Malika  
Elena  
Baranes**

# GENERAL INFORMATION

As the path unfolds, we invite you to join us in a mystical journey of the DUP Caravan in Turkiye. The Caravan started as a service project of the Beyond Initiative in 2018. Its purpose has been to support the emerging circles of Dances of Universal Peace in new destinations. So far there have been 4 successful Caravans and Dance Training Camps with more than 150 people participating from 34 countries around the world every year. DUP Training Camp which is supported by the income of the Caravan has already been instrumental in creation of the dance circles in Tunisia, Maldives and East Asia as well as many regional circles within Turkiye while supporting the growth of the existing circles in Iran and Israel. After this great experience for the past 4 years, in 2024 we are presenting the Caravan with a new route and refreshed concept.

This year the mystical Caravan aims to introduce the rich and diverse culture of Anatolia from Mezopotamia all the way to Christianity and modern Sufism. Turkiye has been a bridge between continents, cultures and religions and it is the birthplace of many spiritual practices. In this way the Caravan in Turkiye is a unique chance to dive into the experience of such diversity which is a living example of the Ruhaniat and the essence of the Dances of Universal Peace community.

The Caravan is organized by a team consisting of local volunteers/dance leaders and mentors in service to create the best experience for all the participants in a friendly environment. You are invited to participate supporting this process not as a guest of a professional touristic package but rather as a pilgrim in quest of spiritual growth and deeper connection to the community. Your participation makes it possible to give grants and assistance to the DUP leaders for the entire coming year in the MENA (Middle East North Africa) region.

# CARAVAN AND CAMP SCHEDULE

**September 24-26: Caravan Starts in Istanbul (Sacred and historic sites)**

**September 26-29: Konya (Local Sufis, Cybele Temple, Rumi's Birthday Celebration and Mystic Music Festival)**

**September 29-30: Denizli/Pamukkale Region (Nature, History and Magic)**

**Sept 30: Selçuk/Şirince, House of Virgin Mary, St. John Basilica, Artemis Temple**

**Oct 1-6 DUP Middle East Training Camp**

**Oct 7: Caravan Ends in Selçuk/Şirince**

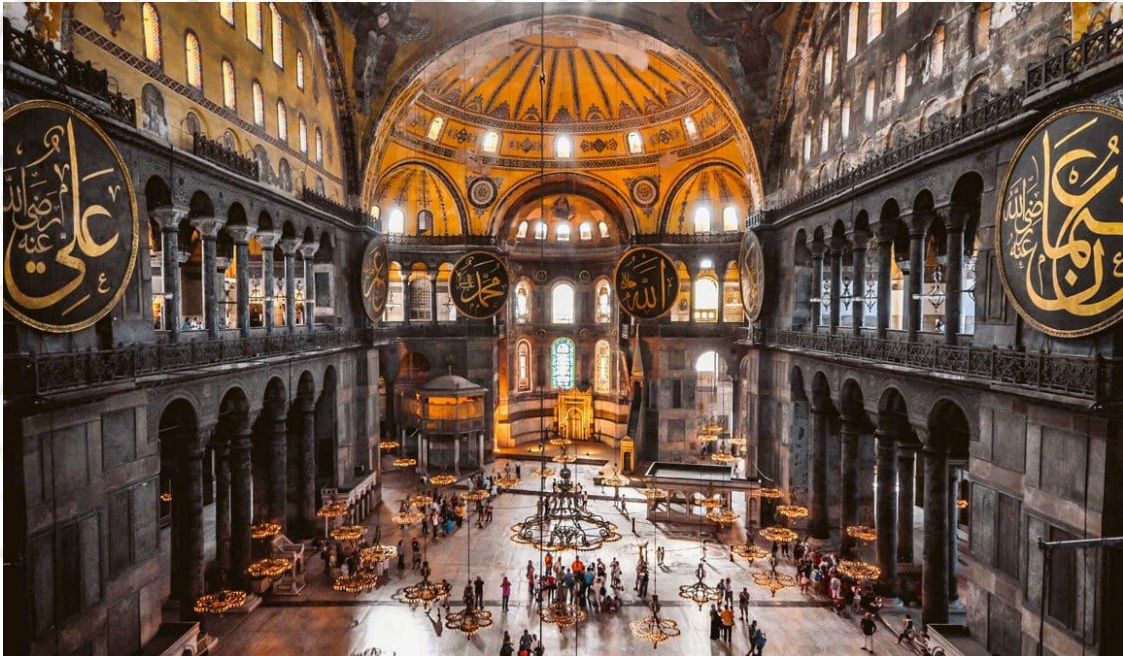
**We definitely recommend arriving at least 2 or 3 days earlier (on the 21st or 22nd) because Istanbul is such a magical city with so many places and adventures available.**

As part of the Caravan we will take you to special visits, but a few days of tourism on your own are recommended. We will provide later on, a list of things you can do in Istanbul.

# PROGRAM

## **September 24-26 Istanbul:**

Visiting sacred shrines, mosques and churches. Experiencing the amazing historical sites and enchanted bazaars. Boat ride on the Bosphorus. Enjoy delicious Turkish food and sweets. Meeting with local teachers and dance circles.



## **September 26-29 Konya:**

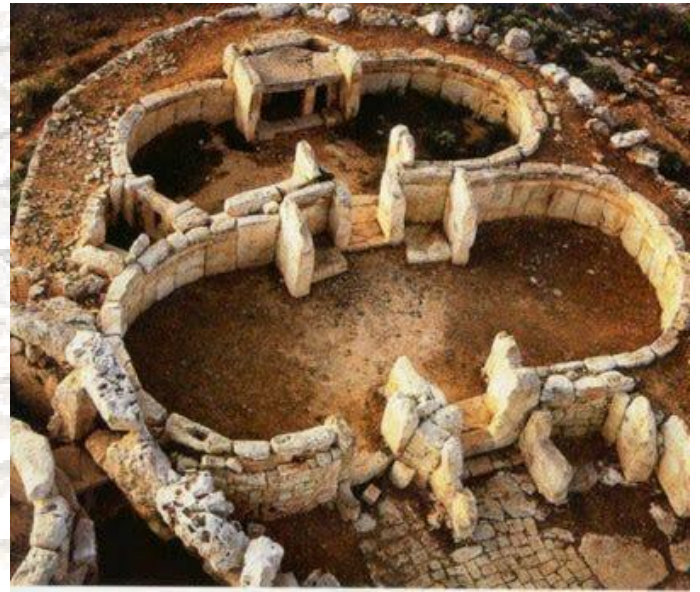
On the 26th, we catch the fast train to our next destination: Konya. As we arrive, we will be visiting the Dargah of Shams Tabriz, following the tradition of getting permission from Shams when entering Konya.



We will connect with Rumi while visiting his Tomb and Sanctuary, Sohbet(open conversation) with his successors, visit the local Sufi Lodges and also enjoy the "**Mystic Music Festival**" which commemorates the life of Mevlana Djelaluddin Rumi. We will also attend Sema ceremonies and experience traditional Sufi Cuisine while continuing our daily dance circles and practices, diving deep in sufi heritage.



During our stay in Konya, we will visit [Catalhöyük](#), a very large neolithic settlement and a UNESCO World Heritage site dated around 7000 BC to meet and connect with Goddess Cybele, to receive the blessing from the goddess of fertility and get close to ancient practices of Anatolia.



### **September 29-30 Pamukkale/Denizli:**

From the midst of Anatolia, we will start our road trip all the way to the western end of Türkiye. We will enjoy the unique site of Egridir Lake during our lunch break and enjoy a night stop at Denizli, the capital of textile and famous Turkish bathrobes. The next day is dedicated to visiting the magical site of Pamukkale and historical site of Hierapolis with many activities and surprises.



### **September 30 Selçuk/Şirince:**

On September 30th evening, we will arrive at our campsite, STOA, located in Sirince, an antique Roman Settlement in Selçuk district of Izmir.

The next day, October 1st in the morning, we will visit Mother Mary and St. John Basilica to receive their blessings before our Camp starts.



### **October 1-7 Selçuk/Şirince:**

STOA, a community center with an inspiring story, situated on the hills of Sirince, covered with olive, pomegranate and fig trees, comfortable accommodation options, several activity salons and great Aegean style food will be our home for a week.





During the camp 1-6 October in addition to the DUP training for emergent leaders of Middle Eastern countries, we will have different workshops including Whirling, Middle Eastern Music and Rhythm, Sema and Meshk night with guests musicians and local community leaders and a special Sufi Market for participants to present their products from all over the world to the community.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Camp, regardless of their experience or no experience with Dances of Universal Peace. You are invited to explore Ephesus historical site, Artemis Temple, Hamam and Bazaars in Selçuk and special village lifestyle in Sirince after the camp ends on October 6th.

The Caravan will officially end on October 7th with a closing circle of dances and practices. For those who want to stay in Izmir to spend more time, to travel, to swim and visit other places of interest, there will be information provided.



# BOOKING INFORMATION

## General Price of Caravan 2024: 1200 EUR\*

### What is included:

- All accommodations in triple bedrooms and most of the meals.
- Transportation to all the organized activities, sites and transfers.
- Entrance tickets to places and Tour Guides.
- One ticket to the Mystic Music Festival.
- Teachings, workshops, visits to local teachers, etc.
- Entrance ticket to Pamukkale historical site of Hierapolis and Travertine.\*\*
- Entrance to the House of Virgin Mary and St John Basilica, Selcuk.

\*\*Note that this visit requires physical readiness to climb the hills.

### What is not included:

- Airport transfers.
- Two lunches during the 2 free times at midday (one in Istanbul, one in Pamukkale) and snacks during the boat and bus ride.
- Plane tickets to arrive in Istanbul or transport after Sirince.
- Any type of insurance, medicines and other medical expenses.
- Honoraries of any of the DUP teachers. Donations will be welcome.
- Ephesus visit fee.

\*The 1200 euros price is intended to make this caravan accessible to younger generations of dancers and leaders, as well as participants from countries with less robust economies. With this consideration and due to high interest, a discount price has been assigned for participants from South America for 1100 euros.

Access to more comfort and privacy in accommodation is available with the following registration fees:

Double occupancy room, 1400 euros per person

Single occupancy room, 1800 euros

Private rooms will **only** be provided based on availability.

### **How to Register:**

**To reserve your space for the DUP Turkey Caravan 2024 please write to:**  
[dupmiddleeast@gmail.com](mailto:dupmiddleeast@gmail.com)

We would like to remind you that we will be asking your flight ticket to and back to Turkey as well as 25 % non-refundable deposit to complete your registration.

### **Places are limited.**

The deadline for applying is August 31st, nevertheless, registration will close when the maximum number of participants is reached.

### **Who can apply?**

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Caravan, regardless of their experience in DUP.

We would like to remind you that the Caravan involves long bus rides. Some site visits require a good physical approach for long walks and exposure to various weather conditions. Hence a good immune system and psychological readiness for challenges is key. Individuals are expected to carry their own medical requirements, and some extra vitamins and minerals to boost their immunity against common flu or other health issues as they may occur due to close contact as part of a big group.

Some medical assistance will be provided by the organization team in case of emergency. If you have a special need, have a health condition that requires care and attention, kindly inform us beforehand and make sure you carry your medication at all times.

## **What to bring?**

September is late summer in Turkiye, so the advice is to bring summer clothes (comfortable shoes/sandals, shorts, hat, swimwear and light clothes), but also a jacket and warmer clothes for cold nights. A scarf to enter mosques is necessary.

It can be helpful to bring socks for whirling, a small blanket or sleeping bag and a personal water bottle.

We recommend before booking your flights to Turkiye to double check with us about your place in the Caravan and all the possible extra activities you can do in the country.

We hope to meet and dance together with you soon in the Land of Sufis and Goddesses.

*2024 Camp & Caravan Team*

*Lakshmi, Roxana (Coordinating Mentors)*

*Sinan, Sheri & Ari (Local Hosts)*

*Berna & Berna (Registration Team)*