

Trip of the Week — Istanbul, Türkiye

5 days — Explore the timeless charm of Istanbul, where East meets West in a vibrant cultural mosaic.

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
Admire the stunning Ottoman architecture and blue Iznik tiles.
- 14:00 Topkapi Palace
Explore the opulent residence of Ottoman sultans and its treasury.
- 17:00 Gülhane Park
Relax in this historic park adjacent to Topkapi 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
Experience local food and vibrant street life.
- 18:00 Çamlıca Hill
Watch the sunset with panoramic views of Istanbul.

Day 3 — Grand Bazaar and Spice Market

- 09:30 Grand Bazaar
Shop for souvenirs, carpets, and jewelry in one of the largest covered markets.
- 12:00 Süleymaniye Mosque
Visit this grand mosque with stunning views over the Golden Horn.
- 14:30 Spice Bazaar
Explore the colorful market filled with spices, sweets, and teas.
- 17:00 Rustem Pasha Mosque
Admire exquisite Iznik tilework in this small but beautiful mosque.

Day 4 — Modern Istanbul and Taksim

- 10:00 Istiklal Avenue
Stroll this lively pedestrian street with shops, cafes, and historic passages.
- 12:30 Galata Tower
Climb the tower for panoramic city views.
- 15:00 Pera Museum
Discover Ottoman and Orientalist art collections.
- 18:00 Taksim Square
Experience the heart of modern Istanbul nightlife and dining.

Day 5 — Cultural Immersion and Relaxation

- 09:00 Chora Church (Kariye Museum)
See stunning Byzantine mosaics and frescoes.
- 11:30 Pierre Loti Café
Enjoy tea with views over the Golden Horn.
- 14:00 Turkish Bath (Hammam)
Relax with a traditional Turkish bath experience.
- 17:00 Ortaköy
End your trip with a walk by the Bosphorus and try kumpir (stuffed baked potato).

Tips

- Wear comfortable shoes as Istanbul's historic areas involve a lot of walking on cobblestones.
- Try local specialties like simit, Turkish tea, and baklava at street vendors and cafes.