



Anglo-Turkish Society hybrid lecture, 5 March 2024, 6.00 pm (UK time)

Speaker: Jack Gatacre

Venue: Royal Anthropological Institute, 50 Fitzroy St, Fitzrovia, London W1T 5BT

Title: 'Completing the Turkish coast. Karadeniz Kayak Tour Autumn 2023: 800 miles by kayak from the Bulgarian border (İğneada, Kırklareli) to the Georgian border (Hopa, Artvin)'

The presentation will cover the tale of my 800 mile kayak tour from the Bulgarian border (İğneada, Kırklareli) to the Georgian border (Hopa, Artvin)' from September to October 2023. Following on from my 2022 tour from Istanbul too Samandag, Hatay, I have now kayaked the entirety of the Turkish coastline.

Themes will include: overview details of the route, highlights, daily routine and logistics, main challenges (especially weather windows and rounding the notorious Sinop Burnu), comparing the experience with the previous Turkish trip (mainly summer versus autumn and pluses and minuses of supported and unsupported trips), history with a focus on naval trading empires, notable excursions, local food and fruit eaten and seen on route, varying nature and agriculture along the coast, and potential future kayak trips (Moroccan coast or London to Istanbul).

Booking essential: <https://jack-gatacre-presentation.eventbrite.co.uk>

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I am English but am a major Turkophile. I first visited Turkey when I moved to Istanbul in 2015 to work in the banking sector for Mr Haydar Acun at Marmara Portföy Yönetim in 4. Levent. I lived on the hill above Hacı Osman with beautiful sea-views. I spent many happy evenings and weekends exploring local villages, beaches and the Belgrad Orman by bike and swam in the sea as well as making local friends in the area, especially *esnaf*, parking men, newspaper kiosk salesmen and restaurant owners and waiters. I was fortunate enough to find a friendly man, Omer Icoz from Tekirdağ to teach me Turkish 6 hours or so each week by walking around Cevahir AVM and Şişli and going on occasional trips to his *memleket*. This was coupled by befriending *mahalle arkadaş* as well as more formally by attending analyst conferences around Istanbul. I returned to England having the opportunity to work for the British government on Anglo-Turkish understanding and relations. Ever since, Turkey has remained very close to my heart and I return at every opportunity with great happiness, excitement and nostalgia for these happy days.

The kayak trips of the last two years have combined my life's two greatest passions and had been a dream and ambition I held for many years, to lap the entirety of the Turkish coast.

During an MBA at Warwick University I established the Anglo Turkish business society, linking alumni and businessmen working between Turkey and England. I made strong bonds with 2 Turkish colleagues from my course especially one from Giresun as well as many members of Warwick University Turkish Society and the wider academic and social Turkish community there. In my current career in construction sales, I engage with as many Turkish colleagues and customers as possible.

I hope to further build my relationship with the Anglo Turkish Society and Mozaik charity (with any useful knowledge gained from my trustee position at the Fishermen's Mission) and introduce more Turkish and Turkophile friends to the society. I enjoy supporting the Turkish economy where I can through importing delicious products such as olive oil and dried figs through agricultural friends I have there.