



Istanbul

Photo: Viacheslav Lopatin/shutterstock



Berke/shutterstock



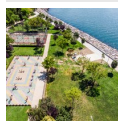
Seqoya/shutterstock



Luciano Mortula/shutterstock

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



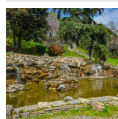
Moda Coastal Park

Moda district of Kadıköy has a certain bohemian and alternative vibe. Once t...



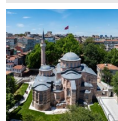
Turkish Baths

It is said that if you have never tried a Turkish bath then you have never b...



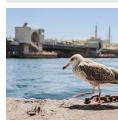
Maçka Park

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



Chora Monastery (Kariye Mo...)

The Monastery was founded in the 5th century and contains beautiful frescos ...



Eminönü Pier

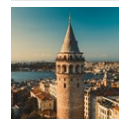
Eminönü Pier is located right next to the famed Galata bridge, where you can...

Top 5



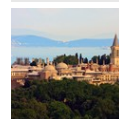
Aya Sofya (Hagia Sophia)

Aya Sofya is a remarkable mixture of Christianity and Islam, a church with m...



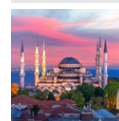
Galata Tower

The Galata Tower is a medieval stone tower in the Galata/Karaköy quarter of ...



Topkapi Palace

The palace of the sultans with its many courtyards and gates brings on a nos...



Sultanahmet (The Blue Mosque)

Built at the beginning of the 16th century during the rule of



Grand Bazaar

The Grand Bazaar attracts many people, far too many if you come at rush hour...

THE CITY



TTstudio/shutterstock

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 has 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

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.

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 that, unfortunately, are now covered up. 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. 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: Boris Stroujko/shutterstock

Address: Sultan Ahmet, Ayasofya Meydanı No 1, Fatih, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 522 17 50

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

Email: contact@muze.gen.tr

More Info: Visitors are asked to comply with the modesty dress code when visiting this historic mosque: knees and

shoulders covered, women must wear headscarves.

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 metres and houses an observation deck. It is unlikely that you will find a better lookout spot in all of the city; it's simply stunning.

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

Photo: thehakanarslan/shutterstock

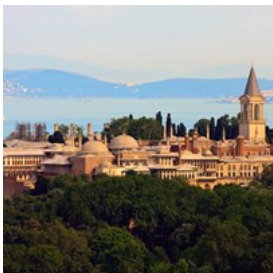
Address: Bereketzade, Beyoğlu, İstanbul

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

Phone: +90 212 249 03 44

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

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. None of these are included in the ticket price to the palace.

Photo: Bertl123/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cankurtaran Mah. Babı Hümayun Caddesi No 1,

Fatih, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 512 04 80

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

Email: topkapisarayi@millisaraylar.gov.tr

Sultanahmet (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: AlexAnton/shutterstock

Address: Binbirdirek, At Meydanı Caddesi No 10, Fatih, İstanbul

Tickets: Entrance is free for everyone

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

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 and more. The bazaar is a world of its own and it's easy and fun to get lost in the teeming alleyways.

Photo: Finn stock/shutterstock

Address: Beyazıt, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 519 12 48

Internet: www.kapalicarsi.com.tr

Turkish Baths



It is said that if you have never tried a Turkish bath then you have never been truly clean. Move through several hot rooms and finally arrive at the massage table for a real going over. Men and women bathe separately, exceptions are made at certain times for tourists.

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

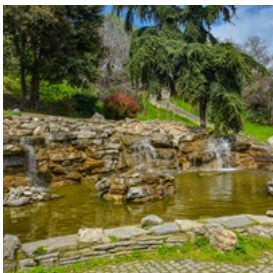
Photo: Sabino Parente/Shutterstock.com

Address: Molla Fenari, Vezirhan Caddesi No 8, Fatih, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 522 79 74

Internet: www.cemberlitasamami.com/cemberlitas-bath-historical-turkish-bath

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: Sergey Malomuzh/shutterstock

Address: Harbiye, Maçka Caddesi, Şişli, İstanbul

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.

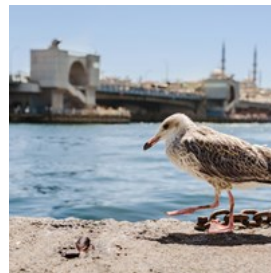
Photo: Chuyko Sergey/shutterstock

Address: Eminonu, Istanbul

Internet: www.sehirhatlari.istanbul/en

Email: info@sehirhatlari.istanbul

Eminönü Pier

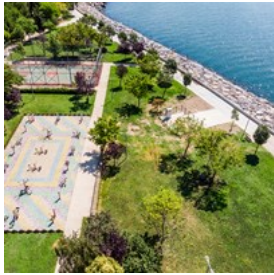


Eminönü Pier is located right next to the famed Galata bridge, where you can find plenty of restaurants and locals fishing at all times of the day. It's a perfect spot to take in Istanbul's busy atmosphere, or start your day of exploring the city by boat. Ferries depart regularly and take you up the Golden Horn, along the Bosphorus or across the water to the Asian side.

Photo: aliaksei kruhlenia/shutterstock

Address: Eminönü Pier, Istanbul

Moda Coastal Park



Moda district of Kadıköy 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: Alp Aksoy/shutterstock

Address: Küçükmoda Burnu Sokak, Kadıköy, İstanbul

Arter



Arter is a non-profit centre that displays modern art in a gorgeous modern building with a fabulous façade, 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: Sorapop Udomsri/shutterstock

Address: Yenişehir, Irmak Caddesi No 13, Beyoğlu, İstanbul

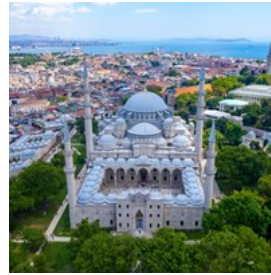
Phone: +90 212 708 58 00

Internet: www.arter.org.tr

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: BuramBoramKareler/shutterstock

Address: Süleymaniye, Prof. Sıddık Sami Onar Caddesi No 1, Fatih, İstanbul

Public Transport: Close to Vezneciler Subway or Eminönü ferry terminal

Phone: +90 212 458 00 00

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 the 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: SeventyFour/shutterstock

Address: İstiklal Caddesi No 136, Beyoğlu, İstanbul

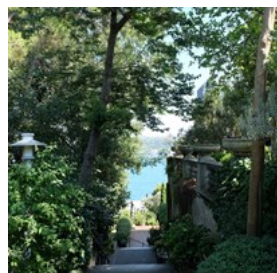
Public Transport: Şişhane subway station

Phone: +90 212 377 42 00

Internet: www.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 Sabancı 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 collections of calligraphy, religious and state documents, classical Turkish furniture as well as paintings of the Ottoman era. The museum is beautifully located on a hilltop, overlooking the Bosphorus.

Photo: Carmensbrain/shutterstock

Address: Sakıp Sabancı Caddesi 42, İstanbul

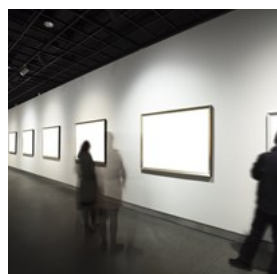
Phone: +90 212 277 22 00

Internet: www.sakipsabancimuzesi.org/en

Email: ssminfo@sabanciuniv.edu

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 organise 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: Kılıç Ali Paşa Mahallesi, Tophane Iskele Caddesi No 1/1, Beyoğlu, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 334 73 00

Internet: www.istanbulmodern.org/en

Email: info@istanbulmodern.org

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 the 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 Sokak No 3, Fatih, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 511 46 26

Internet: www.hodjapasha.com

Email: info@hodjapasha.com

Emirgan Park



Emirgan Park is one of the oldest and largest parks in İstanbul. 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: Roxana Bashyrova/shutterstock

Address: Reşitpaşa, Emirgan Sokak, Sarıyer, İstanbul
Phone: +90 212 277 5782
Internet: www.tesislerimiz.ibb.istanbul/ibb-sosyal-tesislerinde-lale-zamani

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: Ruslan Malysh/shutterstock
Address: Şenlikköy, Yeşilköy Halkalı Caddesi No 93, Florya, İstanbul
Phone: +90 212 574 21 35
Internet: www.istanbulakvaryum.com/en
Email: iletisim@istanbulakvaryum.com

Rahmi M. Koc Museum



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

Photo: Kittyfly/shutterstock
Address: Piri Paşa, Rahmi M. Koç Caddesi No 3, Beyoğlu, İstanbul
Phone: +90 212 369 66 00
Internet: www.rmkmuseum.org.tr/istanbul
Email: info@rmkmuseum.org.tr

Dolmabahçe Palace



Dolmabahçe Palace is a white stone behemoth 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: Darkdiamond67/shutterstock
Address: Vişnezade, Dolmabahçe Caddesi, Beşiktaş, İstanbul
Phone: +90 212 236 90 00
Internet: www.millisaraylar.gov.tr/Lokasyon/3/Dolmabahce-Sarayi
More Info: The palace is popular! Make sure to go early on the day to avoid the crowds and the heat

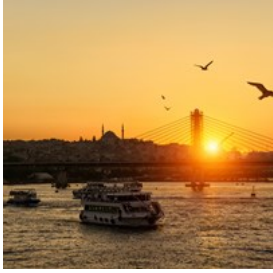
Chora Monastery (Kariye Mosque)



The Monastery was founded in the 5th century and contains beautiful frescos and mosaics dating from 1000-1300, representing Virgin Mary and the life of Jesus. This medieval Greek Orthodox church is used as a mosque today.

Photo: RauL C7/shutterstock
Address: Derviş Ali, Kariye Cami Sokak No 18, Fatih, İstanbul
Phone: +90 212 512 23 20
Internet: www.muze.gen.tr/muze-detay/kariye
Email: istanbul@diyanet.gov.tr

Bosphorus Sunset Cruise



The Bosphorus Sunset Cruise offers a scenic and relaxing two-hour afternoon journey along one of Istanbul's most iconic waterways. The

semi-private cruise is excellent value for money, with a small group setting and attentive, professional crew. Snacks, water and coffee are included in the price.

Photo: Viacheslav Lopatin/shutterstock

Address: Aksaray, Çakırağa Cami Sokak, Molla Gürani,

Yusufpaşa Çk. 1/A, Fatih, İstanbul

Phone: +90 552 463 84 98

Internet: www.bosphorussunset.com

Email: info@acetestravel.com

DINING



badahos/shutterstock

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 courgette with rice and minced meat is typically called dolmasi in Turkish. There are special restaurants that only serve kebab, köfte, meatballs or Köfteci. Simpler restaurants are called Lokanta.

Pandeli



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

Photo: Utku Demirsoy/shutterstock

Address: Mısırçarşısı İçi 1, D2, Fatih, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 527 39 09

Internet: www.pandeli.com.tr

Email: info@pandeli.com.tr

Yakup 2



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

Photo: Utku Demirsoy/shutterstock

Address: Asmalı Mescit Caddesi 21/B, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 249 29 25

Internet: www.yakup2.com.tr

Galatasaray Fish Market & 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 Photography/shutterstock

Address: İstiklâl Caddesi, İstanbul

More Info: Nevizade, Beyoğlu

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 smoking hookah 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: +90 212 518 95 62

Internet: www.mesalecafe.net

Email: info@mesalecafe.com

Four Seasons



The luxurious Four Seasons hotel is a converted prison from around the 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

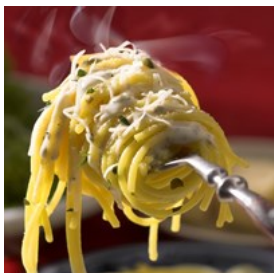
Address: Tevfikhane Sokak 1, Sultanahmet, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 402 30 00

Internet: www.fourseasons.com/istanbul/dining

Email: contactus.bosphorus@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, Su Terazisi Sokak. No 9, Fatih, İstanbul

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 Caddesi, 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 was restored into a

restaurant. This charming restaurant provides a lovely courtyard where you can sample delicious Turkish specialties.

Photo: Lesya Dolyuk/Shutterstock.com

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

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 comes highly recommended.

Photo: Bernd Juergens/Shutterstock.com

Address: Yeşilbahçe Sokak 9, Bakırköy, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 573 68 28

Internet: www.eleosrestaurant.com

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: fornStudio/shutterstock

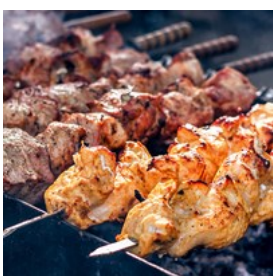
Address: Ömer Avni Mahalle İnönü Caddesi No 42, Gümüşsuyu Taksim, İstanbul

Phone: +90 531 329 41 11

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 dish called 'Beyti

Kebap' is highly recommended.

Photo: Bozhena Melnyk/Shutterstock.com

Address: Orman Sokak No 6-8, Florya-Bakırköy, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 663 29 90

Internet: www.beyti.com

Email: rezervasyon@beyti.com

Moda in Kadıköy



Widely regarded as Kadıköy's premier dining district, Moda buzzes with a mix of cafés, bars and restaurants. This lively neighbourhood is a go-to destination if you're looking for quality food and drink.

The area's diverse culinary scene ranges from traditional Turkish restaurants to contemporary international eateries. You can also relax in one of the many çay houses with sweet treats like künefe. Many of the establishments here stay busy until late.

Photo: ahmet ceyhan/shutterstock

Address: Moda, Kadıköy, İstanbul

CAFES



Leyla Ismet/shutterstock

Coffee has played an important role in Turkish lifestyle and culture so there is no wonder that İstanbul 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 Caddesi 52, Tepebaşı Beyoğlu, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 377 40 00

Internet:

www.perapalace.com/en/restaurants/patisserie-de-pera

Email: info@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: New Africa/shutterstock

Address: Piyerloti Caddesi 1, Sultanahmet, Cemberlitas, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 518 57 00

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 smoking hookah is frequent. Excellent

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

Photo: Tomophafan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sultan Ahmet, Arasta Çarşısı, Kabasakal Caddesi No 45, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 518 95 62

Internet: www.mesalecafe.net

Email: info@mesalecafe.com

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 Caddesi 69, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 263 51 99

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 Caddesi 1/A, Kadıköy, Istanbul

Phone: +90 216 450 28 70

Beta Tea House



Discover a wide variety of delicious teas at Beta Tea House, where the atmosphere and aromatic setting create a true oasis in the heart of the city.

The space is well-organised and pleasantly located, offering an escape for tea lovers.

Prices are very reasonable given the quality of the products, and the service is quick, friendly, and helpful. If you're in the mood for something different, their Turkish coffee is less thick than usual, but just as flavourful.

Photo: RauL C7/shutterstock

Address: Rüstem Paşa, Tahmis Sokak, Fatih, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 830 35 90

Internet: www.betateashop.com/en

Email: digital@beta.com.tr

Moda in Kadıköy



Widely regarded as Kadıköy's premier dining district, Moda buzzes with a mix of cafés, bars and restaurants. This lively neighbourhood is a go-to destination if you're looking for quality food and drink.

The area's diverse culinary scene ranges from traditional Turkish restaurants to contemporary international eateries. You can also relax in one of the many çay houses with sweet treats like künefe. Many of the establishments here stay busy until late.

Photo: ahmet ceyhan/shutterstock

Address: Moda, Kadıköy, İstanbul

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Tatiana Popova/shutterstock

Istanbul's nightlife is diverse, with something for nearly every preference and pace. While the historic areas of Sultanahmet and the Old City tend to quiet down after dark, other districts come to life in the evening.

Taksim and nearby Beyoğlu are among the most accessible areas for nightlife, offering a broad range of bars, pubs, rooftop venues and music spots. From small, laid-back establishments to larger venues with DJs or live music, this part of the city has a constant buzz. Istiklal Street, in particular, is a central artery for those looking to explore on foot.

For a more upmarket or contemporary experience, head further north to neighbourhoods like Etiler, Levent and Ortaköy. These areas are known for their stylish bars, high-end lounges, and Bosphorus-side clubs. Many locals and visitors alike come here for a more polished night out, with venues often featuring scenic views and modern interiors.

While alcohol is widely available in Istanbul, note that some bars may be quieter during religious holidays or Ramadan. In general, the city balances traditional culture with a growing modern nightlife scene, offering options from relaxed shisha lounges to lively nightclubs.

Orient Express Bar



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

Photo: thanosquest/Shutterstock.com

Address: Hüdavendigâr Caddesi 24, HocaPaşa, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 520 71 60

Internet: www.orientexpresshotel.com

Email: info@orientexpresshotel.com

Hodjapasha



Hodjapasha is a culture centre located in a former Turkish bath. These days you can come here in the 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: Terence Toh Chin Eng/shutterstock

Address: Ankara Caddesi, HocaPaşa Hamam Sokak 3, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 511 46 26

Internet: www.hodjapasha.com/en

Email: info@hodjapasha.com

Galata Tower Shows



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: givaga/shutterstock

Address: Bereketzade Mahalle, Galata Kulesi, Beyoğlu, Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 293 81 80

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.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Address: İstiklal Caddesi, Mısır Apartment 8th Floor 163, Beyoğlu, Istanbul

Phone: +90 533 691 03 60

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 the Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus. Drinks tend to

be on the pricey side; however, quality and bartenders' professionalism make it worth it.

Photo: 3523studio/shutterstock

Address: Tomtom Mahalle, Yeni Çarşı Caddesi 32, Istanbul

Phone: +90 532 598 99 98

Internet: www.literarestaurant.com

Email: litera@literarestaurant.com

Smyrna Cafe



Smyrna Café offers a laid-back atmosphere that feels like a typical café during the day, but in the evening it transforms into a casual night spot open

until late. It's an ideal place to unwind, sit back, and enjoy a refreshing drink in a relaxed setting.

Photo: tomertu/shutterstock

Address: Emniyetevleri Mahalle, Akarsu Caddesi. 29, Kağıthane, Istanbul
Phone: +90 212 244 24 66
Internet: www.smyrnacihangir.com
Email: info@smyrnacihangir.com

The Stairs in Cihangir



These public steps climbing a small hill in front of Noh Radio bar have become one of Istanbul's most popular evening gathering places.

This is not a venue, but rather a staircase that regularly attracts students and young crowds, both locals and internationals, for informal street-side socialising, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights.

Photo: siamionau pavel/shutterstock

Address: Firuzağa, Hayriye Caddesi No 18, Beyoğlu, İstanbul

SHOPPING



Wojtek Chmielewski/shutterstock

Istanbul has become a major shopping destination for several categories of travellers. Some tourists are looking for 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



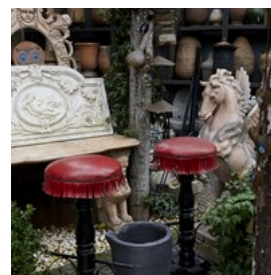
İstiklal Caddesi is a fashionable old street in the Pera district, now called Beyoğlu. Walking down İstiklal is something every visitor does at least once because of its strategic location connecting Taksim square to Galata tower.

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: muratart/shutterstock

Address: İstiklal Caddesi, İstanbul

Çukurcuma



Çukurcuma, the hillside neighbourhood 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: rabany sebastien/shutterstock

Address: Çukurcuma, Istanbul

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

Istanbul Cevahir



A large and modern shopping mall spread across six floors, with lifts and escalators providing easy access throughout.

The first four levels are filled with a wide range of popular international brands such as Zara, Nike, and many others. The entire fifth floor is dedicated to dining, featuring over 50 fast food outlets and restaurants offering plenty of choice for all tastes.

Conveniently located above the M2 metro line, you can enter the mall directly from the underground station by simply taking the escalators up. The building itself is quite impressive and serves as both a shopping and dining destination.

Photo: FS11/shutterstock

Address: 19 Mayıs, Büyükdere Caddesi No 22, Şişli, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 368 69 00

Internet: www.istanbulcevahir.com/en

Email: info@istanbulcevahir.com

Mall of Istanbul



Arguably the best mall in the area, this shopping centre stands out for its impressive design, wide variety of retail outlets, and extensive dining

options. It is one of the largest and most striking malls in Istanbul, home to well-known international and local brands.

In addition to shopping and food, the mall offers

a children's play area, making it a family-friendly destination. There is also free parking available and a steady flow of taxis waiting just outside, ensuring easy access for visitors.

Photo: La Famiglia/shutterstock

Address: Ziya Gökalp, Süleyman Demirel Boulevard No 7, Başakşehir, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 801 10 00

Internet: www.mallofistanbul.com.tr/en

Egyptian Spice Bazaar



The Spice Bazaar is at the base of the Galata Bridge in Eminönü, and is also called the Egyptian Bazaar because of the imported spices originally 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: xamnesiacx84/shutterstock

Address: Rüstem Paşa, Fatih, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 513 65 97

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. Its arched glass roof is quite a sight.

Photo: Mephobia.Food/shutterstock

Address: Hüseyinağa, Meşrutiyet Caddesi No 8, Beyoğlu, İstanbul

Bagdat Caddesi



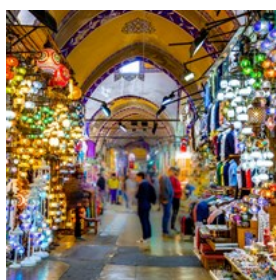
A good shopping district is the long Bagdat Caddesi on the Asian side. There are many trendy brand name shops here and prices are sometimes lower than in town because not many tourists find this area.

Photo: blurAZ/Shutterstock.com

Address: Bagdat Caddesi, Istanbul

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

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 and more. The bazaar is a world of its own and it's easy and fun to get lost in the teeming alleyways.

Photo: Finn stock/shutterstock

Address: Beyazit, İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 519 12 48

Internet: www.kapalicarsi.com.tr

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 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 kilometres away from Taksim and 52 kilometres 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 by using your passport at WiFi kiosks.

The most popular mode of transportation to the airport from the city centre is by HAVAİST buses. 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. The new M11 metro line, launched in January 2023, also

connects Istanbul Airport to the city.

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. Alternatively, Uber operates in Istanbul.

Photo: muratart/shutterstock

Address: İstanbul Havalimanı, Arnavutköy, İstanbul

Phone: +90 444 1 442

Internet: www.istairport.com/en/?locale=en

Email: ist@igairport.aero

Sabiha Gökçen International Airport (SAW)



Sabiha Gökçen serves as Pegasus Airlines' main base, this airport offers more budget-friendly flights than Turkish Airlines. Despite being smaller than Istanbul's primary airport, Sabiha Gökçen maintains significant importance with connections across Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and more.

The M4 metro line provides direct access to Kadıköy on Istanbul's Asian side, where travellers can transfer to Turkish Railways or ferries continuing to the city centre.

Facilities include various cafes and restaurants, free Wi-Fi, charging stations, and shops selling travel essentials and mobile accessories.

Photo: George Khelashvili/shutterstock

Address: Sanayi, Pendik, İstanbul

Phone: +90 216 588 88 88

Internet: www.sabihagokcen.aero/metro-en

Public Transport



There is one public and one private bus network, IETT 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, 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 Besiktas to Üsküdar, Kadıköy and Harem.

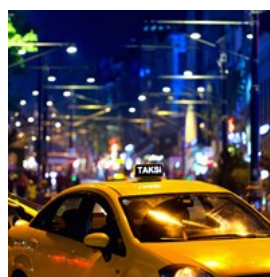
Akbil is a type of payment card that you can top up with various sums and use on buses, boats and trams. It can be bought at major junctions.

Photo: Ben M_O/shutterstock

Internet: www.iETT.istanbul/en

Email: iETT@iETT.gov.tr

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.

Alternatively, Uber and a local app called BiTaksi are available in Istanbul involving regular vehicles and yellow taxis.

Photo: IgorZh/shutterstock

Post



The Grand Post Office is in Hobyar, near the Istanbul Railway Museum. Other PTT-offices are on Taksim Square and İstiklâl Cad.

Open from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Saturday and closed on Sundays.

Photo: Cyhel/shutterstock

Address: Hobyar, Büyük Postane Caddesi No 25, Fatih, İstanbul

Phone: +90 2 444 1 788

Internet: www.ptt.gov.tr

Email: info@ptt.gov.tr

Pharmacy



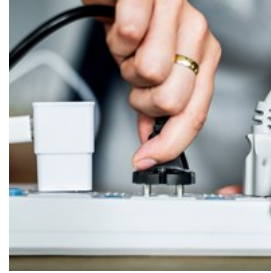
Pharmacies are called 'Eczane' in Turkish.

Istanbul offers many options both working regular hours or 24/7. In Istanbul, there isn't a

dominant pharmacy chain; they are owned by individual pharmacists.

Photo: EliteExposure/shutterstock

Electricity



The standard voltage in Turkey is 220V with a frequency of 50Hz. The standard power plugs are Type C and Type F.

Photo: Rawpixel com/shutterstock

Telephone



Country number +90
Area code: 212 and 216

Photo: ProStockStudio/shutterstock

Population

Approximately 16.2 million Greater Istanbul (2025)

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.

Internet

www.istanbul.com

Newspapers

Daily News (English): www.hurriyetdailynews.com

Daily Sabah (English): www.dailysabah.com

Turkish Minute (English): www.turkishminute.com

Emergency numbers

112

Tourist information

www.visit.istanbul/en





Halic (Golden Horn)

Istanbul Bogazi (Bosphorus)

Marmara Denizi (Sea of Marmara)

0 250 m

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| 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 | Kasnaklar | 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 |
| Futuhat | 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 | Yeniciler 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 | | | | |