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» **Turkey to be a partner country of Berlin tourism fair**



Turkey will join the 44th ITB Berlin Tourism Exchange as a partner country, Recep Yavuz, chairman of the Travel Agencies' Administrators Association, or SAYD, said Thursday.

"We will hold a lottery at the fair, and host 44 couples in the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya," Yavuz told the Anatolia news agency.

Yavuz said Turkey's Tourism Ministry, SAYD, the Mediterranean Tourist Hoteliers' Association, and Sun Express Airlines would sponsor the Antalya vacation for 44 couples.

"The couples will stay at all inclusive hotels, and flights, transfers and excursions will all be free of charge," Yavuz said.

Yavuz said Turkey had started to become Europe's favorite holiday destination, and that this trend would also continue in 2010.

With more than 180,000 visitors, among these 108,000 trade visitors, and over 10,000 exhibitors from 180 countries ITB Berlin is the leading platform of all tourism industry offers.

The fair will be open from March 10 to 14.