

AIMA RETREAT

Your Gateway to Inspiration

2013



10 REASONS FOR BEING A RETREATER AT AIMA

1. ARE YOU A WRITER, A POET, A MUSICIAN, AN ACADEMIC OR A CREATIVE INDIVIDUAL?
2. DO YOU WANT TO WORK AND CREATE IN A CALM ATMOSPHERE?
3. DO YOU WANT TO FOCUS ON YOUR WORK AWAY FROM DISTRACTIONS?
4. DO YOU WANT TO GET AWAY FROM THAT BIG CITY?
5. DO YOU WANT THE SOUND OF THE WAVES WAKING YOU UP TO A WONDERFUL DAY?
6. DO YOU WANT TO WAKE UP AND WATCH THE FISHING BOATS LEAVE THE HARBOUR?
7. DO YOU NEED INSPIRATION?
8. IS YOUR LIFE'S WORK OF ART HALF WAY THROUGH?
9. ARE YOU NOT ABLE TO WRITE EVEN A WORD?
10. ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A RETREAT AWAY FROM CONCERTS AND ALL THESE LONG TOURS?

**IF SO! YOU ARE WELCOME AT AIMA
RETREAT IN AYVALIK THE NORTH-
WESTERN AEGEAN COAST OF TURKEY**

AIMA *Retreat*



AYVALIK INTERNATIONAL MUSIC ACADEMY

AIMA was founded in 1998 by musicology Professor Filiz Ali. Since its foundation the Academy has assumed a leading role in promoting the education of young musicians through expanding their horizons and their musical careers. Music master classes are held every year during the summer and fall seasons in Ayvalik, focusing mostly on string instruments. Students from Turkey, Europe and even as far away as New Zealand, gather together for eight to ten days of intense studying, practicing and performing with distinguished international faculty at this beautiful Aegean coastal town.

The Academy has evolved since its foundation and diversified its master classes with Composition Workshops, Creative Writing Workshops, Piano Master Classes, Flute Master Classes, Clarinet Master Classes, Harp Master Classes and Guitar Master Classes. The Academy has also aimed to enrich the cultural life of Ayvalik and the region with public concerts organized during all seasons.

AIMA *Retreat*



AIMA WRITERS, MUSICIANS AND ARTISTS' RETREAT

The idea of an Artists' Retreat had long been a topic for the founders of the Academy; finally in 2012 AIMA Retreat was established. Retreat's aim is to offer artists, writers, academics and all creative individuals a peaceful, inspiring atmosphere for artistic and intellectual production directly on the sea where they can begin, pursue or accomplish the work they love. We welcome people of all ages and nationalities at all stages of their professional development to apply. The Retreat provides guests with an atmosphere of tranquility and comfort as well as resources and connections to encourage artistic exploration, inspiration, nurture creative thought, exchange ideas and create bonds between diverse thinkers.

The Retreat is located in an Art Deco villa on the sea, with a pleasant Mediterranean style garden and a quay. It has panoramic views of the Aegean Sea, oozing charm and tranquility which is a perfect setting to stimulate intellectual and creative works. Retreat accommodates up to 10 guests, provides guests with the equipment, resources, studios, living spaces and connections they need for their professional work and events. The Academy Café on the Villa Quay is also a great place to relax with the Aegean sea lapping at your feet. The villa has three levels, basement, ground and first floor comprising 4 double and 2 single bedrooms with balcony all with sea views. There are vast study and living spaces on all three levels.

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LOCATION

AIMA Retreat is located in Ayvalik, a seaside town on the northwestern Aegean coast of Turkey, surrounded by the Greek island 'Lesbos' in the west, Mount Ida in the north and Ancient Pergamon in the east. Ayvalik is in the ancient Aeolian, which was an area that comprised the west and northwestern region of Asia Minor, mostly along the coast, and also several offshore islands (particularly Lesbos), where the Aeolian Greek city-states were located.

Aeolis was an ethnological and linguistic enclave for so many artists. Aeolus, who was the ruler of the island of Aeolia, in Greek mythology, was the son of Hippotes, a god and the father of the winds. No wonder Ayvalik is well known for its wind, even on the hottest summer days, it has a nice breeze which comes from the Mount Ida, which we believe gives a special inspiration for artistic exploration.

Ayvalik has had many prominent Turkish musicians and artists who were born, raised or lived there. While in the area one could check out the local haunts of those artists. On the nearby island Cunda, the most beautiful examples of Neo-Classical architecture can be seen on the old buildings.

The island is well known for its beaches, cafes, tavernas and the great delicacies – especially seafood. Visitors should not miss a coffee at “Taş Kahve” (Stone Café) where locals drink tea, play backgammon and cards, as well as gossip. While in Ayvalik, one will feel the laid-back atmosphere of the Aegean, locals here are not in a hurry, they sit back and chat in the cafés, things can wait here.

Ayvalik is also well known for its olive and olive oil, great food and seasonal gourmet specialties which are unique to the area, turquoise waters and the lush plateau on the mountains around the town.

Nearby ancient cities of Pergamon and Troy are worthwhile to visit. Pergamon is reached via a scenic drive through winding mountainous roads stopping by at villages of one's own choice. The mountains here are unique for their pine trees and pine nuts. And last but not least the Greek island Lesbos which was home to Sappho, is only a one hour boat trip from Ayvalik with scheduled ferries. While at the Retreat, depending on timing and choice one could enjoy any of those side trips or just go and explore the surrounding area.

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AIMA VILLA

Retreat is based in an historical villa located just by the sea, the villa is secluded from the hustle and bustle of the city but also only 2 minutes walk to the town center. The Villa's large terrace faces the distant Greek island of Lesbos where guests enjoy a beautiful sunset after a day of creativity.

The Villa was built in the early 20th century and after changing hands several times it was donated to AIMA by the philanthropic owners of the building. Since then the villa has been hosting many cultural figures and young musicians from all around the world. The Villa was restored in 1943 and recently remodeled in 2005. The furnishings and decor throughout the house are in keeping with the art-deco style of the villa.

The rates we offer to those who directly apply to AIMA Retreat start from 300 Euros per week (based on single occupancy), this includes a one to four week long stay, breakfast, use of the rooms, the library, Wi-Fi, printer, multimedia room with all equipments, i.e. projector, wide screen LCD TV, CD & DVD Player, Hi-Fi music player, 3 baby grand pianos, 2 upright pianos, 2 electric pianos, the shared kitchen, dining room, the studios, the concert hall with 65 seats capacity, music stands, garden, terrace and the Academy Cafe.

We recommend that guests do their bookings 3 weeks prior to their planned stay with us, but we might have an open space available at the last minute. Also, we can manage the rental of neighboring estates to accommodate larger groups, or those who want to come with their family or for shorter stays.

Retreat is a self-service establishment. The house is informal and comfortable, but a structure exists with the purpose of focus on a creative project. That structure consists of our house guidelines, which we ask each retreaters to consult before applying and to consent to before agreeing to attend.

AIMA *Retreat*



WHAT WE OFFER

Time and space to create; laid back, casual atmosphere, access to artistic networks, nature, culture and nurture with unique culinary experience, comfort of your home without distractions, and an opportunity to focus only on your creative work.

CONTACT US

Website: www.aimaretreat.com

e-mail: aimaretreat@gmail.com

Office: +90 266 312 6703

Fax: +90 266 312 6704

Mobile: +90 538 297 9698

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res artis

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OF ARTIST RESIDENCIES