

Trip of the Week — Istanbul, Türkiye

5 days — Explore the vibrant history and culture of Istanbul, where East meets West.

Itinerary

Day 1 — Historic Sultanahmet District

- 09:00 Hagia Sophia
Start your trip with a visit to this iconic Byzantine masterpiece.
- 11:30 Blue Mosque
Explore the stunning architecture and peaceful courtyard.
- 14:00 Topkapi Palace
Discover the opulent residence of Ottoman sultans.
- 17:00 Gülhane Park
Relax in this historic park adjacent to the palace.

Day 2 — Bosphorus and Asian Side

- 10:00 Bosphorus Cruise
Enjoy a scenic boat ride between Europe and Asia.
- 13:00 Üsküdar
Visit this charming Asian side neighborhood with historic mosques.
- 15:30 Kadıköy Market
Explore local shops and try street food specialties.

Day 3 — Grand Bazaar and Spice Market

- 09:30 Grand Bazaar
Shop for souvenirs, carpets, and jewelry in one of the largest covered markets.
- 13:00 Spice Bazaar
Taste and buy exotic spices, sweets, and teas.
- 16:00 Süleymaniye Mosque
Visit this grand mosque with panoramic city views.

Day 4 — Modern Istanbul and Taksim

- 10:00 Istiklal Avenue
Walk along this lively pedestrian street full of shops and cafes.
- 12:30 Galata Tower
Climb for a panoramic view of the city.
- 15:00 Pera Museum
Explore art and cultural exhibitions.
- 18:00 Taksim Square
Experience the heart of modern Istanbul nightlife.

Day 5 — Cultural Immersion and Relaxation

- 09:00 Chora Church (Kariye Museum)
Admire exquisite Byzantine mosaics and frescoes.
- 12:00 Turkish Bath (Hammam)
Relax with a traditional bath experience.
- 15:00 Pierre Loti Café
Enjoy tea with a view over the Golden Horn.

Tips

- Wear comfortable shoes as Istanbul's streets and historic sites involve a lot of walking.
- Try local delicacies like simit, baklava, and Turkish tea throughout your trip.