

Strolling through the streets of Istanbul 漫步在伊斯坦布尔的街道上

Turkey's most populous city Istanbul has always been something of a paradox—a cultural crossroads between East and West, and a thriving metropolis where tradition and modernity both prevail.

土耳其人口最多的城市伊斯坦布尔的某些东西一直以来互相矛盾——它是东西方文化的交汇点，也是一个传统与现代并存的繁荣大都市。

Straddling Europe and Asia, Istanbul is the country's cultural and financial hub.

伊斯坦布尔横跨欧洲和亚洲，是该国的文化和金融中心。

This strategic location at the gateway between two continents has not only made Istanbul an important political and economic city for thousands of years, but also given it a turbulent history.

这一位于两大洲大门之间的战略位置，不仅使伊斯坦布尔成为数千年来重要的政治和经济城市，而且使其拥有动荡的历史。

The historical areas of Istanbul have even been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

伊斯坦布尔的历史区域甚至被联合国教科文组织列为世界遗产。

Surprisingly, hardly anyone I know finds this place interesting; the thrill of being able to be here for me, however, is just hard to overstate!

令人惊讶的是，我认识的人几乎没有人觉得这个地方有趣；然而，这里给我带来的兴奋没有办法再夸大了！

There's perhaps nowhere on earth more mesmerizing than this vibrant city.

世界上没有比这座充满活力的城市更令人着迷的了。

If you want to understand a place and its people, there's nothing better than studying its history.

如果你想了解一个地方和它的人民，没有什么比研究它的历史更好的了。

And Istanbul's is a riveting one.

伊斯坦布尔是一个吸引人的地方。

The city, first built in the seventh century BC, grew in significance in 330 AD, when the Roman emperor Constantine made it the new capital of his empire, which was called Constantinople in honour of the emperor.

这座城市始建于公元前 7 世纪，公元 330 年罗马皇帝君士坦丁将其作为其帝国的新首都，为纪念该皇帝，该城被称为君士坦丁堡。

Once I set foot in Istanbul, I headed for the Hagia Sophia, Turkey's most visited tourist attraction in 2015.

我一踏上伊斯坦布尔，就前往 2015 年土耳其游客最多的圣索菲亚大教堂（Hagia Sophia）。

This structure, originally designed as a basilica, was constructed in 537 AD.

这座建筑最初设计为一座长方形会堂，建于公元 537 年。

For almost a thousand years, the Hagia Sophia had served as a cathedral, but in 1453, it was repurposed as a mosque after the invasion of the Ottoman army.

近一千年来，圣索菲亚大教堂一直是一座大教堂，但在 1453 年，在奥斯曼帝国入侵后，它被改为清真寺。

It was secularized in 1935 and since then has been operating as a museum.

它于 1935 年世俗化，此后一直作为博物馆运作。

Despite the transformation this church-turned-mosque-turned museum has undergone over the years, its architecture has always been regarded as a unique achievement.

尽管这座由教堂变成清真寺的博物馆多年来经历了转型，但其建筑一直被视为一项独特的成就。

The giant domed roof, the most identifiable feature of the Hagia Sophia, is considered to be the epitome of Byzantine architecture.

巨大的圆顶屋顶是圣索菲亚大教堂最明显的特征，被认为是拜占庭式建筑的缩影。

Historians have marvelled at the skill and imagination of the early architects.

历史学家对早期建筑师的技巧和想象力感到惊奇。

However, the wonders of the Hagia Sophia don't just stop there.

然而，圣索菲亚大教堂的奇迹并不仅仅止于此。

The colourful frescos painted on the walls and countless mosaics made up of thousands of glittering tiles covering the walls and even the ceilings were so overwhelmingly beautiful that they sent shivers down my spine!

墙上画着五颜六色的壁画，由成千上万的闪闪发光的瓷砖所组成的无数的镶嵌画不仅覆盖了墙壁，甚至覆盖了天花板，它们是如此美丽，以至于它们使我非常兴奋！

The breathtaking beauty and grandeur would leave anyone speechless!

令人叹为观止的美丽和宏伟会让任何人无法用语言去形容！

Visiting the Walls of Constantinople was something I found quite interesting.

参观君士坦丁堡的城墙是一件很有趣的事。

These ancient walls, which once surrounded the entire city, were built to protect it from attacks.

这些古老的城墙曾经包围了整个城市，为了保护它不被受到攻击。

They were an important fortification and had been effective against attackers for more than a thousand years.

它们是一个重要的防御工事，一千多年来一直有效地对付袭击者。

In the 15th century, a huge Ottoman army made it over the walls and took full control of the city.

15 世纪，一支庞大的奥斯曼军队翻越城墙，控制了整座城市。

These walls remind us that nothing lasts forever.

这些城墙提醒我们，没有什么是永恒的。

Eventually, in the 19th century, the city started to outgrow the boundaries set by the walls.

最终，在 19 世纪，这座城市开始超越城墙的界限。

The government decided that some sections of the walls had to be removed to make room for all this growth.

政府决定拆除部分围墙，为这些增长腾出空间。

But parts of the walls remain, and nobody who sees them can help but be impressed.

但城墙的一部分还保留着，看到它们的人都会不由自主地留下深刻印象。

These landmarks are just a taste of the many outstanding wonders of Istanbul.

这些地标性建筑只是对伊斯坦布尔许多杰出奇迹的一种体验。

What struck me is the overwhelming variety that it offers.

让我印象深刻的是它提供的各种各样的东西。

I discovered loads of other fascinating things as I strolled around the city, soaking up the atmosphere.

当我在城市里漫步，沉浸在这座城市的气氛之中时，我发现了很多其他有趣的东西。

Someone said that the best way to tour any city is to throw out the guidebooks and just wander through the streets.

有人说游览任何城市最好的方法就是扔掉旅游指南，在街上漫步。

I couldn't agree more.

我非常同意。

I could do anything I wanted there and none of the things I saw and did was boring.

在那里我可以做任何我想做的事情，我看到的和做的事情没有一件是无聊的。

Wherever I went, I always found something to excite me, and Istanbul is certainly exciting enough to warrant multiple visits.

无论我走到哪里，我总能找到一些让我兴奋的东西，伊斯坦布尔肯定是令人兴奋的，值得多次访问。