



MEET THE CREW

CREW PROFILE 2025



CAPTAIN - KURSAD

Zeki Kürşat Gazioğlu

Although born in Trabzon, in Turkey, Kürşat grew up in the beautiful coastal city of Marmaris. His childhood was spent near the sea, falling in love with all aspects of sailing and watersports. By the age of 15, he was working part-time in a watersports company which enabled him to gain experience handling sea toys such as towable ringos, inflatable bananas and parasailing boats. He combined his marine skills with a degree in Tourism from the University of Muğla. After university he returned to the sea and started to work as a mate on a 40m charter yacht. His diligence and talent were spotted and within a year he was promoted to first mate on a 36mt private motor-yacht. By the age of 26, he became a captain and since then, he has been cruising charter yachts in Mediterranean and Red Sea.

Kürşat holds licenses in both Turkish and International Yacht Masters and Short-Range radio. He is a keen diver and is a PADI Divemaster and has a CMAS 3-star diver license. When not at sea he enjoys outdoor activities like camping, fishing, and off-road driving. He is a family man and spends as much time as he can with his wife, son, and daughter. Kürşat is a proven and experienced captain who is passionate about sharing his love of the sea and providing excellence in service.



ENGINEER – SERKAN

Ali Serkan Avcı

Meet our beloved engineer Serkan, who was born in 1981 in Aydın, Turkey, and now lives in Marmaris. There he finished his education as well as at Muğla. Serkan's life at sea started at the tender age of 16 on his family boat, a charter gullet, where he learned a lot working for his mother and father. He continued to work on that boat for four years, becoming an expert on the Aegean coast and its best spots. During the summer, he started to work in watersports after school. At 18, he started diving as a hobby and quickly became so fascinated by the underwater world that he trained and became a Commercial Diver and 1-star Diving Instructor. He is so passionate about underwater life that he has an image of Poseidon, the ancient underwater God in Greek mythology, tattooed on his arm.

After years of experience in diving, chartering, and cruising, he started to work as an engineer and is very happy to share his years of experience with the FX Boat. Serkan is an expert in fishing. He loves to explore the world, both above and below the water, though now it is more often through the Discovery channel, cooking, and gourmet traveling. His dreams for the future include traveling the world and having a family of his own.

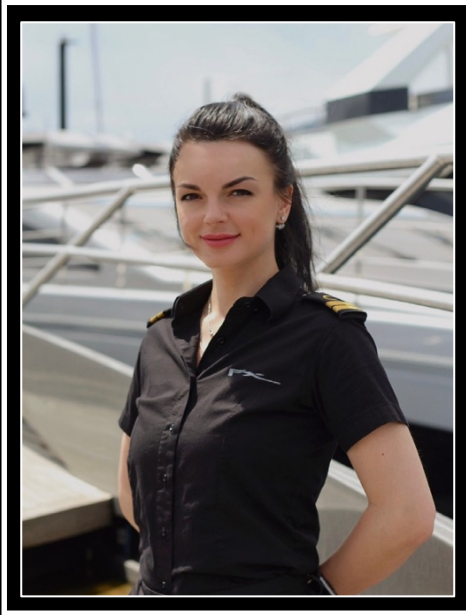


CHEF – ALI

Ali Çakas

Ali, our chef on board, hails from the ancient city of Adana, Turkey, and grew up exploring its vibrant markets and rich culinary heritage. With over 20 years of experience in cooking, both onshore and on board, he brings a wealth of knowledge and a genuine love for culinary arts. Ali is passionate about using the very best and freshest local ingredients, infusing every dish with his love and dedication.

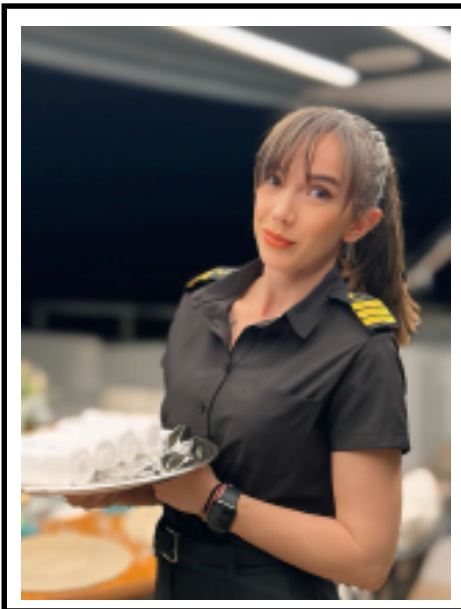
Since 2016, he has been working exclusively in the superyacht industry and takes real pleasure in creating tantalizing dishes to enhance guests' experience. He aims to showcase the finest that Aegean cuisine has to offer but is also happy to cater to your preferences and dietary requirements. A warm and welcoming individual, he looks forward to meeting you and welcoming you through his amazing dishes.



HOUSEKEEPING STEWARDESS – ELENA

Elena Kurakina

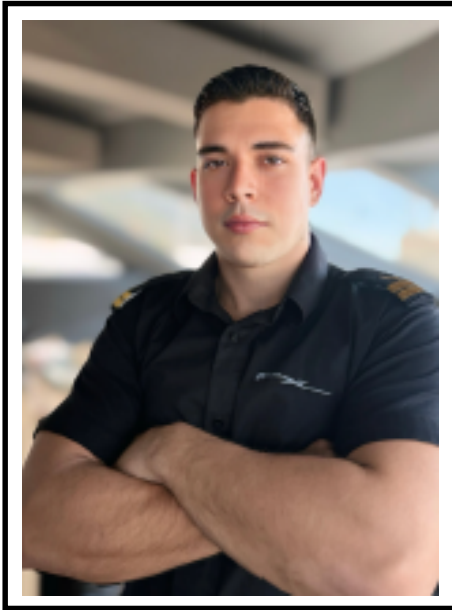
Elena is from Kherson, Ukraine, where she was born in 1989. Elena graduated from the Kherson Maritime School and initially worked in the hospitality industry. Four years ago, she moved across to work on luxury cruise ships, transferring her experience in delivering high end service to this industry. It was here that she realized her passion for travel and that she loves nothing better than working at sea where she can combine her hospitality skills and explore the world. She is delighted to be part of the FX team and looks forward to welcoming you on board and ensuring that your day-to-day needs are anticipated and exceeded.



SERVICE STEWARDESS – MEL

Melcihan Balkan

Melcihan, born in Burgas, Bulgaria, spent her childhood in a coastal town in Marmaris, Turkey. Everyone calls her Mel, as it is easier to remember and pronounce for most people. She completed her studies in Tourism Guidance at two universities, where she gained comprehensive knowledge and skills in the field. Additionally, she possesses effective skills in fashion design, tailoring, and laundry. After graduating, she started working on sailing boats and found the yachting industry to be the perfect field to combine her passion for the sea, travel, and hospitality skills. She has been working in this industry for many years, continuously improving herself in every aspect. She enjoys working out every morning, reading mystical books, pencil drawing, and watching documentaries about space. She is very excited to learn about new cultures and their habits.



DECKHAND – ERKIN

Erkin Demirtaş

Erkin was born in Marmaris, Turkey, and has been deeply connected to the sea from a young age. He graduated from Piri Reis University with a degree in Naval Architecture, equipping him with a strong technical foundation in ship construction and maritime engineering. His passion for water sports led him to start working in the industry at the age of 16, gaining extensive experience in various aquatic disciplines. In 2021, he transitioned into the private yachting sector, where he has been honing his skills and professionalism ever since.



DECKHAND- EREN

Eren Şahin

Eren was born in Marmaris, Turkey, and has been drawn to an active, sea-centred lifestyle from an early age. His journey into water sports began at 16, allowing him to build strong skills and a deep appreciation for the ocean. With five years of experience in the private yachting industry, he has developed a solid understanding of life at sea and the demands of working on board.