



Istanbul

Photo: Viacheslav Lopatin/Shutterstock.com



Berke/Shutterstock.com



Seqoya/Shutterstock.com



Luciano Mortula/Shutterstock.com

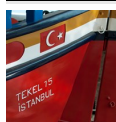
It's easy to lose yourself in Istanbul's grandiose history, but modern Istanbul is a simmering metropolis, well worth a visit in its own right. The shopping is world-class and the nightlife pulsates around not one but several districts. Even though Istanbul is no longer the capital, it's still the country's business and cultural centre, still, the city where new trends are created.

Featured



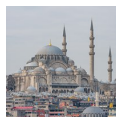
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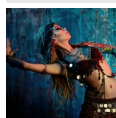
Süleymaniye

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Maçka Park

Maçka Democracy Park is about 10 minutes away from Taksim square and has pat...

THE CITY



TTstudio/Shutterstock.com

Constantinople, the centre of the Byzantine Empire which lasted over a thousand years, later became Istanbul, the capital of the Ottoman Empire for almost 500 years. The city is a mixture of Europe and Asia, a unique urban composition. A stroll around Sultanahmet, inside the city walls, among mosques, museums and the Great Bazaar is a trip through both history and daily life.

Modern Istanbul is on the other side of the Galata Bridge in Beyoğlu. The city is at its busiest from the Karaköy ferry terminal, through the always happening and youthful Cihangir, along the main tourist shopping İstiklal street and all the way to the famous Taksim square.

Istanbul's Asian side has avoided much of the international tourism and have retained a more humdrum character. Moda district is brimming with cafes and bars frequented by local hipsters, while a bit more traditional Üsküdar caters to visiting families.

Waterways play a central role in the life of the city and boat traffic on the Bosphorus, the Golden Horn and the Sea of Marmara is running like clockwork. Along the banks you can find small cafes where you can enjoy a glass of tea and magnificent views over the town.

DO & SEE



RossHelen/Shutterstock.com

Istanbul is a vibrant city whose grandiose history is utterly fascinating. Take a stroll around the city and admire the amazing mosques, museums and the Great Bazaar, or even visit an authentic Turkish bath.

Turkish Baths



It is said that if you have never tried a Turkish bath then you have never been truly clean. The visitor moves through several hot rooms and finally arrives at the massage table for a real going over. Men and women bathe separately, exceptions are made at certain times for tourists. Here is one recommended bathhouse:

Çemberlitaş Hamam. Situated near the Bazaar, this is the oldest hamam in town and was reputedly built by the master architect Mimar Sinan in 1584.

Photo: Sabino Parente/Shutterstock.com

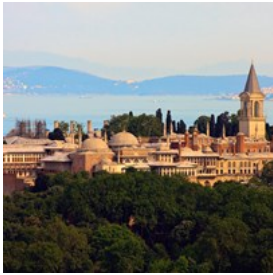
Address: Vezirhan Cad. 8, Çemberlitaş, Istanbul

Opening hours: Daily 6am-midnight

Phone: +90 212 522 79 74

Internet: www.cemberlitasnamami.com/ceamberlitas-bath-historical-turkish-bath

Topkapi Palace



The palace of the sultans with its many courtyards and gates brings on a nostalgia for forgone times. There are several special museums in the area; highlights include the Treasure Chamber, where the famous dagger and Spoonmaker's diamond are true stars of the collection, and the harem, where the sultan's wives and children lived (the two are not included in the ticket price to the palace).

Photo: Bertl123/Shutterstock.com

Address: Topkapi Palace, Sultanahmet, Istanbul

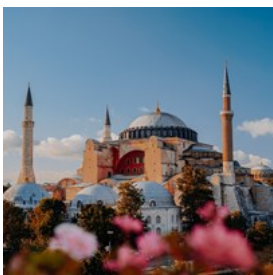
Opening hours: 1 April – 1 October: Wed–Mon 9am–6pm, Tue closed. 1 October – 1 April: Wed–Mon 9am–5pm, Tue closed

Phone: +90 212 512 04 80

Tickets: Foreign Visitor: 150 TL

Internet: www.muze.gen.tr/muze-detay/topkapi

Aya Sofya (Hagia Sophia)



Aya Sofya is a remarkable mixture of Christianity and Islam, a church with minarets and a mosque with pictures of the Virgin Mary (now covered up, unfortunately). The building is one of the wonders of world architecture. Its 32-metre main dome has stood firm since Aya Sofya's completion in 537 CE. Yes, that's almost one and a half thousand years ago.

Originally constructed as a Christian church, the temple has since been a mosque, then a museum, and now once again acts as a mosque.

Photo: Hasan Akbas/unsplash.com

Address: Sultan Ahmet Mah., Yerebatan Cad., Sultanahmet, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 522 17 50

Tickets: Entrance is free for everyone

Internet: www.muze.gen.tr/muze-detay/ayasofya

More Info: Visitors are asked to comply with the modesty dress code when visiting this historic mosque: knees and shoulders covered, women must don headscarves.

Sultanahmet or The Blue Mosque



Built at the beginning of the 16th century during the rule of Sultan Ahmet I, this grandiose mosque seamlessly combines Ottoman and Byzantine architectural styles. The building is known for its six minarets and was given its nickname for the 20,000 blue tiles adorning the interior. These tiles were made in Iznik — an area that was famous during the Ottoman Empire for its expert production of ceramic tiles.

Photo: gags9999(image cropped)

Address: Hippodromen, Sultanahmet, Istanbul

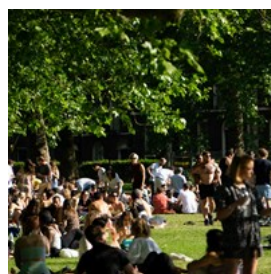
Opening hours: In general, the opening hours of the Blue Mosque Turkey are from 08:30am until one hour before dusk each day, excluding 90 minutes each prayer time, and two hours during Friday noon prayers.

Tickets: Entrance is free for everyone

Internet: www.sultanahmetcamii.org

More Info: Visitors are asked to comply with the modesty dress code when visiting this historic mosque: knees and shoulders covered, women must don headscarves.

Maçka Park



Maçka Democracy Park is about 10 minutes away from Taksim square and has paths for jogging, walking and dog walking. The northern part of the park is popular with young people who come there to sit around on the lawn, talk with friends over a couple of drinks and escape the heat of the city blocks. The park's location close to a university campus means it's always full of hip

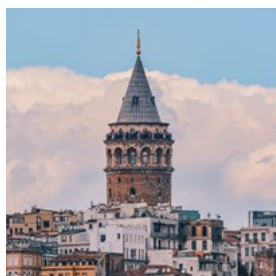
students.

Don't miss the opportunity to fly high above the park in a cute 2-cabin cable car. You'll need your public transit card for that.

Photo: Chuko Cribb/unsplash.com

Address: Harbiye, Maçka Cd., Şişli/İstanbul

Galata tower



The Galata Tower is a medieval stone tower in the Galata/Karaköy quarter of Istanbul, just to the north of the Golden Horn's junction with the Bosphorus. The top floor of the tower is located at a height of 52 meters and houses an observation deck. It is unlikely that you will find a better lookout spot in all of the city — simply stunning.

The tower is one of the most iconic building in Istanbul and is a very popular destination. It's a good idea to come early in the morning to avoid the crowds.

Photo: Osman Köycü/unsplash.com

Address: Bereketzade, Galata Kulesi, Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Public Transport: Downhill from Şişhane subway station and uphill from Karaköy ferry terminal

Opening hours: 1 April - 1 November: Daily

8:30am-midnight; 1 November - 1 April Daily 10am-8pm

Tickets: Entrance Fee: 100 TL

Internet: muze.gen.tr/muze-detay/galatakulesi

Grand Bazaar



The Grand Bazaar attracts many people — far too many if you come at rush hour. It's a good idea to arrive early in the morning and enjoy a cup

of tea in one of the cafes whilst the bazaar comes to life. There are thousands of stalls, selling virtually everything, carpets, gold, cloth, spices. The bazaar is a world of its own and it's easy and fun to get lost in the teeming alleyways.

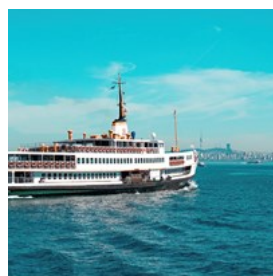
Photo: Ethan Jameson/unsplash.com

Address: Kalpakçılar Cad., Beyazıt, Sultanahmet, Istanbul

Opening hours: Daily 10am-6pm

Internet: www.kapalicarsi.com.tr

Boat trips



Boats travel along the shores of the Bosphorus from Eminönü, they chug quietly under the bridges that connect Europe and Asia. One hour away is

Anadolukavağı, a little Asian fishing village with lots of pleasant restaurants.

You can travel to the largest of the Prince Islands with a Seabus, departing from Kabataş below the Dolmabahçe Palace. Ferry terminals in Eminönü and Karaköy on either side of the Galata bridge are good starting points for exploring Istanbul by ferry.

Photo: Mert Kahveci/unsplash.com

Address: Eminonu, Istanbul

Internet: www.sehirhatlari.istanbul/en

Eminönü Pier



Eminönü Pier is located right next to the famed Galata bridge, where you can find plenty of restaurants and locals fishing at all times of the

day. It's a perfect day to take in Istanbul's busy atmosphere, or start a day of exploring the city by boat. Ferries depart regularly and take you up

the Golden Horn, along the Bosphorus or across the water to the Asian side.

Photo: M. King(image cropped)
Address: Eminönü Pier, Istanbul

Moda Coastal Park



Moda district of Kadikoy has a certain bohemian and alternative vibe. Once the sun begins to set, locals and visitors of the area head down

towards the Marmara sea. People stroll up and down the footpaths, jog, bike, pet cats, have picnics — whatever floats your boat on this grassy stretch of parkland. Vendors frequently pass by selling sunflower seeds, snacks, water, and beer.

Photo: M. Pinarci/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)
Address: Küçükmoda Burnu Sk, Kadıköy/İstanbul

Arter



Arter is non-profit centre that displays modern art in a gorgeous modern building with a fabulous facade — in stark contrast with

comparatively dilapidated old buildings in the area. A must for fans of contemporary art.

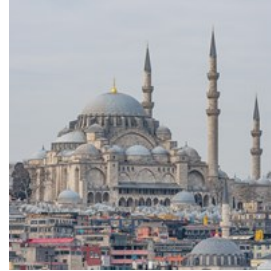
Every single visitor is impressed by the bookstore. The art centre also has a lovely cafe with a terrace.

Photo: Flufoto/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)
Address: Irmak Cd. No:13, Beyoğlu/İstanbul
Opening hours: Tue–Sun 11am–5pm
Phone: +90 212 708 58 00
Tickets: Adults: 25 TL. Visitors under 24: free.
Internet: www.arter.org.tr/en

Email: info@arter.org.tr

More Info: If you decide to get to Arter on foot, you'll have to walk through some of the less developed streets. You won't see many tourists here, even though it's definitely worth seeing this unpolished side of Istanbul.

Süleymaniye



Süleymaniye is the largest mosque dating from 1557 and also contains the mausoleum of sultan Süleyman and his wife Roxelane. The

master architect Mimar Sinan built many of Istanbul's mosques during the 1500s and is buried next to the mosque.

This is one of the best-known sights of Istanbul, and from its location on the Third Hill, it commands an extensive view of the city around the Golden Horn. If you have seen a photo of Istanbul taken from a ferry — most likely Süleymaniye is right in the middle of the composition.

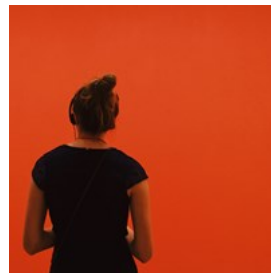
Photo: A. Savin/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Prof Siddik Sami Onar Cad., Sultanahmet, Istanbul
Public Transport: Close to Vezneciler Subway or Eminönü ferry terminal

Opening hours: In general, the opening hours of the Süleymaniye Mosque are from 08:30am until one hour before dusk each day, excluding 90 minutes each prayer time, and two hours during Friday noon prayers.

Internet: www.suleymaniyecamii.org

SALT Beyoğlu



SALT Beyoğlu is a six-story building on the central shopping İstiklal street. In this historic building you'll find selected artworks and

small-scale exhibitions that are ever changing to

reflect the fast-paced rhythm of modern world. Check this art space's Walk-in Cinema — a platform for screenings, talks, workshops, and performances.

While you're in the area, also check out SALT Galata — an equally wonderful sister project of SALT Beyoğlu with a cafe and a library with free Wi-Fi.

Photo: Robert Bye/unsplash.com

Address: İstiklal Cd. No:136, Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Public Transport: Şişhane subway station

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 11am-5pm

Phone: +90 212 377 42 00

Internet: saltonline.org/en/41/salt-beyoglu

More Info: Pro tip: step away from the busy streets and rise to SALT's rooftop winter garden — a silent oasis of peace and tranquility.

Sakip Sabanci Museum



A private mansion with a nice garden turned into a museum, a place where you can admire works from Turkish artists created between 1850

and 1950. There are also excellent collection of calligraphy, religious and state documents, classical Turkish furniture and well as paintings of the Ottoman era. The museum is beautifully located on a hilltop, overlooking the Bosphorus.

Photo: Bant ist/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Sakıp Sabancı Cad. 42, Istanbul

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm

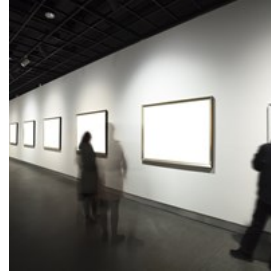
Phone: +90 212 277 22 00

Tickets: Adult Single Entry: 50 TL

Internet: www.sakipsabancimuzesi.org/en

More Info: Best combined with a visit to Emirgan Park, especially during Istanbul Tulip festival in early April

Istanbul Museum of Modern Art



This is the first private museum to organize modern and contemporary art exhibitions in the city. It was founded in 2004 and

is located in an old warehouse by the harbour.

Istanbul Modern Museum offers two main exhibition halls; the museum's permanent collection is displayed on the upper floor and the temporary exhibition hall and photography gallery on the lower floor.

Photo: zhu difeng/Shutterstock.com

Address: Asmalı Mescit, Meşrutiyet Cd. No:99,

Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12am-6pm, Mon closed

Phone: +90 212 334 7300

Tickets: Regular: 68 TL

Internet: www.istanbulmodern.org/en

More Info: The museum used to be located close to the waterfront, but had moved while the area is under redevelopment

Hodjapasha Cultural Centre



For best local authentic events, head over to this Cultural Centre, housed in an old historical Turkish bath (over 500 years old). It has two

sections, first is an exhibition and foyer area, the other section is the performance area. This is a great place to enjoy belly dancing, whirling dervishes and other traditional dance performances with live music.

Photo: Kiselev Andrey Valerevich/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ankara Caddesi, Hocapaşa Hamamı Sk. No:3, Fatih/İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 511 46 26

Internet: www.hodjapasha.com

Emirgan Park



Emirgan Park is one of the oldest and largest parks in Istanbul. There are several playgrounds for children, trails for hiking and picnic tables.

Every April there is a Tulip Festival, a period when the park is surrounded by blossomed tulips.

Photo: Antonio Cristofaro/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Korusu Emirgan, Sarıyer, Istanbul

Public Transport: You can take Public Ferry Bosphorus line operating Eminönü—Rumeli Kavağı and hop off at Emirgan pier. Alternatively, take a Seabus from Beşiktaş and Kadıköy to İstinye.

Phone: +90 212 277 5782

Istanbul Aquarium



This is a well organised aquarium with species from all over the world and is a great family attraction as well as a popular tourist sight. It

offers approximately 1.500 species, 15.000 land and sea creatures in total. When you are feeling hungry or thirsty you will find a café inside.

Photo: Tim B Motivv/unsplash.com

Address: Şenlikköy, Yeşilköy Halkalı Cd. No:93, Florya/İstanbul

Opening hours: Mon–Fri 10am–7pm, Sat & Sun 10am–8pm

Phone: +90 212 574 2130

Internet: istanbulakvaryum.com/en

Rahmi M. Koc Museum



The first museum in Turkey dedicated to the history of transport. The collection contains of full size ships, aircrafts, trains and cars. This is a great place to explore and learn something new, both for children and adults.

Photo: Rahil Rupawala(image cropped)

Address: Hasköy Cad. 5, Istanbul

Opening hours: Tue–Fri 10am–5:30pm, Sat & Sun 10am–7pm, Mon closed

Phone: +90 212 369 66 00

Tickets: Adult — 28 TL

Internet: www.rmkmuseum.org.tr/istanbul/en/home-page

Email: info@rmkmuseum.org.tr

Dolmabahçe Palace



This white stone behemoth — the Dolmabahçe Palace — is located in the Beşiktaş district and overlooks the Bosphorus. It used to serve as the main administrative centre of the Ottoman Empire from 1856 to 1887 and from 1909 to 1922. Some visitors compare it with Versailles and Hermitage.

Photo: Mert Kahveci/unsplash.com

Address: Dolmabahçe Cd., Beşiktaş/İstanbul

Opening hours: Tue–Sun 9am–6pm

Tickets: Adults 250 TL. No online tickets available

Internet:

www.millisaraylar.gov.tr/en/palaces/dolmabahce-palace

More Info: The palace is popular! Make sure to go early on the day to avoid the crowds and the heat

DINING



badahos/Shutterstock.com

A meal often begins with meze—a number of small dishes such as aubergine purée, börek, various salads and cheese. Filling vegetables such as tomatoes, paprika, aubergines and zucchini with rice and minced meat is typically Turkish (dolmasi). There are special restaurants that only serve kebab or köfte, meatballs, look for Kebabci or Köfteci. Simpler restaurants are called Lokanta.

Pandeli



dishes.

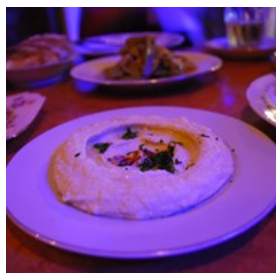
This is a lunch restaurant on the first floor of the Spice Bazaar, decorated with blue Iznik tiles. Serves traditional Turkish food with some Greek

Photo: Helen Cook(image cropped)

Address: Misir Carsisi 1, Eminönü, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 527 39 09

Yakup 2



Yakup 2 is situated on a side street to Istiklâl Cad. The owner, Yakup Arslan, serves traditional meze to bohemian regulars and cultural celebrities.

Photo: Alpha(image cropped)

Address: Asmalı Mescit Cd. 21/B, Istanbul

Opening hours: Monday - Sunday: 05.0pm - 01.00am.

Phone: +90 212 249 29 25

Kumkapi



Kumkapi means "sand gate" in Turkish and is a district near Sultanahmet, located along the Marmara Sea. This is a quarter famous for its many good fish restaurants.

Photo: Alexander Sherstobitov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sultanahmet, Istanbul

Internet: www.kumkapirestaurants.com

Galatasaray Fish Market and Çiçek Pasajı



Halfway through the market runs the Nevizade, a lane with a string of good value Meyhanes—traditional taverns. The flower thoroughfare next to the market is a reconstructed restaurant street, but it's a little more expensive.

Photo: Linda Hughes/Shutterstock.com

Address: Istiklâl Cad., Istanbul

More Info: Nevizade, Beyoglu

Meşale Restaurant & Cafe



A local hotspot with great service and a vibrant atmosphere, stop by for some tea and shisha. The café serves cocktails, but nothing with alcohol, although the smoking of hookhas is frequent. Excellent place to see the whirling dervishes and listen to live music.

Photo: Tomophafan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sultan Ahmet, Arasta Çarşısı, Kabasakal Cd. No:45, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 272 01 61

Internet: mesalecafe.net

Four Seasons



The luxurious Four Seasons hotel is a converted prison from around year 1800 near the Topkapi Palace. The restaurant is in a round outbuilding on what was once the prison yard, and here you can eat like a prince.

Photo: Andrey Bayda/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tevfikhane Sokak 1, Sultanahmet, Istanbul

Opening hours: Breakfast: every day: 07.00am - 11.00am.

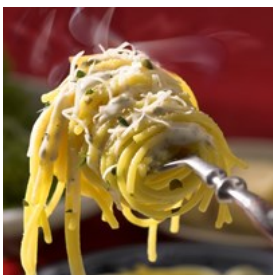
Brunch: Saturday: 11.30am - 03.00pm. Lunch: every day: 12.00am - 03.00pm. Dinner: every day: 07.00pm - 11.00pm.

Phone: +90 (212) 402 30 00

Internet: www.fourseasons.com/istanbul/dining/

Email: concierge.istanbul@fourseasons.com

Ozi Pizza & Pasta



This Italian restaurant opened its doors in 2004 and serves pizza and pasta. Ozi Pizza & Pasta is a small charming restaurant with a friendly

owner. On the menu you will find tasty pizza dishes like barbeque lamb, seafood and Margarita.

Photo: fotohavran.eu/Shutterstock.com

Address: Binbirdirek Mh., Su Terazisi Sokak 9, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 516 44 47

More Info: Across from Fernan Sultan Hotel

Barbeku House



Barbeku House is a hidden gem, located just minutes from the Blue Mosque. This is the place where you can enjoy quality Turkish food at affordable prices in a warm and cosy atmosphere. You can also expect excellent service from the welcoming staff.

Photo: Alexander Rath/Shutterstock.com

Address: Yerebatan Cad. Hotel Han 19, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 511 03 61

House of Medusa



The restaurant is named after the goddess Medusa and is located in an old building that used to be a mansion before it restored into a restaurant. This charming restaurant provides a lovely courtyard where you can appreciate delicious Turkish specialties.

Photo: Lesya Dolyuk/Shutterstock.com

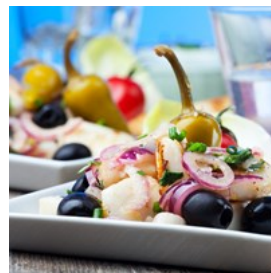
Address: Alemdar Mh., Yerebatan Caddesi 19, Fatih, Istanbul

Phone: +90 (212) 511 41 16

Internet: www.medusarestaurant.com

Email: info@medusarestaurant.com

Eleos



Eleos is a warm and welcoming Greek restaurant which can be hard to find but it will be well worth the effort. The small menu changes daily, depending on the catch of the day. With your fresh food enjoy a glass of excellent wine, the house wine is recommended.

Photo: Bernd Juergens/Shutterstock.com

Address: Yeşilbahçe Sokak 9, Bakırköy

Phone: +90 212 573 6828

Internet: www.eleosrestaurant.com

Nostra Casa



This hidden delight is tucked away in the old town near the Sofia mosque and offers great views over the city from the roof terrace. The friendly owner serves delicious Italian dishes and fine wines. For dessert, the tiramisu is highly recommended.

Photo: darqdesign/Shutterstock.com

Address: Küçük Ayasofya Mh., Mustafa Paşa Sokak 3, Fatih, Istanbul

Phone: +90 0212 5175819

Internet: www.nostracasaistanbul.com

Email: info@nostracasaistanbul.com

Rana by Topaz



For fine dining, head over to this award-winning restaurant that boasts a breathtaking view of the Bosphorus. At this restaurant you can enjoy exquisite gourmet cooking in a Mediterranean and Ottoman style.

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Address: Beyoğlu, İnönü Cad. 50, Istanbul

Phone: +90 (0)212 249 1001

Internet: www.topazistanbul.com/index_eng.asp

Email: info@ranameyhane.com

Beyti Restaurant



Beyti Restaurant is a unique Turkish meat restaurant and admired not only in the country but all over the world. The friendly owner Mr.

Beyti comes to every table every evening to wish you "bon appetite". The dish called "Beyti Kebab" is highly recommended.

Photo: Bozhena Melnyk/Shutterstock.com

Address: Orman Sok. 8, Bakırköy, Istanbul

Opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday: 11.30am - 11.00pm.

Phone: +90 212 663 29 90

Internet: www.beyti.com

CAFES



Leyla Ismet/Shutterstock.com

Coffee has played an important role in Turkish lifestyle and culture so there is no wonder that Istanbul offers many old and new cafés. Why not try a cup of traditional Turkish coffee or tea which is served in a tiny gracious cup?

Patisserie De Pera



Time has stood still here since 1892 and you almost expect Mata Hari to sit down at the next table to enjoy one of the delicious pastries.

Patisserie De Pera is located inside Pera Palace

Hotel.

Photo: aliasemma/Shutterstock.com

Address: Meşrutiyet Cad. 52, Tepebaşı Beyoğlu, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 377 40 00

Internet: www.perapalace.com

More Info: Pera Palace Hotel

Pierre Loti



This café is rightfully renowned for its fantastic view over the Golden Horn, a great place to enjoy a cup of traditional Turkish Tea on the

terrace garden. It is extremely popular with Turkish families and tourists.

Photo: Ali Haydar/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piyerloti Cd.1, Sultanahmet, Cemberlitas, Istanbul

Phone: +90 (212)-518-5700

Internet: www.pierrelotihotel.com

Email: info@pierrelotihotel.com

More Info: Located at the Pierre Loti Hotel

Meşale Restaurant & Cafe



A local hotspot with great service and a vibrant atmosphere, stop by for some tea and shisha. The café serves cocktails, but nothing with alcohol,

although the smoking of hookhas is frequent.

Excellent place to see the whirling dervishes and listen to live music.

Photo: Tomophafan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sultan Ahmet, Arasta Çarşısı, Kabasakal Cd. No:45, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 272 01 61

Internet: mesalecafe.net

Mangerie



This is the perfect place to go for breakfast or brunch. Mangerie offers a nice ambience with a magnificent view of the water and street below.

The staff also prepares fresh juices and cocktails.

Photo: Ekaterina Pokrovsky/Shutterstock.com

Address: Bebek Mh., Cevdet Paşa Cad. 69, Istanbul

Opening hours: Every day: 08.00am - 12.00am.

Phone: +90 212 263 5199

Internet: www.mangeriebek.com

Email: info@mangeriebek.com

Fazil Bey



The Fazil Bey Café opened in 1923 and since then it has always roasted its own beans to serve its own spin on Turkish coffee, plus local cookies

and pastries. Other options include Chai tea and ginger lemonade, which can be enjoyed in the outdoor seating area.

Photo: Fh Photo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Caferağa, Serasker Cd. 1/A, Kadıköy, Istanbul

Opening hours: Daily 8am-Midnight

Phone: +90 216 450 28 70

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Tatiana Popova/Shutterstock.com

The really trendy places are outside the city centre, in Etiler, Levent and Ortaköy, but there's also plenty to do around Taksim.

Orient Express Bar



A nostalgic must-see where kings, spies, writers and film stars have all taken a drink. Don't forget to see Agatha Christie's room 411, which is now a museum.

Photo: alex saberi/Shutterstock.com

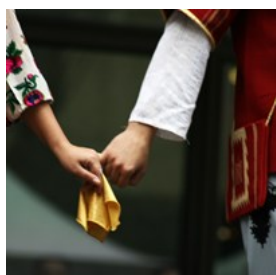
Address: Hüdavendigar Cad. 24, Hocaapaşa, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 520 71 61

Internet: www.orientexpresshotel.com

Email: hello@orientexpresshotel.com

Hodjapasha



Hodjapasha is a Culture Center located in a former Turkish bath. These days you can come here an evening for inspiring music and dance shows. Here you can see solo oriental dances as well as group performances and dances from different regions of Anatolia.

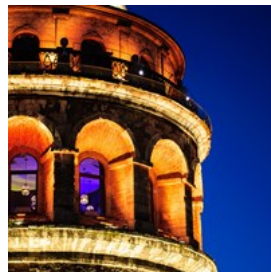
Photo: Quinn Dombrowski(image cropped)

Address: Ankara Cad., Hocaapaşa Hamam Sok 3, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 511 46 26

Email: info@hodjapasha.com

Galata Tower



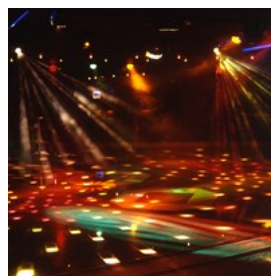
On the upper floors of this nine-story tower is a nightclub which hosts Turkish shows like belly dancing. The medieval stone tower is located just to the north of the Golden Horn and is an important landmark in Istanbul.

Photo: halbag(image cropped)

Address: Bereketzade Mh., Galata Kulesi, Beyoğlu, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 293 81 80

Roxy



Roxy is another reliable address that has kept its position over the years with performances by national and international stars. This is a crowded place with a great dance floor.

Photo: buket bariskan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Siraselviler Cad. Aslanyatagi Sok. 1-3 Taksim, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 249 1283

Internet: www.roxy.com.tr

Email: info@roxy.com.tr

360 Istanbul



360 is one of the hippest places in town. Make a memorable evening out of it and go for an amazing dinner at the restaurant, followed by a drink in the chic bar and ending it at the hottest club in town, Club360.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Address: İstiklal Cad., Mısır Apartment 8th Floor 163
Beyoglu, Istanbul

Opening hours: Sunday - Thursday: 12.00pm - 02.00am.

Friday - Sunday: 12.00pm - 04.00am.

Phone: +90 533 691 0 360

Internet: www.360istanbul.com/eng/index.html

Email: 360istanbul@360istanbul.com

Litera Restaurant / Lounge-Club



You can find Litera Bar at the top of one of the tall Ottoman buildings with an amazing view over Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus. Drinks tend to

be on the pricey side, which is made up for in quality and bartenders' professionalism.

Photo: 3523studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tomtom Mh., Yeni Çarşı Cad. 32, Istanbul

Opening hours: Every day: 11.00am - 02.00am.

Phone: +90 212 292 89 47

Internet: www.literarestaurant.com

Email: litera@literarestaurant.com

SHOPPING



Wojtek Chmielewski/Shutterstock.com

Istanbul has become a major shopping destination for several categories of travellers. Some tourist are looking for exoticized outdoor markets, bazaars, carpet and kilim workshops, copper working shops, antique and handicraft stalls — and the city definitely delivers on this promise. Another cohort of visitors is coming to

Istanbul for luxury brands and exclusive antique shops.

No matter your preferences, you can be sure that your shopping needs and desires will be met. Istanbul is big enough to support multiple shopping districts with boutiques, small shops, covered bazaars and enormous shopping malls.

İstiklal Caddesi



İstiklal Caddesi is a fashionable old street in the Pera district, now called Beyoğlu. Walking down İstiklal is something every visitor does at least

once because of its strategic location connecting Taksim square to Galata tower.

In terms of shopping, you'll find many famous brands here, as well as smaller niche shops selling fashion items and other things to take home to remind you of your trip.

Photo: Jerzy Kociatkiewicz(image cropped)

Address: İstiklal Cad., Istanbul

Çukurcuma



Çukurcuma, the hillside neighborhood just east of İstiklal Caddesi, attracts both serious antique collectors and lovers of thrifty antique shopping.

Vintage clothing, textiles, and old books are presented amongst 19th-century Baroque furniture and floral-painted ceramics. You will definitely find something to spice up your home decor in an authentic, non-mass-market way.

Photo: Dollar Gill/unsplash.com

More Info: Put on some comfy shoes to navigate the steep

cobblestone streets

Egyptian Spice Bazaar



The Spice Bazaar is at the base of the Galata Bridge in Eminönü, and is also called the Egyptian Bazaar because the imported spices originally

came from Egypt. Besides the vast array of spices, in the lanes of this indoor market you can buy cheese, honey, sausages, dried fruits, tea and all sorts of edible delights and knick knacks, including clothes and gorgeous fabrics.

Photo: Ethan Jameson/unsplash.com

Address: Erzak Ambarı Sok. No:92, Fatih/İstanbul

Opening hours: Daily 8am-7:30pm

Phone: +90 212 513 65 97

Internet: www.misircarsisi.org.tr/en

Email: info@misircarsisi.org.tr

Avrupa Pasajı



Avrupa Pasajı or Passage d'Europe is a historic shopping arcade with antique shops and a great array of textile, ceramics and lamps on display. It's arched glass roof is quite a sight.

Photo: Benreis/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Hacimimi Mh., Istanbul

Bagdat Caddesi



A good shopping district is the long Bagdat Caddesi on the Asiatic side. There are many trendy brand name shops here and prices are

sometimes lower than in town because few tourists find this area.

Photo: blurAZ/Shutterstock.com

Address: Bagdat Cad., Istanbul

Public Transport: The most practical way to get to Bagdat Street is via Marmaray train

TOURIST INFORMATION



Alexandra Lande/Shutterstock.com

Istanbul Airport (IST)



The new Istanbul Airport on the European side of the city is the main international airport serving Istanbul. The older Atatürk Airport

permanently closed in February 2022. The airport is a major hub for Turkish Airlines. By total passenger traffic, it is the busiest airport in Europe and 13th-busiest airport in the world. It is about 40 km away from Taksim and 52 km from both Sultanahmet (historical centre on the European side of Istanbul) and Kadıköy (city centre on the Asian side). The Istanbul Airport currently operates a single terminal for domestic and international flights.

Free WiFi is available at Istanbul Airport for one hour. You can register with your phone number or using your passport at WiFi kiosks.

The most popular mode of transportation to the airport from the city centre is by HAVAİST

busses. They have stations throughout the city, including next to Taksim Square. You can buy your ticket online (at least 6 hours in advance) or pay by card when you board. Price depends on your destination.

The new M11 metro line is scheduled to open in August 2022. Another from Halkalı on the Marmaray rail line is expected to be completed in 2022.

Istanbul city taxis are readily available 24 hours a day outside the arrival and departure areas of the airport. A trip to Istanbul city centre by taxi takes approximately 40 minutes.

Photo: Arne Mueseler/arne-mueseler.com/cc by-sa
3.0/Wikimedia(image cropped)
Address: İstanbul Havalimanı, Arnavutköy, İstanbul
Phone: +90 444 1 442
Internet: www.istairport.com
Email: customercare@igairport.aero

Public Transport



There is one public and one private bus network, İETT and Halk Otobus, respectively. The underground, Tünel, runs from Karaköy till İstiklâl Cad in Beyoğlu and takes a few minutes. There is also a museum tram up toward Taksim Square.

Another tram route goes from Kabatas via Galata bridge and the Spice Bazaar to the south-western suburbs. The Metro goes from Taksim north to Levent and from Aksaray to Otogar in Esenler, where buses depart for other parts of Turkey and Europe and to the airport.

Dolmuses are minibuses or large taxis that depart when they are full, and stop where you

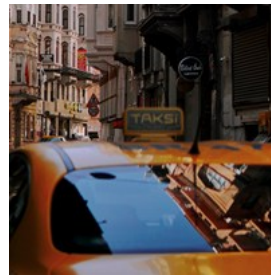
want them to. They are the cheapest form of transport.

Ferries between Europe and Asia leave from Eminönü, Karaköy and Beşiktaş to Üsküdar, Kadıköy and Harem.

Akbil is a type of payment card that can be loaded with various sums and used on buses, boats and trams. Can be bought at major junctions.

Photo: Harry Spink/unsplash

Taxi



Taxis are yellow in the inner city and lilac in the suburbs. There are numerous taxi companies. Different hotels work with different companies and can book your transport to the airport. It's best to hail a taxi on the street, or go to a taxi rank and ask for a business card.

Photo: Pavel Kononenko/unsplash

Post



The main post office is on Yeni Posthane Cad., near the railway station Sirkeci. Other PTT-offices are on Taksim Square and İstiklâl Cad. Open 09.00-17.00 Closed Sundays.

Photo: Simona Sergi/unsplash

Pharmacy



Pharmacy is called Eczane in Turkish. In the window of the pharmacy there is the address and telephone number of the current duty pharmacy.

Photo: Mika Baumeister/unsplash

Electricity



220 volt

Photo: Mike Winkler/unsplash

Telephone



Country number +90
Area code: 212 and 216

Photo: Saad Salim/unsplash

Population

Approximately 15 million in Greater Istanbul

Currency

Turkish Lira, TL1 = 100 kuruş

Opening hours

The official opening hours for shops are 9am–6pm. However, many traders and shops stay open until midnight. Most hotels will have at least one 24 hour restaurant.

Newspapers

English language:
www.turkishpress.com
www.hurriyetdailynews.com

Emergency numbers

112

Tourist information

www.visit.istanbul/en





Aga Cesmesi	A3 A4	Galip Dede	B1	Meydani	B4 C4
Ahir Kapi	C4	Gedik Pasa Cami	A4 B4	Mimar Mehmet Aga	C4
Akbiyik	C4	Gedikpasa Caddesi	A4	Mimar Sinan	A2
Aksakal	B4	Gulhane Parki Yolu	C3	Mithat Pasa	A4
Alemdar Caddesi	C3	Gumruk	C1	Molla Tasi	A4
Alisan	A4	Haci Kadin Caddesi	A2	Mollafenari	B3
Ankara Caddesi	B3 C2	Hamidiye Caddesi	B2 B3	Murat	C3
Asir Efendi Caddesi	B3	Hayriye Hanim	A2	Nakilbent	B4
Asma Kandil	A3	Hisar Dibi	B4	Namahrem	A2
At Meydani	C4	Hoca Hani	B3	Necati Bey Caddesi	C1
Ataturk Koprusu	A1	Hoca Tahsin	C1	Nobethane	C3
Atlama Tasi Caddesi	A2	Hukümet Konagi	B3 C3	Nuruosmaniye	B3
Aynacilar	B3	Ilk Beldiye	B1	Okcu Musa Caddesi	B1
Babatigit	A4	Imran Oktem	B4	Orhaniye	C3
Babi Ali Caddesi	B3	Isik (Sultanahmet)	B4	Oyuncu	C4
Babi Humayun Caddesi	C3 C4	Ismetiye Caddesi	A3 B3	Persmbe Pazari	B1
Bakircilar Caddesi	A3	Istasyon Arkasi	C3	Peykhane	B4
Bali Pasa Yok	A4	K. Hamam	A4	Piyer Loti Caddesi	B4
Batumlu	A4	Kabba Sakal Caddesi	C4	Prof. Cemil Bilsel Caddesi	A2
Besim Omer	A3	Kadirga Hamami	A4 B4	Prof. Siddik Sami Onar Caddesi	A2 A3
Bogaz Kesen Caddesi	C1	Kadirga Limani Caddesi	A4 B4	Prof. Umit Yasar Doganay	A3
Bozdogan Kemerli	A3	Kaleci	B4	Ragip Gumuspala Caddesi	A2
Buyuk Hendek	B1	Kalpalcilarbasi	A3 B3	Refik Saydam Caddesi	B1
Buyuk Postane Caddesi	B2 B3	Karakoy Square	B1 C1	Resadiye	B2
Caferiye	C3	Kart Cinaqr	B1	S. Beyazit	A2
Cakmakcilar Yokusu	A3 B3	Kasnakclar	A2	S. Mektebi	C1 D1
Cankurtaran	C4	Kemankes Caddesi	C1	Sabuncu Han	B2 B3
Carkcilar	B3	Kennedy Caddesi	A4 C2 C4 D3 D4	Sadirvan	C4
Catal Cesme	B3 C3	Kible Cesme Caddesi	A2	Sair Laleli Cesme	B1
Cemal Nadir	B3	Kilicilar	B3	Sair Ziya Pasa	B1
Cifte Gelinler Caddesi	A4	Klodfarer	B4	Sansa	A4
Cinci Meydan	B4	Komurcu Caoraz	A4	Sarapnel	A4
Comertler	B4	Koprucu	B3	Sari Beyazit	A2
Daltaban Yokusu	A3 A4	Kucuk Ayasofya Caddesi	B4 C4	Serdari Ekrem	B1 C1
Darulfunun Caddesi	A3	Kucuk Haydar	A4	Seref Ef	B3
Defterdar Yokusu	C1	Kumbaraci Yokusu	C1	Sishane	B1
Divan Yolu Caddesi	B3 B4	Kumkapi Kurban	A4	Siyavus Pasa	A2 A3
Dizdariye Cesmesi	B4	Kumluk	A4	Soguk Cesme	C3
Dokmeciler Hamai	A2	Kutlugun	C4	Su Terazisi	B4
Ebusuud Caddesi	B3 C3	Kutucular	A2 B2	Suleymaniye Caddesi	A3
Emin Sinan Hamami	A4 B4	Kutucular Caddesi	A2 B2	Sultan Mektebi	B3
Fenerli Kapi	B4 C4	Kuyusu	A4	Tahmis Caddesi	B2
Fetva Kokusu	A2	Leblebici	A2	Tahtakale	B2
Florya - Sirkeci Sahil Yolu	B4	Luleci Hendek	C1	Tarakcilar	B3
Fuat Pasa Caddesi	A3	Macuncu	B3	Tatar Beyi Dibek	B1 C1
Futuhut	B1	Mahmutpasa	B3	Tavasi Cesme	A4
Galata Koprusu	B2	Meclisi Mebusan Caddesi	C1 D1	Tavsanta	A3 A4
Galata Kulesi	B1	Mengene	B3	Tavuk Pazari	B3
Galata Mumhane	C1	Mesrutiyet Caddesi	B1	Telli Odalr	A4

Tersane Caddesi	B1	Universite Caddesi	A3	Yalcin	B2
Terzihane	B4	Unkapani	A2	Yali Kosku	B2
Tigcilar	A3 B3	Utangac	C4	Yanik	B1
Tiyatro Caddesi	A4	Uzun Carsi Caddesi	A2 B2	Yeni Cami Caddesi	B2
Tophane Iskelesi	C1	Vasif Cinar Caddesi	B3	Yeniceriler Caddesi	A3
Torun	C4	Vezirhani	B3	Yogurtcuoglu	A2 A3
Tulumbaci Sitki	C1	Vezneciler Caddesi	A3	Yokusu	B4
Turanli	A3 A4	Voyvoda Caddesi	B1	Yukusu	A4
Turkeli Caddesi	A4	Yaglikcilar Caddesi	A3	Zeynep Sultan	C3 C4
Turkocagi	B3	Yahya Pasa	A4	Zincirlihan	B1
Ucler	B4				