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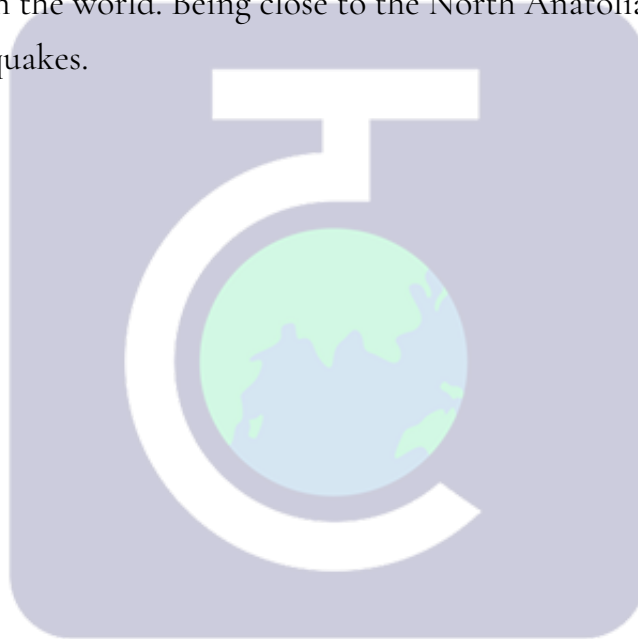
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### 1. Geographical location

The city of Istanbul is divided into Asian and European sides by the Bosphorus strait between the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara. It lies in two continents and acts as a link between the two. It is the only city in the world to have such a privilege. The city is again divided by a natural harbor, the Golden Horn, and the peninsula is lined by seven hills. Located 128 feet above sea level in north-western Turkey and covering an area of 5,343 square kilometers, it is one of the largest cities in the world. Being close to the North Anatolian Fault, the city is prone to severe and fatal earthquakes.



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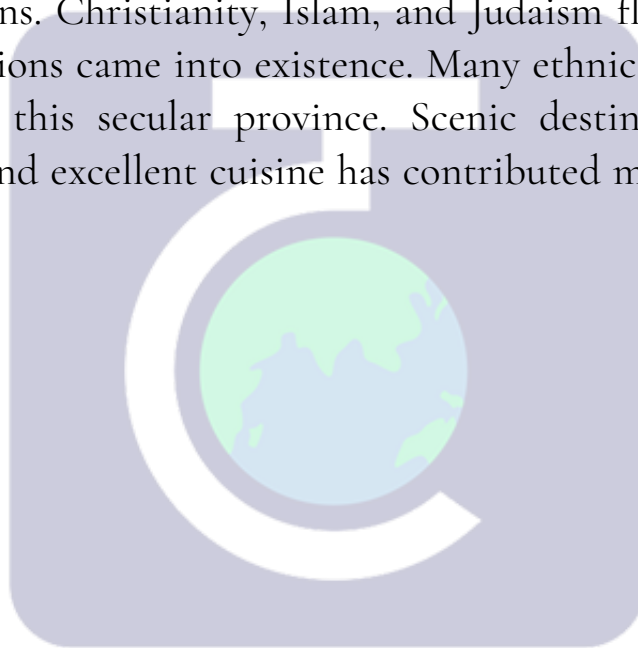
### 2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Istanbul Province Is Bordered By The Marmara Sea On The South And The Black Sea On The North. The Province Of Tekirdağ Lies In The West And The Kocaeli Province Borders Istanbul On The East. The Greater Istanbul Megaplex Includes The Metropolitan Areas Around Istanbul Such As Izmit, Adapazari, Yalova, And Bursa. Some Of The Famous Towns Near Istanbul Are Iznik, Edirne, Etc. Prince's Islands Situated In The Sea Of Marmara Are A Scenic Archipelago Away From The City Centre And Is A Favourite Tourist Destination. The Nearest Neighbouring Countries Are On The European Side; Bulgaria And Greece Borders Lie Adjacent To The Tekirdağ Province.



### 3. Significance

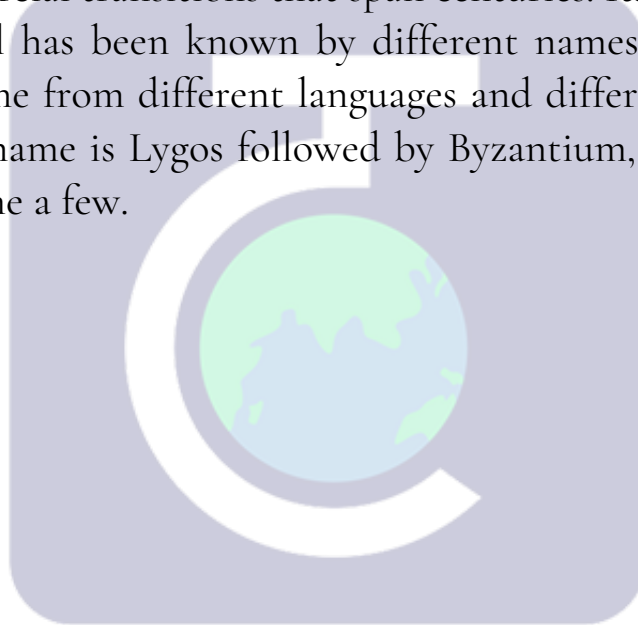
Istanbul is not only historically important as one of the earliest human settlements; it also plays a crucial role as the financial and industrial hub of Turkey with a substantial contribution to the country's GDP. In terms of population, productivity, and tax revenue, Istanbul becomes a significant stronghold of development. Istanbul has been, for centuries, the centre of the world's major religions. Christianity, Islam, and Judaism flourished in this land ever since these religions came into existence. Many ethnic minorities coexist in perfect harmony in this secular province. Scenic destinations coupled with historical locations and excellent cuisine has contributed majorly to the tourism industry in Istanbul.



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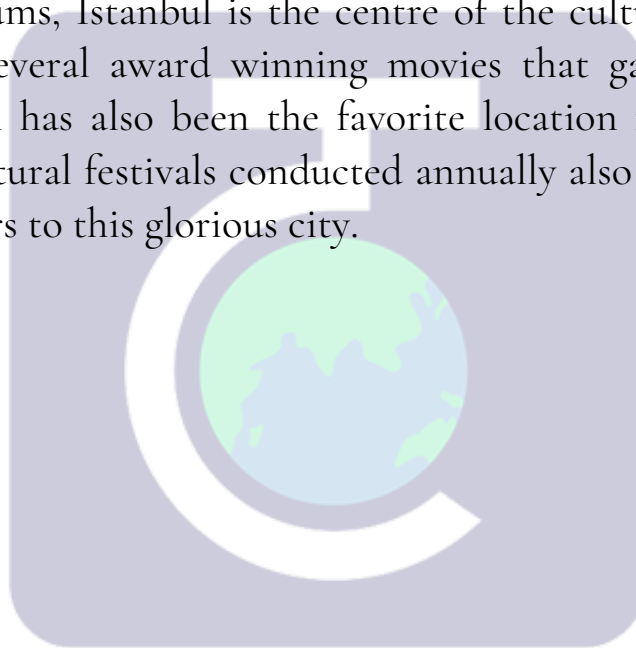
### 4. History

Having witnessed the Byzantine and Ottoman eras that enriched and established the presence of Istanbul as a significant territory in the world, this city can definitely boast of a magnificent past that is brimming with the stories of conquerors, emperors, and revolutionaries. Its journey from early human settlements to an important province of a Republic is marked with cultural, political, and commercial transitions that span centuries. Its known past is as old as 6700 BC. Istanbul has been known by different names at various points in time. The names come from different languages and different stages of its past. The earliest known name is Lygos followed by Byzantium, Constantinople, and Kostantiniyye to name a few.



## 5. Cultural identity

While the rich past of civilizations and empires constituted much of the cultural heritage of Istanbul, today it is known mainly for its regional arts. The presence of universities and institutions specializing in Fine Arts urged the artists from the country as well as from foreign lands to seek the artistic environment of the city. With 69 museums including the renowned Hagia Sophia, and several archaeological museums, Istanbul is the centre of the cultural scene in Turkey. Besides producing several award winning movies that garnered international recognition, Istanbul has also been the favorite location for many Hollywood movies. Arts and cultural festivals conducted annually also attract many local as well as foreign visitors to this glorious city.





## 6. Natural resources

Hailed as the financial capital of Turkey, Istanbul is renowned for its rich water and land resources and forest area. Cement and glass are produced in large scale in its industrial part. A major source of income for Istanbul is tourism which is growing day by day. Coal and natural stone are also available in plenty. A lot of export companies work in Istanbul dealing with the production and export of minerals, natural stones, ferrous and nonferrous metals, chemicals, etc. Being a renowned port city with three major shipping ports, Istanbul is one of the energy transit hubs in the world with around 200 million tonnes of oil passing through its ports annually.



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### 7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

#### 7.1. Paid

##### 7.1.1. Topkapi Palace Museum

The 600-year old Seraglio belonging to the Sultans of Ottoman Dynasty is a museum as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The expansive palace is filled with many courtyards, pavilions and gardens. Having been occupied for more than 400 years by the Sultans, this palace is home to a lot of treasures.

Address : Topkapı Sarayı, Cankurtaran Mahallesi, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Zipcode : 34122

Location : 41.0115195, 28.983378899999934

Contact : +90-2125120480

Website : <http://www.topkapisarayi.gov.tr/tr>

Nearest Public Transport : Gülhane istasyonu tram station

Entry Fee : 40 TRY per person

Open & Close Timing : Wednesday to Monday: 09:00hrs-18:00hrs Tuesday: Closed

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

##### 7.1.2. Hagia Sophia

Initially built as a church and seat of the Constantinople and later converted into an Ottoman mosque, this 1,400-year-old monument holds great significance from a historical standpoint. Now open to the public as a museum, it houses several pieces of mosaics and artworks relating to the Ottoman empire.

Address : Sultan Ahmet Mahallesi, Ayasofya Meydanı, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34122

Location : 41.008583, 28.980175000000003

Contact : +90-2125221750

Website : <http://ayasofyamuzesi.gov.tr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Sultanahmet tram station

Entry Fee : 40 TRY per person

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Sunday: 09:00hrs-19:00hrs Monday: Closed  
Time Required : 1.5  
Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes  
Buy Ticket : Yes

### 7.1.3. Miniaturk

Stretched over 15,000 square meters, Miniaturk is a park that is known to be a replica of the whole of Turkey with a miniature Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia and 122 other models. Located close to the river bank near Halic Park, this miniature park has become a prime destination for tourists.

Address : Sutluce Quarter, Imrahor Street 34445 Sutluce - Beyoglu / Istanbul

Zipcode : 34445

Location : 41.0598405, 28.948695700000003

Contact : +90-2122222882

Website : <http://miniaturk.com.tr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Miniaturk bus station

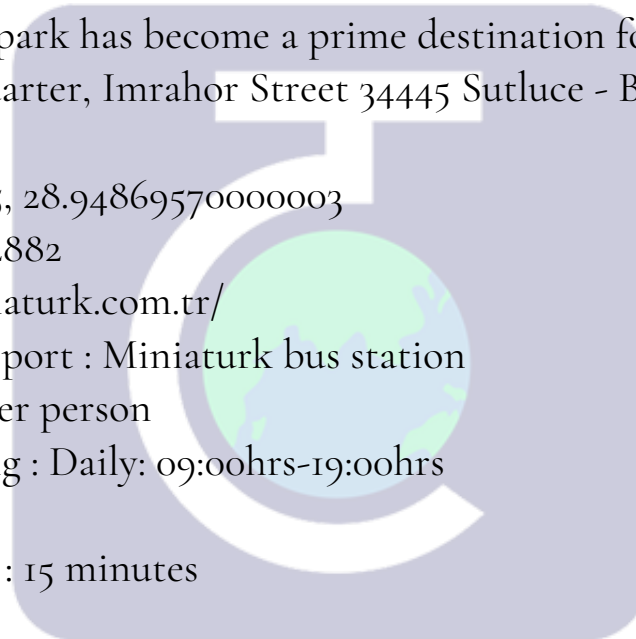
Entry Fee : 10 TRY per person

Open & Close Timing : Daily: 09:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes



### 7.1.4. Istanbul Archaeological Museum

Located outside Gülhane Park, the Istanbul Archaeological Museum is a group of 3 museums that are known to house over a million objects representing all civilizations and ages. During the Ottoman reign, the museum received many artefacts from the governors of the provinces resulting in a vast collection of objects that helped in depicting the culture of the country.

Address : Cankurtaran Mahallesi, 34122 Fatih/Istanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34122

Location : 41.0116855, 28.981330500000013

Contact : +90-2125207740

Website : <http://www.istanbularkeoloji.gov.tr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Gülhane istasyonu tram station

Entry Fee : 20 TRY per person  
Open & Close Timing : Daily: 09:00hrs-19:00hrs  
Time Required : 1  
Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes  
Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.5. Suleymaniye Hamami

Suleymaniye Hamam is an ancient Turkish bath located on a hill facing the Golden Horn. Named after Suleyman 'The Magnificent', the bath was built by a Turkish architect named Mimar Sinan. The interior and dome of the bath are lavishly decorated with marbles. Segregated into cold, lukewarm and hot sections, the Suleymaniye Hamam is the only hammam in the city where people of both genders can bathe together.

Address : Mimar Sinan Cad. No 20, Suleymaniye/Fatih, 34116 Istanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34116

Location : 41.0174335, 28.963709399999997

Contact : +90-2125203410

Website : <http://www.suleymaniyeHamami.com.tr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Eminönü Kantarcılar bus station

Entry Fee : 129 TRY per person

Open & Close Timing : Daily: 10:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 20 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

### 7.1.6. Basilica Cistern

Located 500 feet beneath Hagia Sophia, Basilica Cistern is the largest underground cistern in the world. Depicting the splendid byzantine and ancient Greek architecture, the cistern was made accessible to the public in 1987 and is now one of the most popular destinations in Istanbul.

Address : Alemdar Mh., Yerebatan Cd. 1/3, 34410 Fatih/Istanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34410

Location : 41.00838400000001, 28.977878000000032

Contact : +90-2125221259

Website : <http://yerebatansarnici.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Sultanahmet tram station

Entry Fee : 10 TRY per person

Open & Close Timing : Daily: 09:00hrs-17:30hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 5 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.7. Dolmabahçe Palace

Overlooking the blue waters of the Bosphorus Strait, the neoclassical styled, Dolmabahçe Palace served as one of the significant centres during the reign of the Ottoman. One unique fact about the palace is that many technological devices of the time like a telephone and central heating were installed inside the palace. With the living area expanded over 45,000 square meters, this palace consists of many rooms, restrooms, 6 Turkish baths and a the floor covered by valuable carpets.

Address : Dolmabahçe Cad., 34357 Besiktas, Turkey

Zipcode : 34357

Location : 41.0391643, 29.000459399999954

Contact : +90-2122369000

Website : <http://www.dolmabahcepallace.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Dolmabahçe Sarayı bus station

Entry Fee : 30 TRY per person

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to Sunday: 09:00hrs-16:00hrs Monday and Thursday: Closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

### 7.1.8. Galata Tower

Dating back to the 13th century, The Galata Tower offers a 360-degree view of the Bosphorus junction of Golden Horn. This 220-foot stone tower was once the highest point in the city. Also known as the Tower of Christ, the building now has a café and a restaurant where you can enjoy some traditional Turkish dishes.

Address : Bereketzade Mahallesi, Galata Kulesi, 34421 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34421

Location : 41.0255973, 28.9741133

Contact : +90 212 293 81 80

Website : <http://www.galatakulesi.org/>

Nearest Public Transport : Şişhane metro station

Entry Fee : 10 TRY per person

Open & Close Timing : Daily: 09:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.9. Museum Of Innocence

Located near the Galatasaray light rail station, the Museum of Innocence is a unique museum that displays objects and artefacts depicting the culture and lifestyle of the upper class in Istanbul. Designed by a Turkish author named Orhan Pamuk and his wife based on his famous novel named 'Museum of Innocence' which highlights the story of a wealthy Istanbul man named Kemal who falls in love with his poor cousin. The museum displays the artefacts of their love story.

Address : Firuzaga, Dalgic ck. No: 2, 34425 Beyoğlu/Istanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34425

Location : 41.0308529, 28.979779399999984

Contact : +90-2122529738

Website : <http://tr.masumiyetmuzesi.org/>

Nearest Public Transport : Galatasaray tram station

Entry Fee : Adults: 25 TRY Students: 10 TRY Annual Unlimited Pass: 100 TRY

Audio Guide in Turkish and English: 5 TRY per visitor

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to Sunday: 10:00hrs-18:00hrs Thursday: 10:00hrs-21:00hrs Monday: Closed

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.10. Turkish And Islamic Arts Museum

Situated next to the famous 'Blue Mosque', the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum houses collections of Islamic art, calligraphy, rugs, tiles and many such artefacts that belong to the Ottoman (14th to 20th century) and earlier periods. Visit this museum to expand your knowledge base on the culture of the country.

Address : Sultanahmet Mh., Meydanı Sok. No: 46, 34122 Istanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34122

Location : 41.0062236, 28.974720100000013

Contact : +90-2125181805

Website : <http://www.istanbul.gov.tr/Default.aspx?pid=305>

Nearest Public Transport : Sultanahmet tram station

Entry Fee : 20 TRY

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Sunday: 09:00hrs-16:30hrs Monday: Closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

### 7.1.11. Aynalikavak Palace

Surrounded by a beautiful garden, the Aynalikavak Palace was built in the 16th century and since then has gone through a number of renovations. Known for its ancient Ottoman-styled architecture, the palace also houses a museum which displays a number of musical instruments from different eras.

Address : Camiikebir Mh., 34440 Beyoglu/Istanbul Province, Turkey

Zipcode : 34440

Location : 41.038092, 28.955594099999985

Contact : +90 212 256 97 50

Website : <http://www.millisaraylar.gov.tr/portalmain/Palaces.aspx?SarayId=3>

Nearest Public Transport : Aynalikavak bus station

Entry Fee : 5 TRY per person

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to Sunday: 09:00hrs-17:00hrs Monday and Thursday: Closed

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.12. Istanbul Military Musuem

Also known by the name ‘War Soldiers Museum’, the museum is known to exhibit Istanbul’s military history for over a century, from of the time of Constantinople to Ottoman. You can witness a number of weapons, uniforms and equipment that were used in war by the soldiers of Istanbul. Also, the museum’s garden displays medieval cannons and helicopters from the Turkish Independence War.

Address : Mecidiyeköy Mahallesi, Valikonağı Caddesi Harbiye Askeri Bölge Komutanlığı No:2, 34367 Şişli/İstanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34367

Location : 41.0491784, 28.988102099999992

Contact : +90-2122332720

Website : <http://www.askerimuze.tsk.tr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Harbiye bus station

Entry Fee : 3 TRY per person

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Sunday: 08:00hrs-17:00hrs Monday: Closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No





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### 7.2. Free

#### 7.2.1. Sultan Ahmed Mosque

The Sultan Ahmed Mosque is popularly known as the Blue Mosque for its distinctive interior decoration of Iznik style ceramic blue tiles. One of the only two mosques in the city adorned with 6 minarets, the Blue Mosque is a 400-year-old structure that was constructed in 1616 during the reign of Ahmed I. One of the largest mosques in Istanbul, this active place of worship consists of a hospice, a tomb and a madrasa, and is closed to non-worshippers for close to an hour during the 5 daily prayers.

Address : Sultan Ahmet Mahallesi, Atmeydanı Cd. No:7, 34122 Fatih/Istanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34122

Location : 41.0054096, 28.976813799999945

Contact : +90-2124584468

Website : <http://sultanahmetcamii.org/>

Nearest Public Transport : Sultanahmet tram station

Open & Close Timing : Saturday to Thursday: 08:30hrs-11:30hrs, 13:00hrs-14:30hrs, 15:30hrs-16:45hrs Friday: 13:30hrs-14:30hrs; 15:30hrs-16:45hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.2.2. Kariye Museum (The Chora Church)

Kariye Museum, also known as the Chora Museum, is located in the small town of Fener. Built in the 16th century during the Ottoman Era, the museum's interior is adorned with explicit mosaics and frescos that are preserved till date from the Ottoman period. One of the most beautiful masterpieces, The 'Anastasis Fresco' is being displayed in the museum in its original condition.

Address : Kariye Camii Sokak, No: 26 Edirnekapi, Istanbul 34087, Turkey

Zipcode : 34087

Location : 41.031205, 28.939188299999955

Contact : +902126319241

Website : <http://kariye.muze.gov.tr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Edernekapi bus station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: 09:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.3. Rustem Pasha Mosque

Built in the 16th century by the well-known Ottoman architect 'Mimar Sinan', Rustem Pasha Mosque is generally regarded as a miniature version of the Sultan Ahmed Mosque (Blue Mosque) because of the similarity of the interior designed with blue Iznik ceramic tiles and explicit chandeliers. Located in the middle of the city's ever-busy Tahtakale market, the mosque is the epitome of Istanbul's architecture. Note: The mosque is currently closed for renovation and will re-open soon.

Address : Rustem Pasa, 34116 Fatih/Istanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34116

Location : 41.0176721, 28.968872799999986

Nearest Public Transport : Eminonu bus station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: 10:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.4. Sultanahmet Square

Earlier known as The Hippodrome of Constantinople, this place was a circus that was the social centre of Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire. Today it the Sultanahmet Square is surrounded by historical and architectural buildings with very few pieces of the original structure surviving. This open-air venue is a perfect place to spend your free time while enjoying some local treats.

Address : Binbirdirek, Sultan Ahmet Parkı No: 2, 34122 Fatih/Istanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34122

Location : 41.0073239, 28.978152899999994

Nearest Public Transport : Sultanahmet tram station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.5. Eyup Sultan Mosque (Eyup Sultan Camii)

Situated on the coast near the Eyup Port terminal, Eyup Sultan Mosque is said to be of historical significance for the locals, since the mosque houses a tomb of Abu Ayyub al-Ansari who served in Prophet Mohammed's army as a sanjak. The interior of the mausoleum is beautifully decorated with Turkish Iznik tiles and is known to be one of the major destinations in Istanbul.

Address : Islambey, Eyup Sultan Bulvarı, Eyup Sultan Meydanı, 34050 Eyup/Istanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34050

Location : 41.0479889, 28.933849699999996

Contact : +90 212 544 14 16

Website : <http://istanbul.diyamet.gov.tr/eyup/Sayfalar/home.aspx>

Nearest Public Transport : Teleferik bus station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: 09:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.6. Kucuk Ayasofya Camii (Church of the Saints Sergius and Bacchus)

Located in the city centre, Kucuk Ayasofya is also known as the 'Little Hagia Sophia' because of its similarity to the architecture of the original Sophia Hagia, but just a little smaller in size. Dedicated to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country in Syria in 303 AD, the church was named as Church of the Saints Sergius and Bacchus and later transformed into a mosque during the rule of the Ottoman Empire.

Address : Kucuk Ayasofya Mh., 34122 Fatih/Istanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34122

Location : 41.0027259, 28.972200199999975

Contact : +90 212 227 4480

Nearest Public Transport : İETT Çatladı Kapı Durağı bus station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: 09:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.7. New Valide Sultan Mosque

New Valide Sultan Mosque often referred to as New Mosque isn't as recent as the name suggests; it was constructed on the orders of Sultan Mehmet III between 1597 and 1663. The construction of the mosque was stopped when Sultan Mehmet III died and his mother was dethroned. Later in 1663, the mosque was completed by Queen Mother Turhan Hatice.

Address : Rüstem Paşa Mahallesi, Rüstem Paşa Mh., Eminönü, 34116 Fatih/İstanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34116

Location : 41.0169862, 28.97195940000006

Nearest Public Transport : Eminonu tram station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: 09:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.8. Mihrimah Sultan Mosque

Designed in the 15th century by 'Princess Mihrimah', daughter of Suleiman, the mosque consists of graves of the family members of Princess Mihrimah. Mihrimah Sultan Complex accommodates a double Turkish bath, a madrassa and numerous shops.

Address : Karagumruk Mh., 34091 Fatih/İstanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34091

Location : 41.0292248, 28.93576870000004

Nearest Public Transport : Edirnekapı bus station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: 09:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.9. Greek Othodox Patriarchate

The Greek Orthodox Church also known as St. George Church is one of the most sacred patriarchates since the 16th century in the world. Officially the seat of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, this holy church attracts a large number of pilgrims from Greece for Sunday mass, especially during Easter time.

Address : Istanbul, Yavuz Sultan Selim, 34083 Fatih/İstanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34083

Location : 41.0289855, 28.951968299999976  
Contact : +90 212 531 96 70  
Nearest Public Transport : Fener bus station  
Open & Close Timing : Daily: 09:00hrs-17:30hrs  
Time Required : 1  
Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.10. Maiden's Tower

This legendary byzantine tower on Bosphorus Strait 200 meters away from coastline was initially a lighthouse, which is now converted into a restaurant, with a spellbinding view. A number of Hollywood movies including one from the James Bond series was shot at this location.

Address : Uskudar Salacak Mevkii, 34668 Uskudar/Istanbul, Turkey  
Zipcode : 34668

Location : 41.0211216, 29.004110500000024

Contact : +90-2163424747

Website : <http://www.kizkulesi.com.tr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Maiden's tower bus station

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: 09:15hrs-06:45hrs Saturday, Sunday: 10:00hrs-18:45hrs and 20:15hrs-00:30hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.11. Ortakoy

The town of Ortakoy, meaning middle village, offers a picturesque view of the Bosphorus Strait. You can enjoy fishing and an invigorating day trip around the town in the morning and also visit some of the pulsating nightclubs, restaurants and entertainment areas that are known to be amongst the best in the country.

Address : Ortakoy, 34347 Besiktas/Istanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34347

Location : 41.076661000000001, 28.4158730000000033

Nearest Public Transport : Ortakoy bus station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.12. Cevahir AVM

Also known as the Istanbul Cevahir Shopping and Entertainment Centre, this is one of the largest malls in the world that accommodates a plethora of international brands and food chains.

Address : Ömer Avni Mh., Büyükdere Cd. No:22, 34360 Şişli/İstanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34360

Location : 41.0632167, 28.992677599999998

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.13. Zorlu Centre

Located in central Istanbul, Zorlu Centre is a shopping mall with over 194 stores of various brands like Burberry, Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger and many such brands. The shopping mall also offers 14 movie theatre screens of which 2 are VIP theatres, and is now famous as the meeting venue in Istanbul for most of the locals.

Address : Kuruçeşme Mahallesi, Kuru Sk. No:2, 34345 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34345

Location : 41.0662635, 29.017091299999997

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.14. Kanyon

Located in the commercial district of Istanbul, Kanyon is a huge shopping mall with over 150 stores housing numerous brands. This shopping mall is a one-stop destination for catering to all your shopping needs.

Address : Esentepe Mahallesi, No:185, Büyükdere Cd., 34394 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34394

Location : 41.0783427, 29.012132599999997

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.15. Metrocity

Zipcode : 0

Location : 41.076025, 29.0137600000000048

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.16. The Grand Bazaar

The Grand Bazaar is a gigantic shopping spot with more than 6,000 enclosed shops selling carpets, jewelry, souvenirs and many more items. However, prices are high as it is mostly frequented by foreign tourists.

Address : Beyazıt Mh., 34126 Fatih/İstanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34126

Location : 41.0106848, 28.968068099999982

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.17. İstiklal Caddesi

Located in the Beyoğlu district of Istanbul, İstiklal Caddesi is one of the most famous and crowded streets in the city. This shopping street is cluttered with a number of famous Turkish and international brands. This street is the perfect place to shop for souvenirs and jewelry.

Address : İstiklal Avenue

Zipcode : 34433

Location : 40.938047999999999, 29.126344000000017

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.18. Bağdat Caddesi

Lined with huge shopping malls, luxurious boutiques and top international brands, Bağdat Caddesi is one of the prime locations for shopping in Istanbul. This 14-kilometer vast street is a great place to spend a day, strolling and shopping in the numerous stores ranging from luxurious brands like Michael Kors



to local brands like Vakko.

Address : Bağdat Cd,İstanbul,Turkey

Zipcode : 34840

Location : 40.9792855, 29.044859099999994

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.19. Harbiye Mahallesi

Zipcode : 0

Location : 41.049522, 28.9920680000000017

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.20. Nispetiye Caddesi

Zipcode : 0

Location : 41.0757858, 29.0200067000000067

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



### 7.2.21. Nuruosmaniye Caddesi

If you are looking for classic Turkish carpets, antiques, furniture, textile and jewelry, then you must visit Nuruosmaniye Caddesi. Armaggan, a huge store sprawling across 7 floors offers craft and art depicting the culture of Istanbul.

Address : Molla Fenari Mah., Vezirhan Cad., 34126 Fatih/İstanbul, Turkey

Zipcode : 34126

Location : 41.010104, 28.969938400000046

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



**Index****8. Key sites sports & adventure**

Istanbul offers a range of outdoor activities like skiing, paragliding, trekking, water sports, etc.

- **Hiking -**

Address : Meclis-i Mebusan Cad., Beyoğlu/Istanbul - Europe, Turkey,  
34425

Location : 41.028124299999,28.9841561

Nearest Public Transport : Tophane-tram station

Open / Close Time : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2.00



## Index

### 9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

As with any part of Turkey, football is the most popular sport in Istanbul. Its team has been national champions several times. Basketball is also a much favored sport with seven teams that play in league games. There are many sailing and racing clubs in the province that host races and shows every year. There are many sports venues and stadiums all over Istanbul, like Bahçelievler Stadium, Ahmet Cömert Sport Hall, Atatürk Olympic Stadium, Sinan Erdem Dome, and Istanbul Park.

- **Atatürk Olimpiyat Stadyumu:**

Address : Ziya Gökalp Mah., Olimpiyat Stadı Yolu No:1, İkitelli/İstanbul, Turkey, 34306

Location : 41.07447070000001,28.76568420000001

Contact No : +90 (212) 413 3000

Website : <http://www.ataturkolimpiyatstadi.net/>

- **Türk Telekom Arena:**

Address : Türk Telekom Arena Stadyumu, İstanbul, Turkey, 34396

Location : 41.1037508,28.989468100000067

## 10. Spas and relaxation

- **Pera Spa:**

Address : Pera Palace Hotel Jumeirah No. 52, Tepebaşı, Meşrutiyet Cd., 34430 Beyoğlu/ İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 41.0311308,28.973571799999945

Contact No : +90 212 377 4000

Website : [http://www.jumeirah.com/en/hotels-resorts/istanbul/pera-palace-hotel-jumeirah/spa/pera-spa/?cm\\_mmc=Google+Places\\_-\\_Istanbul\\_-\\_PPHJ\\_-\\_Pera+Spa](http://www.jumeirah.com/en/hotels-resorts/istanbul/pera-palace-hotel-jumeirah/spa/pera-spa/?cm_mmc=Google+Places_-_Istanbul_-_PPHJ_-_Pera+Spa)

- **The Marmara Taksim:**

Address : Taksim Meydani, 34437 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 41.036322,28.986378999999943

Contact No : +90 212 334 8300

Website : <http://www.themarmarahotels.com/the-marmara-taksim-hotel.aspx>

- **Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa:**

Address : Aydinli Mah., Hasan Tokatli Sok. No:13, 34953 Aydınlı / Tuzla/İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 40.876743,29.316276000000016

Contact No : +90 216 560 6000

Website : <https://www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-istanbul-tuzla>

## 11. Events calendar

### Month

### Events

**Karde? Türküler and Candan Erçetin @ ?? Sanat Cultural Center (26th)**

**A folk group performing cultural songs including Assyrian, Georgian, Circassian, Laz and Azeri.**

**Benny Greb's Moving Parts @ COOP (6th)**

**It is the live performance of Drum Master Benny Greb featuring songs of his album Benny Greb's Moving Parts.**

**Mode XL + Kabus Kerim @ Babylon (5th)**

**The reggae sounds of Turkish are beautifully mixed with Mode XL's music.**

**National Sovereignty and Children's Day (23rd)**

**Folk dance performances by Macedonia children on the streets.**

**Tanburi Cemil Bey Centenary Memorial Concert @ Pera Museum (7th)**

**The classical music of the beautiful Turkish soul is profoundly enjoyed at this event.  
Dropout Festival: Die Antwoord  
@ KüçükÇiftlik Park (5th)**

**Die Antwood relishes the unbeatable hip-hop genre with rap-rave music.**

**Rock Off festival 2016 @  
Parkorman (10th)**

**It is one of the main events in the heavy metal list of the city's calendar.**

**Ethnosport Culture Festival @  
Bezirganbahçe Square in  
Küçükçekmece (26th – 28th)**

**It showcases the international Turkic sports.**

**Jazz at Sea: Ferit Odman @  
Kuruçeşme Park (3rd)**

**Ferit Odman, the Jazz drummer is lighting up the mood of the city.**

**3rd Istanbul Coffee Festival @  
KüçükÇiftlik Park (06th)**

**Showcasing the finest choices and ranges of coffee and its interesting tastes.**

**Istanbul Book Fair @ Tüyap Fair,**

## **Convention and Congress Center (12th)**

**The latest and the most  
renowned variety of books  
available as collection here.**



**Index****12. Key local guides and tours**

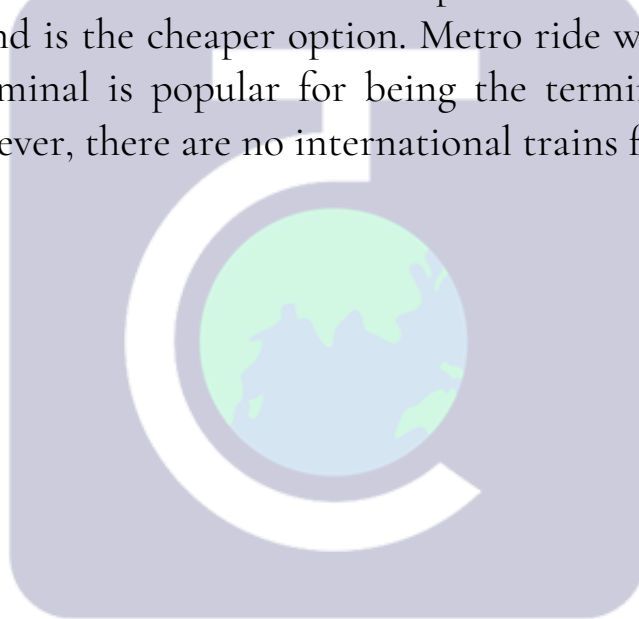
Istanbul has some excellent tour operating companies and licensed individual guides to take you to the places of your taste and budget. You can enjoy private tours, food – culinary tours, local guide tours, tours to have the best Turkish flavors, cruise tours, yacht private day tours, walking tour, culture tour and many more. The usual price starts from 56 TRY and goes up to 300 TRY.



## Index

### 13. Transportation hubs

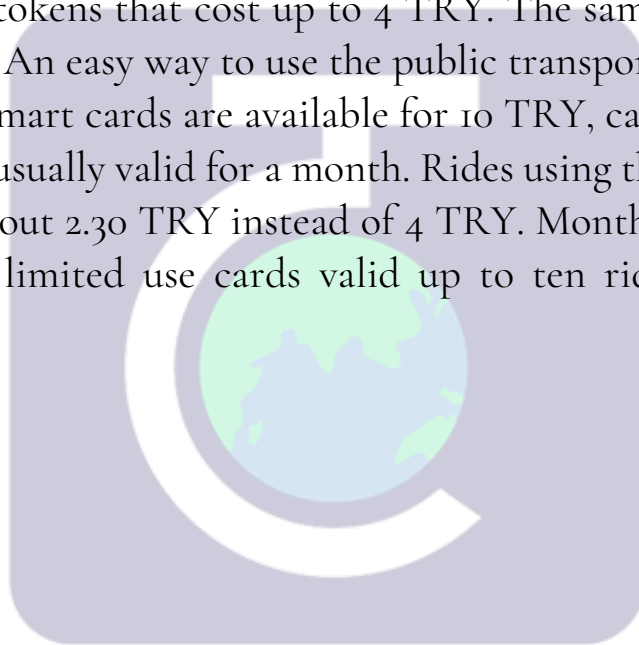
The Istanbul Ataturk Airport is 24 km away from the heart of the city. Passengers can take taxi, airport shuttle bus, metro, or municipality buses to reach the city centre. Taxis cost around 60 TRY and the fare remains the same throughout the day without any extra fare at night and can take around 30 minutes. The airport bus service called Havatas runs every half hour from 4 am to midnight and the fare is 11 TRY to downtown destinations. The public bus service charges 5 TRY for the same route and is the cheaper option. Metro ride will cost about 3 TRY. Istanbul Sirkeci Terminal is popular for being the terminus of the legendary Orient Express. However, there are no international trains from this terminal.





## 14. Transportation cost

Public transport in the city is managed by the bus system, metro lines, trams, minivans called Dolmus, and ferries. The city-owned IETT buses charge less than 3 TRY for intercity destinations. The Dolmush fare is slightly more than the buses at about 5 TRY. Taxis are very expensive and the rate starts at 3.20 TRY and 2.00 TRY for each extra kilometer. When travelling by the metro, the passenger has to get tokens that cost up to 4 TRY. The same tokens can be used for tram service also. An easy way to use the public transport system is to get the Istanbulkart. These smart cards are available for 10 TRY, can be charged with up to 300 TRY, and are usually valid for a month. Rides using this card cost less than the normal fare at about 2.30 TRY instead of 4 TRY. Monthly pass is available at 170 TRY. However, limited use cards valid up to ten rides do not have this benefit.



## 15. Baggage allowance

When travelling from the airport to the city centre by the airport shuttle bus service, there is no extra luggage cost. And, public transport systems in Istanbul do not charge any baggage fees from the passengers. If you have bicycles to be transported by long-haul buses, they are carried free of cost provided the cycle can be folded to be kept in the luggage compartment.



## Index

### 16. Restaurant & Nightlife

Most of the restaurants are located near the Kariye Museum and Sultanahmet of the Old City. You shall find right from taverns to Ottoman restaurants here.

#### Food -

Most of the restaurants are located near the Kariye Museum and Sultanahmet of the Old City. You shall find right from taverns to Ottoman restaurants here.

- **Kuruçeşme Mahallesi:**

Address : Kuruçeşme, 34345 Beşiktaş / İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 41.064683,29.0321650999999

Contact No : +90 212 358 2929

Website : <http://www.ulus29.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 18:00hrs-02:00hrs

- **Asitane Restaurant:**

Address : Derviş Ali Mh., Kariye Cami Sk. No:6, 34087 Edirnekapı/Fatih/İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 41.0309665,28.938911700

Contact No : +90 212 635 7997

Website : <http://www.asitanerestaurant.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Eleos Restaurant:**

Address : İstiklal Cd. No: 231, 34420 İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 41.0294158,28.975370300

Contact No : +90 212 244 9090

Website : <http://www.eleosrestaurant.com/>

Open / Close Time : Monday to Saturday – 14:30hrs-02:00hrs; Sunday – 14:30hrs-00:00hrs

- **Meze By Lemon Tree:**

Address : Meşrutiyet Cd. 83/B, Şişhane/İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 41.0308413,28.9738333999999

Contact No : +90 212 252 8302

Website : <http://www.mezze.com.tr/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 06:00hrs-01:00hrs

- **Mikla:**

Address : Meşrutiyet Cd. No: 15, 34430 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 41.0310092,28.974149899

Contact No : +90 212 293 5656

Website : <http://www.miklarestaurant.com/en>

Open / Close Time : Monday to Saturday – 18:00hrs-02:00hrs; Sunday Closed

- **Leb-i Derya:**

Address : Şahkulu Mah., Kumbaracı Ykş. No: 57, 34425 Tünel/Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 41.028679,28.976378000

Contact No : +90 212 293 4989

Website : <http://www.lebiderya.com/>

Open / Close Time : Sunday to Thursday – 16:00hrs-01:00hrs; Friday and Saturday – 16:00hrs-03:00hrs

- **Çiya Sofras?:**

Address : Caferağa, Güneşli Bahçe Sk. No: 43, Kadıkoy/İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 40.989339,29.024401000

Contact No : +90 216 330 3190

Website : <http://www.ciya.com.tr/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **?ile:**

Address : Muhsine Hatun, Telli Odaları Sk. No: 5, 34122 istanbul/Fatih/İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 41.177951,29.6203390000000

Contact No : +90 212 516 4002

Website : <http://www.fenerrestaurant.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-1:30hrs

- **Indigo:**

Address : Tomtom Mah. Istiklal Cd. Akarsu Sk. No:1-2-4-5,, İstiklal Caddesi, 34433 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 41.032581,28.977037999

Contact No : +90 212 244 8567

Website : <http://indigo-istanbul.com/>

Open / Close Time : Friday and Saturday 23:00hrs-05:00hrs

- **Reina:**

Address : Ortaköy, Muallim Naci Cd. No: 44, 34347 Beşiktaş/İstanbul,

Turkey

Location : 41.0501,29.032199999

Contact No : +90 212 259 5919

Website : <http://www.reina.com.tr/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-16:00hrs

- **Supperclub:**

Address : Ortaköy Mh., Muallim Naci Cd No:65, Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Turkey

Location : 41.0500022,29.030854999



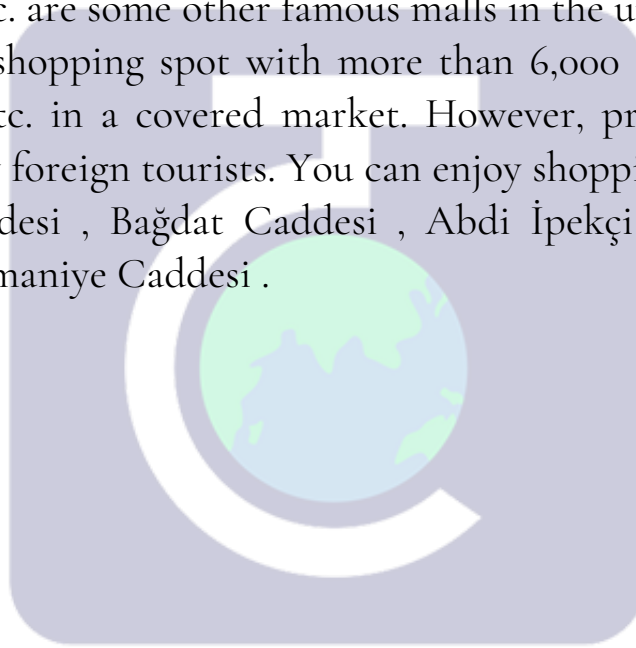
**Index****17. Average meal cost**

The meal is approximately 17 TRY at inexpensive restaurants. A 2 people meal with a three-course is served at 70 TRY. McDonalds McMeals are available at 15 TRY. Imported beer with 0.33 litre bottle can be purchased at 7.96 TRY whereas domestic beer is available at 6 TRY. A mid-range bottle of wine is priced for 30 TRY and a 1.5 litre bottle of water is offered at 1.52 TRY.



## 18. Shopping

Istanbul is a shopper's paradise with all types of products and shops that can suit your budget. For a wholesome shopping experience, there are many upscale and modern malls in the city. The Istanbul Cevahir Shopping and Entertainment Centre is one of the largest shopping malls in the world and many international brands and food chains have their presence here. Zorlu Centre , Kanyon , MetroCity AVM , etc. are some other famous malls in the urban area. The Grand Bazaar is a favorite shopping spot with more than 6,000 shops selling carpets, jewelry, souvenirs, etc. in a covered market. However, prices are high as it is mostly frequented by foreign tourists. You can enjoy shopping at Istanbul streets such as İstiklal Caddesi , Bağdat Caddesi , Abdi İpekçi Caddesi , Nispetiye Caddesi and Nuruosmaniye Caddesi .





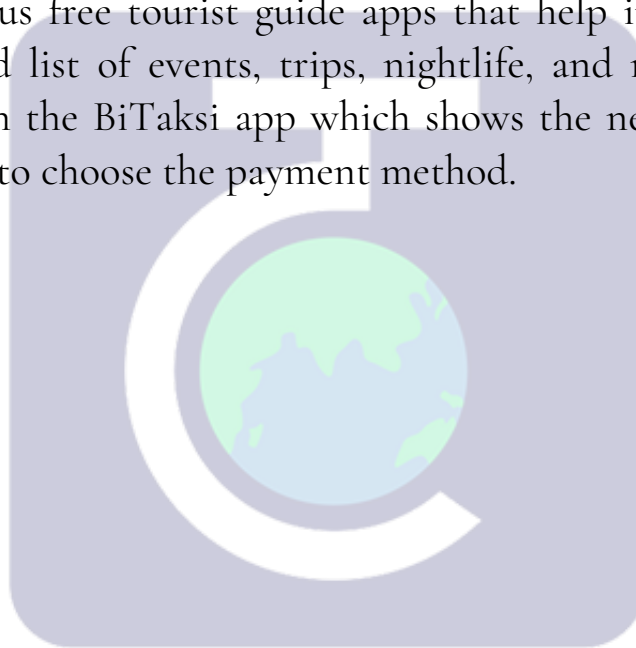
## 19. Tourist benefits

VAT refunds are available for tourists in Istanbul. The rate can range from 18% to 23%. Shops that have a Tax-Free blue sticker will offer this benefit. The refund can be claimed if you submit the necessary documents supplied by the shop before you leave Turkey. The best time for discounts in Istanbul is during the Istanbul Shopping Fest conducted annually. Tax-free shopping and special discounts are offered to foreign tourists for the 40 days when the festival is conducted. Bargaining is the best way to get discounts unless you are shopping in big malls or luxury shops. Prices will usually come down to half the price quoted by the sellers if you keep on bargaining.



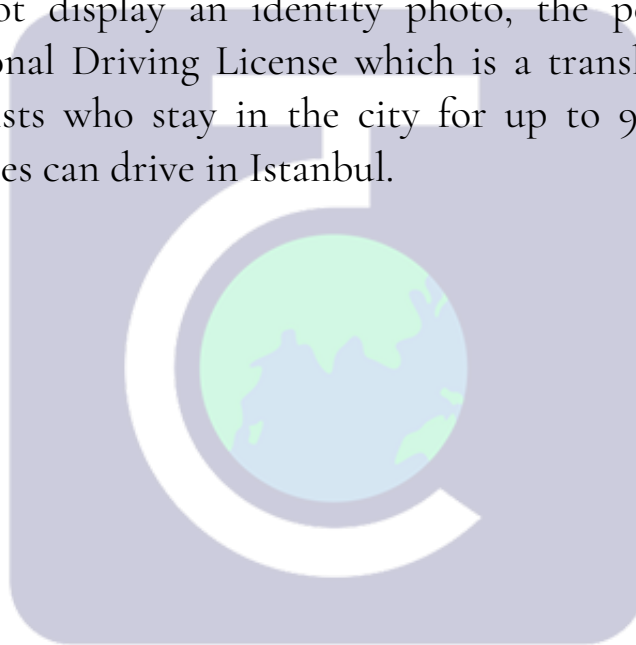
## 20. Essential local apps

There are many local travel apps that can help you in exploring Istanbul on your own. For a complete street view with maps and webcam views, check out the Yandex app. It get regular updates on traffic and is available in English. If public transport is your favorite mode of transit, get the TrafiTurkey with a list of routes, directions, time, and fares of each type of transport. It is a multi-lingual app. There are various free tourist guide apps that help in getting around the place with a detailed list of events, trips, nightlife, and much more. Get taxi service instantly with the BiTaksi app which shows the nearest taxi driver and also gives the option to choose the payment method.



## 21. Driving

If you are planning to drive around in Istanbul, it is necessary to have a valid driving license. National Driving Licenses of certain European countries and an International Driving license are valid in Istanbul. If the driver's license that the passenger has from his country of origin is printed in Latin alphabet, there is no need to get an International Driving License/Permit. If the license is not in Latin alphabet or does not display an identity photo, the person has to get an additional International Driving License which is a translation of the original one. Normally, tourists who stay in the city for up to 90 days holding valid foreign driving licenses can drive in Istanbul.



## 22. Travel essentials

The output voltage of Istanbul is 220 volts and runs at a frequency of 50 Hz. The plugs are European styled and have round prongs. You shall need a plug adapter or a power adapter if the electronic appliances that you have brought are unable to fit in the offered socket. Moreover, as the output voltage is 220 volts, it is required that you check the voltage your electronic equipment can hold. If any of the devices run at a lower voltage, try having a voltage converter or a transformer for reliability.



## 23. Essential clothes

The output voltage of Istanbul is 220 volts and runs at a frequency of 50 Hz. The plugs are European styled and have round prongs. You shall need a plug adapter or a power adapter if the electronic appliances that you have brought are unable to fit in the offered socket. Moreover, as the output voltage is 220 volts, it is required that you check the voltage your electronic equipment can hold. If any of the devices run at a lower voltage, try having a voltage converter or a transformer for reliability.



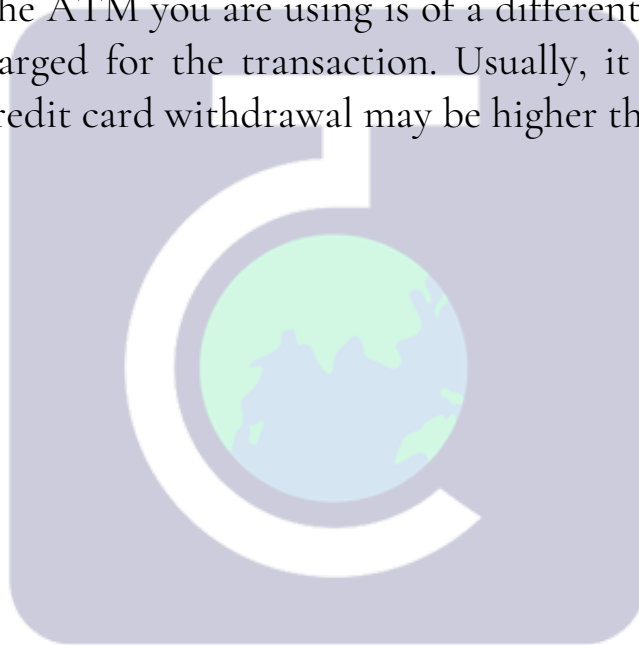
## 24. Local currency

The local currency of the city of Istanbul is Turkish Lira. It is coded as TRY. 1 USD = 2.94 TRY



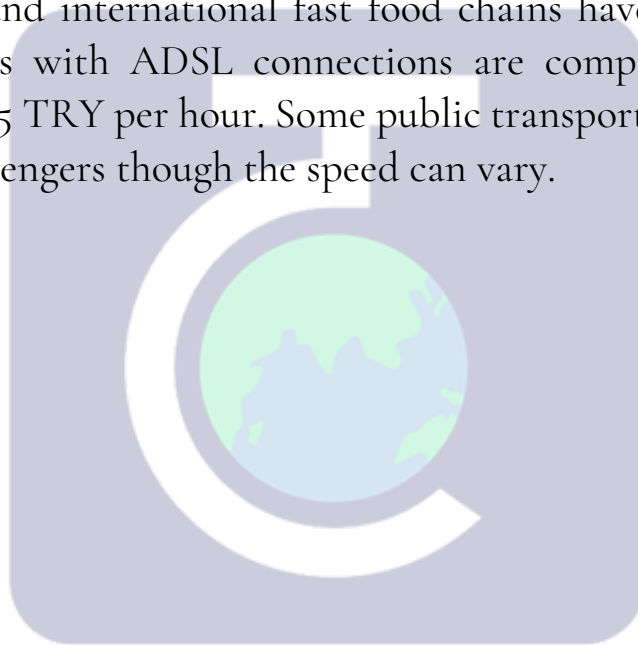
## 25. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

Currency exchange is easy in Istanbul as there are plenty of exchanges and banks that offer the best rates and charge a commission of around 3%. Exchange offices are preferred for a hassle free process. Some big supermarkets accept foreign currency but on a lower rate. There are many ATMs in Istanbul that accept a foreign card. When the card is inserted, the user will be asked to choose the desired language. If the ATM you are using is of a different bank than your card provider, a fee is charged for the transaction. Usually, it is 1% of the amount withdrawn. Fee for credit card withdrawal may be higher than this.



## 26. Staying connected

Major mobile network kiosks in airport and shops in and around the city sell prepaid SIM cards for about 30 TRY and with your passport photocopies. Prepaid cards of Vodafone, Avea, and Turkcell are available at the airport. All providers have almost similar talk-time and data plans. iPhone users will have to download Turkish script to use their phones. Many cafes, restaurants, bars, rental apartments, hotels, and international fast food chains have free Wi-Fi internet access. Internet cafes with ADSL connections are comparatively inexpensive charging 1 TRY to 105 TRY per hour. Some public transport systems also provide free wi-fi for the passengers though the speed can vary.





## 27. Time Zone

The city of Istanbul follows Eastern European Time Zone with UTC + 02:00 hours.



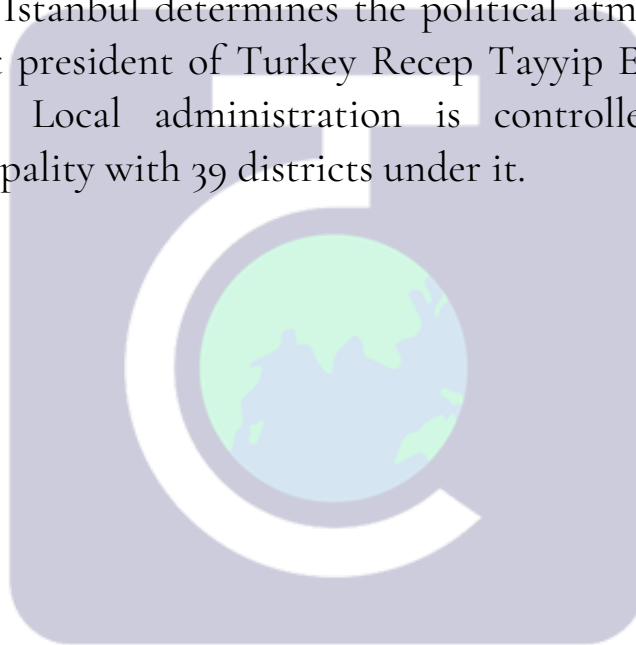
## 28. Languages

Turkish is one of the widely used languages across the entire city of Istanbul. Neo-Eastern Aramaic is the following language.



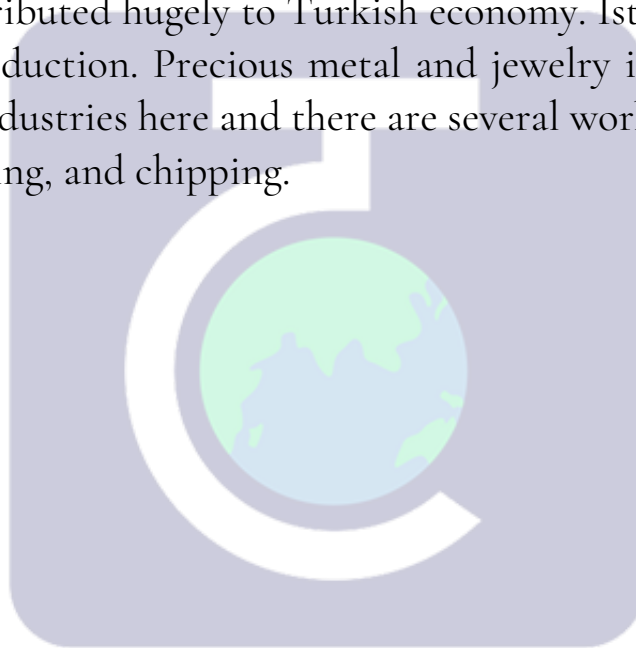
**Index****29. Political Scenario**

The major political force in Istanbul is the right-wing Justice and Development Party (AKP) which is also the ruling party in the city with Kadir Topbas as the Mayor of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. The Republican People's Party (CHP) led by the current Member of Parliament Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu is the second powerful political presence in Istanbul. Being the city in Turkey, the electoral decision of Istanbul determines the political atmosphere of the entire country. The current president of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was a former Mayor of Istanbul. Local administration is controlled by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality with 39 districts under it.



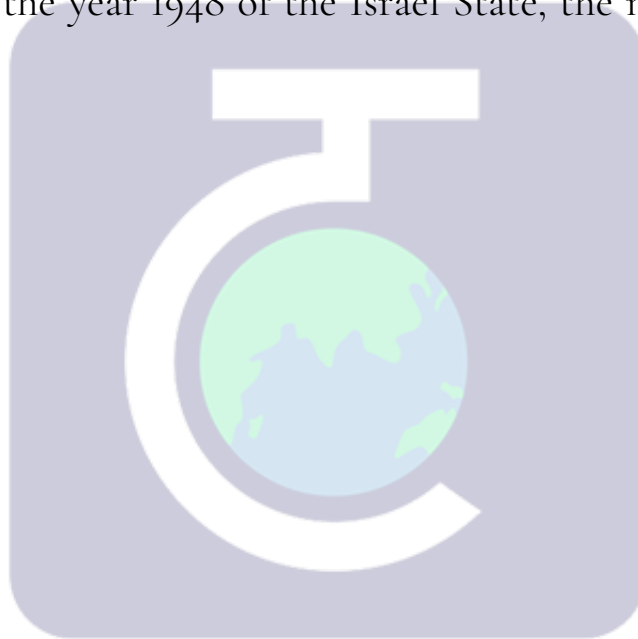
### 30. Economic Scenario

Istanbul's booming economy is credited to its industrial force. The city has a high population and most of them work in industries ranging from oil and gas, vehicles, electronics, food, metals and minerals, and export. Commodities such as olive oil and tobacco form a substantial part of its production industry. The Istanbul Gold Exchange serves as a medium to trade gold in the international market and has contributed hugely to Turkish economy. Istanbul is the centre of gold and jewelry production. Precious metal and jewelry industry is one of the largest production industries here and there are several workshops that specialize in gem cutting, forming, and chipping.



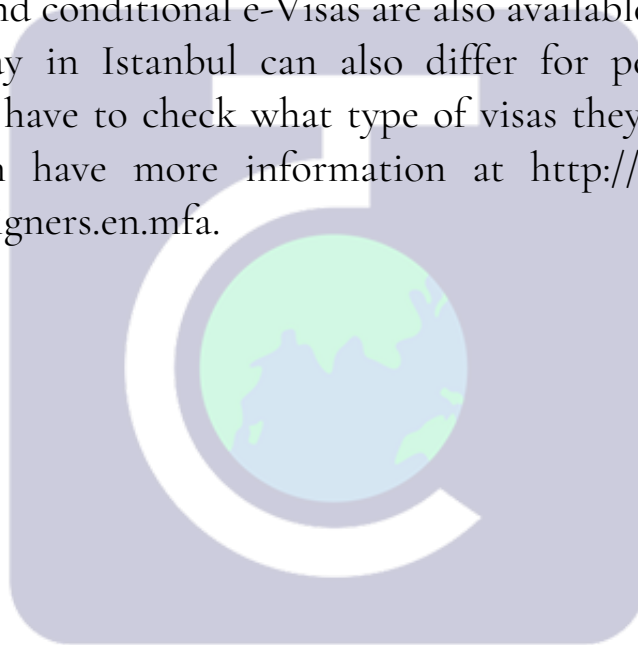
**Index****31. Religious belief**

The city boasts Sephardic Jews, Catholic Levantines, Armenian Christians and Greek Orthodox Christians in minority. The modern Istanbul community is supported by various communities. Islam is the major and the most populous religion here. For over 500 years, The Sephardic Jews has been residing in Istanbul. The Ottoman Empire was set to power by these Sephardic Jews. After the independence in the year 1948 of the Israel State, the number of Jews saw a downfall.



## 32. Visa requirements

The Turkish visa policy is very complicated. Different types of visas are available to enter Istanbul or Turkey in general depending on the passport type, country, and purpose of visit. No visa is needed for people with EU Schengen passport. Visa-free stay for a fixed period is possible for people from specific countries. Some countries are given single-entry visa while some others can obtain multiple-entry visas. e-Visas and conditional e-Visas are also available to certain nationals. The duration of stay in Istanbul can also differ for people from different countries. Travellers have to check what type of visas they need before making the travel. You can have more information at <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>.



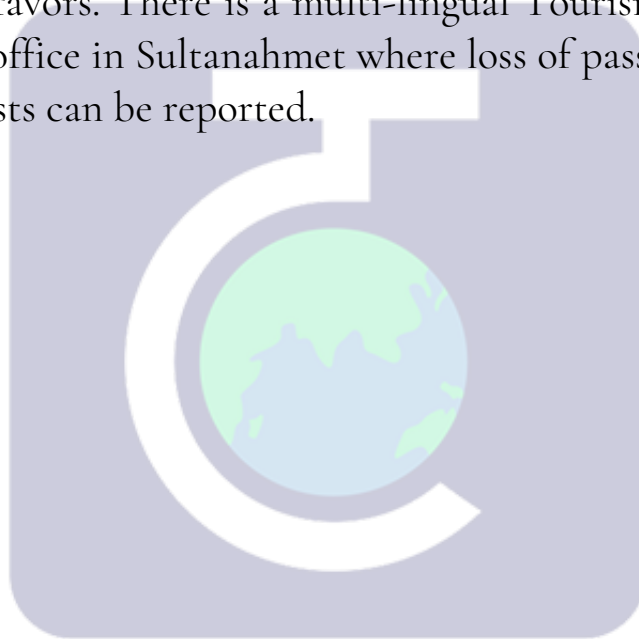
**Index****33. Essential vaccination**

You need to be vaccinated with the routine vaccines, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Hepatitis B, Rabies and Malaria.



### 34. Theft and Safety

One of the problems that tourists have to be cautious about is taxi scams in Istanbul. Taking longer routes to increase the fare, manipulating the meter, switching high value money for lower ones or originals for fake bills, etc. are very common. Another issue is overpricing in street cafes. Stalking of foreign women is also to be expected in some tourist spots. This could either be for stealing money or for sexual favors. There is a multi-lingual Tourism Police Department in Istanbul with the office in Sultanahmet where loss of passport, theft and other crimes towards tourists can be reported.





### **35. Embassy/Consulate**

Istanbul being the main city of Turkey, there are many embassies and consulates spread throughout. Most of them are located at Ulus, Sisli, Yenikoy, Beshiktash and similar other areas. You can have more information at <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/turkey>.



## 36. Accessibility

There is various accessibility services offered in Istanbul. Right from steep ramps to cobblestones, the city is well-reserved for differently abled people.



## 37. Emergencies

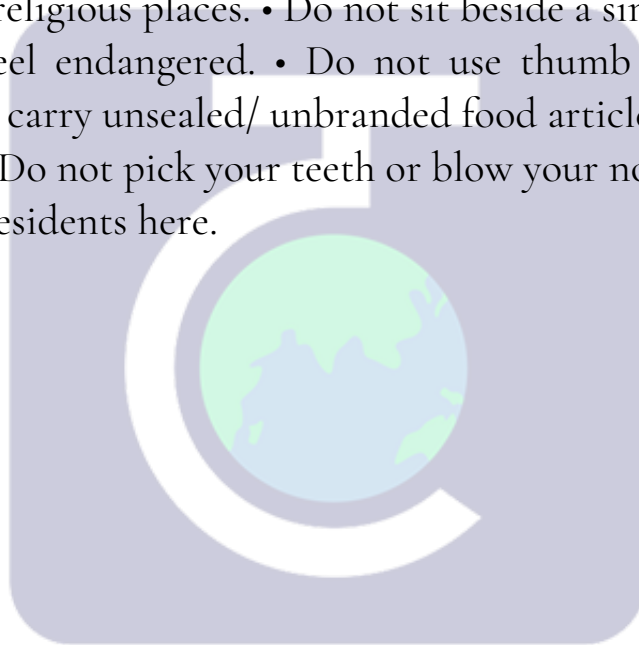
It is always necessary to have emergency numbers while traveling to any new country or place. For Istanbul, dial 112 for ambulance, 110 for fire, 155 for police and 177 for forest fire. American Hospital is the biggest medical park in the city that accepts medical insurance.



## Index

### 38. Do's and Don'ts

Do's – • Bargaining is important here. • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance. • It is necessary for women to dress modestly by covering their body and hair. • The Turkish male residents may only talk to your male companion. • You are required to pay the entire bill if you have invited the guest. Don'ts – • You should not wear shorts while visiting religious places. • Do not sit beside a single woman if you are a man. She might feel endangered. • Do not use thumb to sign 'OK'. • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/ unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import. • Do not pick your teeth or blow your nose in public places as it is impolite to the residents here.



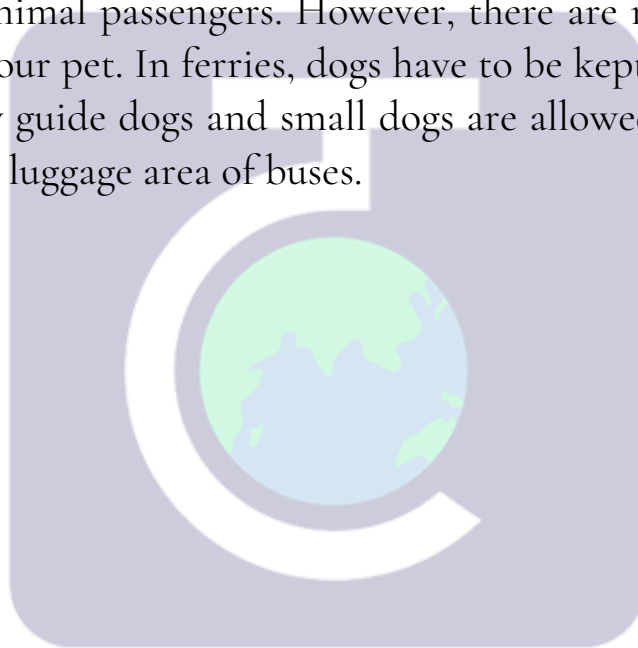
### 39.Tipping basics

There is no thumb rule for tipping in the city of Istanbul. For bars, cafes and restaurants, you can pay only 5 to 10% of the total bill. The expectations of hotel staff is around 5 to 20 TRY. The porters at airports can be paid 2 to 3 TRY. For taxis, it is better to only round up the fare instead of tipping anything extra to the driver.



## 40. Pet info

For a cat or dog or bird to enter Turkey, it has to be accompanied by required documents like rabies vaccination certificate, recent International Health Certificate, pet passport or identification card, and a document from an authorized authority declaring that the animal is more than 3 months old. Travelling within Istanbul in a taxi with your pet is not much of a problem as taxi drivers are used to animal passengers. However, there are restrictions on public transport in taking your pet. In ferries, dogs have to be kept in cages and outside the seating area, only guide dogs and small dogs are allowed in metros, and pets can travel only in the luggage area of buses.



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### Conclusion – Why to select this destination

*Why Choose Istanbul ? One of the reasons why Istanbul remains a favorite destination for tourists is its prominence in the cultural and historical map. With more than 3000 years of history and tradition, this place is a treasure chest of palaces, forts, monuments, museums, and landmarks that showcases the amazing architecture of bygone eras. No other place in the world can offer the unique experience of being in two continents within the province of a country; Europe and Asia side by side. Another attraction of Istanbul is the ample opportunities it provides for leisure and entertainment. Be it shopping or nightlife or panoramic natural beauty, Istanbul offers everything on a platter. The cool Mediterranean climate is absolutely inviting to spend an enchanted vacation in the sparkling waters and hilly landscape. Turkish food is irresistible with its mix of Eastern and Western flavors and this is listed as one of the top reasons for a visit to Istanbul. And, while in Turkey, no one can let go of an opportunity to have a Turkish bath in the traditional hamams. Hospitality of the Istanbul people cannot be left unsaid. Anyone who enters a shop or restaurant is offered the famous Turkish tea with its refreshing aroma and taste taking away all the tiredness of the day. The city offers a lot to take back home; carpets, handicrafts, pottery, exotic spices, soaps, olives, nuts, jewelry, and much more can be bought on a bargain from its famous markets. And, there is also the scope to enjoy life in a metropolitan city in luxury malls and upscale urban areas.*

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