

Episode 7: City of Cats

Please Note the second part of the Podcast is in the Present Tense (Brian's Part).

Original Script:

Ana mish Turkiyeh bus bil nesbeh ele, Turkiyah balade el-tene. Khasatan madinet Istanbul. Madineh yale ma3rofe b el-besas w el-madineh yale mohemeh ktir tarikheyan. Mash-horah bil asar, mash-horah bil bazar, w mash-hora bil akel el-tayeb. W mitel ma al Napoleon, "If the world was only one country, Istanbul would be its capital."

B 2017 shtaret she2ah mahdomeh b Istanbul, She2ti b 7ay ktir b7ibo esmo, "Balat". Balat 7ay adim w shawere3 fi day2a w el-byot fiha mlawaneh. Lama btimshe b Balat bit7es 7alak b film. Balat 7ay fih kil el-adyen. Seknen fi el-yahod, el-masi7iyeh, w el-islam. The religious diversity of Balat neighborhood makes it very unique; Buildings like the Greek Ecumenical Patriarchate basilica, synagogues, and Byzantine churches attest to the area's cosmopolitan past as a center for Jewish, Greek, and Armenian communities.

7ad bayte fi ahweh ktir b7ibah esma "Primi Balat". 3indon chai tayeb w ahweh turkiyeh kamen taybeh. Ana ktir b7ib el-Tiramisu w hene bya3emlo Tiramisu raw3a! El-awheh sghireh 3ala kil tawleh fi vase wared. B7ib ekhod el-laptop w eshteghel honik. Iza bru7 el-sobo7 3ala el-ahweh bitlob terwe2ah Turkiyeh. You can't miss Turkish breakfast, it's one of the best!

Fi ktir sowe7 b Balat, fi daraj mlawan w mash-hor. You might have seen this colorful stair that people take pictures on- that's in Balat. B Istanbul b7eb mat3am esmo "Chef Mezze"- bira2yeh el-Mezze 3indo mish taybeh abadan bus el-akel tayeb. 3adatan b7ib ro7 3ala se3a 7 bilel w et3asha honik w shof ghrob el-shames. This restaurant is actually on the roof and you can see the gorgeous Bosphorus. B7ib etlob 3indo el-steak w ana 3am ekol bshuf madiq el-Bosphorus.

Dayman bilata2ah b tolabe b Istanbul. You might think my students that I meet there are Turkish but no! Hene byejo kamen ka-sowe7. Talbeh Brian kamen ken b Turkiyeh w khabarneh ade 7abah w sa2alto kif ada wa2ta b Istanbul. W Khabarne....

B shaher wa7ad 2019, ana b sefer 3ala madinet Istanbul la-awal marah. Ana binzal b Hotel esmo “Basileus Hotel”. Sa7eb el-hotel esmo Salim. Salim mahdoun w tayeb. Kamen el-Hotel arib ktir min Aya Sofia. B awal yom ana balesh ma3 mat7af Aya Sophia, yale ken abel keniseh w ba3dein jame3. Aya Sophia ktir 7ilo fi rasmet 7ilo w mohemeh tarikhiyan.

Starting your trip in Istanbul by visiting Aya Sophia is a great idea.

7ad Aya sophia ana bshuf Sultan Ahmed yale azra2 min bara w enta bitshuf ktir bisa mahdoun meh jowa el-jeme3.

Unfortunately, the last time I was in Istanbul the Blue mosque was closed because of construction. And they only kept a small space dedicated to prayers. But Yes Brian the cats are so cute!

B-tani yom ana bekhod el-metro w ana bro7 3ala Topkapi saray. Hayda el-saray min el-dawleh el-othmaniyeh fi bawebeh 7ilwe, w rasmet 7ilweh jowa. Ba3ed el-Topkapi saray ana bro7 3ala saray gheir esmo Dolmabache. Bira2yeh hayda a7la w a7san 3ashen fi manzar 7ilo; madiq el-bosphor w saray ktir 7ilo w fakhem w enta fik tekhod sowar jowa.

I agree, Dolmabache is also my favourite palace. Specially, the gorgeous view of the Bosphorus.

B talet yom ana bitghada b mat3am esmo “Sulthanahmet Ottoman Terrace Fish House” mish rghis bus el-khedmeh ktir mni7ah. Ana bekol laban, basal, w akid samak. Kil samak tazah w tayeb. Se3ro fih! Ba3ed el-dohor, ana bro7 3ala shere3 Istiklal w bekol ra7et el-7alqom b “Haci Bekir”. Ken tamam! El-masa ana bro7 3ala burj “Galata” w honik enta bitshuf kil madinet Istanbul.

I’m not a big fan of the desert “ra7ah” I prefer Kenefe.

Ana bishta2 la Turkiyah! Ana bade ro7 marah tenyeh.

There is something very magical about Istanbul that makes us miss it all the time. I miss it as well.

Translation:

I'm not Turkish but for me, Turkey is my second home. Especially Istanbul. Istanbul is known for its cats and historically important. A city known for its archeology, known for its bazars, and known for its delicious food. And as Napoleon said, "If the world was only one country, Istanbul would be its capital."

In 2017 I bought a small, cute apartment in Istanbul. My apartment is in a neighborhood that I like a lot, "Balat." Balat is an old neighborhood, it has narrow streets, and the houses are colored. When you walk in Balat you feel like you are in a film. All religions live in Balat neighborhood. Jews, Christians, and Muslims live in Balat. The religious diversity of Balat neighborhood makes it very unique; Buildings like the Greek Ecumenical Patriarchate basilica, synagogues, and Byzantine churches attest to the area's cosmopolitan past as a center for Jewish, Greek, and Armenian communities.

Next to my house there is a coffee shop that I like a lot called "Primi Balat". They have delicious tea and Turkish coffee as well. I love Tiramisu and they make amazing Tiramisu. The coffee shop is small and there is a vase of flowers on every table. I like to take my laptop and work from there. If I go in the morning to the coffee shop, I order Turkish breakfast. You can't miss Turkish breakfast, it's one of the best!

There are a lot of tourists in Balat, there is a famous colorful staircase. You might have seen these colorful stairs that people take pictures on- that's in Balat. In Istanbul I like "Chef Mezze" restaurant- in my opinion the Mezze is not delicious at all, but the Entrees are. I usually like to go there around 7pm, eat dinner, and watch the sunset. This restaurant is actually on the roof and you can see the gorgeous Bosphorus. I love the steak there and while eating you see the Bosphorus.

I always meet with my students in Istanbul. You might think my students that I meet there are Turkish but no! They come as tourists as well. My student Brian was in Turkey and he told me how much he loved it and I asked him how he spent his time in Istanbul. And he said...

In January 2019, I travel to Istanbul city for the first time. I stayed in a Hotel called “Basileus Hotel”. The owner’s name is Salim. Salim was a kind man and funny. The hotel is close to the Hagia Sofia as well. In the first day I started with the Hagia Sophia museum, that was a church and now a mosque. Hagia Sophia is gorgeous and has beautiful paintings and is historically important.

Starting your trip in Istanbul by visiting The Hagia Sophia is a great idea.

Next to the Hagia Sophia I see Sultan Ahmed that is blue from the outside and you see a lot of cute cats inside the mosque.

Unfortunately, the last time I was in Istanbul the Blue mosque was closed because of construction. And they only kept a small space dedicated to prayers. But Yes Brian the cats are so cute!

The second day I take the metro and I go to Topkapi palace. This palace is from the ottoman empire. It has a beautiful gate and beautiful paintings. After the Topkapi I go to a different palace called, Dolmabache. In my opinion this is the nicest and best one because the view is nice; you see all of the Bosphorus and the palace is gorgeous and fancy and you take pictures inside.

I agree, Dolmabache is also my favorite palace. Especially, the gorgeous view of the Bosphorus.

In the third day I eat lunch in “Sulthanahmet Ottoman Terrace Fish House” restaurant, not cheap but the service is really good. I eat yogurt, onions, and definitely fish. All fish is fresh and delicious. It’s worth it! After noon I go to Istiklal street and I eat ra7et el-7alqom in “Haci Bekir”. It was perfect! In the evening I go to Galata tower and there I see all of Istanbul.

I’m not a big fan of the desert “ra7ah” I prefer Kenefe.

I miss Turkey a lot and I want to go again.

There is something very magical about Istanbul that makes us miss it all the time. I miss it as well.