

# **FULL ISTANBUL GUIDE**

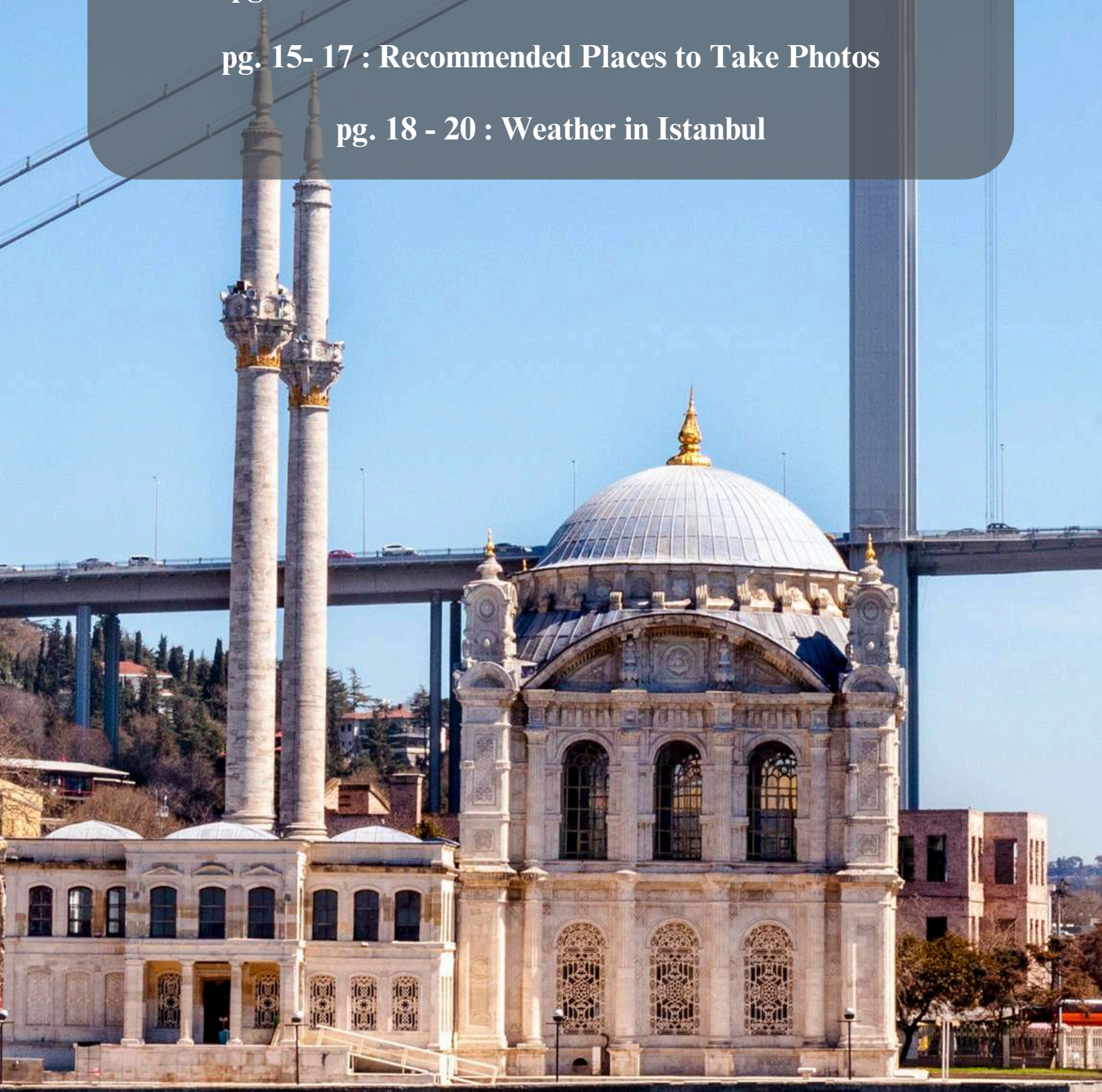
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# **ACTIVITIES TO DO IN ISTANBUL**

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## RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES TO DO

### Private Yacht Dinner

A private yacht dinner on the Bosphorus is a luxurious way to enjoy dinner with friends or family. The yacht is a beautiful boat that can hold up to 12 people. You will cruise along the Bosphorus for 2 hours while you enjoy dinner and the scenery.

Includes:

- VIP pick up from hotel
- 2-hour yacht tour on the Bosphorus
- Dinner, appetizers & drinks
- Professional staff service
- VIP drop off to hotel

Total length: 3 hours (flexible)



### Professional Photography

The best photos to capture in Istanbul are at the roofs that oversee the Galata Tower. You can hire a professional photographer who will take you to the best photography locations and also provide you with a dress.

Includes:

- Pick up from hotel with VIP vehicle
- Dress
- Photos at 2 special locations (minimum)
- Drop off to hotel with VIP vehicle

Total length: 2 hours



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## RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES TO DO

### Old City Walking Tour

The Old City Walking tour can be done privately or in a group and it will take you through some of the most famous structures of Sultanahmet.

Includes:

- Pick up from hotel
- Professional tour guide
- Lunch
- Museum entrances
- Drop off to hotel

Total length: 4 hours (flexible for private tours)



Locations: Blue Mosque, Hippodrome, Hagia Sophia, Hagia Eriene, Serpentine Column, Obelisk of Theodosius, and Grand Bazaar



Locations: City Walls of Istanbul, Çamlica Hill, Dolmabahçe Palace, Rumeli Fortress, Maidens Tower, Spice Bazaar

### Bosphorus Cruise Tour

This tour can be done privately or in a group. You will ride the ferry along the Bosphorus and view the famous structures that sit by the waters of Istanbul. Some of them you will enter and others you will view from the boat.

Includes:

- Pick up from hotel
- Professional tour guide
- Lunch
- Museum entrances
- Water & land transportation
- Drop off to hotel

Total length: 6 hours (flexible for private tours)

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## RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES TO DO

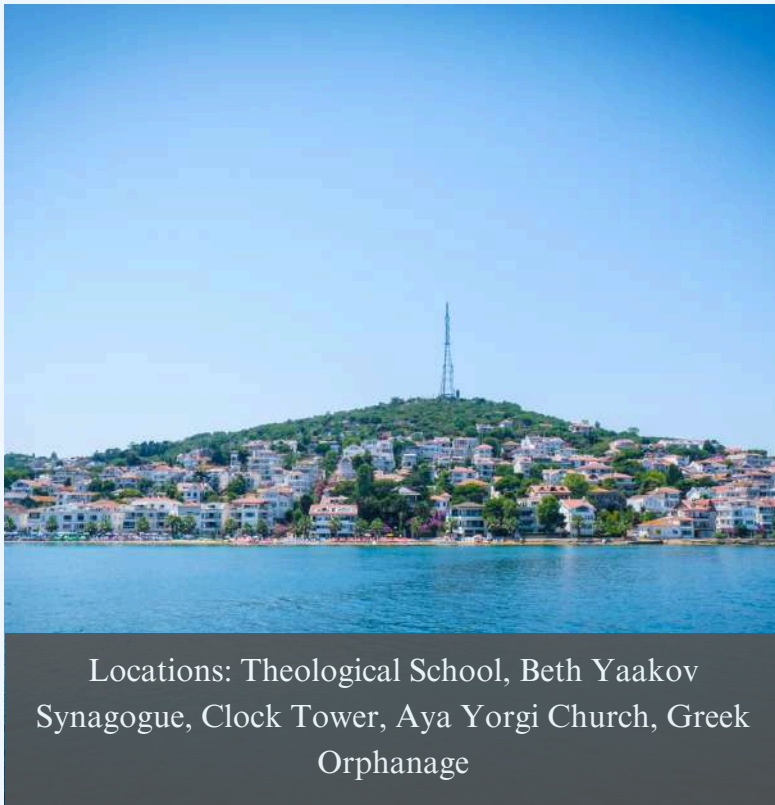
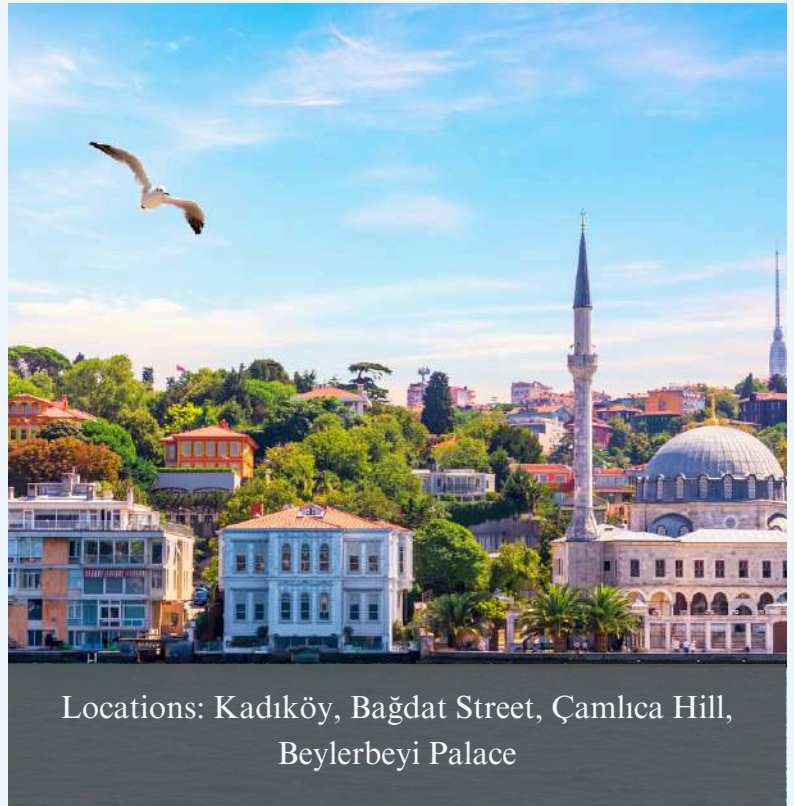
### Asian-side Tour

The Asian side of Istanbul is famous for its delicious food and has a unique history. We highly recommend our guests take at least one day to visit the Asian side. This tour also can be done privately or in a group.

Includes:

- Pick up from hotel
- Lunch
- Professional tour guide
- Museum entrances
- Water & land transportation
- Drop off to hotel

Total length: 6 hours (flexible for private tours)



### Princes' Island Tour

Princes' Island is one of the most famous places for Istanbul visitors. The waters are clear and the island has some of the most interesting Ottoman and Byzantine history. This tour can be done privately or in a group.

Includes:

- Pick up from hotel with VIP vehicle
- Lunch
- Professional tour guide
- Museum entrances
- Water & land transportation
- Drop off to hotel with VIP vehicle

Total length: 8 hours (flexible for private tours)

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## RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES TO DO

### Bursa Day Tour

Bursa was once the capital of the Ottoman Empire and is also where the famous Sultan Osman's tomb is. The city is filled with green and is often referred to as “Green Bursa”. The Bursa tour can be done privately or in a group.

Includes:

- Pick up from hotel
- Lunch
- Professional tour guide
- Museum entrances
- Vehicle
- Drop off to hotel

Total length: 8 hours (flexible for private tours)



Locations: Tombs of Osman and Orhan, Ulucami Street, Covered Bazaar, Kozahan Bazaar, Green Tomb, Yesil Mosque, Irgandi Bridge, Saraybosna, Kardeslik Mosque



Locations: Sapanca Lake, Masukiye Village, Masukiye Waterfall, Kartepe Mountain, Sapanca Shopping Mall

### Sapanca Day Tour

Sapanca is another region close to Istanbul. The nature here is one of a kind. This place is famous for the Sapanca lake and its beautiful waterfalls. Sapanca can be visited privately or in a group.

Includes:

- Includes:
- Pick up from hotel
- Lunch
- Professional tour guide
- Museum entrances
- Vehicle
- Drop off to hotel

Total length: 8 hours (flexible for private tours)

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## RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES TO DO

### Street-Food Tour

You would be making a mistake leaving Istanbul without trying the street-food! And there is no better way to try it then joining our professional guide. You will be taken to the locations other tourists don't know about and your tastebuds will thank you. This experience can also be done privately or in a group.

Includes:

- Pick up from hotel
- Meals
- Professional tour guide
- Water & land transportation
- Drop off to hotel

Total length: 6 hours (flexible for private tours)



### Turkish Bath

A Turkish Bath is one of the best ways to relax after a long day of touring Istanbul. You can stay as long as you want and there is a foam massage included.

Includes:

- Pick up from hotel before sunrise
- Hammam & foam massage
- Drop off to hotel

Total length: 2 hours (flexible)

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## RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES TO DO

### Dinner Cruise

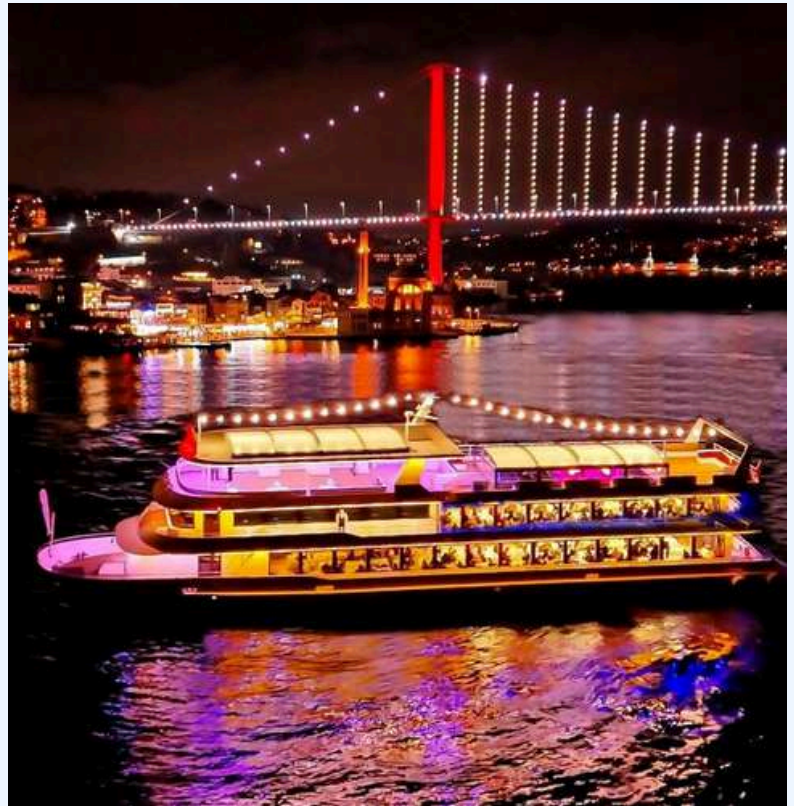
A dinner cruise immerses you in Turkish culture. There are live traditional shows on the boat and dinner is included. For those who drink there is an unlimited alcohol option as well.

Includes:

- Pick up from hotel
- Dinner
- Unlimited drinks
- Turkish traditional show
- Drop off to hotel

Total length: 4 hours

Minimum age to drink: 18+



### Dervish Ceremony

Dervish shows take place in every city of Turkey. The Istanbul show is unique because it was the heart of the Ottoman Empire. Enjoy the whirling dervishes and feel the history as you are watching the performance.

Includes:

- Pick up from hotel
- Dervish ceremony
- Drop off to hotel

Total length: 2 hours

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# **RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS IN ISTANBUL**

**pg. 9 - Fast & Delicious (\$)**

**pg. 10 - Premium & Sit Down (\$\$)**

**pg. 11 - Fine Dining & Luxury (\$\$\$)**





## FAST & DELICIOUS (\$)



### Ortaklar Kebab Restaurant

If you want to feel like a local in Istanbul this is the place to be. The price is extremely good for the quality that is served. We highly recommend trying their Adana Kebab and their other grilled options.

### Agahoğlu Erenköy

Manti is the Turkish version of ravioli, and Agahoğlu in Erenköy does it best in Istanbul. We recommend trying their different Manti plates (their Tepsi Manti is the most popular). Also, make sure to get some of their appetizers like the raw meatballs, and finish your meal with some of their homemade walnut baklava.



### Bayramoğlu Döner

Okay, we'll be honest: Bayramoğlu has no parking and probably a long line. But we think it is still worth a visit. It simply has the best döner in Istanbul. We recommend you get yours to go since it can get crowded inside.

Side note: Bayramoğlu is also pretty far into the Asian side of Istanbul, so make sure it is near the locations you are already visiting.

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## PREMIUM & SIT DOWN (\$\$)

### Türk Art Restaurant

Türk Art Restaurant offers balcony dining with stunning views of the Hagia Sophia. The food is also of very high quality! After a long day of touring Istanbul, this restaurant is a great choice.



### Le Vapeur

A restaurant that moves? What? Le Vapeur provides high-quality dining experiences on a fancy ship that sets sail on the Bosphorus. They have options throughout the day, but their breakfast is the best (in our opinion). It is unlimited, and you will be stuffed by the time you arrive back to shore! Be sure to check their website for the exact pickup location.

### Günaydın Steakhouse

Günaydın became popular for its steaks long before Salt Bae was famous. The restaurant offers many grilled meats and provides excellent service. We recommend their porterhouse steak. Günaydın has multiple locations in Istanbul, so visit the one that is most convenient for you!



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## FINE DINING & LUXURY (\$\$\$)



### Tuğra Restaurant

Tuğra Restaurant is located on the first floor of the luxurious Çırağan Palace. They have a Turkish and Ottoman menu that accommodates every dietary requirement. Enjoy your fine dining meal at Çırağan, overlooking the Bosphorus and the sight of ships passing by.

### Matbah Restaurant

Matbah is our favorite Michelin Star restaurant in Istanbul. The menu uses Ottoman flavors and is famous worldwide. They will take you back in time, and this experience will be more than just a dinner. If you are looking for a choice on the fancier side, this is it!



### The Sarnıç

The Sarnıç is something special. The restaurant itself is in a 1500-year-old cistern! The atmosphere is incredible, and the food served is truly "Fine Dining". They usually have soothing music playing during dinner, and the servers are well-trained.

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## **RECCOMENDED HIDDEN GEMS TO SEE**

**pg. 13 - Pierre Lotti Hill, Eyüp Sultan Mosque, Ural Ataman Museum**

**pg. 14 - Miniatürk, Hagia Irene, Kariye Mosque**





## RECOMMENDED HIDDEN GEMS TO SEE

### Pierre Lotti Hill

Pierre Loti Hill offers breathtaking views of the Golden Horn and the city. It's a perfect spot to relax and take in the scenery. The cafe at the top is also a great place to enjoy a cup of Turkish tea while soaking in the views.



### Eyüp Sultan Mosque

Eyüp Sultan Mosque is dedicated to Ebu Eyüp el-Ansari, a companion of Prophet Muhammad. It was constructed by Fatih Sultan Mehmet in 1458 and still stands today! The architecture and surroundings are amazing. Not too many tourists visit it unlike the Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque, so it is usually not that crowded.

### Ural Ataman Museum

Ural Ataman Museum is a hidden gem for car enthusiasts. It has an impressive collection of classic cars dating all the way back to the 1920s. The museum's unique displays make it a fascinating place to explore. Also, the entrance fee is very affordable (about 1-2 euros).



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## RECCOMENDED HIDDEN GEMS TO SEE



### Miniatürk

Miniatürk is a miniature park that has scaled-down models of Turkey's most famous landmarks. The models are about 1/25th of normal size and are extremely detailed. It's a fun and educational experience, especially if you're traveling with kids.

### Hagia Irene

Hagia Irene is one of the oldest churches in Istanbul and offers a quiet, historical atmosphere. Unlike the more famous Hagia Sophia, Hagia Irene is less crowded, allowing for a more intimate exploration of its ancient walls and architecture.



### Kariye Mosque

Formerly known as the Chora Church, Kariye Mosque is famous for its stunning mosaics and paintings. The artwork inside is incredibly detailed and offers insight into Byzantine history. It's not visited a lot, but well worth it.

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## **RECOMMENDED PLACES FOR PHOTOS IN ISTANBUL**

**pg. 16 - Rumeli Fortress, Balat, Istiklal Street**

**pg. 17 - Ortaköy Mosque, Üsküdar, Galataport**





## RECOMMENDED PLACES FOR PHOTOS

### Rumeli Fortress

Rumeli Fortress offers stunning views of the Bosphorus and is a great spot for both history fans and photography. You can walk around the remaining walls of Constantinople, which is a fascinating sight. The fortress, with its massive walls and towers, provides a dramatic scene for photos.



### Balat

Balat is one of the most colorful and instagrammable neighborhoods in Istanbul. Its vibrant houses and narrow streets have become popular all over social media. We think they are perfect for capturing beautiful photos. Also, make sure to visit the vintage cafes and historic churches while you are there.



### Istiklal Street

Istiklal Street is the most famous street in the heart of Istanbul. It's lively, colorful, and full of interesting stores. Capture the energy of performers, historic trams, and some shots of yourself to let everyone know you visited Istanbul.



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## RECOMMENDED PLACES FOR PHOTOS



### Ortaköy Mosque

The Ortaköy Mosque, set against the backdrop of the Bosphorus Bridge, is one of Istanbul's most iconic photo spots. The best time to take photos here is while the sun is up. With perfectly blue waters, the Bosphorus Bridge, and the Ortaköy Mosque, make for an amazing photograph.

### Üsküdar (Maidens Tower)

Maiden's Tower is a small watchtower located on a tiny island in the Bosphorus Strait. You can take stunning photos from the shore of Üsküdar. If you would like to visit the Maiden's Tower, you can take a ferry from either Üsküdar or Galataport.



### Galataport (sunset)

Galataport is the modern area along the Bosphorus with a lot of great spots for photos. The background captures some of the most iconic structures of Istanbul, like the Suleymaniye Mosque. The best time to take photos here is at sunset.

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# **WEATHER IN ISTANBUL**

pg. 19 - Climate of Istanbul

pg. 20 - How to be Weather-Ready





# CLIMATE OF ISTANBUL

## General Climate

Istanbul's weather is humid with a good amount of moisture. This makes it pretty hard to walk during the summer. However, it is not bad if you take breaks and stay in the shade. The weather is close to perfect during spring when temperatures range from 16°C to 25°C (or 62°F to 77°F).



## Seasons

Istanbul, like the rest of Turkey, has four seasons: winter, spring, summer, and autumn. Snow hardly falls in Istanbul, and January is usually the coldest month. Summer, from late June to August, can be very hot (30°C+ or 86°F+ with high humidity).

## Best Time to Visit

We strongly believe that Istanbul is worth visiting throughout the year. Each season offers its own special atmosphere and unique features. While April, May, June, September, and October have just the right temperature, other times of the year are also enjoyable. Just take precautions like bringing thick clothing in the winter and wearing sunscreen in the summer.



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# HOW TO BE WEATHER-READY



## What Clothes to Bring

If you're visiting in the winter, bring jackets and thick coats. Also, pack hooded sweatshirts and lightweight sweaters for spring seasons because the mornings, evenings, and by the Bosphorus can still be chilly.

## Other items to bring

If you are visiting in the spring and summer (especially), make sure to bring sunscreen and sunglasses, as you will be walking around Istanbul quite a bit. It is hard to notice a sunburn while you are enjoying the city, but you will thank us after your trip!



# REVIEWS





# MS. SHRUBA REVIEW (CLICK TO OPEN).

“I had stumbled upon Fadas Travels on instagram and then reached out to Mr. Seckin, the owner. He is very responsive and always ready to help and adjust to the itinerary. I was little hesitant to make any booking from India. But Fadas travels is the best thing that happened to me on insta. He is very cooperative, and I never felt like I was traveling in a foreign country. From different airport pickups to managing guided tours, everything was just very meticulously planned. Thank you so much for being so awesome. I will definitely recommend my friends back in India to plan everything with Fadas. The cherry on the cake was his Mak Cave Hotel in Cappadocia—the best view and breakfast we ever had in Turkey.” - **Himadari B.**

“Our time in Istanbul was nothing short of amazing. The hotel was organized right in the middle of the old city. I couldn't even believe it. My itinerary was totally sorted out in advance. Everything was planned down to the last detail - all thanks to Ms. Makbule and her team. They're the experts when it comes to planning trips in Turkey!” - **Katy C.**

“We were amazed by the hospitality of Fadas Travel. They truly make you feel special! We did a 4 day Istanbul trip and we didn't have to worry about a single thing. All of our hotels were reserved and high quality, the VIP transportation was very smooth, and all our activities were taken care of! All we did was soak in Istanbul (stress free). If you don't like to worry about dealing with every single detail yourself, I think this is the best option in Turkey.” - **Mike D.**

“Fadas travel made our stay very comfortable I cannot thank them enough. We stayed at the Maks Cave House. From the moment we arrived they gave us a warm welcome and prepared evening meal for us. We traveled to Cappadocia solely for the hot air ballon experience. I must say they assisted us in the full experience from the hot air balloon to the hammam and we also managed to fit an underground tour. Makbule was an amazing host she laid a lovely breakfast spread we were fully stuffed and it was delicious. The maks cave had such a lovely homely feel to it we did not want to leave. They made our experience special and we made lots of lovely memories. I will be back soon.” - **Kulli M.**

## WE ALSO OWN MAK'S CAVE HOUSE THE HIGHEST RATED HOTEL IN CAPPADOCIA (CLICK TO OPEN).

**MORE REVIEWS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE**  
[fadastravel.com](http://fadastravel.com)

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