

# My Unforgettable Erasmus Traineeship in Turkey: A Journey of Growth and Discovery



In the summer of 2024, I embarked on a journey that would shape my professional skills and outlook on life. As part of the Erasmus traineeship mobility program, I spent two months in Antalya Belek, Turkey, as a Guest Relations Officer at the Limak Arcadia Hotel. This experience was more than just a job; it was a cultural immersion, a learning adventure, and a time of personal growth I will cherish forever.

## *Arrival in Antalya: A Warm Welcome*

From the moment I arrived in Antalya, I was captivated by the stunning landscapes—the deep blue of the Mediterranean Sea, the golden beaches, and the lush green mountains in the backdrop. The warm, hospitable nature of the Turkish people made me feel at home instantly. The Limak Arcadia Hotel, nestled in the heart of Belek, was to be my new workplace and home for the next two months.

The hotel's impressive architecture and beautiful gardens set the perfect scene for the exciting times ahead.

## *First Days at Limak Arcadia: Learning the Ropes*

My first days at the hotel were a whirlwind of new experiences. As a Guest Relations Officer, my primary responsibility was to ensure that guests had a pleasant and memorable stay. This included handling check-ins and check-outs, addressing guest inquiries and concerns, and organizing special events and excursions. The role required excellent communication skills, a deep understanding of cultural nuances, and a genuine desire to make every guest feel valued.

The team at Limak Arcadia was incredibly supportive. They guided me through the intricacies of the job, teaching me how to navigate the fast-paced environment of a luxury hotel. I quickly learned that working in guest relations was about more than just solving problems—it was about creating moments of joy and ensuring that each guest left with fond memories of their stay.



## *Embracing the Turkish Culture: A Feast for the Senses*

One of the highlights of my traineeship was the opportunity to immerse myself in Turkish culture. The vibrant markets, the rich history, and the delicious cuisine were all integral parts of my experience. I spent my days off exploring the ancient ruins of Perge and Aspendos, wandering through the colorful streets of Antalya's old town, and enjoying the serene beauty of the Düden Waterfalls.

Food played a significant role in my cultural immersion. From savoring the flavors of traditional Turkish dishes like kebabs, baklava, and gözleme to sharing tea with locals, I discovered that Turkish hospitality was as warm and inviting as the Mediterranean sun. Each meal was a celebration of flavors, and every conversation added a new layer to my understanding of Turkish life.

### ***Challenges and Triumphs: Growing as a Professional***

Like any new experience, my traineeship came with its challenges. There were moments when the language barrier seemed insurmountable, or when dealing with difficult guests tested my patience and problem-solving skills. However, these challenges were also opportunities for growth. With each passing day, I became more confident in my abilities, more adaptable to the fast-paced environment, and more adept at handling the diverse needs of the hotel's international clientele.



One of my proudest moments was organizing a surprise birthday celebration for a guest who was visiting with her family. Seeing the joy on her face and the gratitude of her family reminded me why I chose this career path. It was in these moments of connection and service that I found true fulfillment in my work.



### ***Farewell to Antalya: A Heart Full of Memories***

As my traineeship came to an end, I found it hard to say goodbye to the beautiful city of Antalya, the welcoming staff at Limak Arcadia, and the wonderful guests I had the pleasure of serving. The two months flew by, leaving me with a treasure trove of memories and experiences that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

This traineeship was more than just a step in my career; it was a journey of self-discovery, cultural enrichment, and professional development. I returned home not only with new skills and knowledge but with a heart full of gratitude for the opportunity to experience the magic of Turkey. My Erasmus traineeship in Antalya, Turkey, was truly an unforgettable chapter in my life, one that has inspired me to continue exploring the world and embracing new challenges with an open heart and a curious mind.