

## Day 1: Arrival and Exploring the Old City of Istanbul

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### Morning:

After your arrival in Istanbul, catch a cab and check-in to your hotel. The hotels in Sultanahmet are preferred due to their close proximity to the major iconic attractions like the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia.

### Afternoon:

After settling in, start your adventure with a visit to The Blue Mosque, an iconic symbol of Istanbul. Its magnificence and beautiful Iznik tiles will surely captivate you. Then proceed to the Hagia Sophia Museum, a landmark known for its architectural beauty.

### Evening:

End your day with a relaxing walk in Sultanahmet Square. Dine at 'Amedros' to experience an authentic Turkish meal.

## Day 2: Further Exploration of the Historic Peninsula

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### Morning:

Begin your day with the visit to the Topkapi Palace Museum, offering a look into the Ottoman empire's grandeur.

### Afternoon:

Proceed to the Istanbul Archaeology Museum for an impressive collection from Turkey's historic sites. Be sure to plan ahead and book your tickets in advance.

### Evening:

Visit The Grand Bazaar, a historic market with over 4000 shops selling different artefacts, jewellery, and souvenirs. Remember to negotiate prices, as shopkeepers expect a bit of bargaining.

### Day 3: Bosphorus Cruise and Shopping Day

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#### Morning:

Board a Bosphorus ferry at Eminonu and enjoy the cruise, viewing Istanbul's Asian and European sides.

#### Afternoon:

Sail to the Asian side and visit the Kadiköy Market. This vibrant spot offers clothing, produce, and local delicacies.

#### Evening:

Return to the European side and head to "360 Istanbul". Enjoy dinner with panoramic views of the city.

### Day 4: A Day at the Museums and Departure

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#### Morning:

Start your day at the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts.

#### Afternoon:

Visit the stunning Basilica Cistern, known for its grand columns and mystical atmosphere. After, proceed to The Museum of Innocence, a unique establishment highlighting Istanbul's social history through a fictional love story.

Evening:

Go for a leisurely stroll along Istiklal Avenue, packed with boutiques, restaurants, and music stores. Don't forget to taste Turkey's famous Baklava at Karakoy Gulluoglu near Taksim.

And at the end of the day, catch your departure flight back home. Remember to reach the airport at least 2-3 hours prior to your flight to avoid any last minute rush.

This itinerary aims to create a balance between exploration and relaxation, enabling you to soak up Istanbul's vibrant culture, history, and cuisine. Always book your tickets for major attractions in advance to avoid standing in lines. Dress modestly while visiting mosques and religious places. Istanbul's traffic can be unpredictable, so allow extra time to reach your destinations. Enjoy your trip!