



Chelsea Now photos by Q. Sakamaki

Turkey at a crossroads: Traditions on the rebound

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Chelsea Now photographer Q. Sakamaki was recently in the Middle East documenting Turkey's changing social climate. As Sakamaki sees it, Turkey is becoming increasingly "conservative on the outside, but still liberal on the inside." By

contrast, he noted, "L.A. is outside liberal, inside conservative." Clockwise from above: in Urfa in central Turkey, a girl skips through Byzantine ruins; a pair of Sufi dancers meditate before a performance; in Istanbul, a vendor sells flags of Ataturk, still universally revered as the father of modern Turkey, in front of a mosque, while a conservatively dressed woman passes; in Istanbul, at a mosque on Regaib Kandili, which marks the day of the Prophet Muhammad's conception.

