

Trip of the Week — Istanbul, Türkiye

5 days — Explore the vibrant culture and historic wonders of Istanbul in five unforgettable days.

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 urban park near the palace.

Day 2 — Bosphorus and Asian Side

- 10:00 Bosphorus Cruise
Enjoy a scenic boat tour along the Bosphorus Strait.
- 13:00 Çamlıca Hill
Panoramic views of Istanbul from the Asian side.
- 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
Experience the aromas and colors of exotic spices and sweets.
- 15:00 Süleymaniye Mosque
Visit this grand Ottoman mosque with stunning views over the city.

Day 4 — Modern Istanbul and Art

- 10:00 Istiklal Avenue
Walk along this lively pedestrian street full of shops and cafes.
- 12:30 Galata Tower
Climb the tower for panoramic city views.
- 15:00 Istanbul Modern Art Museum
Explore contemporary Turkish art exhibitions.

Day 5 — Cultural Immersion and Relaxation

- 09:00 Chora Church (Kariye Museum)
Admire exquisite Byzantine mosaics and frescoes.
- 11:30 Turkish Bath (Hammam)
Experience a traditional Turkish bath for relaxation.
- 14:00 Pierre Loti Café
Enjoy tea with a view over the Golden Horn.

Tips

- Wear comfortable shoes as Istanbul's streets and sites involve a lot of walking and some uneven surfaces.
- Try local delicacies like simit, baklava, and Turkish tea at street vendors and cafes.