



**ATA-DC**  
AMERICAN TURKISH  
ASSOCIATION OF  
WASHINGTON DC



## EVENT PRESS RELEASE

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# Washington, D.C. Embraces Turkish Culture This October

**The 22nd Annual Turkish Festival: "Türkiye Calling" Celebrates Cultural Riches in the Nation's Capital Washington, D.C. (October 20, 2024)** – This October, Washington, D.C. will resonate with the vibrant call of Türkiye as the city celebrates the 13th Turkish Cultural Heritage Month. In recognition of this annual event, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser has officially proclaimed October 2024 as Turkish Heritage Month in the nation's capital. The American-Turkish Association of Washington, D.C. (ATA-DC) is thrilled to host the 22nd edition of the award-winning DC Turkish Festival under the theme "Türkiye Calling," a premier cultural celebration that promises a month filled with exciting events and activities.

On Sunday, October 20th, Pennsylvania Avenue NW will come alive with the sights, sounds, and flavors of Türkiye. The **22nd Turkish Festival**, under the theme "Türkiye Calling," offers a full day of **free admission** for all, including mesmerizing folk dances, live music, authentic Turkish cuisine, fashion shows, and arts & crafts for children. This highly anticipated event, which has been voted "Best Festival" and "Best Cultural Festival" by Washington City Paper readers for **13 consecutive years**, attracts tens of thousands of attendees eager to experience Türkiye's rich cultural heritage.

Festival-goers can enjoy delicious Turkish food, traditional coffee and tea, and explore the bustling Turkish Bazaar, all while being captivated by live performances. With over 20,000 visitors expected, the festival will feature Turkish-style artists, local artisans, and authentic food vendors. There will also be fun activities for kids, including face painting and cultural crafts.

## Connecting Cultures and Communities Since 1965

Since its founding in 1965, ATA-DC has been dedicated to fostering cross-cultural understanding between Turkish and American communities. For nearly six decades, the organization has built bridges through its diverse cultural, social, and educational programs. The Annual Turkish Festival, now in its 22nd year, continues to be a cornerstone of these efforts, bringing the heart of Türkiye to the heart of the nation's capital. This year's festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Pennsylvania Ave. NW between 3rd and 6th Streets.

"Since 1965, ATA-DC has been dedicated to fostering cross-cultural understanding between the Turkish and non-Turkish communities in the Washington, DC area," said Patsy Jones, chair of the festival committee. "For 22 years, we've proudly hosted the Turkish Festival right in the heart of the nation's capital, inviting our American friends to experience and celebrate Türkiye's rich cultural heritage. We're also deeply grateful for Mayor Muriel Bowser's recognition of Turkish Heritage Month, which highlights the importance of building bridges and strengthening ties between Turkish and non-Turkish Americans. This year, as part of our anniversary celebrations, we're excited to bring the community together through fun, engaging cultural events, and we warmly welcome all Washingtonians to join us for our annual festivities this October!"

### Festival Highlights Include:

- **Turkish Cuisine:** Savor authentic dishes from local Washington, D.C. Turkish restaurants, including kebabs, döner, traditional specialties, baklava, and other delightful desserts.
- **Turkish Tea, Coffee & Fortune Reading:** Visit the "Turkish Tea House" for exhibitions and demonstrations of Turkish arts, including paper marbling, and enjoy a cup of Turkish coffee at the "Turkish Coffee House," where fortune-tellers will be on hand to read your coffee grounds.
- **Cultural Exhibitions:** Local artists will showcase handmade ceramics and perform demonstrations of traditional Turkish arts and culture.
- **Grand Bazaar:** Explore the Turkish Bazaar, featuring over 40 vendors offering jewelry, hand-woven textiles, and other Turkish crafts.

- **Arts & Crafts for Kids:** The Kids' Tent will offer hands-on activities that allow children and their parents to engage with Turkish culture and create lasting memories.
- **Stage Performances:** Enjoy diverse live performances that highlight Türkiye's role as a cultural bridge. Performers include Kardelen Turkish Dance Ensemble, Nomad Dancers, the Rhythm and Dance Art Center from Ankara, along with talented local musicians and bands, showcasing traditional Turkish music and modern fusion sounds.

For more information about the Turkish Festival and Turkish Heritage Month events, please visit our website at [www.turkishfestival.org](http://www.turkishfestival.org).

### Thanks to Our Supporters:

- DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities
- Turkish Coalition of America


### Follow Us on Social Media:

- **Facebook:** Turkish Festival 2024
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