

Reading the Book of Nature Summer Retreat



Program Brochure

Barla & Çamdağı, Türkiye

July 14-19, 2025

Retreat Overview:

This retreat, jointly organized by Maqasid Institute (USA), Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture (Turkiye), and Hearts See (UK) invites participants to deepen their connection with the natural world through a Qur'anic lens, exploring the "Book of Nature" as a source of divine signs and wisdom. Through lectures, outdoor activities, and cultural experiences, attendees will engage with contemporary Islamic thought, Qur'anic perspectives, and the rich heritage of Islamic scholarship.

Key Features:

- Morning Outdoor Sessions led by Shaikh Muhammad Foulds
- Engaging Lectures by Scholars
- Cultural Visits and Immersion in Nature
- Opportunities for Reflection, Prayer, and Fellowship

Daily Program Schedule

Monday, July 14, 2025

- Morning (around 11:00 AM): Travel to Istanbul Airport from IFSC
- 1:55 PM - 3:10 PM: Flight to Isparta: TK2860 (13:55-15:10)
- 3:10 PM - 5:00 PM: Travel / Transfer to Barla
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Arriving in Barla & checking into the apartments / Asr Prayer & Dinner
- 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM: Introduction to the Retreat, and participants' networking

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

- 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM: Breakfast
- 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Morning session: outdoors - Shaikh Muhammad Foulds: *Critique of the contemporary worldview of natural sciences*
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Free Time / Interaction
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM: Light Meal, Coffee Break & Prayer / Free Time
- 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM: Dr. Yamina Bouguenaya: *Reading the Signs (Ayaat) in Nature*
- 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Tuna: *Knowing God in the Secular Age: Why Read the Cosmos?*
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Asr Prayer & Dinner
- 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM: Barla Visit with Mr. Said Yüce

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

- 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM: Breakfast
- 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Morning session: outdoors - Shaikh Muhammad Foulds: *Viewing nature through the Qur'anic lens of ayat*
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Free Time / Interaction
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM: Light Meal, Coffee Break & Prayer / Free Time
- 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM: Dr. Yamina Bouguenaya: *Witnessing the Beautiful Names (al-asma al-husna) (in nature)*
- 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Tuna: *Reflective Observation: Reading the Cosmos to Know God*
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Asr Prayer & Dinner
- 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM: Said Yüce: *Said Nursi: life and Risale-i Nur*

Thursday, July 17, 2025

- 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM: Breakfast
- 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Morning session: outdoors - Shaikh Muhammad Foulds: *Using senses to read the ayats in nature*
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Free Time / Interaction
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM: Light Meal, Coffee Break & Prayer / Free Time
- 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM: Dr. Yamina Bouguenaya: *Reflecting with the Heart*
- 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Tuna: *On Beauty: Reflective Observation in Practice*
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Asr Prayer & Dinner
- 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM: Dr. Ildus Rafikov: *The Good Life (Hayyat Al-Tayyibah): a Qur'anic Guidance*

Friday, July 18, 2025

- 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM: Breakfast
- 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Morning session: outdoors - Shaikh Muhammad Foulds: *Connecting the Qur'an, the Sunnah and our perception of nature*
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Ahmet Subaşı: *Reading the Human Fitrah in the Name of Rab Who Created*
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM: Light Meal, Coffee Break & Prayer / Free Time
- 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM: Dr. Ildus Rafikov: *Nature as a Dynamic System: an Islamic View*
- 3:45 PM - 5:30 PM: Medet Yaylası (Cultural Visit)
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Asr Prayer (at Medet Yaylası or upon return)

Saturday, July 19, 2025

- 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM: Breakfast and Closing of the Retreat
- 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Free Time / Packing / Check-out preparations
- 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM: Transfer from Barla to Isparta Airport
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Flight to Istanbul: TK2861 (15:55-17:15)

Speakers & Topics

- Shaikh Muhammad Foulds (Founder, Hearts See, UK):
 1. Critique of the contemporary worldview of natural sciences
 2. Viewing nature through the Qur'anic lens of ayat
 3. Using senses to read the ayats in nature
 4. Connecting the Qur'an, the Sunnah and our perception of nature
- Dr. Yamina Bouguenaya (Receiving Nur, USA):
 1. Reading the Signs (Ayaat) in Nature
 2. Witnessing the Beautiful Names (al-asma al-husna) (in nature)
 3. Reflecting with the Heart
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Tuna (Duke University, USA):
 1. Knowing God in the Secular Age: Why Read the Cosmos?
 2. Reflective Observation: Reading the Cosmos to Know God
 3. On Beauty: Reflective Observation in Practice
- Dr. Ildus Rafikov (Vice President, Maqasid Institute, USA):
 1. The Good Life (Hayyat Al-Tayyibah): a Qur'anic Guidance
 2. Nature as a Dynamic System: an Islamic View
- Dr. Ahmet Subaşı (SESTEK, UAE):
 1. Reading the Human Fitrah in the Name of Rab Who Created
- Mr. Said Yüce (Executive President, Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture):
 1. Said Nursi: life and Risale-i Nur (Lecture)
 2. Barla Visit (Guided Experience)

**Organizers reserve the right to change this program schedule depending on circumstances*