



NORTH CYPRUS - LEFKE - ISTANBUL - TURKEY

SIMPLE DERVISH

LEFKE VISITOR GUIDE

Everything you need to plan your visit

VISIT - STAY - CONNECT

GROUPS
WELCOME

YEAR
ROUND

APPROVED BY
MAWLANA (Q)

SIMPLEDERVISH.COM

@SIMPLEDERVISH

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V1.1



SIMPLE DERVISH

A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER

Lefke is a quiet town nestled in the foothills of northern Cyprus – a place where time moves differently. Orange groves line the roads, the air carries the scent of citrus and pine, and the call to prayer echoes gently across the valley each day.

For those who follow the Naqshbandi-Haqqani tariqa, Lefke holds something more profound. It is the home of the Sheikh Nazim Maqam – the resting place of Mawlana Sheikh Nazim al-Haqqani ق, one of the great spiritual masters of our time – and the base of Mawlana Sheikh Mehmet Adil ق.

Simple Dervish was established with one purpose: to help visitors make the most of their time here. We offer carefully curated accommodation, private airport transfers, guided Ziyarah tours, and all the practical information needed for a meaningful stay.

LOCATION

Lefke, North Cyprus
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus

SERVICES

Accommodation · Airport
Transfers · Ziyarah Tours

BOOKINGS

+44 7481 721935
SimpleDervish.com

AVAILABILITY

Individual & Group bookings
Year-round, single & extended
stays

A NOTE FROM SIMPLE DERVISH

Simple Dervish is honoured to serve as your guide to Lefke. Our service is built on trust, every accommodation is personally selected, every driver is known to us, and every tour is led with care and respect for the sacred nature of the visit. With blessings of Mawlana ق.



FIRST TIME VISITOR?

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR VISIT

HOW LONG SHOULD YOU STAY?

For first-time visitors, we generally recommend staying for at least four days. While some guests visit for just a couple of days and others stay for a week or longer, four days is usually the minimum needed to experience the unique atmosphere and rhythm of life in Lefke.

IS LEFKE SAFE FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS?

Lefke is known for being a safe and welcoming destination, and many solo travellers, including women of all ages, visit safely and comfortably on their own.

WHERE CAN I STAY?

Women who are happy with simple, shared accommodation may stay free of charge at the Ladies' Guesthouse, 10 mn walk from the Dergha. This is a modest traditional house where guests share bedrooms, kitchen facilities, and bathrooms, offering an opportunity to connect with other women in a friendly community setting. In return they can help with the cleaning of the house including the kitchen.

Men may stay free of charge at the Dergah, provided they bring their own sleeping bag and personal toiletries.

HOW TO GET ACCESS TO THE MAQAM?

The maqam is, half for brothers and half for sisters.
The brothers can visit the maqam through the mosque men’s entrance.
The sisters can visit the maqam from the Ladies’ mosque entrance.

ARE THERE SHOPS NEARBY AND PLACES TO EAT?

Yes, there is a shop and Agha Cafe 2mn walk from the Dergha. Where you can buy essentials, and get something to eat. More shops and restaurants are available 10mn walk up in Lefke town center.

Find all recommended restaurants on our *Welcome to Lefke* page on our website

ALTERNATIVE ACCOMODATION

For those seeking privacy and comfort, we can arrange a range of private accommodation options in Lefke, suitable for solo travellers, couples, and families.

Download our Accomodation Brochure on our website.



THE DERGHA

SHEIKH NAZIM MAQAM - LEFKE, NORTH CYPRUS

THE DERGHA PROGRAMME

The Dergah is the heart of spiritual life in Lefke. Centred around the Maqam of Mawlana Sheikh Nazim al-Haqqani ق, it draws visitors from every corner of the world who come to pray, remember, and reconnect with their spiritual purpose. Daily programmes are maintained for both sisters and brothers.

SISTERS	@SIMPLEDERVISH	Ladies Programme
EVERY DAY 1000 beads tasbih & salawat after Isha at Sheikh Nazim Maqam		
EVERY DAY Breakfast with Hajjah Ruckiya is served around midday, Please note: During the Three Holy Months preceding Ramadan, no breakfast is served on Mondays and Thursdays due to voluntary fasting.		
MONDAY	Dhikr after Asr prayers at the ladies guesthouse	
WEDNESDAY	Mawlid after Asr prayers at the Dergah	
THURSDAY	Khatam-i Khwajagan after Isha	
FRIDAY	Mawlid after Asr prayers at the Dergah	
SUNDAY	Mawlid after Asr prayers at the Dergah	

BROTHERS	@SIMPLEDERVISH	When Mawlana is in Lekfe
EVERY DAY Small breakfast at 8:00 am. Possibility of working in the fields with Mawlana directly afterwards.		
EVERY DAY Possible to meet Mawlana Shaykh Mehmet after Dhuhr and Isha prayers if necessary.		
THURSDAY	Khatam-i Khwajagan after the Isha prayer	
FRIDAY	09:00 am – Visiting the Maqam of Hajjah Amina to read the Quran	

GUEST INFORMATION

- Dinner is served daily after Maghrib for all guests.
- Separate facilities and programme areas are maintained for brothers and sisters.
- Programmes and timings may vary during Ramadan and special events.
- Islamic dates and prayer times are subject to local moon sightings.
- Guests are warmly welcomed and guidance is always available.



ACCOMODATION

SIMPLE DERVISH ACCOMODATION

SELECTED ACCOMMODATION IN LEFKE

Simple Dervish offers a carefully selected collection of accommodation across Lefke and the surrounding area – from intimate studios near the Dergah to fully equipped family apartments, resort living, and hotel options. Every property is personally chosen to serve guests visiting the Dergah, with proximity, comfort, and simplicity at the core.

ALL APARTMENTS INCLUDE

Wi-Fi · Washing Machine · Air Conditioning/Fans · Heaters · Parking (public or private) · 3-15 minutes walk to the Dergah · Ground or upper floor options available

ACCOMMODATION OVERVIEW

TYPE	SLEEPS	LOCATION	PRICE FROM
Studios	2	LEFKE	£30PP/NIGHT
Apartments	4	LEFKE / BEACHFRONT	£30PP/NIGHT
Penthouse	2	BEACHFRONT	ON REQUEST
Hotel Rooms	2-4	LEFKE	FROM £65 (2 PEOPLE)

For the full Accommodation Brochure with individual property details, find it on our website at **SimpleDervish.com**



ISTANBUL PROGRAMME

FOR VISITORS TO ISTANBUL

MAWLANA’S SCHEDULE IN ISTANBUL

For those visiting Istanbul and wishing to participate in Mawlana's daily programme, the following schedule provides guidance. All timings are approximate and may vary.

EVERY DAY

🕋SIMPLEDERVISH

Fajr	At the Akbaba Dargah
9:30 am	Breakfast at home with the family

MON - TUE - WED - FRI

10:30 am	Leave for Beylerbeyi Dargah
After Zuhr	Jumah meeting with murids at the Dargah (Hadith lesson Tuesdays)
4:00 pM	Returns to Akbaba for Asr (summer). In winter, prays Asr in Beylerbeyi then returns.
17:00	Dinner with the family
18:30	To the farm to take out the goats for a walk. Men may help clean the barn/garden.
Evening	Return for Maghrib and Isha in Akbaba Dargah

THURSDAY

10:30 am	Farm – goats walk. Men may help clean the barn/garden.
Zuhr	In Akbaba
Asr	In Akbaba Dargah
Before Maghrib	Leave for Beylerbeyi Dargah 45 min before Maghrib for Zikr

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

🕋SIMPLEDERVISH

10:30 am	Farm – goats walk. Men may help clean the barn/garden.
Zuhr	In Akbaba
Asr-Isha	In Akbaba Dargah

ISTANBUL ACCOMMODATION

We offer accommodation in Akbaba, a peaceful neighbourhood close to the Akbaba Dargah. We also offer private transfers from Istanbul's airports (IST and Sabiha) to anywhere in Istanbul city.

Contact us to book.

ISTANBUL DERGAHS

Akbaba & Beylerbeyi

Two Dergahs. Two very different corners of Istanbul.

For visitors coming to Istanbul to spend time at the Dergahs, knowing where they are and how to move between them can make your stay much easier. Both are on the Asian side of Istanbul, but they offer very different surroundings and experiences.

Akbaba Dergha

A quieter side of Istanbul

📍 **Akbaba, Köyiçi Cd. No:37, Beykoz, Istanbul**

Akbaba is situated in Beykoz, in the greener and quieter northern part of Istanbul. It feels worlds away from the busy centre, surrounded by trees, village-like streets and a more peaceful atmosphere.

The area itself has a long spiritual history. Akbaba takes its name from Akbaba Sultan, a Sufi figure associated with the conquest of Constantinople, and the neighbourhood has been connected with a tekke for centuries.

For visitors, Akbaba is a place to slow down, spend time at the Dergah and experience a quieter side of Istanbul.

Getting to Akbaba

Akbaba is served by several public buses, including 15, 15BK, 15D, 135 and 137, with stops only a few minutes' walk from the area. Routes and timings can change, so check the current journey on IETT or your preferred map app before setting out.

Akbaba to Beylerbeyi

The two Dergahs are approx. 20 km apart by road.

By car, the journey can be relatively straightforward, but Istanbul traffic can make travel times unpredictable. Allow extra time if you are travelling for a specific programme or gathering.

By public transport, there isn't a simple single-bus journey between the two locations. You will generally need to change buses, depending on where you are starting from and the current routes.

For the easiest route on the day, use IETT's journey planner or Google Maps, as routes and departure times can change.

Our Advice:

If you have somewhere you need to be at a particular time, leave plenty of extra time. Istanbul traffic is part of the journey!

Need help with your Istanbul stay?

- Accommodation in Akbaba
- Private airport transfers from IST & SAW
- Transport within Istanbul

Book on our website SimpleDervish.com

Beylerbyi Dergha

Where spirituality meets the Bosphorus

📍 **Bedevi Tekkesi Sok. No:7/9, Beylerbeyi, Üsküdar, Istanbul**

Beylerbeyi is much closer to central Istanbul and sits beside the Bosphorus on the Asian shore. The Dergah is located close to Beylerbeyi Palace and the waterfront.

Its location makes it particularly easy to combine a visit to the Dergah with exploring one of Istanbul's most beautiful neighbourhoods.

Getting to Beylerbeyi

Beylerbeyi is easily reached by public transport. Take the metro to Üsküdar and then a short bus. You can also take a ferry to Üsküdar and continue by bus or taxi. Check IETT or Google Maps for the latest routes.





GUIDED EXPERIENCES

ZIYARAH TOURS

Our guided Ziyarah tours take you to the sacred sites of Cyprus and Istanbul in a single full day. Led by knowledgeable guides with deep reverence for each location, these tours offer an opportunity for spiritual reflection, prayer, and connection to the rich heritage of this land.

DERGHA & LEFKE

Sheikh Nazim Maqam

Hajjah Aminah Maqam

CYPRUS — KEY SITES

Hala Sultan (additional fee applies)

7 Sahabas

40 Sahabas

Saint Barnabas

Kutub Osman

Weeping Dervish

TOUR DETAILS

Full day • Guided

From £110-125 (5 people seater)

From £150 (7 people seater)

Hala Sultan: additional fee applies
+ £5 booking fee applies

ISTANBUL ZIYARAH TOUR

Evup Sultan Area

- Haldi bin Zayab Abu Ayyub al-Ansari R.A.
- 13 Sahabat Qiram (r.a) around the walls of Constantinople
- Kaab ibn Maalik, Abu Dardaa, Jabir ibn Abdullah, Abu Zar Gifari (maqam), Ebu Shayba al-Hudri, Abdullah Al-Hudri, Ahmet al-Ansari, Hamadullah Al Ansari, Muhammed al-Ansari, Edhem, Hajati Hafir, Abdussadik Ibn Amr, Su’be

Karaköy Area

- Underground mosque
- Amr bin As (Maqam)
- Vehb bin Hushayra
- Sufyan in Uyayna

Üskudar

- Aziz Mahmut Hudai q.s. (Shaykh of 3 Roman sultans)
- Shaykh Jamaluddin al-Qumuksi

Beykoz • Beşiktaş • Kocamustafapaşa

- Prophet Yusha (Joshua) alayhissalam
- Shaykh Yahya q.s. • great wali
- Sinan Hyacint from Awliaallah
- 2 daughters of Hazrat Huseyin r.a.: Fatima and Sakina

ISTANBUL ZIYARAH PRICING

Full day • Guided

5 People seater: From £120

7 People seater: From £150

Contact us to book

TRAVEL INFORMATION

GETTING TO LEFKE

AIRPORT TRANSFERS & TRAVEL

Your journey to Lefke starts here. North Cyprus is served by three airports. Simple Dervish offers comfortable, reliable, and hassle-free private airport transfers directly to Lefke and the surrounding area.



All times are approximate and may vary depending on traffic and route.
Contact us to book your private transfer in advance.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Important for Ercan arrivals: Do not allow your passport to be stamped at ERC – this will prevent you from crossing into South Cyprus. Always ask for your entry stamp on a separate piece of paper.

CURRENCY

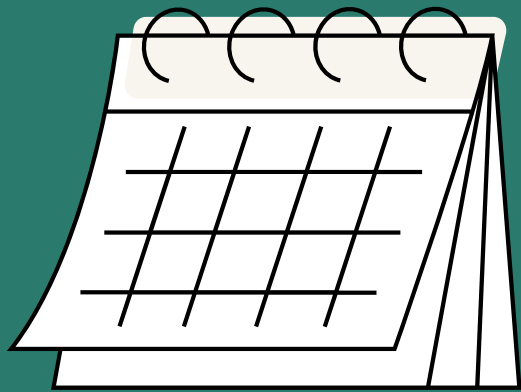
Turkish Lira (TRY), Euros, Pounds, and Dollars are accepted. ATMs available in Lefke town centre.

LANGUAGE

Turkish is the official language. English is widely spoken at the Dergah and in tourist areas.

CLIMATE

Mediterranean climate with long, hot summers and mores. June-September reaches 35-40°C – pack light clothing and sun protection. October-November is warm and pleasant. December-February is mild (10-15°C) with occasional rain. March-May is spring: green, fragrant, and one of the best times to visit – the Dergah’s orange groves are at their most beautiful.



EVENTS & CALENDAR

CELEBRATION CALENDAR

ANNUAL EVENTS

These are the key dates in the Naqshbandi Haqqani calendar. The most visited times are the Prophet’s Mawlid, the Urs of Mawlana Sheikh Nazim, the last two weeks of Ramadan (when Sheikh Mehmet is in Lefke) and both Eids. Sheikh Mehmet also travels to Lefke on other occasions throughout the year. Book early for these periods, accommodation fills quickly.

GROUP DISCOUNTS APPLY FOR STAYS OVER 10 DAYS

- **Mawlid an-Nabi** - Celebration of the birth of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ on 12 Rabi Al Awal
- **Urs of Mawlana Sheikh Nazim** - Annual commemoration and gatherings in honour of Mawlana Sheikh Nazim on 7th of May
- **Isra' and Mi'raj** - Prophet Muhammad ﷺ journey and ascension to heaven
- **Laylat al-Bara'ah** - Night of Forgiveness, is a highly sacred night in the Islamic calendar
- **Ramadan & Laylat al-Qadr** - Especially the final two weeks when Sheikh Mehmet Efendi is in Lefke
- **Eid al-Fitr** - Celebration marking the end of Ramadan
- **Eid al-Adha** - The Festival of Sacrifice

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Daily prayers and gatherings
- Sohbet
- Increased activity around the dergah
- Visitors from many countries
- A welcoming community atmosphere
- Special programmes during Ramadan and Eid

PLANNING YOUR STAY

- Arrive 1-2 days before major events if possible
- Book accommodation early
- Arrange airport transfers in advance



SIMPLE DERVISH

Ready to plan your visit?

Contact us on WhatsApp for:

- Accommodation
- Airport Transfers
- Ziyarah Tours
- Group Visits

+44 7481 721935

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