

ISTANBUL

2016

visitors guide



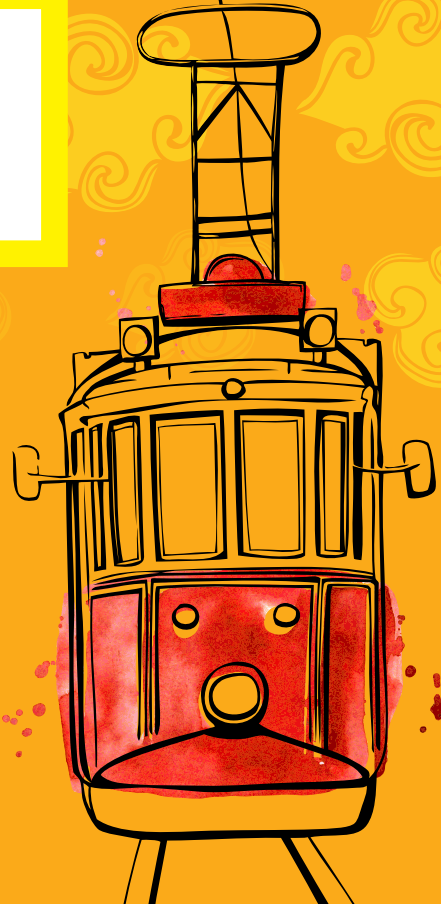
INTERACTIVE CONTENT

See p.122




**PEOPLE
HISTORY
ART
CULTURE
EVENTS**

**STAY
EAT
GO OUT
SHOP
ENJOY**



 **ISTANBUL**
Convention & Visitors Bureau

howtoistanbul.com
the city & culture

A woman with blonde hair, wearing sunglasses and a red and white striped headscarf, is walking in a city. She is dressed in a black suit. The background shows a modern building with large glass windows and some greenery. The text "Soul of the city" is overlaid in a white, cursive font.

Soul
of the
city



Always Stylish
Always Entertaining
Always Artful

A real city square, located in the heart of İstanbul, **ZORLU CENTER** offers a unique lifestyle experience featuring exclusive Turkish and international brands, restaurants by Michelin-starred chefs, **Raffles Hotel** and **Zorlu Performing Arts Center**, which welcomes world-famous shows and performing artists to its stage.

APPLE BEYMEN BVLGARI
BURBERRY CAVALLI COS
DIOR DOLCE & GABBANA
DSQUARED2 FENDI
JO MALONE KWANPEN
LANVIN LOUIS VUITTON
MICHAEL KORS MIU MIU
MONCLER MONT BLANC
PRADA POMELLATO
SAINT LAURENT
STELLA McCARTNEY
T I F F A N Y & C O.
TORY BURCH VAKKO
VALENTINO and more

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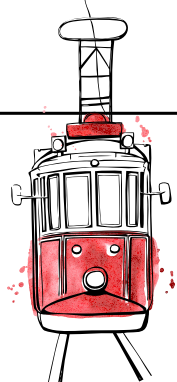
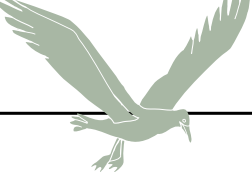
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President's Message

İstanbul is a unique city being strategically located at the crossroads of East and West and embodies the ideal of unification perhaps more than any other city in the modern world. Throughout its history of thousands of years, İstanbul has stood as a symbol of greatness, a confluence of people, languages, religions and continents, together with strength deriving from its diverse structure.

Today, İstanbul is one of the world's most exciting, exotic and attractive destinations with its modern infrastructure, state of the art venues, luxurious accommodation facilities, rich variety of social programs and nearby alternatives.

In the İstanbul Visitors Guide that we are proud to publish, you will have the chance to discover this city, blessed with natural beauty, rich cultural, historical and commercial heritage, offering exciting and unique experiences.

Wishing you a wonderful and unforgettable stay in İstanbul.

İBRAHİM ÇAĞLAR

PRESIDENT OF
İSTANBUL CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
& İSTANBUL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A Tale of Two Cities

A city that offers you tradition and modernism; authenticity and evolution; historical places and latest fashion... Blending the magnificence of thousands of years of history with thrilling experiences of contemporary times... Here we represent:

Istanbul



did you know?

You can find everything about İstanbul by visiting www.howtoistanbul.com, the official website of İstanbul, updated frequently to provide the latest info about the city.



Hagia Sophia

Did you know?

Galata Tower is where Hezârfen Ahmed Celebi flew from. He is the first man ever to fly using wings.



Galata Tower at night



Lying across the two continents, İstanbul is by all means one of the most popular tourist attractions on Earth. The tiny strait between these two continents, Bosphorus is what makes this city unique. Besides, numerous historical places fascinate the ones interested in cultural tourism.



Bosphorus Bridge



Ferryboat in front of Haydarpasa Train Station

Istanbul has been populated by the humankind since the 6th century BC. Including Roman, Byzantine and the Ottoman Empires, this very old but fascinating city functioned as a home to many tribes, nomads and of course; civilizations. Not only hosting, İstanbul was also the administrative and religious center of these three empires mentioned. What this privilege brings about is an endless reserve of religious places, historical buildings, museums, palaces, structures carrying the characteristic features of a number of different human societies. Maybe this is the reason why İstanbul has always been a city full of tolerance towards any kind of diversities. In İstanbul, mosques, churches and synagogues stand side by side.

İstanbul has always been a major trade center of the world. Since the city is a main junction point where sea and land routes all intersect, İstanbul became a pivotal exchange point globally.

In terms of population, it is the biggest metropolis of Europe. İstanbul also offers lots of opportunities. Not to mention endless number of historical places, you can find modern art galleries, exhibitions, festivals, museums, special events in this city-alive each day. But even walking in the streets might be a pleasure, since each corner opens up to another fabulous structure dating back to hundreds of years before today.

GALATA TOWER

One of İstanbul's the most fascinating monuments; Galata Tower was built in 1348 by the Genoese in İstanbul. However, this is the second tower nearby this area. The first Galata Tower was built closer to the sea. But it was demolished by the Latin Crusaders during the Sack of Constantinople. Anyway, at the top of the 'new' Galata Tower, you can enjoy a panoramic landscape that covers a great deal of İstanbul. It is open to the visitors each day, during the day time.

For more, visit the official website of İstanbul:

The History of İstanbul

“THE CITY SURROUNDED BY A WREATH OF WATER”

Did you know?

The city of İstanbul has changed a number of names: Augusta Antonina, Nova Roma, Byzantion, Byzantium, Constantinople and finally İstanbul.

Described by the historian Procopius as “the city surrounded by a wreath of water”, İstanbul boasts an exquisite geographical position and deep roots in history. With a history going back 8500 years, İstanbul is an ancient city that is simultaneously modern and fresh. Old-world and modern-world, Islamic and Mediterranean coexist in its captivating atmosphere. The distinctive characteristic skyline of the city, combining monumental minarets with modern skyscrapers, is perhaps the best proof. The outstanding universal value of İstanbul resides in its unique unification of diverse architectural styles of many eras and civilizations. Roman aqueducts, Byzantine churches, Venetian towers, Ottoman palaces, modern buildings and contemporary plazas give the city its matchless beauty.





YENIKAPI FINDS

The construction of a metro tunnel has changed the history of İstanbul forever! In Yenikapi, seminal finds from several periods were unearthed. In the cultural layers belonging to the Late Ottoman Period, architectural remains of factories and workshops were found. The largest port in the Early Byzantine Period, The Port of Theodosius was also discovered during the excavations. The collection shipwrecks unearthed here constitute one of the world's largest repertoires and provide important information on the development of this technology.



THE BEGINNINGS

Throughout the centuries, it was believed that the first settlement in İstanbul was during the 5th century BC. However, in recent years it was found that the history of İstanbul is much older than we ever thought.

For many years, historians believed that the earliest settlement on the European shores of the Bosphorus dated back to 5th century BC. According to this story, Byzas from Megara came here upon the words of an oracle that advised him to “get across the land of the blind.” Byzas had founded Khalkedon (today’s Kadıköy) about 15 years ago as a colony, and the words of the oracle actually meant that he should start a new city across the Bosphorus. The city of Byzas, hence founded, stood at the meeting point of the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus. However, a recent excavation for a metro tunnel unearthed ground-breaking finds that changed the history of the city forever. Several urns and an unusual grave dating back to Neolithic Age discovered around Yenikapi carried the history of settlements in the Historic Peninsula about 8500 years back. These 8,000-year-old cremation urns prove that human tribes lived in İstanbul before the reigns of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires.

Sarayburnu area, where settlers first founded Byzantium





The origins of Byzantium are shrouded in legend. The traditional legend has it around 660 BC, Greek settlers from Megara established Byzantium on the European side of the Bosphorus. The settlers proceeded to build an acropolis adjacent to the Golden Horn on the site of the early Thracian settlements, fueling the nascent city's economy. The city experienced a brief period of Persian rule at the turn of the 5th century BC, but the Greeks recaptured it during the Greco-Persian Wars. Byzantium then continued as part of the Athenian League and its successor, the Second Athenian Empire, before ultimately gaining independence in 355 BC. Long allied with the Romans, Byzantium officially became a part of the Roman Empire in 73 AD.

NAMES OF İSTANBUL

The first name of Byzantium was Lygos. Byzantion, latinized as Byzantium, was the name after 667 BC. Constantinople "City of Constantine", was the name by which the city became soon more widely known, in honor of Constantine the Great. Kostantiniyye is the name by which the city came to be known in the Islamic world. İstanbul, is the modern Turkish name.



GOLDEN MOSAICS AND FRESCOS

The most iconic edifice dating from the Byzantine period, the Hagia Sophia stands out with the glittering mosaics exhibiting an unforgettably graceful style. A perfect example of the Byzantine renaissance, the Chora Church also includes some of the finest mosaics in the city. Once a monastery, Fethiye Mosque contains a lavishly decorated extension with beautiful frescoes. The dome mosaics, finest examples of late Byzantine art, depict the Pantocrator and the Virgin Mary. The Great Palace Mosaics Museum offers a glimpse of the splendor and daily life of Byzantines.



did you know

After the conquest in 1453, the mosaics with human figures were covered with a special stucco. This layer functioned as a shelter for years.

THE BYZANTINE İSTANBUL

Byzantium was the name of the city founded by the Megaran commander Byzas. As the Roman Empire expanded towards the Asia Minor, the Emperor Constantine declared the city as the capital in 330 and gave it his name: Constantinople. Only about 65 years later, the Roman Empire collapsed and the Eastern Roman Empire came to be known as the Byzantine Empire. The city continued to be the heart of the Empire, until its fall to Ottomans in 1453.

The reign of Byzantium left İstanbul an immense cultural heritage. Declared as the official religion as early as the 4th century, Christian art flourished on these lands and lived through extraordinarily refined styles such as the High Middle Ages and Renaissance, burgeoning parallel to the history of the Empire. The iconic Hagia Sophia, the beautiful Chora Church, the Pantocrator Monastery, the Church of Sts Sergius and Bacchus are some of the masterpieces that can still be visited today. The Balat area is rich in Byzantine heritage. Studios Monastery stands out with its once glorious library. The Great Palace Mosaics Museum offers a glimpse of the elegant opulence of bygone days.

Basilica Cistern



CISTERNS, AQUEDUCTS AND HOLY SPRINGS

Due to its water problem, İstanbul is rich in aqueducts, which carried water from the Thracian forests, and cisterns that were required to reserve water. Two such architectural highlights are the Aqueduct of Valens and the Basilica Cistern. Rising majestically over the Atatürk Boulevard, the Aqueduct of Valens was commissioned by Emperor Valens in AD 378. It carried water to the Basilica Cistern, the reservoir for the Great Palace. Today the Basilica Cistern offers one of İstanbul's most atmospheric sights with ornamented columns reflected on water.

THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL

The day Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror seized the city from the Byzantines in May 1453, İstanbul became the heart of the Ottoman Empire. As the seat of the Sultan and the glorious capital of the opulent international emporium, the city was embellished with beautiful edifices such as mosques, palaces, fountains, and mansions. The distinctive and characteristic skyline of İstanbul mainly took shape under the rule of Ottomans, which lasted about 5 centuries. Garlanding the shores of the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn, the city's bewitching skyline encompasses the Hagia Sophia, the most iconic structure embodying the architectural styles of all reigns that came to dominate the city, as well as the 15th-century Fatih complex, Süleymaniye Mosque, and Sehzade Mosque. The last two, being the works of Sinan, reflect



the peak of Ottoman architecture in the 16th century. The 17th-century Blue Mosque and the slender minarets of the New Mosque are all elements of this enchanting skyline near the port. Home of the Sultan, Topkapi Palace is a grand complex that is continually extended until the 19th century with new quarters added reflecting the finest architectural style of the age.

SURNAME-I HUMAYUN

This 16th-century picture book, the title of which literally translates as the Imperial Festivity Book, is a masterpiece for its delicate miniature paintings demonstrating some extraordinary details of daily life during imperial festivities in İstanbul. The book recounts a wedding ceremony with the correct order of all its phases such as the processions, the grand entrance of the Sultan, the feasts as well as the performances of entertainers, musicians, and dancers. The miniature paintings include every detail, sometimes very astonishing ones, about the habits of different profession groups, artisans, noble families as well as citizens.

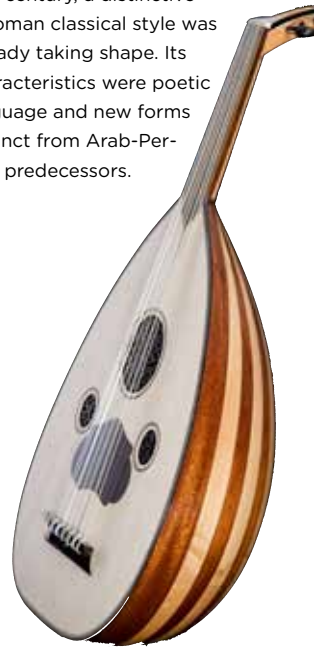


Did you know?

Ottoman music has a large and varied system of modes or scales known as "makams", There are more than 600 makams that have been used so far.

SOUNDS OF OTTOMAN ISTANBUL

Before and after the conquest of Constantinople, Ottoman musicians interacted with the sound culture of Arabic and Persian art music. As Tabriz, Baghdad and Arab territories were conquered, musicians from these lands arrived at the court in İstanbul, contributing to the development of Ottoman style through Persian compositional forms. By the 17th century, a distinctive Ottoman classical style was already taking shape. Its characteristics were poetic language and new forms distinct from Arab-Persian predecessors.



Suleymaniye Mosque



THE GENIUS OF SINAN

The Great Architect Sinan gave the Ottoman architecture its characteristics in the 16th century. With the magnificent works that he constructed during his lifetime, he mostly shaped the historic panorama of İstanbul along the shores of the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn. Today, it is known that Sinan built over 365 masterpieces in total, including 84 mosques, 48 Turkish baths, 36 palaces, 20 caravanserais, 8 bridges, and 5 water canals. The finest of his gifts to the city is Suleymaniye Mosque, where Sinan brought the central dome to perfection.

THE ROAD TO THE CROWN

Located at the end of the Golden Horn, Eyüp Mosque played an important role in the coronation ceremonies throughout the Ottoman era. Once appointed, the new sultan would be rowed up the Golden Horn to Eyüp Mosque, where he would walk along the Accession Road and the Sword of Osman would be strapped onto him to confirm his new office. The route of the old Accession Road is still marked by some of the city's finest buildings from the Ottoman era.



Sinan's two mosques in Üsküdar and Edirnekapi for Mihrimah Sultan are famous. Twice a year, as sun sets from one mosque, moon rises from the other.

Did you know?

THE TULIP PERIOD

Covering the first half of the 18th century, the period known as the Tulip Period marked a time of renaissance in terms of architecture, literature, music and garden culture. The city was adorned with tulips and everywhere old buildings, mosques and madrasas were being restored and renovated. The Tulip Period also marks an important time for printing. A period of buzzing cultural activity, the Tulip Period brought an extensive interest in translation. Translation teams were established to translate works from different languages into Turkish. The arts, music, painting, and poetry flourished with the support of the court.



LEVNÎ'S PAINTINGS

The most accomplished and famous painter of the Tulip Period, Levni studied at the academy of painting at Topkapı Palace. Serving as the chief court painter to the Ottoman sultans, Levni painted at a time of artistic blossoming. His paintings, mainly exquisite miniature masterpieces, depict festivities and entertainments in the Ottoman society. Pieces of his work can be seen at the library of Topkapı Palace.

The Fountain of Sultan Ahmed III at night



Galata Bridge at the beginning of 20th century



CINEMATOGRAPHY IN İSTANBUL

In 1896, just a few months after the cinema was invented, Alexandre Promio came to Istanbul to shoot the first moving images of the city. This footage is significant not only in the history of Istanbul as the very first appearance of the city in film, but also in the history of cinema. Promio took the first travelling shot by placing the camera on a boat that sailed down the Galata Bridge.

GATEWAY TO THE ORIENT

Istanbul became the haunt of artists, travelling bohemians, art-enthusiast nobles, and adventurers in the 19th century. The Orient Express, the famous train that ran from Paris to İstanbul in the wake of industrial revolution, brought many writers, painters, and intellectuals to the city. These artists described the city and their experience in their own ways, sometimes in the form of a travelogue, sometimes a novel, or a painting. The city of İstanbul as reflected in these works of art is always a joy to behold.

FROM A PAINTER'S DIARY...

Italian painter Fausto Zonaro not only painted the city, but also noted in his memoir the following picturesque description: Entering the grand port of the Orient, I have to express the astounding effect beyond all that has been imagined. As the sun was rising with its eyes fixed on the crests behind the hills on the Asian banks, the dominant luminosity of the Moon's light and colours was gradually crawling back from the edifices of the Golden Horn and Galata. This was a peculiar, divine impression that will never be erased from my memory.



TURKISH AIRLINES 

Miles & Smiles

LOUNGE ISTANBUL IS NOW MORE EXCLUSIVE.

Turkish Airlines Lounge Istanbul in the Atatürk Airport international departures terminal has been renovated and is now much more spacious. At 5,900 square meters, the lounge can accommodate 1,030 people. Guests can relax and enjoy themselves while sampling the most delicious cuisines of the world and watch live plays and performances in the performance area. There are also many new amenities available such as a richer menu of appetizers, more spacious private relaxation rooms, a more convenient shower area, a kids' playroom, library, billiard room, a prayer room, video conference hall and a massage room with extra beds.



- The departure lounge provide service 7/24 and the arrival lounge provide service between 4:30 and 12:30.

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İSTANBUL TODAY

istanbul today features an outstanding combination of history and modernity. The beautiful silhouette of the city is a palimpsest that combines the architectural masterpieces of Byzantine, Ottoman and Turkish rules. The meeting point of Europe and Asia over many centuries, the matchless skyline of İstanbul, formed by the creative genius of Byzantine and Ottoman architects, also symbolizes the cultural diversity of the city today. İstanbul is a historical city, but relentlessly modern with all that it has to offer at global standards.



Maiden's Tower



Business District - Levent

Bosphorus Bridge



did you know?

The bridges between two continents are described as "Pearl necklaces across the neck of Bosphorus".



Enjoying a unique geographical position straddling Europe and Asia, Istanbul is culturally rich and vibrant. You will be welcomed by an exciting mix of scents, sounds, and sights that have enchanted many visitors alike throughout the thousands of years of the city's history. A loyal inheritor of a multicultural past and a leading metropolis moving forward at an astounding rate, the city truly merges the ancient with the modern. The domes, minarets and old bazaars of the city intermingle with the state-of-the-art convention venues, buzzing malls, leading universities and hotels at world standards.

People & Living



SİBEL, 26, FASHION EDITOR

Istanbul is quickly becoming a design city. For me, along with New York, Paris and Milan, İstanbul now has a definitive street style. Where else in the world can you find such a rich array of styles, innovatively combining western elegance with authentic touches? I love combining old with the new, antique pieces with modern styles, and İstanbul always offers the perfect circumstances for that! Around Nişantaşı, I can find the best designer shops and high-end fashion, while the historic heart of Galata houses sophisticated boutiques and personal brands. I immensely enjoy vintage hunting around Çukurcuma! You will definitely chance upon something that will make your day: sometimes a fancy dress from the sixties, sometimes a pair of antique silver earrings... İstanbul hosts some of the biggest shopping malls in Europe on the one hand, and on the other, the historic bazaars have been welcoming visitors for centuries. At street markets, you can also find dazzling pieces really cheap.





NIL, 40, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Living and working in a city that is gaining even more international recognition everyday is merely rewarding. With a booming economy, Turkey is becoming an attraction spot worldwide. In recent years, İstanbul hosted many international events, large expositions and agenda-setting summits. The city offers a rich selection of big scale convention venues furnished with state-of-the-art facilities. With upscale restaurants, engaging art events, and beautiful spots to admire the view, the city offers an unforgettable visit for business travellers. Furthermore, with increased connectivity to more airports worldwide, the city is now easier to reach. In our international business gatherings, we not only provide our guests with all the conference amenities they may need, but also ensure they spend quality time here. Where on earth could you sip your morning coffee while taking in the beautiful view and smell of the Bosphorus? I have been living in this city for whole my life, and still a childish excitement takes over me each time I look at the view!

ARSEN, 65, CYMBAL MAKER

This city, which has nourished many a civilisation on its bosom for centuries, has always been an international attraction. Not only tourists but also artists and artisans have been coming to İstanbul for centuries to seek mastery, and above all, to find inspiration for their music, fiction or painting. I am very happy to see, that has not changed. Today many artists, musicians, writers and journalists come to İstanbul to live here and find the stimulation in its streets to produce their work. In my old shop, I meet a lot of artists and musicians, young and old, who come to my store not only to shop but also to have a chat over the state of affairs in the world, in the country, or in music. It feels wonderful to feel connected to this up-and-coming generation. I might have been one of the few who are still practicing this line of business. Yet I feel happy as the young show interest in my art, and I see the glitter in their eyes.





TIM, 24, STUDENT

I came to İstanbul to attend the university here for one year with an academic exchange programme. Previously I had come for holidays with my friends. We stayed here for about a week and I fell in love with the city. İstanbul is very enriching for a student due to its multicultural and international character. A mishmash of civilizations, eras, classes, and ways of life, the city is energized by a fresh generation of creative young students and artists. I am glad to have so many diverse friends here, and we all feel at home in this city. From an academic perspective, İstanbul hosts some of the world's richest archives and libraries on Ottoman history. Nice cafes are located on every corner, where you could read and write the whole day sipping on your warm tea or coffee. A stroll along the Bosphorus always makes up for an exhausting day. Waking up to bright sunshine almost everyday gives you the kick to start your day afresh. You are always greeted with the warm smiles of your neighbours and friends.



A history enthusiast, a lover of glamour or of nature, you will find an İstanbul that you will adore! Protecting its thousands-year-old history yet making space for the most fashionable glamour, İstanbul is simultaneously a historic and a modern city that offers the best for every taste!

Visiting the City

View of Blue
Mosque & Eminonu



Istanbul

in numbers

3

bridges between
2 continents



Europe

Asia

capital of

3

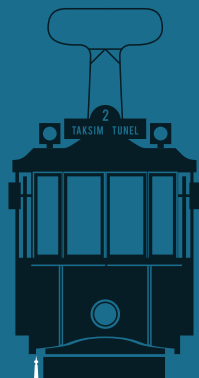
empires



2

airports

3rd Airport
under
construction



5

imperial
palaces

dozens of summer
palaces and mansions



4

historical
bazaars



14,657,434



people

12,414,677

international visitors
in 2014



8500

years of
history



5

th most
visited city
in the world

78

museums



233

hospitals



112

modern
shopping
malls



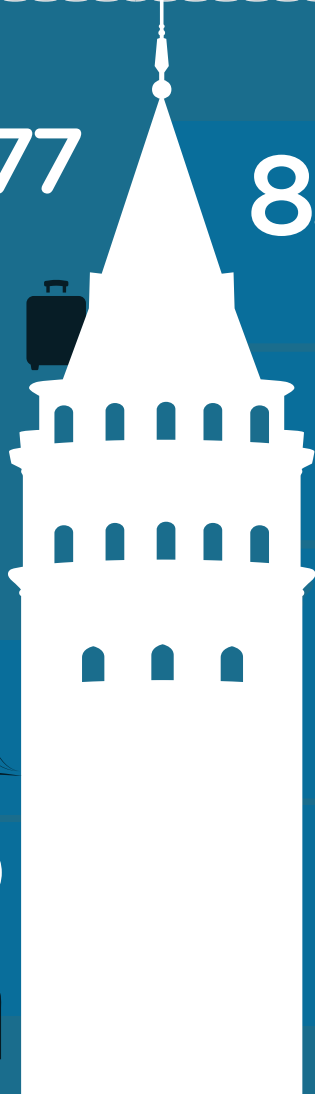
100,000

bed capacity



53

universities and
5 technoparks



The Historical Istanbul

If you are a true enthusiast of history and enjoy visiting historic sites, we recommend you to spend time around the Historic Peninsula, which has been the heart of Constantinople and Imperial Capital for centuries.



did you know?

As the Ottoman Empire approached its historical peak, Istanbul grew to a population of close to 700,000 in the 16th century, at the time second in size only to Beijing





THE TOPKAPI PALACE & MUSEUM

The opulent Topkapı Palace served as the court of the Ottoman Empire between the 15th and 19th centuries. Sultans, ambitious courtiers lived here and visiting the palace quarters, its jewel-filled Treasury and embellished Harem gives a fascinating glimpse into the daily life in the Palace. Mehmet the Conqueror commissioned the construction of a palace shortly after the conquest in 1453.

Just before the Imperial Gate, there is the rococo-style Fountain of Sultan Ahmet III, built during the Tulip Era. Passing through the Imperial Gate into the First Court, there is the Byzantine church of Hagia Eirene, hosting many classical music concerts today. Unlike typical European palaces, which feature one large building with outlying gardens, Topkapı is a series of pavilions, kitchens, barracks, audience chambers, kiosks and sleeping quarters built around a central enclosure.

The Second Court includes the ornate Imperial Council Chamber, known as *Divân-ı Hümayûn*. The council of the Sultan met here to discuss state issues. Sultan would sometimes eavesdrop through the gold grille high in the wall.

The Palace also houses the Harem, the private quarters of the imperial family, hence the word 'harem' meaning private. Harem was ruled by the Sultan's Mother, who was responsible from the life and education of the concubines schooled in Islam and Ottoman culture. The Third Court is entered through the Gate of Felicity. This was Sultan's private domain, and included an Audience Chamber, where foreign ambassadors were welcomed. Relic Rooms are also located in this part of the Palace. Beautifully decorated with *İznik* tiles, these rooms house many relics of the Prophet Mohammad, including his beard.

The Fourth Court features pleasure pavilions such as *Mecidiye Mansion* and *Kiosk of Mustafa Pasha*. During the reign of Ahmet III, the Tulip Garden outside the kiosk was covered with many varieties of the flower. Other beautiful kiosks in this part of the palace are *Revan Kiosk*, built in 1636, and *Baghdad Kiosk*, built in 1639. All kiosks are decorated with the finest of handmade tiles, which continue to allure visitors in their impressive shimmer. www.topkapisarayi.gov.tr

VISITING HOURS: 9:00-18:00 in mid-Apr-Oct

9:00-16:00 in Nov-mid-Apr. Closed on Tuesdays



BASILICA CISTERN

This subterranean cistern in Sul-tanehmet area was commissioned by Emperor Justinian in 532. It is the largest surviving Byzantine cistern in İstanbul and includes 336 columns. Taken from ruined temples for the construction of the cistern, each column here has a different design and decoration. Their reflection falling on the still water on the ground add to the enchanting beauty of the interior. Walking along the wooden platforms, you will come across various beautiful columns, column heads, and even statues, such as the famous Medusa.

Visiting hours: 09:00-17:30



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SECRECY

With its 336 columns, the Basilica Cistern resembles a palace buried under the soil. The Ottomans heard about it approximately one hundred years after the fall of Constantinople and they named it "Yerebatan" meaning "sunken". Pierre Gilles is the intellectual philologist who found the historical place, with the help of very old manuscripts.

HAGIA EIRENE

According to some historical sources, Hagia Eirene was the first church ever built in İstanbul. Built in the 4th century, the church experienced severe damage in an earthquake in 8th century. It took its present shape following the additions and restoration work. Under the Ottoman rule, the church was used as an armoury and later as a military museum. Today, the beautiful interior of the church is sometimes used as an enchanting concert hall. The church is located within the First Court of the Topkapı Palace.

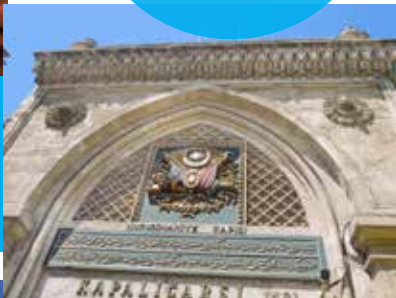
Visiting hours: 9:00-16:00 Closed on Tuesdays





did you know?

Having more than 4000 shops, the Grand Bazaar is visited by the tourists and the citizens regularly.



A JOURNEY IN TIME

Stepping into the bazaar feels like a journey in time, which takes you back to the golden age of Ottoman Empire with all artisans at work and shop owners hawking to sell best of their products. Bargaining for the best price is a tradition as well as sipping on a cup of Turkish coffee cooked over a coal fire.

A mix of local scents, sounds, and colours, this bustling bazaar has been the heart of the old city for centuries. Originally built as a small vaulted warehouse by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1461, it gradually expanded as new lanes were added in the following years. Located in Beyazit, the neighbouring shops and caravanserais slowly became included and the structure turned into a vibrant marketplace marking the heart of the city.

Visiting hours: 09:00-19:00

Closed on Sundays and on Bank Holidays



HAGIA SOPHIA

Dominating the Sultanahmet Square and the city's skyline, this quaint edifice has been expanded and restored several times throughout the centuries. Hagia Sophia has always been unique as an architectural piece from the first day it was built.

The original church was built in the 4th century and was consumed by fire in the 5th century. Theodosios II commissioned a new church immediately afterwards, and a second church rose in its place in 415. This monumental structure was totally destroyed during the Nika Uprising in 532. Emperor Justinian hired two celebrated architects of the time to build an impressive church for the Empire. As one of the architects died during the construction, the peers modified his plans and the unique structure of Hagia Sophia took its final shape in 537. The original floral and geometrical mosaic decorations survived from the 7th century. Figurative mosaics date back to post-iconoclastic period.

The church was converted into a mosque after the Ottoman Conquest of Constantinople in 1453. Ottomans buttressed the edifice with architectural elements displaying Ottoman character.

Mosque elements such as a mimbar, a mihrab, preacher's platform and wooden balustrades were added inside. Mahmut I had a library built here. The southern courtyard includes mausoleums of Murat III, Mehmet III, and Selim II.

The original baptistery was converted into a mausoleum for Mustafa I and Sultan Ibrahim. Hagia Sophia opened as a museum in 1935.

Visiting hours: 9:00-16:30 - Closed on Mondays





THE BLUE MOSQUE

Commissioned by Sultan Ahmet I in 1616, the Blue Mosque in Sultanahmet features an elegant exterior with several domes, half domes, and slender minarets. The interior is decorated with the finest pieces of blue tiles from İznik, which is why the Sultan Ahmet Mosque is most commonly known as the Blue Mosque. The mosque is characterized by its six minarets, which is unusual in terms of Ottoman architecture. Blue Mosque has the largest courtyard of all Ottoman mosques. Beautifully lit by chandeliers and lavishly decorated with carpets, the interior is expansive. Admission to the Mosque is controlled so as to preserve its sacred atmosphere for worshippers. Visitors are required to cover themselves on entry.

Visiting hours:

08:30-17:00 (Closed to tourists during 5 daily prayer times)

14:15-17:00 on Fridays (Closed before noon due to Sermon)

did you know?

The Sultan Ahmed Mosque is first one of the two mosques in Turkey that has six minarets.



TWO RELIGIOUS FIGURES, UNDER THE SAME ROOF

When Papa Francesco visited Istanbul in 2014, he didn't forget the sacred places. During his visit to Sultanahmet, he said that he would like to pray in this mosque. That day, Papa Francesco and the Grand Mufti of Istanbul prayed side by side in Blue Mosque.



The Romantic İstanbul

Although İstanbul is a metropolis where one is surrounded by thousands of people, it still offers some surprisingly romantic retreats. There is something about this busy city - the energy, the Ottoman and Byzantine architecture mingling with shantytowns, the lights of the Bosphorus flickering on the water - that can also be magical.





did you know?

Istanbul is the city where you can visit the houses of the famous poets who wrote the lines touching your heart and places in which the most romantic movies of Yeşilçam (Turkish Cinema) were shot.

GOLDEN HORN TOUR

The Golden Horn had always been Istanbul's primary harbour. In the 1700s, during the so-called 'Tulip Era', it was the favourite retreat of Ottoman state elite who built mansions with gardens full of tulips and hosted lavish parties. The small ferries that zigzag between quays on each side of the Horn are a wonderful way to get around. A walk through Balat, the neighbourhood that housed the first Jews who settled in İstanbul after the Spanish expulsion, is awe-inspiring. Similarly, the former Greek neighbourhood Fener is rich with layers of history. It houses the Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Bulgarian church of St. Stephen, one of few prefabricated cast iron churches in the world. A beautiful place for a break is Pierre Loti, an open air cafe, located on a hill overlooking the Golden Horn. You can take a picturesque trip with a cable car up to the hill and watch the sunset as the last rays bathe this ancient city in a golden light.





PRINCES' ISLANDS

In early summer, when the heat starts to rise, many İstanbullites relocate to their summer houses on the islands to swim and sunbathe. Especially on the weekends, the islands are flooded with local tourists waiting in line for the famous horse carriage tour. Friday afternoon ferries to the islands appear like carnivals overflowing with cheerful crowds. If you prefer to be undisturbed or need some calm, you should take the trip in spring or autumn when the islands are serene and quiet. No motor vehicles are allowed on the islands, so it is the perfect spot to clear your head from the urban rumble. You can get around the island on an old-style horse carriage. The ferry trip is also more soothing during these seasons. Smelling the salt air and watching seabirds fly along can be quiet dreamy.



BIKE TOUR ON THE ISLAND

Once you are on the island you can stroll or bike through the streets where beautiful wooden mansions and gardens line the way as views of the distant city spread out before you. You can sip tea by the water or watch waves crash on rocky shores from windy hill tops.

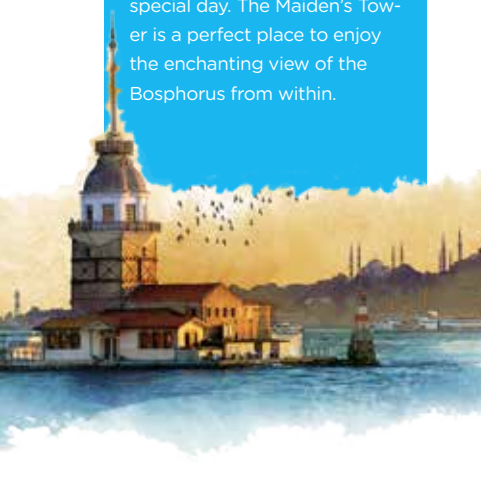
THE MAIDEN'S TOWER

The Maiden's Tower is located on an islet at the entrance of the Bosphorus. It was first built in 1110 by the Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenus. Since then it has been destroyed and rebuilt several times and assumed numerous functions varying from watchtower to lighthouse, eventually becoming a restaurant. Legend says that an emperor built the tower to protect his beloved daughter from an evil prophecy. An oracle had told him that his daughter would be killed by a venomous snake on her 18th birthday. Hence, in an effort to keep her from harm, the emperor put his daughter on this islet. Unfortunately, just as the oracle had prophesied, the princess was bitten by a snake, which was hiding in the fruit basket that the emperor brought as a gift for his daughter on this special day. The Maiden's Tower is a perfect place to enjoy the enchanting view of the Bosphorus from within.



CIHANGİR, ÇUKURCUMA, ĞALATA WALKING TOUR

For city dwellers, the Cihangir-Çukurcuma-Galata route is the perfect path to surrender to the lure of urban attractions. The path leads up and down the ancient hills of İstanbul's Beyoğlu district, offering enchanting glimpses of the sea and the historical peninsula through narrow streets lined with 19th century apartment buildings. Immersed in this historical atmosphere are art galleries showcasing contemporary art, stylish boutiques selling hip clothing, trendy cafes where you can enjoy a cup of gourmet coffee while reading a book or watch hipsters from all nationalities stroll by. Çukurcuma is the antique dealers quarter. Many display their goods in front of their shops, turning the streets into a colourful parade of retro objects and antique furniture.



The Bosphorus

Whether a moonlit romantic night-cruise or a guided boat tour undertaken under the warm sun, all of the many ways of experiencing the beautiful Bosphorus is merely enchanting. You can hire a private boat or hop on one of the many boats departing from Eminönü or Kabataş piers. If you prefer taking a leisurely walk enriched by visits to monumental buildings on the shore, make sure you spare enough time to make the most of it.

BOSPHORUS BRIDGE

Linking Asia to Europe, this iconic bridge was built in 1973, which marked the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Turkish Republic. At night, the Bridge is showered with colourful lights. There is no pedestrian access to the Bridge.





ORTAKÖY MOSQUE

This iconic mosque, making up the most distinctive scenes of İstanbul with the Bosphorus Bridge, stands out with its exquisite decorations in Ortaköy. Built in 1853, this baroque-style mosque represents the finest example of late Ottoman period architecture.

Visiting hours: 09:00-19:00

did you know?

In 511 BC, Persian King Darius The Great made a floating bridge by placing all the ships in his navy side by side and allowed his army of 700,000 people to cross the strait on foot.

DOLMABAHÇE PALACE

Upon Sultan Abdülmecit's decision to move the imperial court from Topkapi to a brand new palace on the shores of the Bosphorus, imperial architects Nikoghos and Garabed Balyan were commissioned to construct an impressive palace in latest European fashion. Construction was completed in 1854 and the imperial family moved in two years later. The palace is surrounded by well-tended gardens and boasts lavish and almost theatrical interiors. www.millisaraylar.gov.tr

Visiting Hours: 09:00-16:00, Closed on Mondays



BEYLERBEYI PALACE

The summer lodge of royalty, Beylerbeyi Palace is located on the Asian Side across Ortaköy. Built by Sarkis Balyan, the famous architect that has built many edifices in İstanbul, constructed this palace for Sultan Abdulaziz in 1865. The exterior decorations of the Palace were inspired from the Neo-Classical style that was popular in Europe in the 19th century, while the interior displays the finest examples of traditional Ottoman style decorative art. The Palace also served as a residence for visiting royalty.

Visiting hours: 09:00-16:30,

Closed on Mondays and Thursdays



did you know?

The first settlements in İstanbul mainly gathered alongside the Bosphorus. First, Megarians settled in Peninsula. Afterwards Kalkedon in Kadıköy and Skutari in Üsküdar were found.



YILDIZ PALACE MUSEUM

One of the last residences of the imperial family, Yıldız Palace was commissioned by Abdulhamit II at the end of the 19th century. Exhibiting the finest blend of Rococo and Islamic styles, the Palace is set amidst a large and well-protected park covering an area of 500,000 square meters and containing plants from all corners of the world.

Visiting Hours:

09:30-19:00, Open Everyday (15 April-1 November)

09:30-16:30, Closed on Tuesdays (1 November- 15 April)

KULELI MILITARY HIGH SCHOOL

Situated on the Anatolian shores of the Bosphorus, Kuleli Military High School displays classical Ottoman architectural style of barracks. After the conquest of İstanbul, Janissary Barracks were established here. Kuleli Barracks was used by cavalry squads from 1828 to 1837. During the great plague, the Barracks served as a quarantine building. After the plague was over, Sultan Abdulmecit commissioned a renovation of Barracks. A hospital and a Turkish bath with a dome were thus added to the complex.

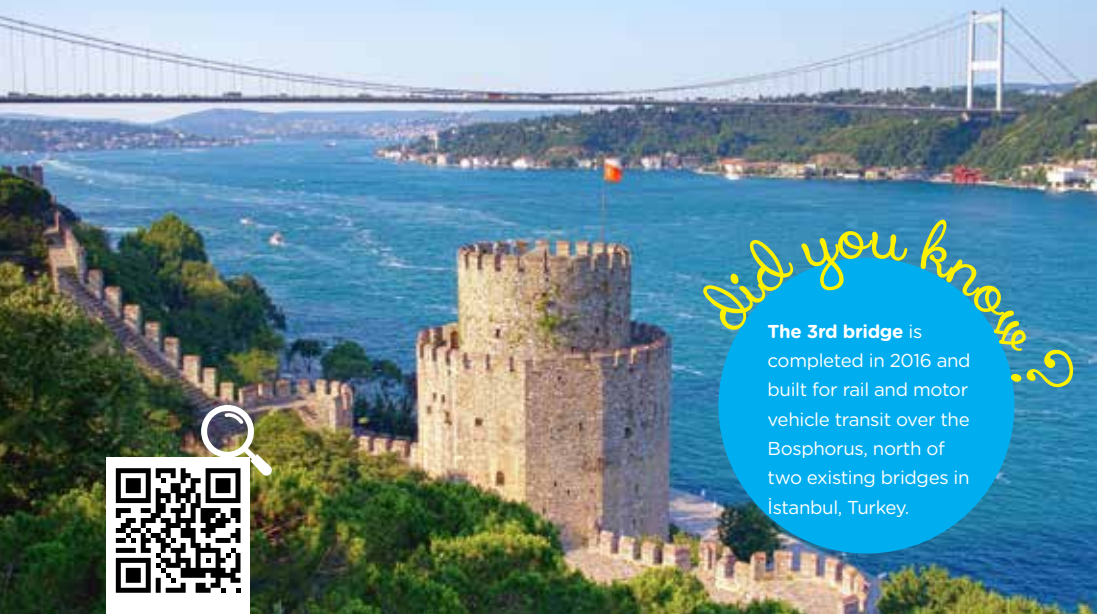
RUMELI FORTRESS

This fortress was built in 1452 by Mehmet the Conqueror with the prospect of conquering the city. While making preparations for the conquest, Mehmet the Conqueror built a wall in order to control the Bosphorus Strait and to prevent the reach of aid from the Black Sea during the siege. It is constructed just opposite of Anadolu Fortress, which is another castle built in 1394 for similar purposes by Ottoman Sultan Bayezid, who had attempted to conquer the city before Mehmet II. Consisting of one small tower, three main towers and thirteen small watchtowers, the fortress stands pretty intact today. Converted into a museum in 1960, Rumeli Fortress serves as a concert venue for open-air gigs in summer months. **Visiting hours: 09:00-18:00 Closed on Wednesdays**



FATIH SULTAN MEHMET BRIDGE

The second bridge on the Bosphorus connecting Europe with Asia, it was named after Mehmet the Conqueror, who conquered Istanbul from the Byzantine Empire in 1453. (Portrait by Italian painter Gentile Bellini above) The bridge was built in 1988 due to the heavy traffic across the Bosphorus strait. Pedestrian access is not allowed.



did you know?

The 3rd bridge is completed in 2016 and built for rail and motor vehicle transit over the Bosphorus, north of two existing bridges in Istanbul, Turkey.



The Green Istanbul

Benefiting from a matchless geographical location and a mild humid climate, Istanbul boasts beautiful natural landscapes as well as city gardens, where nature lovers may take a break from the bustling rhythm of the city.



EMİRGAN PARK

Emirgan is one of the largest public parks in İstanbul. Two beautiful ponds and plants of more than 120 species make this park an enchanting and serene destination in any season. The park has three wooden pavilions, which were built in the early nineteenth century as hunting lodges or guesthouses, and are named after their exterior colour. You'll be infatuated by the opulent interior decorations, ceiling ornaments and outstanding carvings on the facades.

Visiting hours: 07:00-22:30



ATATÜRK ARBORETUM

Located on the edge of Emirgan Forest, this Arboretum is an almost mystic place, especially on hazy autumn days. It features over 2000 plant species from around the world, and a picturesque pond. Stop by to get some beautiful nature photography.

FENERBAHÇE PARK

This park is located on a small peninsula right next to Kalamış Marina on the Anatolian side. It has tea gardens with wonderful sea views. It is especially delightful to watch the sunset.



SOME PARKS WORTH VISITING

Çubuklu Hidiv İsmail Paşa Park

This extensive park is located around a large and beautiful pavilion, on top of a hill overlooking the Bosphorus.

Belgrad Forest

Lying 15 kilometers north-west of İstanbul, this forest is mostly frequented by bikers and hikers on weekdays. On weekends, large families flock in with their elaborate picnic gadgets and colourful children's toys.

Fethi Paşa Estate Park

Located on the Asian shores of the Bosphorus, this park offers marvellous views of the Bosphorus in Üsküdar.

Gezi Park

If you need a break from the hustle and bustle of Taksim Square, Gezi Park, which is the closest park where you can relax.

Göztepe Park

This park is located right next to Bağdat Street - one of İstanbul's the most popular shopping streets on the Asian side. It is a well-groomed park with handsome flower beds. It is also one of the most child friendly parks.



YILDIZ PARK

This luxuriant park, stretching over a slope right behind the Çırağan Palace, used to be the dwelling ground of Ottoman elite. Numerous pavilions were built during those times and now serve as restaurants and cafes.



GÜLHANE PARK

This used to be the outer garden of the Topkapı Palace during Ottoman times. It has a superb view of the Bosphorus and is conveniently located close to the main tourist attractions in Sultanahmet.



MAÇKA PARK

If you are shopping in Nişantaşı and prefer to take a break in greenery rather than in one of the fancy cafes, Maçka Park is the perfect place. It rests on the slope overlooking the Dolmabahçe Palace.



As the European Capital of Culture in 2010, İstanbul certified its richness and generosity in that field too. Alongside the historical sources, today, a number of modern art exhibitions are opening gates to the art lovers in İstanbul. Throughout the year, not only the Turkish artists but also the works of famous modern art creators from all around the world are displayed to such enthusiastic crowds.

Culture & Arts





Istanbul Modern

Istanbul for Art Lovers

The art scene in İstanbul has witnessed an explosion in recent years. Independent galleries have been popping up in the back streets of Tophane, Karaköy, Galata, Cihangir, and Nişantaşı neighbourhoods, as well as the more unlikely districts of Maslak, Arnavutköy, and Balat.



Istanbul Modern

Did you know?

Modern art museums offer special workshops for children too. They can color the walls with crayons and create such artworks out of colorful dough.

visit howtoistanbul.com for latest art events!
the arts & culture

Guided tours such as ArtWalk İstanbul or Tophane Art Walk take visitors through these galleries that have each a unique focus: Elipsis Gallery specialises in photography, Mixer offers a selection of emerging local artists, Galeri NON supports non-disciplinary art practices, and DEPO showcases art with socio-political implications. The century-old art nouveau building Mısır Apartmanı, on the lively Istiklal Street, attracts art lovers with its architecture as well as the numerous galleries that it houses. Aside from these smaller enterprises, exhibition spaces founded by financial institutions also shape the scene. Most favoured are SALT and ARTER, which share a mission of promoting contemporary art in Turkey. There are also a number of private museums that play a major role, such as İstanbul Modern Museum, dedicated to contemporary art from Turkey; The Pera Museum that aims to offer a broad range of high-quality culture and arts services; and The Sakıp Sabancı Museum, which focuses on traditional Ottoman art while also offering large-scale exhibitions of famous artists such as Picasso, Joan Miró, and Anish Kapoor.



Sakıp Sabancı Museum

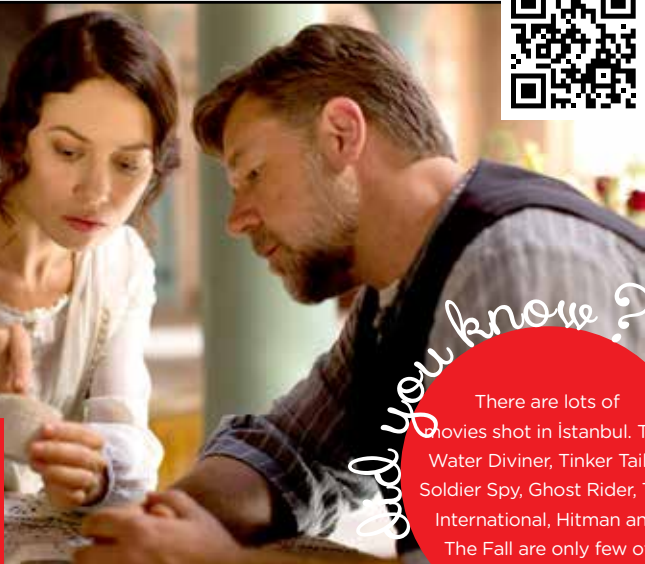


A scene from
Water Diviner movie



TÜRVAK CINEMA & THEATRE MUSEUM

Turkey's first and only cinema and theatre museum, TÜRVAK, was founded in 2001. "TÜRVAK Cinema-Theatre Museum and Art Library" moved into its new building in Beyoğlu and opened its new doors to Istanbulites in January 2011. Aimed at preserving information and documents, photographs and posters belong to the history of Turkish cinema and theatre for the future generations, TÜRVAK Cinema-Theatre Museum houses more than 1000 cinema and television devices, 4200 copies of various Turkish films, more than 6000 Turkish film posters, more than 10.000 cinema-theatre stage photographs and over 12.000 hours of TV programs and TV series in its archive.



Did you know?

There are lots of movies shot in Istanbul. The Water Diviner, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy, Ghost Rider, The International, Hitman and The Fall are only few of them.

İSTANBUL AS A CINEMA CITY

Around February, the independent film festival İf warms the hearts of film buffs with an heart-throbbing selection from independent festivals worldwide such as Sundance. The largest film event of İstanbul is the İstanbul Film Festival, which was launched in 1982. The two-week event has become essential for cinephiles from all around the country. If you are visiting around October, you can enjoy another film festival, called FilmEkimi, showcasing the year's favourites hand-picked from major festivals such as Cannes, Berlinale, and Venice. İstanbul also hosts small-scale film festivals that focus on specific subjects such as Filmmor Women's Film Festival, Documentarist, and International Crime & Punishment Film Festival. İstanbul is not only an attraction for festivalgoers. It has also been an inspiration for filmmakers from the earliest days of cinema. Recently many filmmakers have been visiting the city quite often to shoot their films: Tom Tykwer's action thriller the International (2009) starring Clive Owen and Naomi Watts, the espionage film Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011), Ben Affleck's political thriller Argo (2012), James Bond film Skyfall (2012) and The Water Diviner (2015) by Russel Crowe were all set in this fascinating city.

BIENNIALS

The art event that attracts most attention, not only in the country but in the whole region, is the İstanbul Biennial. It is organised by the İstanbul Foundation For Culture and Arts, and aims to promote the formation of an international cultural network between local and international art circles, artists, curators and art critics by bringing together new trends in contemporary art every two years. In 2015, the 14th İstanbul Biennial drew a record number of visitors as of 5 September, the day the biennial had opened its doors to the public. During 12 weeks, 545,000 viewers visited the biennial exhibition in 36 venues. Another important event, Contemporary İstanbul International Art Fair, is now in its eighth year and is held around November. The latest addition to this rapidly expanding scene of art fairs is ArtInternational, which brought together 63 galleries from 19 different countries in its first year.

DIFFERENT THEME EVERY TIME

Each year, Biennial receives a great deal of demand from the people and it reaches so many of them that the whole event is organized in four separate locations spread around the city centre. Each of them has a different theme and displays different pieces of art. But as a whole, they impress the onlookers in the same way, interestingly. Each Biennial, receives a great deal of demand and almost all of the school at all grades organizes tours for the little art lovers. It is organized in every two years.





HOST TO FAMOUS PLAYS

Throughout the year, İstanbul hosts the most famous theatres, musicals and all other stage performing artworks. One of the latest is CATS musical. It was staged a couple of times and took a great deal of interest. Also, pieces of art like "The Phantom of the Opera", "The Abduction from the Seraglio", "Cinderella", "Carmen" and "Hamlet" was also staged. Also, shows like "Swan Lake Reloaded", "The Nutcracker on Ice" and Vienna Symphony Orchestra will be on stage in İstanbul, during this year.



Hugh Jackman, staged his famous show at Zorlu PSM "An Evening with Hugh Jackman", in İstanbul in 2015.

PERFORMING ARTS IN ISTANBUL

Is it İstanbul which makes people turn into sensitive artists with is breathtaking views; or is it the human beings themselves who portray this city with such appealing pieces of art? Obviously, these two are just combining each other and introducing us a perfect match. İstanbul and artists are inseparable parts in this world, painting each other with different colours of life. Performing arts are by all means an indispensable part of İstanbul's metropolitan life. Watching a modern adaption of one of the famous plays of Shakespeare in a building dating from the 18th century? Having the chance of listening live a worldwide-renowned violin virtuoso? In İstanbul, you can watch the most fascinating stage performances in historical or modern performance venues such as the Church of Hagia Irene or the Harbiye Amphitheatre. Housed in the iconic Surreyya Opera House, İstanbul State Opera and Ballet performs highlights from Turkish composers or stage adaptations of classical Turkish literature. (www.dobgm.gov.tr). Every summer, the International Opera Festival welcomes musicians from all across the world. Zorlu PSM Centre is the new stage for big productions, concerts and Broadway shows. The centres transformed the art scene in İstanbul by providing a major venue for world stars.

The İstanbul State Theatre features a rich programme every season containing all-time favourites such as Shakespeare adaptations as well as children plays. Bringing together theatre companies and dance groups from Turkey and abroad, the İstanbul Theatre Festival is held around May every year.



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ORIGINAL BROADWAY SHOWS

- THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
- AN EVENING WITH HUGH JACKMAN
- CATS
- NOTRE DAME DE PARIS
- MAMMA MIA!
- JERSEY BOYS
- SHREK THE MUSICAL

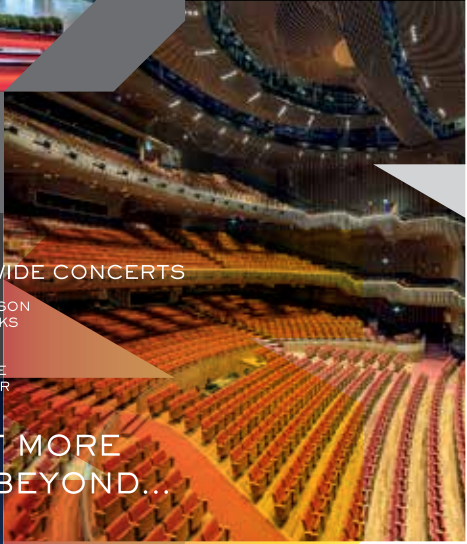
WORLD-CLASS PLAYS

- LA BOHÉME
- SLAVA'S SNOW SHOW
- 3 PENNY OPERA
- GLOBE TO GLOBE HAMLET
- SWAN LAKE RELOADED
- THE TIGER LILLIES PERFORM HAMLET
- LES 7 DOIGTS DE LA MAIN

WORLDWIDE CONCERTS

- STEVEN WILSON
- TINDERSTICKS
- PJ HARVEY
- SIGUR ROS
- DAMIEN RICE
- MAX RICHTER
- EMPYRIUM

A LOT MORE AND BEYOND...



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SAKIP SABANCI MUSEUM

Affiliated with Sabancı University, the Sakıp Sabancı Museum is located on the Equestrian Villa (Turkish: Atlı Köşk) in Emirgan, one of the oldest residences on the Bosphorus. It first opened its doors to visitors in 2002. With a rich collection of painting and calligraphy, the museum has exhibited the works of many famous artists. muze.sabanciuniv.edu/en



MUSEUM OF TURKISH CALLIGRAPHY ART

This museum hosts a collection of art and hand-crafts dating from the 13th century. Among other objects, some dating back to the 13th century, the collection includes Korans, Tuğra (decorative seals of the sultans) and miniatures, as well as important examples of stone and glass work. www.vgm.gov.tr

İSTANBUL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUMS

The Archaeological Museum was founded in June 13, 1891 under the name of Müze-i Hümayun. The museum met a need to display important artifacts such as the Sarcophagies of Alexander the Great and King Tabnit, both unearthed at the Royal Necropolis of Sydon (Saida, Lebanon), a site considered one of the most significant archeological discoveries of that era.

www.istanbularkeoloji.gov.tr



İSTANBUL MODERN

Istanbul Museum of Modern Art is Turkey's first private museum to organize modern and contemporary art exhibitions. With its exhibition halls, photography gallery, library, cinema, restaurant and store, it constitutes a multi-faceted platform for culture and the arts.

www.istanbulmodern.org/en





PERA MUSEUM

Pera Museum has evolved to become a leading and distinguished cultural center in one of the liveliest quarters of İstanbul. The museum has three permanent collections, "Orientalist Paintings", "Anatolian Weights and Measures", and "Kütahya Tiles and Ceramics," and offers an outstanding range of diverse high quality culture and art services. en.peramuzesi.org.tr/



ARTER

With the slogan "a place for art," Arter was founded by the Vehbi Koç Foundation in 2010. In addition to presenting the private collection and archives of Vehbi Koç, Arter also has the goal of promoting and exhibiting new artistic works. Arter regularly updates a program which includes the works of both local and international artists. www.arter.org.tr

SALT

SALT explores critical and timely issues in visual and material culture, and cultivates innovative programs for research and experimental thinking. Assuming an open attitude and establishing itself as a site of learning and debate SALT aims to challenge, excite and provoke its visitors by encouraging them to offer critique and response.

www.saltonline.org



TURKISH AND ISLAMIC ARTS MUSEUM

The Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum (Turkish: Türk İslam Eserleri Müzesi) was the first Turkish museum to include both Islamic and Turkish art together. It is now housed in the 16th-century İbrahim Paşa Palace. The museum has a rich collection from the Ottoman period, including many imperial fermans, charters, and endowments. The museum's carpet collection, at around 1,700 pieces, is also well worth seeing. www.tiem.gov.tr



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did you know?

Istanbul, a city that can be considered an open air museum itself, is a heaven for history and art lovers.

ISTANBUL, A MUSEUM CITY

The city is not only about historic museums, it is fast becoming known for its excellent art scene, with galleries like the impressive Istanbul Modern leading the way in presenting modern and contemporary art to locals and visitors alike, and many smaller museums. Long-established museums such as the almost overwhelming Istanbul Archaeology Museums still draw the crowds with exquisite objects like the Alexander Sarcophagus, while others offer eye-opening insights into Turkey's artistic heritage. If you are looking for a museum within a historical monument to witness the amazing history of İstanbul, or a modern art museum to fulfill your desire to see great art, İstanbul is the right place for you!



Sadberk Hanım Museum

By being the first private museum of Turkey, founded in 1980, Sadberk Hanım Museum has been a special place to see Islamic artefacts with Ottoman emphasise, European, Far Eastern and Near Eastern artefacts that were produced for the Ottomans, woven textiles from the Ottoman era, garments and embroideries as well as archaeological relics belonging to Anatolian civilisation from 6th millennium B.C. till the end of the Byzantines.



Chora Museum



Naval Museum

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Istanbul has always been decribed as a city which is “never sleeping”. The reason of this epithet is that İstanbul offers a number of special events, organizastions and concerts at any time, no matter what the time is. It is quite reasonable to say that the generosity it offers, is a result of the wide range of residents it has. As a city hosting millions of people, the city of İstanbul has to enliven up the days and nights of its beloved residents with various events.

Events

Istanbul for Event Seekers

did you know?

World famous stars of music of almost every genre have performed in Istanbul and the city remains as one of the major stops of the global tours of the megastars.





İstanbul's rich cultural heritage and immense size mean that there is always something exciting happening. The silhouette of minarets, the 'seven hills', and, of course, the Bosphorus create a vibrant and beautiful backdrop for events, attracting local and international crowds all around the year.

Major rock bands such as Metallica, or pop stars including Lady Gaga and Rihanna performed against this fantastic backdrop. Grand venues, host extensive expositions that draw large numbers of businesses from the Middle East and Europe to the city. For fashion lovers, Turkey's premier fashion event Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week İstanbul is one of the events to look forward. It offers an international platform for designers from the region to connect with media and buyers. Another area of growing attention is sports. In 2010, the World Basketball Championship was held in İstanbul, and in 2006, the Red Bull Air Acrobatics race was held for the first time in İstanbul, attracting a record number of almost one million spectators to the Golden Horn.



WORLD STARS AWAITED

2016 will be a fast-paced and active year for the music lovers in İstanbul. Damien Rice, PJ Harvey, Tindersticks, Rita, Dino Merlin, Sigur Ros, Kitaro, Beirut, Thomas Anders, Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox, Nikolai Demidenko, Joshua Bell, Nicholas McCarthy and Enrico Macias are just a couple of the names that will hit the stage in İstanbul.



ALL MUSIC GENRES WAVING OVER BOSPHORUS

Istanbul offers a rich variety of music events for music lovers of all genres, ranging from classical to heavy metal. The İstanbul Foundation For Culture and Arts has been organising İstanbul's most famous festival, the International İstanbul Music Festival, since 1973. The festival focuses on classical music, creating programmes in which international orchestras and conductors perform with Turkish soloists, or vice versa. In 1986, the foundation established the Jazz Festival as a separate event, hosting world-famous artists such as Sting, Björk, and Buena Vista Social Club. Following in its footsteps, one of Turkey's major banks, Akbank established the Akbank Jazz Festival, with events taking place at numerous venues spread all over the city. One Love İstanbul Festival and Chill Out Festival are festivals of different genre, being organised for almost a decade. One of İstanbul's most popular events for rock lovers is Rock'n'Coke, which is held every two years and spans over three nights. The festival presented legendary bands such as Limp Bizkit, Nine Inch Nails, Muse, Franz Ferdinand, Placebo, The Cure, The Prodigy, and Linkin Park.



did you know?

The 23rd Istanbul Jazz Festival is taking place from June 25 to July 27. This festival regularly brings world-class jazz performers to the city.



MERCEDES BENZ FASHION WEEK

Luxury design event
Mercedes Benz Fashion Week attracts thousands to see the best fashion designers' creations on the catwalk. Tens of Turkish and international fashion brands and designers present their collections during the event, and numerous international celebrities show up to see what latest fashion is like.





Ramadan joy in Sultanahmet

EXPERIENCE CENTURIES-OLD TRADITIONS

There is no better time than the month of Ramadan to travel back in time in İstanbul. During this month, the flow of life in İstanbul changes dramatically. The city is adorned with colourful lights, food stalls and classical shadow play shows – all reflect the centuries-old traditions of Ramadan. The tradition of illuminated mosques completes the festival atmosphere. If you wish to experience İstanbul in its totally authentic Ottoman atmosphere, look out for this time of the year. Everything from morning to the late hours of the night will feel like centuries ago.

During the month of Ramadan, drummers walk the streets before sunrise to wake up everyone to prepare for fasting. The breakfast is usually served before sunrise and it is called “sahur”. During the day, locals do not consume any food or drink, until the last hours of the sunshine. After the sunset, it is a custom to gather around a rich table, called “iftar”. This is a very special hour of the day, and you will see special items of food prepared and sold particularly for this time of year, such as flatbread, dates, lokum, baklava, güllaç and various other sweets. Many restaurants offer special iftar menus.

Ramadan Bayramı is especially rewarding for children, as they go around in their neighbourhood, from door to door and wishing people a Happy Bayram. As a reward, they receive candies, chocolates, or even a small amount of money. It makes the streets even busier with cheerful kids running around in their best attire for the occasion.

CENTRE OF THE ATTRACTION

The best place to experience the festivities is Sultanahmet area, where there are stalls selling handicrafts, traditional souvenirs and different types of authentic food. As the iftar time approaches, the area becomes vibrant with many visitors, locals and tourists alike. The gardens before the Blue Mosque are ideal for picnicking when the weather is nice. Make sure to visit the Grand Bazaar and Spice Bazaar, more colourful and vibrant in Ramadan than their usual.

Usually the first day of the Ramadan Bayramı, museums, archaeological sites and monuments are closed, but they usually open on the second and third day.



Eurasia Marathon



did you know?

Istanbul gained yet another title when it was chosen by the European Capitals of Sport Association (ACES) to be 2012's European Capital of Sports.

BEST PUBLIC EVENT BY TIGER WOODS

The privilege of lying across two continents brings about benefits! When Tiger Woods, who is among the most successful golf players of all time visited Istanbul in 2013, he also performed an intercontinental show for this city. He hit the golf ball on the Bosphorus Bridge, from the Asian Side, to the European Side. This famous performance brought Turkey an international award. His public show gained "The Best Public Event" award by the European Best Events Awards in 2014.

INTERCONTINENTAL EVENTS

Istanbul is not a city "divided" but rather "spread" over two continents. Moreover, it is not just the splendid view that the citizens benefit from; but also the activities and events that are held on the routes that include the two continents at the same time.

Among a number of intercontinental organizations, sportive events supported by worldwide known corporations take the lead. Soil, air, water... The athletes and sport lovers from all over the world, get together in Istanbul for intercontinental events like Eurasia Marathon, Bosphorus Cross-Continental Swimming Race and Cross-Continental Cycling Tour.

Eurasia Marathon has been organized each year since 1979 and embraces people from all over the world. Everyone can attend the event because there are 3 different routes which are 10, 15 and 42,195 kilometres long. The runners cross over the Bosphorus Bridge on which walking is prohibited during the rest of the year. So they get the unique chance of witnessing such a





İSTANBUL AS A SPORTIVE CITY

İstanbul hosts a wide range of sportive events including UEFA Champions League, UEFA European League matches, Turkish Super League matches, tennis cups, volleyball and basketball tournaments, billiard, baseball, hentball matches and swimming, golf contests. Hundreds and thousands of people attend these sportive events and especially the atmosphere in the tough matches are always enthusiastic. The ambience almost becomes wild in derby matches between the football teams of the same city of İstanbul. There is a great challenge between the teams of Beşiktaş, Fenerbahçe and Galatasaray. Turkey women's and men's national basketball and volleyball teams joins the FIBA World Cup, EuroBasket, Mediterranean Games and achieves great success. Vİtra Eczacıbaşı Women Volleyball Team became World Champions in 2015.



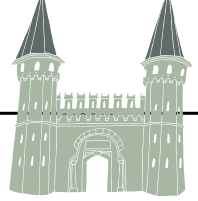
splendid landscape in the middle of the bridge. The route starts from a distance of 200 metres to Bosphorus Bridge in the Asian Side and finishes at Sultanahmet in the European Side. The route covers mostly the seaside, enabling the runners enjoy the view too. Throughout the route, the needs

of the runners like water, candies, fruit are met. The marathon in 2016 is on November 13th.

If seeing the two continents in the middle of the bridge is not enough for you, this city is also inviting everyone to experience the same in the sea! **Bosphorus Cross-Continental Swimming Race** is organized annually and receives a great deal of interest from everyone no matter if they are professional athletes or not. Since 1989, 700 people are swimming overarm each year, starting from Kurucesme in the European side to Kanlıca in the Asian Side. The next event will be held July 24th, 2016.

World Environment Day on the 5th of June is celebrated with a **cyding festival** in İstanbul. The festival is hosted by Turkey's Bicyclists Association and the cyclists attending have the privilege of pedalling across the two continents. The aim of this organization is to draw attention to environmental pollution and raise public awareness of the need for fighting against it. The route starts from Bakirkoy Ozgurluk Square in the European Side and ends at Uskudar in the Asian Side. Please do not forget that each organization require a beforehand registration.





EVENT CALENDAR

Some of the scheduled concerts and events in 2016 and 2017

TULIP FESTIVAL

Emirgan Park
April 2016

ENRICO MACIAS

Zorlu Performing Arts Center
04/14/2016

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL

3-28 May 2016

MATT SIMONS

Babylon Bomonti
05/04/2016

THE NASH ENSEMBLE

CRR Concert Hall
05/04/2016

ALEXANDRA STAN

Olimpia Event Hall
05/13/2016

THOMAS ANDERS

CRR Concert Hall
05/28/2016

BEIRUT

KüçükÇiftlik Park İstanbul
05/28/2016

JOSHUA BELL

Zorlu Performing Arts Center
05/15/2016

CHILL OUT FESTIVAL

28/05/2016

FIRE OF ANATOLIA "PERA"

Grand Pera Emek Salonu
May 2016

NICHOLAS MCCARTHY

Zorlu Performing Arts Center
05/21/2016

NEEDLES & OPIUM

UNIQ Hall
05/27/2016

THE ART OF BANKSY

Global Karaköy
05/31/2016



ISTANBUL MUSIC FESTIVAL

1-24 June 2016

SIGUR RÓS

Zorlu Performing Arts Center
06/11/2016

SCOTT BRADLEE'S POSTMODERN JUKEBOX

Scott Bradlee's Postmodern
Jukebox
06/03/2016

NIKOLAI DEMIDENKO

Sakıp Sabancı Museum the Seed
06/04/2016

SEMA SHOW

Galata Mevlevihanesi Museum
06/12/2016

PJ HARVEY

Zorlu Performing Arts Center
06/08/2016

DIGITAL REVOLUTION EXHIBITION

Zorlu Performing Arts Center
06/12/2016

PJ Harvey



INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

11-24 July 2016

SHOPPINGFEST

July 2016

MACK. JUST LIGHT AND COLOUR

Sakıp Sabancı Museum
Until 07/17/2016

PAINTER AND PAINTING EXHIBITION

The İstanbul Museum of Modern Art
01/09/2015 - 07/28/2015

METAL FEST: HEADBANGERS' WEEKEND

Küçükçiftlik Park
08/27/2016

TEAMLAB: BETWEEN ART AND PHYSICAL SPACE

Borusan Contemporary
Until 08/21/2016

DECK VOYAGE

Borusan Contemporary
Until 08/21/2016

MSA CULINART ARTS ACADEMY WORKSHOP

MSA Academy
September 2016

SWAN LAKE RELOADED

Zorlu Performing Arts Center
10/08/2016

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

Uniq İstanbul
10/15/2016

KITARO

Zorlu Performing Arts Center
11/16/2016

THE NUTCRACKER ON ICE

Zorlu Performing Arts Center
12/24/2016

AKBANK JAZZ FESTIVAL

October - November 2016

DESIGN BIENNAL

November - December 2016

ARTISTS IN THEIR TIME

The İstanbul Museum of Modern Art
Until December 2016

ACE OF MICE

February 2017

IF ISTANBUL FILM FESTIVAL

February 2017

INTERNATIONAL ISTANBUL FILM FESTIVAL

April 2017



Visit
howtoistanbul.com
For updated event calendar



İSTANBUL

— Convention & Visitors Bureau —

Established in 1997, İstanbul Convention & Visitors Bureau – ICVB is a non-profit destination marketing organisation.

ICVB's main goal is to represent İstanbul around the world and to seek international associations and corporations planning to hold high-profile international congresses and events.

ICVB members include the leading corporations and associations involved in the conference and incentive tourism such as hotels, conference and exhibition centres, DMC & PCOs, airlines and other companies. The ICVB, works in close collaboration with the Turkish Ministry of Culture & Tourism, the İstanbul Chamber of Commerce, the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Turkish Airlines.

İstanbul Convention & Visitors Bureau İstanbul Ticaret Odası Ek Hizmet Binası
Reşadiye Cad. No:7 Eminönü 34112 İstanbul Turkey
P: (+90 212) 522 55 55 - F: (+90 212) 522 01 01

www.icvb.org



Connect with us!



/IstanbulCVB



/istanbul_cvb



/Istanbul CVB

Tell us your experience with **#MeetInIstanbul** hashtag

Conventions

Alongside the four independent meeting clusters spread around the city, Istanbul is now, one of the “World’s Top Top 10 Congress Destinations”. With its deluxe convention and exhibition centers, this city is the house of glory for the professionals of the business World.



Levent area

Istanbul for Business Travellers

With a commercial heritage dating back to more than thousands years ago, İstanbul has always been an important hub along the busy trade route between the East and the West. Thanks to its prime location, guarding the sea traffic along the Bosphorus Strait, the city quickly flourished as a cross-continental trading hub.



Did you know?

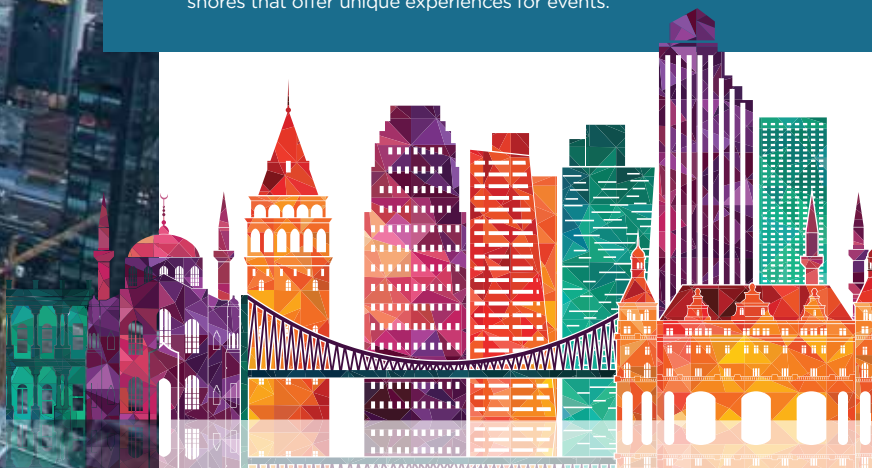
Istanbul is a major meeting city with extensive facilities and the World's Top 10 Congress Destination since 2010 according to ICCA statistics.

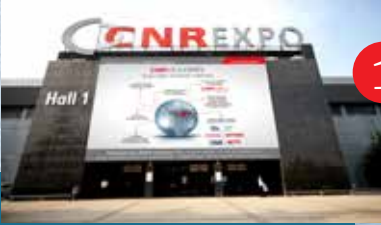
Today, İstanbul is increasing in popularity as an international business destination with its high-standard meeting facilities. İstanbul is responsible for over half of Turkey's trade, and internationally the city is an important meeting point for representatives from many industries. With 7 convention centres and 3 exhibition centres, the city can host small meetings and big-scale congresses of 30,000 participants. Catering to every need of an international organization at world standards, İstanbul offers visitors a gratifying experience to remember. After a busy day of meetings, guests can enjoy a delicious meal while taking in the glittering city lights over the Bosphorus. They can wake up to the refreshing breeze of the sea and enrich their business visit with a day of sightseeing or strolling along the historic side of the city.

The main gateway to İstanbul for business travellers is Atatürk International Airport, Europe's fifth busiest airport, while Sabiha Gokcen Airport on the Asian side has grown quite rapidly and started serving international flights as well. With a third international to be completed in 2019, which will be the world's largest in terms of passengers, İstanbul is determined to thrive even further as a 21st century international business centre.

A TRULY CONGRESS CITY

'As World's Top 10 Congress Destination since 2010' İstanbul is an ideal city to hold congresses up to 30,000 or more participants as the city is home to 7 convention centres and 3 exhibition centres each capable of hosting major events with thousands of delegates. There are also many unusual venues situated in historic sites and Bosphorus shores that offer unique experiences for events.





CNR EXPO

The fairs held at CNR EXPO, which is preferred by the business world with its indoor area of 150.000 m2 and outdoor area of 120.000m2 and 8 halls, are world class fairs and held in accordance with the international norms of fair organization business. CNR EXPO Yesilkoy is the largest fair complex in Eurasia, and has a car park capacity of 7.500 cars.



GRAND CEVAHİR

With 2500 m2 of usable space and 8,65 meter high ceiling the Ball Room measures up as the largest in Turkey and Europe without any structural columns. The Ballroom is dividable into 3 sections and its stage is 310 m2. Cevahir Auditorium, one of the unique Hotel Auditorium in Turkey, with 1013 people capacity has state-of-the art systems for all kinds of organizations. There are 22 multi-purpose meeting rooms at the Grand Cevahir Hotel.

HALİC CONGRESS CENTER

The center is the only venue in İstanbul by the sea side which gives the unique opportunity of using sea transportation to the center, spans 102.000sqm, includes an open space of 16.000sqm and a total indoor exhibition area of 9.000sqm, comprising four buildings that are interconnected with broad galleries and lounges filled with sunshine, it offers 21 multi-functional rooms including 5 state of-the-art Auditoria.



İSTANBUL CONGRESS CENTER

Istanbul Congress Center (ICC), was built in September 2009. The Congress Center is a seven floors facility which covers 119.500 m2. Istanbul Congress Center is located centrally, close to the historical and touristic richness of the city and hosts the leading hotel chains of the world and its position provides convenience in terms of access and transportation.



CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTERS IN ISTANBUL

European Side

Bosphorus

3 Congress Valley
4
6

Golden Horn

Asian Side

5

1



İSTANBUL EXPO CENTER

Istanbul Expo Center is located in World Trade Center İstanbul facility that takes part across International Ataturk Airport. World Trade Center İstanbul, located in an area of 500,000 m2, is one of the largest and most comprehensive trade centers in the world. Within this area, there are 11 exhibition halls, and three business towers that comprises of rental offices, a food court, and a business club.

6



İSTANBUL LÜTFİ KIRDAR - ICEC

The first and leading congress centre, Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Centre, (ICEC) is located in the centre of İstanbul with magnificent Bosphorus view. The centre consists of two facilities, Main Building and Rumeli Fair and Exhibition Centre, which offers a total of 45 spacious and recently renovated multi-functional meeting rooms.

UNUSUAL EVENT VENUES for Event Organizers



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Binbirdirek Mah. İmran
Öktem Sok. Divan Yolu
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+ 90 212 518 10 01
www.binbirdirek.com

ASİTANE RESTAURANT

Kariye Camii Sok.
No:6 Edirnekapı
34240, İstanbul, Turkey
+ 90 212 635 79 97
www.asitanerestaurant.com



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+90 212 5272700

www.istanbularkeoloji.gov.tr



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Ayasofya Meydanı
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+ 90 212 517 35 35
www.ayasofyahamami.com



BEYLERBEYİ PALACE

TBMM Millî Saraylar
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Yardımcılığı
Beylerbeyi Sarayı
Abdullahaga Cad.
34676 Üsküdar
+90 216 321 93 20
www.millisaraylar.gov.tr

CEMİLE SULTAN KORUSU

Cemile Sultan Korusu
Adres: Kandilli Mah.
Ömür Tepe Yokuşu Sok.
No:6 Üsküdar
+90 216 308 49 43
www.cemilesultan.com



DOLMABAĞÇE PALACE

TBMM Millî Saraylar
Genel Sekreter
Yardımcılığı Dolmabağçe
Cad. 34357 Beşiktaş
+90 212 236 90 00

www.millisaraylar.gov.tr



HARD ROCK CAFE ISTANBUL

Meşrutiyet Cad. No: 3
Beyoğlu - İstanbul
+90 212 244 67 38

www.hardrock.com

İSTANBUL FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (İKSV)

Nejat Eczacıbaşı Binası
Sadi Konuralp
Caddesi No: 5 Şişhane
+90 212 334 07 00

www.iksv.org



KERVANSARAY RESTAURANT & TURKISH NIGHT

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İstanbul
+90 (212) 247 16 30/31

www.kervansarayistanbul.com



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+90 212 514 61 51

www.matbahrestaurant.com



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Cağaloğlu
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www.narlokanta.com



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Baltalımanı
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www.portaxe.net



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+90 212 223 05 66

www.saithalimpasa.com



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Sakıp Sabancı
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+90 212 323 60 50-55

www.theseed.com.tr



YEM

Fulya Mah. Yeşilçümen
Sok.No:12/430
Fulya Şişli- İstanbul
+90 212 266 70 70

www.yem.net

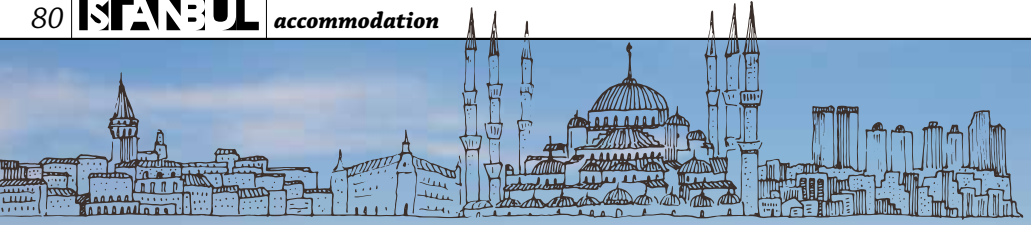




From five-star deluxe residence hotels to boutique hotels with minimalist design, İstanbul offers a wide range of accommodation choices for everyone. Nearby the touristic attractions or just next to a gigantic convention center, considering the millions of visitors İstanbul embraces each year, it is definitely not dubious to say anyone can discover the hotel suitable for themselves in this city.

Accommodation





Istanbul for City Explorers



did you know?

Istanbul is expanding in terms of bed capacity every year. The city currently has almost 100.000 bed capacity, awaiting its guests.

Those lovers of urban life will continue to be enchanted with countless historical places, churches, palaces and mosques, as well as with the buzzing rhythm of the city. İstanbul offers an unforgettable experience with its colorful daily life and dynamic nightlife. It is no coincidence that in 2010, İstanbul was chosen the European Capital of Culture. With a history dating back to thousands of years, İstanbul is one of the world's most exciting metropolises with intercontinental events; international conferences; film, music and theater festivals; international biennials; rich museums; promising art galleries; exciting antique dealer stores; and fascinating concerts. If you are a true lover of metropolitan life, stay at a central hotel around Cihangir or Galata, discover boutique hotels at Karaköy and enjoy the vibrant streets around Taksim, the heart of the city. Take the funicular to Kabatas, and hop on a Bosphorus tour or take the boat to Kadıköy, the heart of the Anatolian side of the city. Plunge into the colourful and vibrant bazaar of Kadıköy filled with the scent of Turkish coffee and oriental spices. Stop by one of the hundreds of cosy cafes or pubs before heading back to your hotel. Or, why not take a walk along the Bosphorus shores around Bebek, the hip neighbourhood with the best of restaurants and cafes? With a unique combination of accessibility, variety and natural beauty, İstanbul has the true mix for every taste.

WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED

İstanbul offers a great adventure for the people who are in love with "discovering" new areas and cultures. Modern İstanbul exceeded from the borders of seven hills but it still has untouched areas waiting to be explored.

To book hotels

howtoistanbul.com



HOTELS for your stay in İstanbul



CONRAD **ISTANBUL**

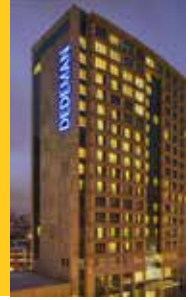
Barbaros Blvd
34353 Beşiktaş
+90 212 310 25 25

www.conradistanbul.com

DEDEMAN **BOSTANCI HOTEL** **& CONVENTION** **CENTER**

Değirmenyolu Cad.
No:39-B Ataşehir
Bostancı
+90 216 469 66 00

www.dedeman.com



CROWNE **PLAZA** **ISTANBUL ASIA**

Yenişehir Mah. Dedepaşa
Cad.No:15 Via/Port
Pendik-Kurtköy- İstanbul
+90 216 585 60 60

www.cpistanbulasia.com



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Yıldız Posta Cad. No:50
34340 Esentepe
+90 212 337 45 00

www.dedeman.com



CVK PARK **BOSPHORUS** **HOTEL**

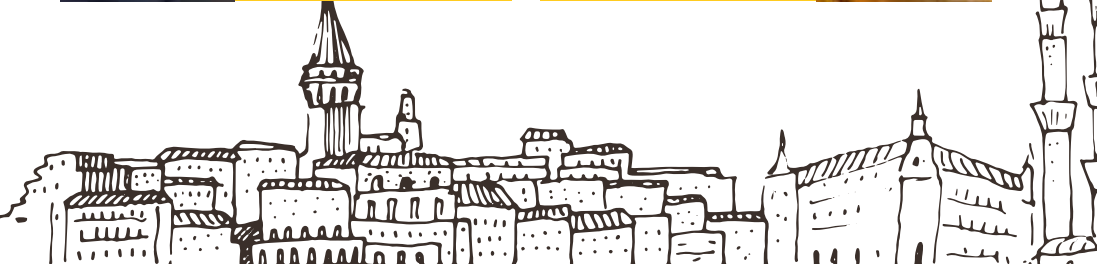
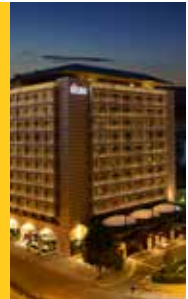
Gümüşsuyu Mah.
İnönü Cad. No:8
Beyoğlu İstanbul
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www.cvkhotelsandresorts.com

DIVAN **ISTANBUL**

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+90 212 315 55 00

www.divan.com.tr





ELITE WORLD BUSINESS HOTEL

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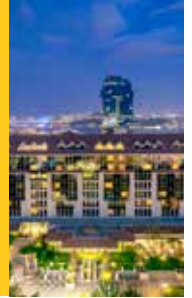
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istanbul.grand.hyatt.com



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www.istanbul.hilton.com





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Ataköy 2.5.6.Kısım Rauf
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MÖVENPICK HOTEL ISTANBUL GOLDEN HORN

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www.moevenpick-hotels.com/istanbul-golden-horn



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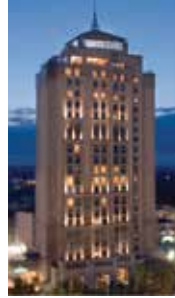
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www.lemeridienistanbul.com



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+90 212 375 00 00

www.radissonblu.com



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Sinanpaşa Mah. Hayrettin
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www.shangri-la.com/istanbul



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Prof. Dr. Bülent Tarcan
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Gayrettepe İstanbul
+90 212 272 11 60

www.surmelihotels.com



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Rauf Orbay Cad. Sahilyolu
No:10 34158 Bakırköy
İstanbul
+90 212 413 06 00

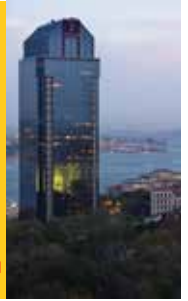
www.sheratonistanbulatakoy.com.tr



THE RITZ CARLTON İSTANBUL

Suzer Plaza, Elmadağ,
Askerocağı Caddesi, No:6,
34367 Şişli İstanbul
+90 212 334 44 44

www.ritzcarlton.com/istanbul



SWISSOTEL THE BOSPHORUS

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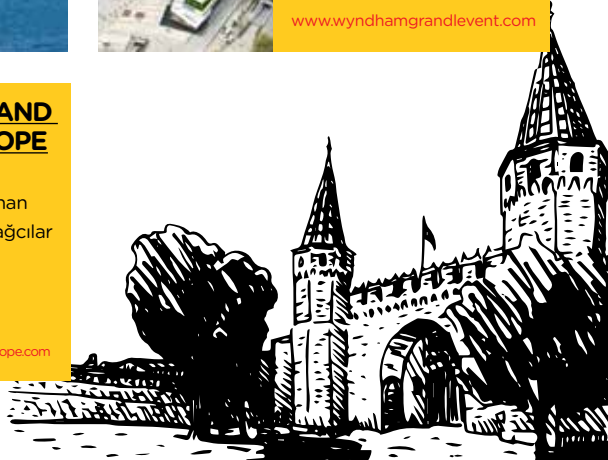
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CENTURY-OLD BRANDS



Century-Old Brands Association is a young NGO which was founded on December 12th, 2011 with the aim of reaching out to old and respectful brands of Turkey most of which exist in İstanbul.

These brands are an important part of the economic and cultural history of Turkey. They were founded in the Ottoman Empire. Now they have come together to build a platform in order to preserve and promote the city's century-old values. These brands are selected according their years of operation.

Some of the century old brands of Turkey includes:

- Bebek Badem Ezmesi (Bebek Marzipan) - 1904
- Cemilzade Candy Maker - 1883
- Deriş Law - 1912
- Ece Ajanda (Stationery) - 1892
- Emgen Optik - 1909
- Hafız Mustafa Confectionery - 1864
- Hamamcioğlu (Trade) - 1880
- İlançılık Advertising - 1909
- Karaköy Güllüoğlu Baklava - 1820
- Komili Olive Oil - 1878
- Konyalı Restaurant - 1897
- Koska Helva - 1907
- Manisalı Food - 1885
- Pandeli Restaurant - 1901
- Petek Leather - 1855
- Şekerocioğlu Delights - 1877
- Tevfik Aydın Watches - 1889
- Uludağ Mineral Water - 1930
- Vefa Boza Drink - 1876

Enjoy!

With its delicious foam and wonderful aroma, there is no drink quite like Turkish coffee.

Served in small but delicious doses, the calorie and caffeine count in a cup of Turkish coffee are moderate, meaning you can enjoy it more often.



The wonderful taste of Turkish coffee has been bringing people together for centuries, inspiring countless works of art and having a profound influence on culture.

The *telve*, or Turkish coffee grounds, can be read to tell one's fortune. It is the only coffee that can be used to predict the future.

Kurukahveci Mehmet Efendi has been producing the most irresistible coffee in Turkey for 145 years.



www.mehmetefendi.com

Cuisine & Restaurants

Who can ever claim that the Turkish Cuisine is not one of the World's best tastes? Especially with its famous recipes inherited from the Ottoman Empire, Turkish Cuisine has an outstanding place among all other. In İstanbul, you can find the most delicious meals prepared with secret recipes. Even though these dishes are associated with different parts of the country, the restaurants in İstanbul cope with all of them fairly well.





*Istanbul for
Gourmet Travellers*



Did you know?

Simit is a traditional breadring which is very popular in Turkey. Often sold by street vendors, its customary to have your simit with tea.



Istanbul has a lot more to offer than its rich history.

In the narrow streets winding between historic buildings and ancient palaces, a pulsating modern culture has been thriving. The sound of espresso machines as well as the smell of local cuisine and Turkish coffee fill the backstreets of Istiklal. If you prefer to taste local wine, make sure to stop by one of the historic wine houses at Pera. Gourmet travellers will adore the local scents emanating from the tea and spice stores in the Grand Bazaar, in Sultanahmet, and the Egyptian Spice Market, in Eminönü. The Grand Bazaar also houses a historic coffeehouse, where you can find the best Turkish coffee in town cooked on coal fire. The waterfront restaurants in chic Bebek and cosy Ortaköy serve local food such as kebabs, gozleme (savoury pancakes), and flatbread. The bohemian Çukurcuma and Galata neighbourhoods feature modest eateries specializing in local or regional food. Upscale restaurants mastering modern world cuisine are mostly nestled in the chic streets of sophisticated Nişantaşı, Maslak, Levent, and Etiler. The narrow streets of Galata are dotted with hip brasseries while Karaköy is up and coming as a popular district for ambient restaurants.



MEZE CULTURE

New venues and hip restaurants serving fusion cuisine have been popping around the city, yet the quintessential eating experience remains always a classic: the traditional meze (Turkish style appetizers) at a meyhane accompanied by the local spirit raki. Especially Beyoğlu houses hundreds of meyhanes, but those along the bustling Nevizade Street, just behind the majestic Çiçek Pasajı are authentic and lively.



THE DELIGHT OF TURKEY

Probably the best known Turkish dessert, Lokum (aka Turkish Delight) is an essential piece in gift packs to bring back home. One of the famous brands of lokum is "Mevlana Lokum" in Turkey. This precursor to the jelly bean is made from a family of confections based on a gel of starch and sugar, and has countless flavours varying from rose to lemon. Nuts like pistacios or hazelnuts are also added to enrich the flavour. The world adores these cubes of sweetness, so you have to be quick when the package opens!



TURKISH CUISINE

The Turkish cuisine's richness of variety offers a wide choice for those who want to experience and enjoy new flavours. From exquisite pastry choices to delicious meat, fish and vegetable specialities; Turkey's gastronomic panorama reflects a remarkable culinary synthesis coming from its cultural heritage.

Istanbul is the junction point of world and Turkish cuisine's multi-coloured traditional traits. Hence İstanbul provides a wide range of food choices originated from all around the world. With the magical touch of many civilizations and cultures, Turkish Cuisine offers to its visitors a very rich fusion. Foods, beverages and their consumption rituals are Turkey's one of the most important cultural projections and İstanbul is the junction point of world and Turkish cuisine's multi-coloured traditional traits.

Offering Turkish tea is a proof of hospitality and many restaurants serve it after meal with no charge. While "döner kebab" is a roasted meat on a revolving spit, Iskender Kebab is made of grilled lamb meat and hot tomato sauce served over pita bread with melted butter and yoghurt. Adana and Urfa Kebabs are cooked on a wide skewer.



Turkish Delight
with **nutella**

mevlanabazaar.com

ASİTANE RESTAURANT

Located overlooking the Golden Horn, Asitane opened its doors in 1991, together with the Kariye Hotel, a restored 19th century traditional Ottoman mansion. .
www.asitanerestaurant.com



MATBAH RESTAURANT OTTOMAN PALACE CUISINE

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www.matbahrestaurant.com



NAR RESTAURANT

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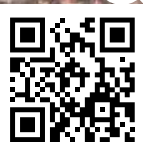
WORLD CUISINE IN İSTANBUL

In addition to the finest quality Ottoman cuisine, İstanbul features first-class world cuisine in select restaurants. Many travellers may primarily look forward to tasting the best of Ottoman culinary culture, characterised by a rich blend of spices, meat and vegetables, covering a vast geographical area from Balkans to Middle East. However, İstanbul also offers visitors some finest quality world cuisine at premium restaurants. Michelin-starred chefs often come to İstanbul both to enrich their culinary experiences and to find inspiration in the local fare. From Massimo Bottura serving at Zorlu Center's Ristorante D'Italia, to Tom Aikens, Enrico Cerea and Rudolf Van Nunen, some very successful chefs find their way into İstanbul and offer their best fusions here. In addition to the stars, many up-and-coming talented chefs visit İstanbul in the scope of Omnivore Festival. Furthermore, world-class chain restaurants are increasing their interest in İstanbul. Here in İstanbul, you have the best chance of expanding your tastes not only into the local culinary culture but also into some of the best world cuisine. Enjoy İstanbul, home of Mediterranean, Lebanese, Far Eastern, Indian and different world cuisines.



SMELL THE COFFEE

Internationally famous Turkish coffee is made by mixing extremely fine ground coffee and water. If you wish, sugar can be added to the special coffee pot (Cezve). Preparing Turkish coffee is like a ritual and requires patience. Once mixed, all the ingredients should be boiled over low heat. The coffee is served in cups with wider bottoms for the coffee seeds to subside. Offering a cup of coffee is an act of hospitality in Turkish culture. One of the most known Turkish coffee brands is Kurukahveci Mehmet Efendi in Eminönü on the European side of the city, producing coffee since 1871.



Did you know?

Especially in the western parts of Turkey, where olive trees grow abundantly, olive oil is the major type of oil used for cooking.

Şiş Kebab is made of cubic cut meat grilled on a barbecue. Surrounded by seas, Turkey is the place for seafood lovers. Bluefish, bonito, mackerel, sole, octopus, trout, picarel and specially cooked mussel with rice definitely deserve to be tasted. Börek is a layers of pastry filled with either meat, potato, cheese or vegetables. Lahmacun is a thin pizza with minced meat and onion on the top. Circle shaped and covered with sesame seeds, Dolma made from vine leaves and rice came into life from Turkish people's emigrations. Meal is eaten and its time to select from the long dessert menu. Traditionally the meal ends with a glass of tea, helping you to digest. Sütlaç (rice pudding), muhallebi (milk pudding) and kazzandibi (white pudding with burnt surface) are milkbased desserts. Saray Muhallebicisi is a traditional restaurant with branches all around İstanbul, serving famous Turkish desserts. Baklava with pistachio or walnut, Ekmek Kadayıfı with clotted cream and Künefe with soft cheese are among pastry-based desserts. As for fruit-based desserts; quince, fig, pumpkin and pear wait to be tasted. Made from yoghurt, water and salt, refreshing Ayran is generally served with a meal.

Reunite time



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www.saraymuhallebicisi.com

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Entertainment & Nightlife

Sometimes a sophisticated nightclub with dazzling view nearby the sea, sometimes an underground bar with non-stop headbangers or just a relaxing café serving you hookah and also open all night long... We said Istanbul never sleeps, so it will not let you sleep too!



did you know?

Karaköy,
With its hip cafes,
shops and art galleries,
the neighborhood once
known as the Wall
Street of Istanbul has
become the city's most
stylish area.

Nightlife in İstanbul is multifarious, ranging from some rooted establishments to hip clubs, from partying by the sea to underground rock cafes, from gigantic venues to cosy live music bars. All these nightlife choices are scattered around the city, which boasts several centers when it comes to nightlife. The music scene around the bohemian Galata neighbourhood attracts international jazz aficionados. There are several rooftop terraces, where you can enjoy nice music while watching the beautiful sunset across the fascinating scene of Golden Horn. If you rather dance to house music and looking for a fancy clubbing experience, the upscale clubs along the shores of the Bosphorus stand out with their exquisite ambience. Featuring lush waterfront terraces facing the glittering Bosphorus Bridge and an unforgettable sight, the venues in Ortakoy, Kuruçeşme and Bebek welcome internationally renowned DJs and live performers throughout the year. Karaköy area is the new up and coming area for trendy nightlife as well. The Asian side of the city, known as Kadıkoy, is known for the local music scene. Alongside of hip bars featuring a large variety of music, including jazz, reggae, world music, electronic, Latin or Turkish vibes, there are numerous underground clubs and bars and live performance venues.



Istanbul for Clubbers



EXCITING NIGHTS

Istanbul is just the right city to go wild! Every summer, world-wide known DJ's visit the city and perform fabulous shows to enthusiastic crowds. Shortly, Istanbul is the city to party!

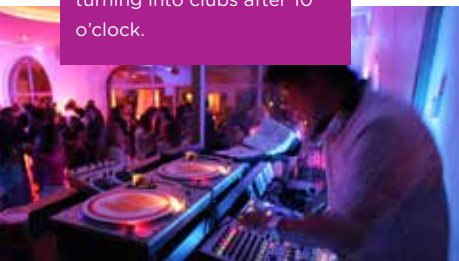


PARTYING BY THE SEA

Istanbul cannot be imagined without the sea and the Bosphorus. Therefore, nightlife venues are widely spread around the shoreline to keep the party going with a sea view! The venues by the Bosphorus are mostly high end luxury places where you can find the best entertainment in the world. These venues are generally elite restaurant turning into clubs after 10 o'clock.

İSTANBUL NIGHTLIFE TOP PICKS

If you feel bemused by the baffling diversity of İstanbul's nightlife, here are some of the top picks of the city's popular bars, clubs, and venues. Probably the city's classiest club is located on the banks of the Bosphorus: Reina. Spread on two floors, Reina offers supreme entertainment and an unparalleled restaurant, which is famed for its first-class cuisine. Other sophisticated venues for high-class entertainment are Suada and Nomad. What makes this venue so attractive is its unparalleled location covering an island on the Bosphorus. SupperClub and Nupera are also high end places in Beyoğlu area for a classy evening.





If you rather prefer dancing or listening to some fine-quality electronic music, Indigo is the home of İstanbul's electro scene. Located in Beyoğlu, the club welcomes acclaimed international and local DJs. If you like to feast your ears on some of the local indie tunes, then Babylon surely has something to surprise you. For more than ten years Babylon has been serving as a multi-purpose performance centre. Karaköy area is the up and coming district for going out in İstanbul. Places like Mitte and Fil, dominate the nightlife scene nowadays.

In warmer months, it is always more pleasant and preferable to enjoy the open air. Then you may venture up the Bosphorus towards Bebek, an upper class district with upscale pubs, bars, cafés, and fine dining by the sea. Situated at the heart of Bebek, Lucca starts as a restaurant and turns into a bar after the sunset. The DJs take over the scene on Fridays and Saturdays.

Nightlife spreads both banks, and ArkaOda and many other in Kadıköy stands out with their friendly atmosphere and good music. If you seek the opportunity to familiarize yourself with local DJs and underground music scene, Kadıköy may offer some unforgettable moments.



howtoistanbul.com
arts & culture
visit for nightlife in İstanbul



iSTANBUL SHOPPING FEST

1-31 JULY 2016

Enjoy countless shopping privileges with great discounts and offers on plenty of brands during the Istanbul Shopping Fest.

The 6th Shopping Fest at Istanbul, one of Europe's most mesmerising cities, offers you the perfect opportunity for the ultimate 'Istanbul' experience and a shopping spree. This year, Istanbul Shopping Fest is spreading the festivities and love of shopping to every corner of the city; enjoy concerts, competitions and exclusive fashion shows at central spots around the city, not only in shopping centres.



*A magnificent time
in the city*



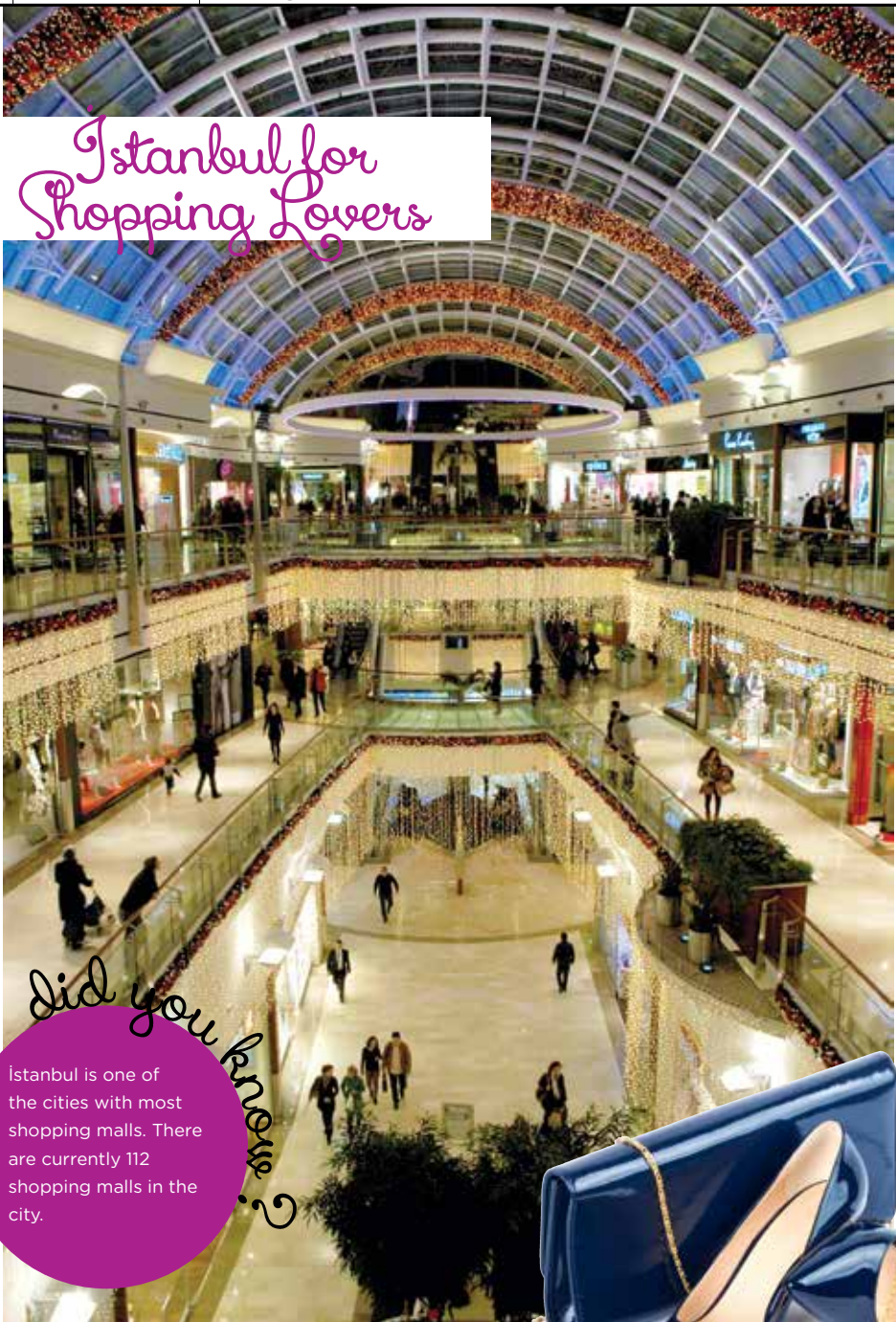
www.istshopfest.com

Through its history, İstanbul has always been a global center for trade, thanks to its unique location. Today, as well as maintaining that historical heritage, İstanbul has elegant high streets, state of the art malls and even a festival for shopping, attracting millions to the city for a shopping extravaganza!

Shopping



Istanbul for Shopping Lovers



did you know?

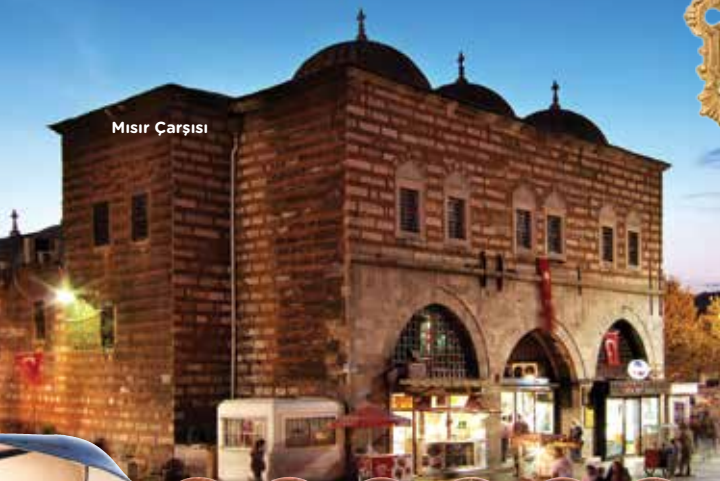
Istanbul is one of the cities with most shopping malls. There are currently 112 shopping malls in the city.

Alongside of traditional street markets and historic bazaars, İstanbul offers many sophisticated boutiques in its bohemian backstreets and worldwide brands in its upscale shopping malls, such as Zorlu Center, Akasya Acıbadem and Aqua Florya. İstanbul has 112 malls across the city. Whether you seek vintage fashion, contemporary design or local brands, İstanbul has a lot to offer for every taste. The stylish neighbourhood Nişantaşı is constantly buzzing with shoppers hanging around the elegant cafes and classy boutiques. Here you can have a taste of high-end fashion and check out the latest collections by such luxurious brands as Chanel, Prada, Louis Vuitton as well as Turkish brands such as Vakko and Beymen. Smaller boutiques feature incredibly versatile pieces ranging from party dresses to more relaxed leisure elegance. İstanbul also offers the best of Ottoman-inspired jewellery in the stores around Nişantaşı as well as the 553-year-old Grand Bazaar and another upscale shopping street Bağdat Caddesi. You can also find finest silky shawls and scarves in traditional patterns as well as other traditional items in the historic Grand Bazaar, Egyptian Bazaar and Mevlana Bazaar in Sultanahmet for carpets, gift porcelains and Turkish delights. The Bağdat Caddesi, on the Asian side of the city, spans a few kilometres along the coast. Walking and window-shopping along the boulevard is a leisurely way to spend a day, stopping by nice restaurants and cafes.



ANTIQUE HAVEN

Nearby Istiklal Street, always abuzz with shoppers, the backstreets around Galata and Çukurcuma neighbourhoods house some of the most promising up-and-coming fashion design. Here you can find the finest vintage pieces as well as handcrafted jewellery, hand-painted textile items and stylish urban wear. The antique dealers offer authentic decoration items.



Mısır Çarşısı



ISTANBUL A TRULY DESIGN CITY!

did you know?

Each year in October, designers, design exhibitions and conferences on design will be waiting for you at the Design Week of Istanbul at Old Hat Factory in Istanbul.



ISTANBUL DESIGN BIENNIAL

3rd Istanbul Design Biennial will be held from 22 October to 4 December 2016. This year the title is *Are we human? The design of the species: 2 seconds, 2 days, 2 years, 200 years, 200,000 years.* Several works will be exhibited during the Biennial around Istanbul. The 2nd Istanbul Design Biennial in 2014, attracted over 100,000 visitors in six weeks.

Istanbul is becoming a true hub for designers in every field, especially fashion and design furniture. The locations in the city are specialising to serve their specific kind of customers, hence their name are pronounced in line with the area they are specialized. For instance, posh Nişantaşı neighborhood is the place to shop for a haute couture designer dress. Along with the brand names, local and international fashion designers have shops both on high street and the vicinity. World famous fashion designers like Simay Bülbül, Hakan Yıldırım, Özgür Masur, Özlem Süer, Mehtap Elaidi and Dilek Hanif all have their shops in Nişantaşı.

For Furniture design, you should go to Cihangir, where you can find vintage and contemporary design objects and furniture. Contemporary furniture designers like Hane 78, Hiç Contemporary Crafts, Nord and laBoratuvar are located within this area.

The up and coming Karaköy neighborhood is also becoming the center for hipster style design; from clothing to furniture and even collectibles. Mae Zae, Kağthane, Junk, Labistanbul designshop, Selda Okutan, Atölye 11, Sahif Istanbul and Souq are some of the design shops you can find in the area.

Another area you can find design furniture is Adresistanbul in Şişli district. It is a one stop mall for design furniture and offers various alternatives for designer furniture. Brands like Diseño and Habitat have spacious shops along with other world famous brands.

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PLAZA**
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FOR A COMFORTABLE STAY

Having a panoramic Marmara Sea view, Crowne Plaza İstanbul-Florya offers a unique stay and meeting facility with its unlimited service philosophy, within İstanbul Akvaryum Complex. Hotel also offers 52,000 sq. meters walking area by the sea.

istanbul Akvaryum is the new brand aquarium of the world, where fish species living in the world's seas can be seen, with the size of its travel route, thematic areas, a thousand square meter rainforest and interactive new generation technology compared to other aquariums in its field.

Cultural, geographic, historical and architectural characteristics of relevant area, decorative items, interactive plays, sound and lighting, films and visual graphics where detailed information on that area are available in the thematic areas. Visitors can see sea animals belonging to these regions and get information about geographic and cultural characteristics of that region. All creatures living in İstanbul



aqua
florya
Shopping Center

SHOP OVER THE AQUARIUM!

Aqua Florya Shopping Center has hundreds of fashion brands, cafes, restaurants, 11 movie theaters, Istanbul Akvaryum. All in one place together. A colorful world over the deep blue sea.

Akvaryum maintain their life under conditions that are similar to their natural environment. İstanbul Akvaryum is divided into different sections with different themes so that everyone can find the place for themselves: Amazon Rainforest, 5D Cinema, Hurricane Simulator, Mirror Maze and Diving with Sharks. There are a number of different species in İstanbul Akvaryum: Most interesting undoubtedly Red-Bellied Piranhas and a Lemon Shark, which you can dive with.



3 WONDERS OF İSTANBUL
ALL IN ONE IN FLORYA

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Open the doors of an exotic world at Jungle Istanbul

Inside Vialand Mall where entertainment never ends, visit Jungle Istanbul, home of many exotic creatures from all over the World and live a memorable discovery experience.

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VIALAND



As a metropolis, İstanbul has a lot to offer to families travelling with children and looking to spend peaceful time not only by getting around but also by getting to know the city's cultural heritage.

Kid-Friendly İstanbul

Istanbul for Families

did you know?

The first theme park of Turkey, Vialand, covers an area equal to 100 football pitches. In 2015 Vialand had 25 million visitors from all around the globe.



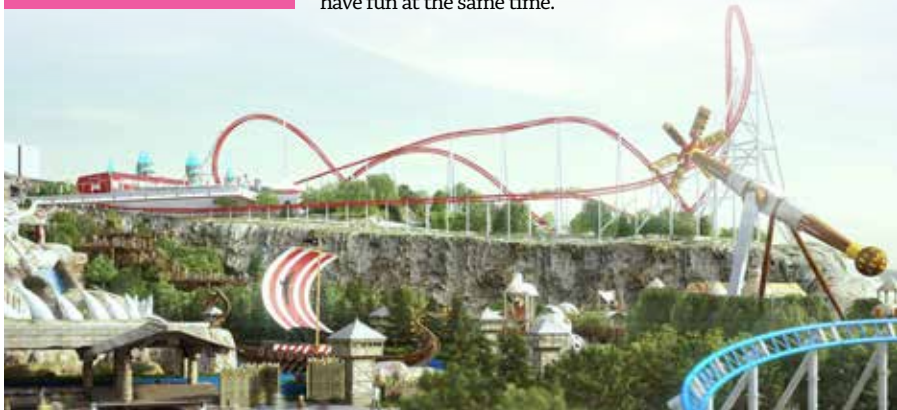


MINIATURK THEME PARK

One of the world's largest theme parks, Miniaturk covers an area of 40,000 square metres of open space filled with the miniaturised models of the most popular tourist attractions. The park contains a total of 122 models, 58 of which are from İstanbul, while 52 are from other cities in Anatolia. Kids will also have a chance to see historic structures modelled on their originals such as the Temple of Artemis at City of Ephesus.

The fabulous city offers children the chance to familiarise themselves with the history, art, nature, and cuisine of the region. Hopping on a boat tour in the morning and cruising along the Bosphorus is perhaps one of the best ways to enjoy the best sights of the city with children. Make sure to take them to Rahmi Koç Museum, which is located on the shores of the Golden Horn. The museum includes antique machines, cars, ships, and even a plane as well as a submarine. You can spend quality time at the café by the water while the children enjoy the many attractions at the museum's garden. İstanbul Museum of Modern Art offers children workshops, where they can familiarise themselves with art under private tutors. Founded by a celebrated poet and novelist, the Toy Museum features a gratifying experience for kids that enjoy museums.

When the weather is nice, the best place for kids to make a quick İstanbul tour is the Miniaturk Theme Park. Here the visitors can see the miniaturised models of famous sites such as Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapı Palace, to name but a few. The biggest dinosaur theme park in Europe, Jurassic Land is a place where kids can learn and have fun at the same time.





Istanbul with Kids



INSTRUCTIVE & ENTERTAINING

ISTANBUL DOLPHINARIUM

Istanbul Dolphinarium is the biggest Dolphinarium in Europe. Visitors may enjoy the dolphin shows, discover the world of the sea mammals such as dolphins, playful fur seals, massive walruses and the gorgeous white whale and spend great time at the Istanbul Dolphinarium.

Visiting Hours:

Daily between 9 am and 6pm Closed on Mondays
istanbuldolphinarium.com

In İstanbul, there are many places where your children can enjoy an instructive visit. If your kids are nature lovers, they will appreciate an exciting visit to the İstanbul Aquarium. Recently opened, the Aquarium is currently the biggest thematic aquarium in the world. Offering a rich variety of activities and events for children, the Aquarium hosts about 15,000 creatures. Home to Europe's biggest sharks, the Turkuazoo Aquarium offers another chance for an instructive visit with the possibility of diving. If your kid is into art, definitely take them to İstanbul Museum of Modern Art. Kids will also enjoy a ride on the nostalgic tram in Beyoğlu. You can watch the crowds and shop windows from your seats as the tram travels along the Grand Rue de Pera, known today as Istiklal Street.

If you rather prefer entertaining yourselves and the kids as a whole family, Vialand is a perfect place to spend time altogether. İstanbul Dolphinarium is the biggest Dolphinarium in Europe. Visitors may enjoy the dolphin shows, discover the world of the sea mammals such as dolphins, playful fur seals, massive walruses and the gorgeous white whale and spend great time at the İstanbul Dolphinarium.

Another charming place for kids is Istanbul Toy Museum, founded by poet/author Sunay Akin on 23 April 2003. The museum houses the most favorite examples of toy history, spanning from 1700's to today is located in a historical mansion. One of the most important features of the museum is; embracing the families with all its members. With this feature the museum is the place for three generations to spend time together and where they can share happiness.

You can also visit the new Legoland Discovery Centre, located in Forum Istanbul. Families with children aged 3 to 10 can enjoy a world of creativity, colour and building fun in the ultimate indoor Lego playground. With features including global and local landmarks made from over 1 million Lego bricks in the miniland attraction to fun and exciting Lego themed rides: Kingdom Quest Laser Quest and Merlin's Apprentice.

did you know?

You can get hands-on with the thousands of Lego bricks in themed build and play areas where kids imaginations can run wild with the endless possibilities.



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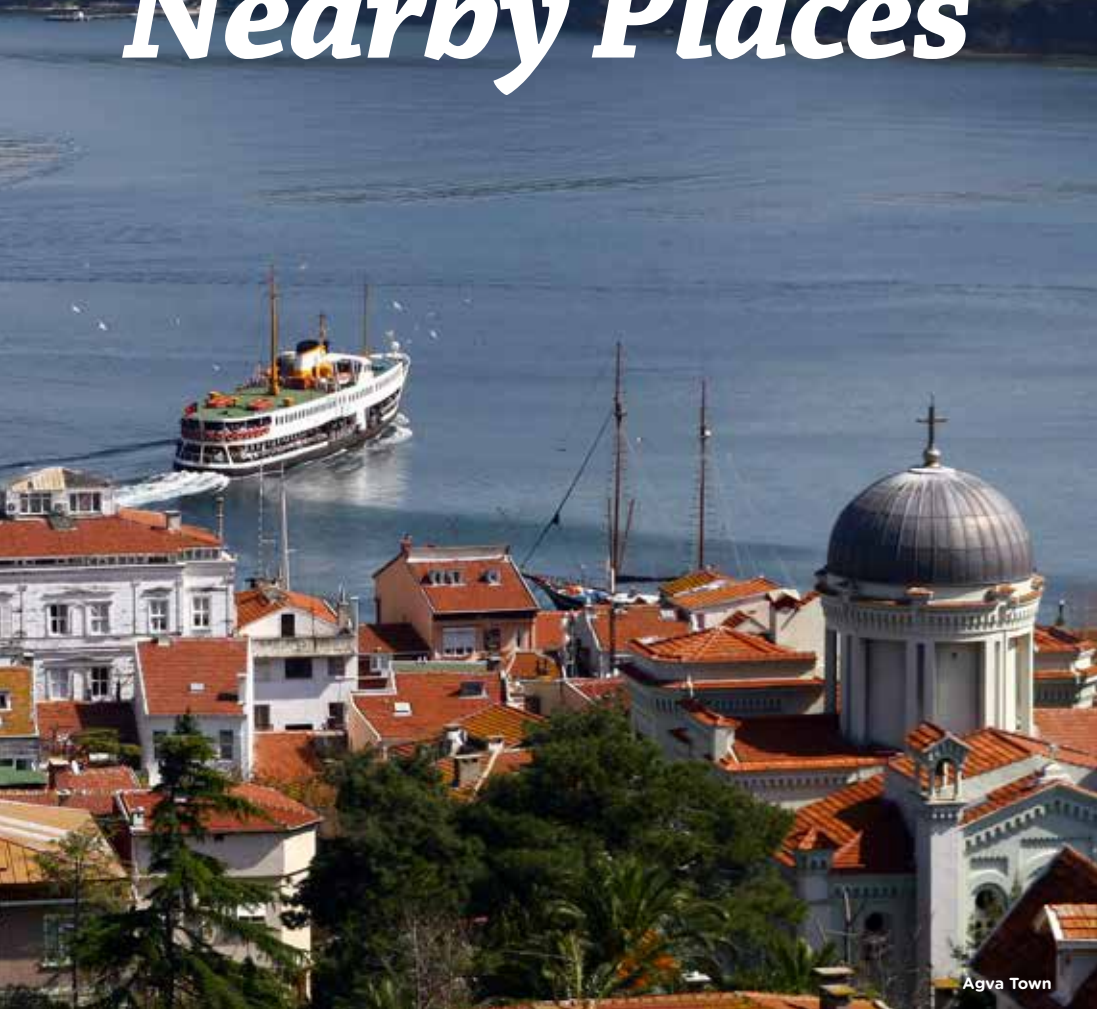
www.LEGOLANDDiscoveryCentre.com/Istanbul

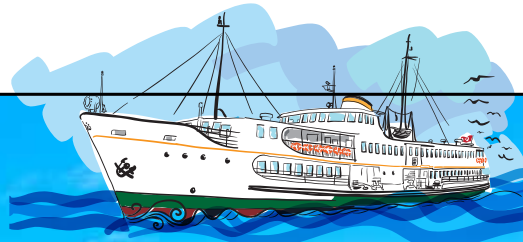
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The vicinity of İstanbul has numerous tranquil alternatives for visitors and İstanbulites alike, who are looking for a bit of breath out of the city life. Just an hour drive from the city, you will experience the surprising natural jewels of İstanbul.

Nearby Places





PRINCE'S ISLANDS

During the summer months the Princes' Islands are popular destinations for day trips from Istanbul. As there is no traffic on the Islands, the only transport being horse and cart, they are incredibly peaceful compared with the city of Istanbul.

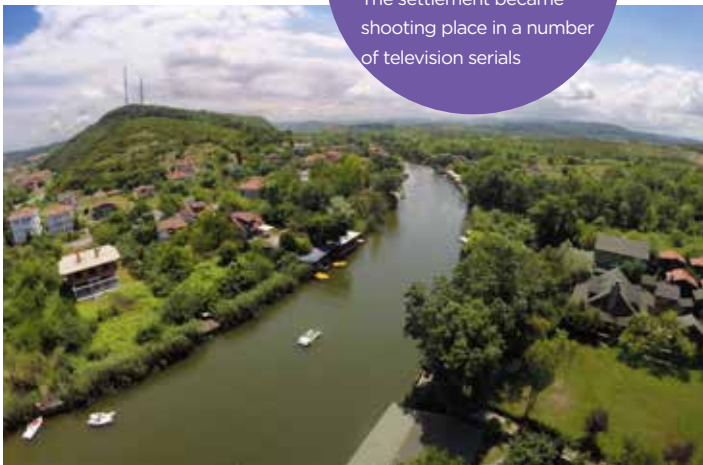
How to get there? Ferryboat and sea bus trips from Kabatas, Kadıköy or Bostancı.



AĞVA

A small town by the Black Sea, Ağva is only 97 kilometres far from Istanbul. Located on the delta of the Göksu and Yeşilçay rivers, this small town stands out with its picturesque landscapes. Nestled amidst lush greenery, Ağva attracts many visitors due to its exotic ambience. With hotels mostly located on the riverbanks, it offers an unforgettable getaway. In summer months, visitors may go for a refreshing swim in the Black Sea. If you are visiting in warm weather, make sure to take a boat tour to see some extraordinary waterfalls and secluded coves.

How to get there? Public transport busses no. 139 or 139A leave from Istanbul Harem to Şile and Ağva.



Did you know?

With river Göksu in the west and river Yeşilçay in the east, the name Ağva means "between the rivers". The settlement became shooting place in a number of television serials

SAPANCA

With its picturesque lake and relaxing ambience, Sapanca is a perfect escapade. Walk around the lake and slow down by the shore to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the city. The lakeside atmosphere offers a rich variety of ways to unwind and admire the healing beauty of the nature.

Thanks to the humidity and oxygen levels in the air, Sapanca is home to a truly rich mix of flora and a lush forest. In winter, you can go skiing at the scenic Kartepe. Waking up to birdsongs, enjoying local food at waterfront restaurants, and relaxing with a walk or bike ride along the lakeshore are only 90-minute drive away from İstanbul.

How to get there? Busses leave from İstanbul Harem Bus Terminal to Adapazarı and they stop at Sapanca.



POLONEZKÖY

A picturesque getaway with a historic atmosphere, Polonezköy was founded in early 19th century by Polish settlers. Established in the midst of lush greenery, Polonezköy (literally translates as the Polish Village) is characterised by beautiful houses sitting on well-tended gardens and walking paths through the forest. Especially in spring and summer, Polonezköy is filled with flowers and vivid colours of nature. İstanbulites come here to find some peace in nature and picnic in the shade of magnificent trees, only a few kilometres from İstanbul. Photography enthusiasts visit the village for some stunning nature photography. With a rich historical heritage blending Polish and Ottoman character as well as its charming landscapes, Polonezköy is a romantic getaway at a remarkably short distance from the central İstanbul.

How to get there? Since Polonezköy is not serviced by public transport, the best way to get there is to rent a car and take the highway known as the Riva Road. It is about 25 km from the city centre.



Beaches Of İstanbul

If you are visiting İstanbul in warm months, you can find nice beaches only a few kilometres away from the city. Most of the nearby beaches provide good facilities, which make them ideal for families with children.



ŞİLE

A lovely Black Sea resort located about 70 km from İstanbul, Şile is a historic fishing village, where you can take a glimpse of local life outside the metropolis. This little town is about an hour' drive from the city centre, yet houses some beautiful sandy beaches that are easily accessible from the highway. The town has a lot of rocky peaks that offer a breathtaking view on the old harbour. A popular day-tripper destination in summer, Şile features many bars and restaurants serving delicious food and offering a wonderful view of the Black Sea and the historic Ottoman lighthouse.

How to get there? Şile is a part of the İstanbul public transport system so you can take a bus from Harem, no. 139 and 139A.

PRINCES' ISLANDS BEACHES

Easy to get with an enjoyable ferry ride along the Bosphorus, Princes' Islands include some nice beaches suitable for swimming. Surrounded by the cleanest waters of the Marmara Sea, five islands, namely Büyükada, Heybeliada, Burgazada, Heybeliada and Sedefada feature beautiful beaches. Admission is with ticket.





KILYOS

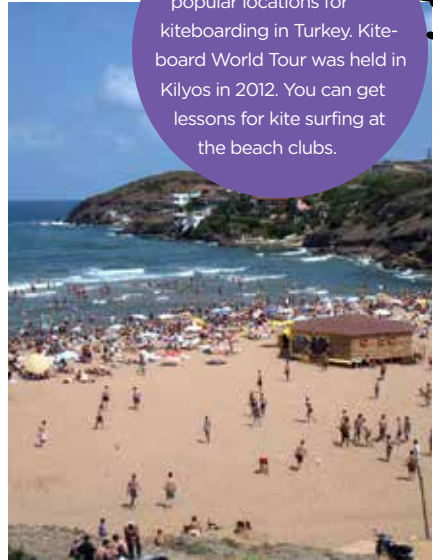
Located on the shores of the Black Sea, Kilyos is home to several beaches. Accessible by city bus, minibus, fast ferry or traditional ferry, Kilyos features a free public beach as well as serviced beach clubs that are admissible with a ticket. In summer months, most of these beaches play host to events such as DJ performances, festivals, and concerts.

did you know?

Kilyos is one of the popular locations for kiteboarding in Turkey. Kiteboard World Tour was held in Kilyos in 2012. You can get lessons for kite surfing at the beach clubs.

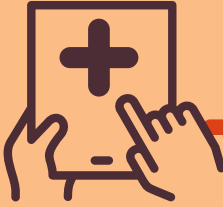
BEYKOZ

Beykoz Beach is a matchless location for a refreshing swim while enjoying the unique view of the Bosphorus Bridge. About 300 metres long, it is a serviced beach complete with sun loungers, parasols, changing rooms, bathrooms and shower rooms. It is part of the public transport network and easy to get with a public bus.



POYRAZKÖY

Poyrazköy Beach is located at the end of the Bosphorus on the Anatolian side and known for its calm sea. It is a serviced beach complete with sun loungers and parasols. İstanbulites usually prefer Poyrazköy for a weekend beach retreat.



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Istanbul Routes



Istanbul has so much to offer for different tastes that you have to plan carefully to get the most out of it. Don't worry! We did this for you in the following pages. Eiter for a short visit, or a week's stay, you'll find plenty of time to experience this magnificent city!



One Day Visit



If you have only one day to spend in İstanbul, the best way to get the most out of the city is to indulge in the sights, sounds, and scents of the famous Sultanahmet area. Here, you can get a feel of the rich Byzantine heritage, the glory of the Imperial Capital and the welcoming city of today. From glittering mosaics to aspiring minarets, from royal magnificence to the buzzing rhythm of everyday life, Sultanahmet will offer you the ultimate İstanbul experience in a nutshell.

09:00 VISIT HAGIA SOPHIA

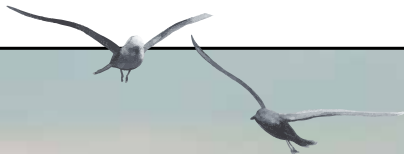
One of the signature landmarks of the city that remains impressively intact, Hagia Sophia is almost an embodiment of the İstanbul's history. You can see the original structure dating back to the 5th century and the additions, amendments, changes made in the following centuries to reflect the characteristic style of the period. As much as its admirable hybridity on the outside, Hagia Sophia spectacularly blends centuries old Christian icons with imposing Islamic calligraphy. Take your time to explore every little corner of this edifice and make sure to spend some time in its garden, where you can familiarise yourself with the archaeological findings unearthed from the site.



11:00 VISIT THE BLUE MOSQUE

Two prominent monuments of İstanbul stand face to face in Sultanahmet. Once you step out from Hagia Sophia, just walk straight and you will be approaching the magnificent Blue Mosque. This elegant mosque was built in the 17th century to celebrate the Ottoman power at the site of the Hippodrome and the Byzantine Palace; hence, its symbolic power. What makes the mosque so distinctive is its synthesis of Christian architectural elements with traditional Islamic architecture to reach a culmination of styles up to its day. Make sure you spend some time in silence inside the mosque to admire its prayerful candle-lit atmosphere and elegant blue tiles.





12:00 VISIT THE TOPKAPI PALACE

We suggest you to have a quick bite before entering the Palace, because even a quick visit takes a few hours. Served as the royal residence for Ottoman sultans for nearly 400 years, Topkapı Palace is actually a large complex consisting of four main courtyards and many smaller buildings including mosques, harem, a hospital, bakeries, and mansions. The site not only provides an insight into the everyday life of royals but also the running of the state.



16:00 WALK THROUGH AND SHOP AT GRAND BAZAAR

One of the oldest and largest covered markets in the world, the Grand Bazaar dates from the 15th century. This is the perfect place to end your visit by shopping for some souvenirs for beloved ones back home. A walk through the Bazaar is a journey amidst enchanting scents of spices, dazzling colours, beautiful handicrafts, and, of course, the tempting smell of Turkish coffee. Make sure to stop by one of the traditional cafes to have a sip of strong Turkish coffee before leaving for the airport.





Three Day Visit

If you plan to stay for three days in İstanbul, you can have a taste of its history as well as modern marvels. Since İstanbul is such a big city, you will still need to hurry if you want to make most of it. At the end of these three days, you will definitely want to come back for a longer visit!

DAY ONE

In addition to the Day One programme, which suggests a visit to the Hagia Sophia at 09:00, a visit to the Blue Mosque at 11:00, a visit to the Topkapı Palace at 12:00, and a walk through the Grand Bazaar at 16:00 (see previous page for details), you can continue with the following:



19:00 DINNER WITH CENTURY OLD RECEIPENTS

Asitane Restaurant in Edirnekapi is bringing the forgotten traditional Ottoman tastes to the present, by adding more than 200 historical receipes to its menu. Try it!

DAY TWO

Since Day One has been a busy day with a lot of walking and sightseeing, it is a good idea to spend the second day in a relaxing mood.

09:00 BREAKFAST BY THE BOSPHORUS

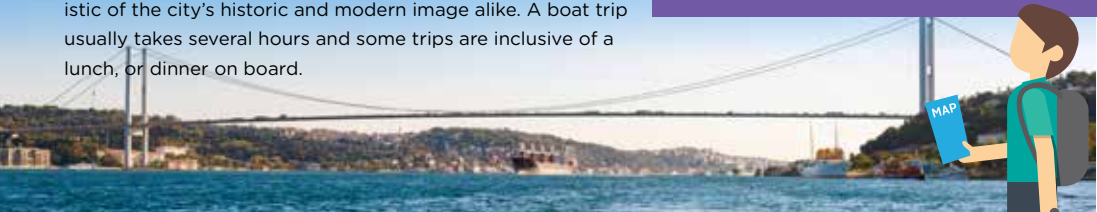
What could be more rewarding than a warm cup of tea by the Bosphorus in the fresh, sea-scented air? Get on a vehicle and head to Ortaköy or Bebek to sit by the sea and have some traditional Turkish breakfast, served alongside of freshly brewed tea. Take your time to delight in the fresh air and beautiful scenery at this matchless spot on earth.

12:00 BOAT TRIP ON THE BOSPHORUS

There are many privately-owned boats running along the Bosphorus, alongside of regular public ferries. If you take the former, you will probably have a guide on board or an audio guide that gives information on the landmark structures along the Bosphorus, such as historic mansions, military mansions, or ancient walls. If you take the latter, you have the privilege of enjoying the classical Istanbul ferry, which is so characteristic of the city's historic and modern image alike. A boat trip usually takes several hours and some trips are inclusive of a lunch, or dinner on board.

19:00 DINNER IN ORTAKÖY

Eating out by the shore and enjoy the seafood from the Bosphorus is the best way to end the day. Since restaurants in Ortaköy are various, just pick one!



09:00 TAKSIM SQUARE

The main attraction spot for every tourist from any part of the world, the iconic Taksim Square is always vibrant with cheerful tourists taking selfies before the monument or the historic tram. Taksim has a lot to offer equally by day and by night. You can wander around and pick a cafe to have your morning coffee watching the crowds go by.

10:00 A walk along Istiklal Street

Istiklal Street is one of the main shopping streets in the city. It includes some good quality cafes, teahouses, and restaurants as well as world famous brands and some local fashion. Istiklal is also home to some vintage bookshops, where you can find some interesting books on İstanbul to take back home with you as a souvenir. Here also you will find some art galleries featuring art by world famous contemporary artists and local talents. Istiklal Street certainly has a lot to offer for every taste.



12:00 GALATA TOWER AND LUNCH

Just continue down the Istiklal Street until you reach a quarter that looks like a small Italian piazza. It is beyond simple likeness, because this little square, which is home to the Galata Tower, was once a Genoese neighbourhood. The medieval tower, built in the 14th century, stands intact and open for public visit. It is a rewarding experience to ascend the tower and enjoy the panorama over the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus. The little square at the foot of the tower is home to cute restaurants, which offer a gratifying lunch.

15:00 ARTWALK AND SHOPPING

The sidestreets of Galata include promising art galleries, where you can explore the local and global trends in artistic production, as well as haute couture boutiques, which feature outstanding local fashion. From Galata, make sure you walk towards Çukurcuma and Cihangir. These neighbouring quarters offer not only an enjoyable walk along narrow streets dotted with historic facades of old İstanbul, but also include best vintage shops in town. After, walk towards Karaköy, the historic and newly hip location on the Bosphorus where you can find art shops, fancy cafes and cosy restaurants.

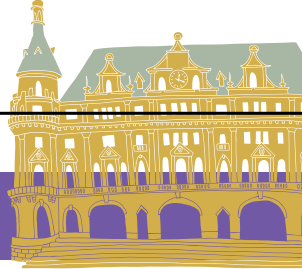
19:00 DINNER IN KARAKÖY

The hip neighbourhood of Karaköy is spotted with cosy restaurants serving quality food. Pick one and enjoy your final evening in the city.



Please refer to *Three-Day Visit* pages for the details of the first three days

Seven Day Visit



If you are lucky enough to plan a one-week visit to İstanbul, then you can have a taste of its history, modern marvels, attractive shopping streets, and go a bit out of town for a relaxed day. Just an hour of driving away, you will find beautiful beaches, authentic villages, and picturesque shorelines.

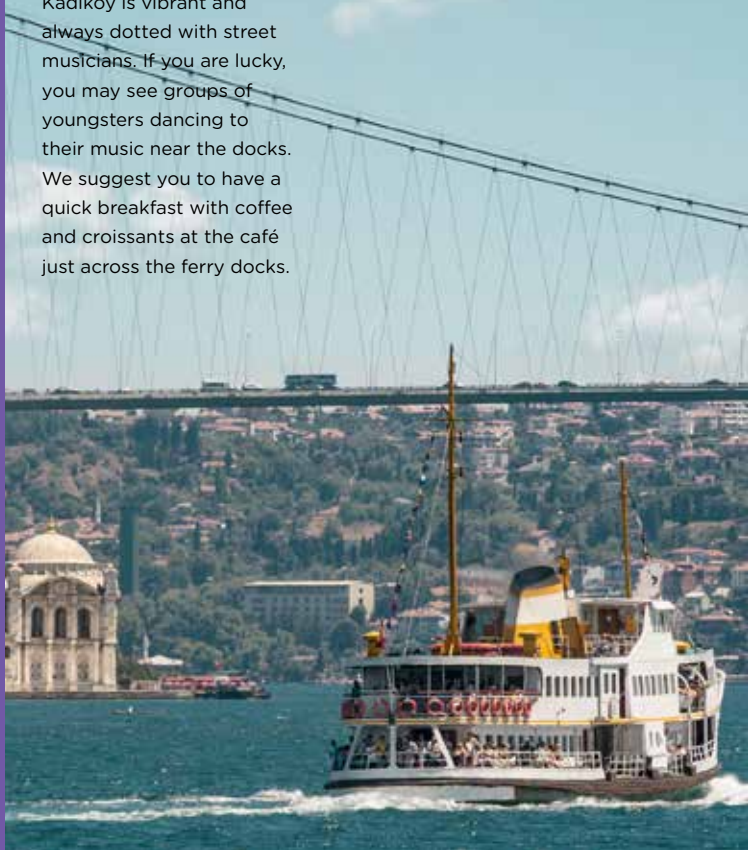
DAY FOUR

09:00 KABATAŞ FERRY DOCKS

Kabataş is the nearest ferry dock to Taksim Square, and it is easily reached by the historic funicular line that connects to the Taksim station on the city's underground. We suggest you to catch the morning boat to Kadıköy, the Asian side of the Bosphorus. The boats run to Kadıköy from Kabataş every half an hour. Make sure to grab a seat in the open air, if you are visiting in summer. This ferry ride is a wonderful occasion to delight in the beautiful scenery of the Bosphorus. You will see the monumental Hagia Sophia and the graceful Topkapi Palace standing out. Make sure to order a cup of tea to sip on during the picturesque journey.

09:30 BREAKFAST IN KADIKÖY

Kadıköy is vibrant and always dotted with street musicians. If you are lucky, you may see groups of youngsters dancing to their music near the docks. We suggest you to have a quick breakfast with coffee and croissants at the café just across the ferry docks.



10:30 WALK THROUGH THE STREET MARKET

Kadıköy is famous for its street market and a walk through the colourful stalls is not only a feast to the eye but to all your senses. As you walk from one shop to another, you will enjoy travelling from one attractive smell to another. Here you can find the best of local spices, local cheese, and local coffee. Make sure to choose from the authentic coffee stores for a cup of Turkish coffee and enjoy the traditional serving with lokums.



12:00 STROLLING ALONG MODA

Follow the street towards Moda. You can either go back to the seaside to take the waterfront route, or stroll along the lively Moda Avenue. The Moda Avenue is dotted with nice boutiques, art stores, and cosy cafes. Walk until the Moda Tea Garden.

13:00 MODA TEA GARDEN AND LUNCH

One of the best places for enjoying a cup of tea while watching the Bosphorus is Moda Tea Garden. Here you may spend quality time in calm. If you are travelling with children, they will love the playground located in the midst of a green park behind the tea garden. This is also a perfect place for picnicking when the weather is nice. We suggest you to choose from many restaurants by the shore for lunch, or go for a nice picnic in the sun.

16:00 SHOPPING AT THE FAMOUS MALL

As you leave Moda, head back to Kadıköy and continue to Akasya Acıbadem Shopping Mall. This is a newly opened modern shopping mall filled with worldwide brands. It has easy access with metro and has alternative attractions to spend lovely time.

19:00 DINNER

For an authentic dinner, we suggest you to head to Çiya Restaurant, located in the Kadıköy street market. With its rich menu of classical Ottoman cuisine, kebabs and vegetarian choices, Çiya is an indispensable stop for anyone travelling to Kadıköy.

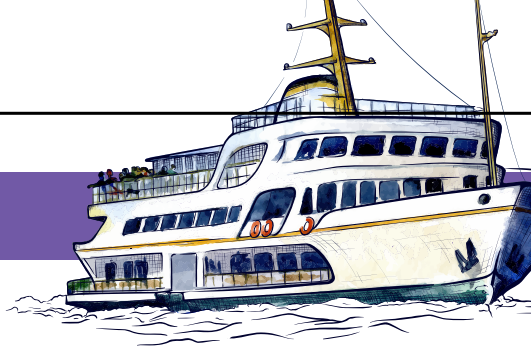
21:00

LAST FERRY TO KABATAŞ

Catch the last ferry to Kabataş at 21:00.



Seven Day Visit



DAY FIVE



09:00

VISITING ISTANBUL MODERN

Istanbul is home to some very nice museums, and it is a good idea to spare one day for museum visiting. Located by the Bosphorus, Istanbul Museum of Modern Art houses the highlights of Turkish modern art. Here you will have a chance to acquaint yourselves with paintings, installations, and sculptures produced in the modernist era of Turkish art. The museum also includes a children's hall with workshops and activities for children. The museum's cafe offers a breathtaking panorama of the Bosphorus and a nice place to have a cup of coffee, breakfast or lunch. The museum's library is also worth visiting.



12:00 MUSEUM OF INNOCENCE

From Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, you can catch a taxi to the Museum of Innocence, located nearby, in Tophane. This fascinating museum, designed and put together by the Nobel Prize-winning novelist Orhan Pamuk, is no less a piece of conceptual art. The museum displays a quirky collection of objects that evoke the daily life around 1970s, when Pamuk's novel of the same name is set.



15:00 İSTANBUL ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUMS

From the Museum of Innocence, you can hop on a taxi and get to the İstanbul Archaeology Museums, located in Sultanahmet. İstanbul Archaeology Museums is composed of three main parts: the Archaeology Museum, the Museum of the Ancient Orient and the Tiled Pavilion. The Museum was designed and put together by the famous painter, Osman Hamdi Bey.

19:00 DINNER IN SULTANAHMET

As you get out of the museum, walk to Sultanahmet, the historic district on the peninsula. Matbah Restaurant and Nar Restaurant are both famous for their lovely cuisine. Enjoy your evening in this lovely neighbourhood.



Seven Day Visit

DAY SIX

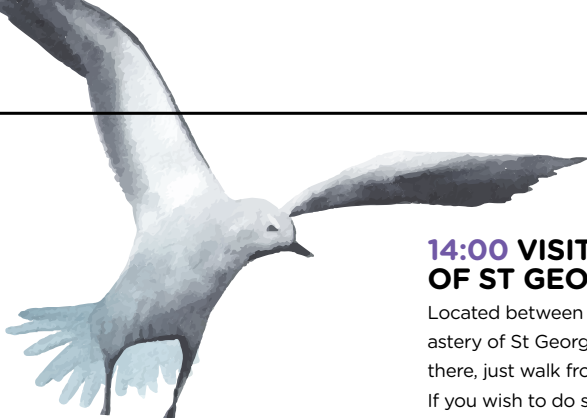
09:00 KABATAŞ FERRY DOCKS

Catch the morning ferry to Princes' Islands. Make sure you get on the right ferry, since there is usually more than one leaving at the same time from the docks to different destinations. You should follow the 'Adalar' sign.

10:30 ARRIVAL IN BÜYÜKADA

The Islands lie about 20 km southeast of the city in the Sea of Marmara. Therefore, it takes a longish ferry ride to reach there. Büyükada, just as all the islands, are free of car traffic and it comes as a welcome relief after all those days you have spent in the midst of the city's bustling rhythm. Transportation is by bicycle, horse-drawn carriage and foot, as in centuries past. Take your time to walk around and enjoy the calm. Bicycles are available for rent in several of the town's shops, and shops on the market street can provide picnic supplies.





14:00 VISITING MONASTERY OF ST GEORGE

Located between Büyükada's two highest hills, the Greek Monastery of St George is the main attraction of the island. To get there, just walk from the ferry straight ahead to the clock tower. If you wish to do some shopping, turn left along Recep Koç Sokak. The walk to the Monastery takes at least one hour. Along the road you will see impressive wooden villas set in gardens.



19:00 DINNER

You may hop on one of Büyükada's numerous horse carriages and ask the driver to take you to restaurant, most of them having an authentic setting. The carriage ride is an unforgettable journey past historic mansions and pines. Most of the restaurants offer a stunning location overlooking nearby islands and the open sea. You may prefer to spend the night here, or catch the latest ferry at the midnight.

DAY SEVEN

09:00 BREAKFAST AT YOUR HOTEL



10:30 HAMMAM EXPERIENCE

Ayasofya Hürrem Sultan Hammam is one of the oldest in İstanbul, and it was built by the worldwide-renowned Ottoman architect Sinan in 1584. Pamper yourself in this historic hammam to prepare for a long journey back home. www.ayasofyahamami.com

12:00 SHOPPING TIME

Before your trip, you can spend your time shopping at Zorlu Centre in Zincirlikuyu for famous brands in clothing or Adresistanbul in Şişli for decoration and design. Alternatively, you can try out Aqua Florya Shopping Center near the Atatürk Airport.

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PRACTICAL INFO



LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHY

Istanbul is a transcontinental city straddling two continents by its inland sea Marmara. The city is divided into four regions and has a natural harbor, the Golden Horn. One of the world's busiest waterways, the Bosphorus, is situated in northwestern Turkey between the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara. Connecting the two seas, Bosphorus also separates İstanbul to two sides known as European side and Asian side.



LANGUAGE

Turkish



CURRENCY

The Turkish Lira is the official currency of Turkey. Bank notes come in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 TL. Coins come in the amounts of 1, 5, 10 and 25 Kuruş and 1 Lira.



ATMS

ATMs can be found all around the country. All of them offer foreign language options and pay out Turkish liras. Cash withdrawal limits vary from bank to bank and are around 800 TL to 1.500 TL.



CHANGING MONEY

Foreign exchange offices, which are known as "döviz bürosu" can be found throughout the country. Operating hours are mostly Monday to Friday, from 09:00 to 17:00. In the arrivals section of Atatürk and Sabiha Gökçen Airport, there are 24-hour exchange offices. Also the exchange offices located in shopping malls and touristic areas are open later and on Saturdays. US Dollars and Euros are accepted in highly touristic districts like Sultanahmet and Taksim but rates are often not competitive.



CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards are widely used and accepted. Visitors can use

their Visa, Mastercards, Amex and Diner's.



WEIGHT AND MEASURES:

Metric System



ELECTRICITY:

220 volt, 50 cycle. Most hotels have a receptacle with 110 volts. Socket type is standard European two-pin.



BUSINESS AND BANKING HOURS:

Offices and banks are generally open 09.00 to 17.00 Mondays to Fridays, and close for lunch 12.00 to 13.30.



DEMOGRAPHICS:

Istanbul is the largest populated city of Turkey with a population of 14.7 million.



LOCAL TIME

UTC/GMT + 2 hours





OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS:

April 23rd National Sovereignty and Children's Day,

May 19th The Commemoration of Atatürk Youth and Sports Day,

August 30th Victory Day,
October 29th Republic Day and
1st of May Workers' Day are
public holidays.

Ramadan Bayram:

4-7 July (only for 2016)

Kurban Bayram:

12-15 September (only for 2016)



NATURE & CLIMATE:

İstanbul is a city where four seasons can be experienced. Spring and autumn are two unpredictable seasons with a range from chilly to warm. The average winter weather is between 5°C and 9 °C. During the summers average temperature is between 18 °C and 28 °C. The hottest months are July and August while the coldest months are January and February.



VISAS:

To enter into Turkey visas are required but most of the visas can be purchased for £10 or \$20 at Turkey's airports or border gates. Since the information

of visas is changeable, please contact the visa information for foreigners on Turkish Foreign Ministry website.

www.mfa.gov.tr

Turkey's electronic online visa application system offers to its applicants a comfortable and practical way to obtain visa.

www.evisa.gov.tr



POST OFFICE

Post Offices and the Postal Service in Turkey are generally abbreviated to PTT.

(www.ptt.gov.tr)



TELEPHONE

İstanbul's telephone service has two area codes, one for the Anatolian side and one for the European. If the land line you need to call is on the other side you must also include its area code (0216 for the Anatolian side and 0212 for the European side).

Turkey's country code is 90.



PRACTICAL TURKISH

Hello: Merhaba. (mehr hah bah)

How are you?

Nasıl-sın? (na suhl suhn)

Fine, thank you İyiyim, teşekkürler. (ee yee yeem teh shek ürr lerr)

What is your name? : Adın ne? (ad uhn ne)

My name is _____. Adım _____ . (Ad uhm _____.)

Nice to meet you : Memnun oldum. (mem noon oll doom)

Please : Lütfen. (Luet fen)

Thank you.: Teşekkür ederim. (teh shek uer eh der eem)

You're welcome.: Bir şey değil. (bir shey de yeel)

Yes: Evet. (eh vet)

No: Hayır. (Hah yuhr)

Excuse me? Bakar mısınız?

(bah kar muh suh nuhz)

Excuse me : (begging pardon)

Afedersiniz. (af air dair sin niz)

I'm sorry: Özür dilerim.

(Ö zuer dil air rim)

Goodbye : Hoşçakalın.

(Hosh cha kaluhn)

Goodbye : Güle güle.

(guele guele)

Good morning : Günaydın.

(Guen eye duhn)

Good afternoon : Tünaydın.

(Tuen eye duhn)

Good day: İyi günler.

(e yee guen ler)

Good evening : İyi akşamlar.

(e yee ak sham lar)

Good night : İyi geceler.

(e yee ge jay ler)

Good night (to sleep) :

İyi uykular (e yee yoo ku lar)

Welcome : Hoşgeldin.

(Hosh gel din)

I don't understand : Anlamıyorum (An-la-muh-yor-uhm),

Where is the toilet? : Tuvalet nerede? (Too va let ner eh de?).

visit for more..

howtoistanbul.com
How to Istanbul

ACCESS IN İSTANBUL

İstanbul offers a huge network of public transportation. With city busses and railways such as subway, tram systems and Marmaray, İstanbul offers plenty options to get around the city. As the Bosphorus divides the city into two parts, the ferries and sea-busses also become a practical means of daily transportation. Yet the whole system can easily be accessed with a single transportation card – İstanbulkart.



FERRY AND SEA BUS

To see historical sides of the city and travel fast between Europe and Asia, one of the best options would be ferries with an incredible sightseeing opportunity. There are many ferry and sea-bus stations connecting the Bosphorus shores, Golden Horn, Prince's Islands and other areas. "Vapur" (big ferries) connect the main areas with each ferry leaving in 30 min. or 45 min. from 07:00 am until 11:00 pm. The small ferries of operate with smaller boats departing every 5- 15 min. There are also sea-bus routes that enables public transportation from İstanbul to main areas within the city limits and/or the cities around the Marmara Sea. For more information: www.sehirhatlari.com.tr

BUS & METROBUS

Frequently used all around the city, buses are an economic means of transport. The private laned express bus service "Metrobus" carries thousands of commuters daily; provides fast and comfortable transportation between the two ends of Asian side and the European side. **For more information: www.iett.gov.tr**



SUBWAY AND TRAM

Istanbul's subway and the tram system have a wide network and provide easy access to your desired point both in Asian and European sides. Istanbul's subway operates from Haciosman to Yenikapı (M2); from Aksaray - Atatürk Airport to Kirazlı (M1) and from Kirazlı to Olimpiyatköy (M3) on the European side. Also subway runs from Kadıköy to Kartal (M4) on the Asian Side.

The tramline operates from Bağcılar to Kabataş (T1), Habibler to Topkapı (T4), Kabataş to Taksim (F1). There is also a funicular system that runs between Kabataş and Taksim (F1).

For more information: www.istanbul-ulasim.com.tr



MARMARAY

The dream of connecting the two continents under the sea has come true in February 2014 with Marmaray in Istanbul. The "Marmaray Train System" is a 76 kilometers tube tunnel that enables passengers to pass under the Marmara inner sea with train in only a couple of minutes. Between the last stops; Kazlıçeşme in European side and Ayrılık Çeşmesi in Asian side, one can enjoy the travelling of changing continents. Kazlıçeşme stop is 10 kilometers to the Atatürk International Airport and from the Yenikapı stop (also in European side) there are sea busses to cities in the south of Istanbul

For more information www.marmaray.gov.tr





İSTANBUL ATATÜRK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Istanbul Atatürk International Airport is the city's gateway to the world, hosting millions of passengers every year and servicing airlines from all over the world. With its architecture, speed of passenger throughput, level of service and advanced technology, it is also one of the top airports in the world. Operated by TAV İstanbul Terminal Operations Co., a subsidiary of TAV Airports Holding since 2000, the airport is ranked as the second in the category "Best Airport of South Europe" in "The World's Best Airports 2009 Awards" event organized by Skytrax Research, the leading research Advisors to the world airline and air transport industry based in London, UK. The data on movement to and from the airport, shows Turkey's integration to the world. Atatürk International Airport hosts around 1050 flights a day and services approximately 135.000 passengers a day, a figure that rises to 140.000 to around 160.000 and flights to 1.150 to 1250 a day at peak times. The airport is situated 28 kilometers west of city center on 9.470.554 square meters of land. www.ataturkairport.com



SABIHA GÖKÇEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The airport is located on the Anatolian shore of İstanbul at Pendik / Kurtköy, at a distance of 40 km to Kadıköy, 12 km to Pendik and 50 km to Taksim. It has a really convenient traffic in terms of transportation with its 1.5 km connection to the TEM motorway. The Haydarpaşa-Gebze Express line is in maintenance and will be available in the near future departing from Pendik Train Station where the line will be connected to Marmaray Metro and Pendik YHT High Speed Train. In the meantime IETT public buses serves between Sabiha Gökçen Airport and Kartal-Kadıköy metro where our guests can travel by rail line. Public transportation (IETT) departs from Sabiha Gökçen Airport (SAW) to downtown İstanbul. There are many ways to travel from Sabiha Gökçen Airport into the several main locations of İstanbul such as Sultanahmet, Taksim, Eminönü (Sirkeci), Beyazıt (Laleli), Esenler, Harem, Bakırköy, Yeşilköy, Tuzla, by taxi, Havataş shuttles or the public bus services (IETT).

www.sgairport.com





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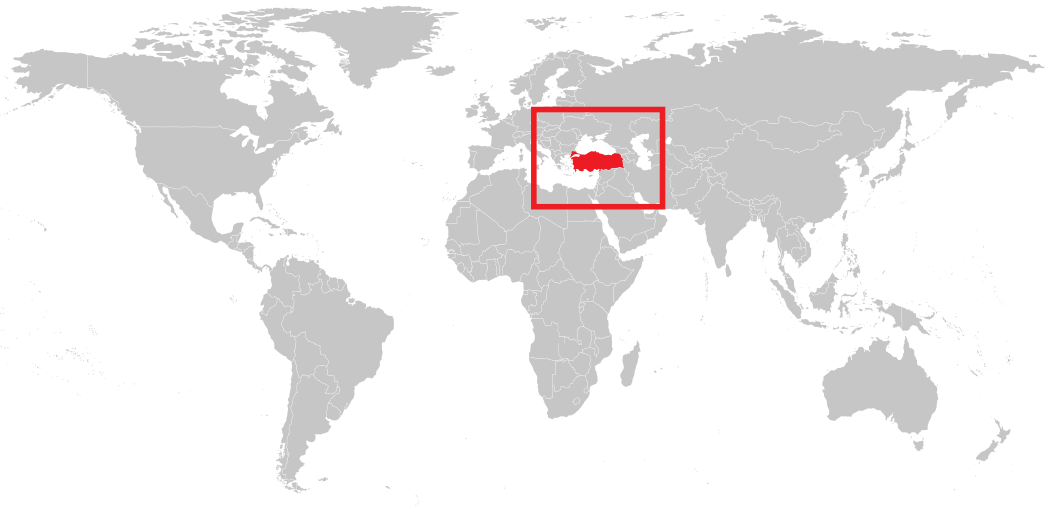
TURKISHAIRLINES.COM

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MAPS

World Map and Location of Turkey



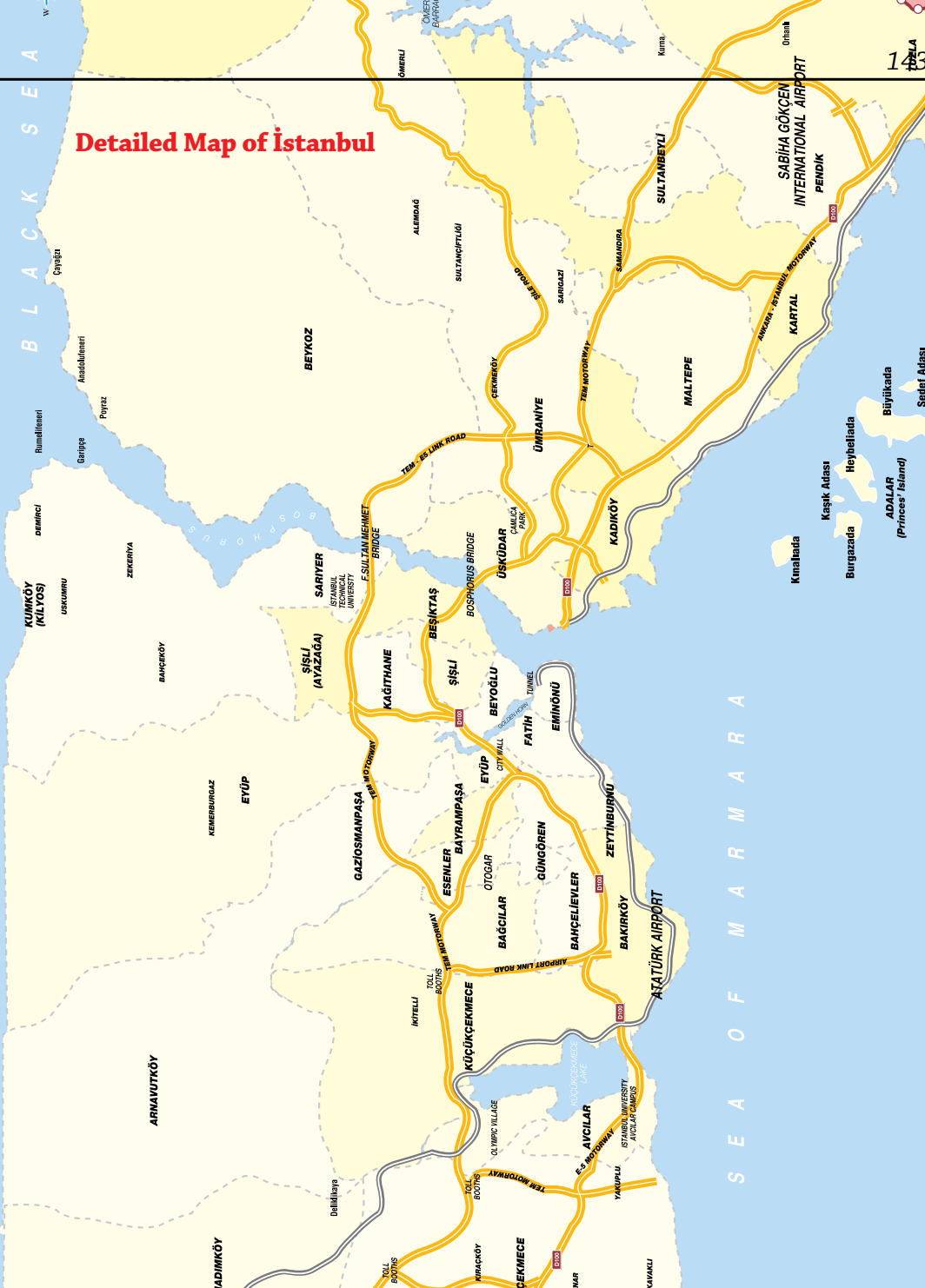
Turkey Map and Location of İstanbul





B L A C K S E A

Detailed Map of İstanbul



KUMKÖY (KILYOS)
USKUMRU

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S E A O F M A R M A R A

Kınalıada

Kaşık Adası

Heybeliada

Burgazada

ADALAR (Princes' Island)

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Büyükdada

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