

Istanbul City Guide



General Information
City Sites & Fun Attractions

Transportation & Malls

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information

<i>Istanbul, History Of Istanbul, When to come.....</i>	1
<i>What to wear, Currency.....</i>	2
<i>Turkish Food.....</i>	3
<i>Turkish Beverages.....</i>	4
<i>Alcohol in Turkey.....</i>	5

Transportation in Istanbul

<i>Airport Transfers.....</i>	6
<i>Public Transportation, Ferry Lines.....</i>	7
<i>Metro, Bus & Metrobus, Hop on Hop off bus.....</i>	8
<i>Dolmuş, Taxi.....</i>	9
<i>Metro & Railway Map.....</i>	10

City Sites

<i>Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace.....</i>	11
<i>Basilica Cistern, Dolmabahce Palace.....</i>	12
<i>Blue Mosque.....</i>	13
<i>Bosphorus, 90 Minutes Cruise.....</i>	14
<i>Hop on Hop Off Cruise.....</i>	15
<i>Dinner&Cruise, Throughout the Bosphorus.....</i>	16
<i>Grand Bazaar, Spice Bazaar.....</i>	17
<i>Arasta Bazaar.....</i>	18
<i>Suleymaniye Mosque, Eyupsultan Mosque.....</i>	19
<i>Rustem Pasha Mosque, Çamlıca Mosque.....</i>	20
<i>Chora Mosque.....</i>	21
<i>Galata Tower, Maiden's Tower.....</i>	22
<i>Pierre Loti Hill, Çamlıca Hill.....</i>	23
<i>Çamlıca Tower, Rumeli Fortress.....</i>	24
<i>Şerefiye Cistern, Binbirdirek Cistern.....</i>	25
<i>Archeology Museum, Beylerbeyi Palace.....</i>	26



TABLE OF CONTENTS

City Sites

<i>Miniatürk, Rahmi Koç Museum.....</i>	27
<i>Panorama 1453.....</i>	28
<i>Hagia Irene Museum, Carpet Museum.....</i>	29
<i>Mosaic Mseum, Toy Museum.....</i>	30
<i>Hisart Museum.....</i>	31
<i>Galata Mevlevi Lodge, Ural Ataman Car Museum.....</i>	32
<i>Museum of the History of Science and Tech in Islam....</i>	33
<i>Turkish and Islamica Arts Museum, İstanbul Modern...34</i>	
<i>Pera Museum, Salt Galata.....</i>	35
<i>Sakip Sabancı Museum.....</i>	36

Attractions For Fun w Family

<i>Madame Tussauds, İstanbul Aquarium.....</i>	38
<i>Sapphire Observation Deck, Isfanbul Theme Park.....</i>	39
<i>Museum of Illusions, Faruk Yalçın Zoo.....</i>	40
<i>Sealife Aquarium, Emaar Aquarium.....</i>	41
<i>Legoland, Xtrem Aventures.....</i>	42
<i>Viasea Lionpark, Jungle&Safar,&Dungeon.....</i>	43
<i>Besiktas Stadium Tour, Fenerbahce Stadium Tour.....</i>	44

Shopping Malls

<i>Cevahir Shopping Mall, İstinye Park, Kanyon.....</i>	45
<i>Zorlu Center, Emaar Square, Forum İstanbul.....</i>	46
<i>Viaport, Palladium.....</i>	47

Sample Itineraries

<i>7 Days Istanbul Itinerary Samples.....</i>	48
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General Information

Istanbul

There are some countries in the World that the capitals and the most famous cities don't match. Istanbul is one of them. Being the most famous city of Turkey, it is no more the capital of Turkish Republic. It is the center of everything in Turkey. History, economy, finance, trade and many more. That has to be reason for out of 80 million people, 15 of them choosing this city to live. What about discovering this gorgeous city unique for its location between Europe and Asia with Istanbul e-pass? There are lots to discover. Don't be late for this wonderful experience with the most customer friendly method of travel industry.

History of Istanbul

When it comes to history in this amazing city, the records are telling us that the oldest evidence of settlements are dating back to 400.000 BCE. Starting from

the Paleolithic Era to Ottoman Era, there is a continuous life in Istanbul. The main reason for such an amazing history in this city comes from its unique location between Europe and Asia. With the help of two important straits, Bosphorus and Dardanelles, it becomes a bridge between two continents. Every civilization that passes from this city left something behind. Then, what a traveler can see in this beautiful city? Starting from archeological sites to Byzantine churches, from Ottoman mosques to Jewish synagogues, from European style palaces to Turkish fortresses. Everything awaits for just two things. An ambitious traveler and Istanbul e-pass. Let the Istanbul e-pass guide you through the history and mystery of this one of a kind city in the world.

When to come

Istanbul is a tourism city throughout the year. When it comes to weather, summer starts by April and the temperatures are



Photo of Topkapi Palace from Bosphorus

General Information

good up until November. By December, the temperatures are starting to down and generally by February there is snow in Istanbul. The high season for tourism is between April and September. In winter, the city may be cold but snow decorates the city like a painting. All in all, it is up to the visitors taste to choose when to visit this amazing city.

What to wear

It is an important subject to know what to wear in Turkey before starting the trip. Despite the main idea that suggests Turkey is a Muslim country and the dress code is really strict, the truth is a little different. Majority of the people living in Turkey is Muslim but as the country is a secular country, the government doesn't have an official religion. As a result, there is not a dress code we can suggest throughout Turkey. Another fact is, Turkey is a tourism country. The locals already get used to travelers and they are quite sympathetic to them. When it comes to recommendation about what to wear, smart casual would work throughout the country. When it comes to religious sights, modest clothes would be another recommendation. Modest clothes in a religious sight in Turkey would be long skirts and a scarf for ladies and pants lower the knee for the gentleman.

Currency

The official currency of Turkish Republic is Turkish Lira. Being accepted in majority of the touristic sites in Istanbul, Euros or dollars will not be accepted in everywhere especially for public transportation. Credit cards are commonly accepted but for little snacks or water they may ask cash in Lira. It is better to use the change offices near the Grand Bazaar because of rates in Istanbul.



In Turkey there are 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 TL in notes. Also there is Kuruş which is in coins. 100 Kuruş makes 1 TL. There are 10, 25, 50 and 1 TL in coins

General Information

Turkish Food

Turkey is a really big country. The total population is a little over 80 million people. There is not a state system in administration but there are seven different regions. When it comes to cuisine every region in Turkey offers a different alternative. For example, The Black Sea region which is in the north of the country is famous for fish. Being located in a peninsula, this is the only region that fish involves nearly every dish. The most common fish to see in the region is anchovy. In the east of Turkey, Aegean Region, the common dishes are related to vast forests and nature. Herbs, plants and roots are mainly used in the cuisine. The famous "meze"/ (simple starters mainly prepared with olive oil) comes from this region. In the west of Turkey, South-West Anatolia region, the idea is if there is no meat in the cuisine, there is no chance for a person to be full. The famous "kebab" (grilled meat on a skewer) tradition comes from this region. All in all, here is some of the most known meals from the Turkish cuisine;

Kebab; Literally meaning grilled, the phrase in Turkey commonly is used for meat on a skewer grilled with charcoal. Kebabs are done with beef, chicken or lamb and takes their name from the cities of Turkey. For example, if one says Adana Kebab, which is a city in Turkey that means they want their beef kebab with



Döner Kebab

hot chili pepper. On the other hand if one says Urfa Kebab, which is another city in Turkey that means they want their kebab without hot chili pepper.

Döner ; Doner means rotating. This may be the most famous dish from Turkey all over the world. Commonly mistaken with regular kebab, Döner kebab has to stand on a skewer and grilled in a rotating form by charcoal. There are two kinds of Doner, beef and chicken. Beef Döner kebab is prepared with slices of beef meat mixed with lamb fat. Chicken Döner Kebab is slices of chicken breast grilled on a vertical skewer.

Lahmacun; It is another common dish which is not known a lot by the travelers. It is commonly what you can find in Kebab restaurants as a starter or as a main course. This is a round bread baked in oven with a mixture of tomato, onions, pepper and spices. The shape is close to what Italians are calling as pizza but the taste and method of cooking is completely different.

Meze; Meze means starter or appetizer in Turkish tradition. Being a country famous for its strong kebab tradition, meze is a good option for vegetarians. Mezes are

General Information

mainly done without meat and cooking process. They are mixed vegetables, herbs and spices and served with olive oil. They may be used as a side dish or main course.

Turkish Beverages

Turks do have a really interesting taste for drinks. Even some traditions are related to what they drink and when. You can understand how close you are to other people looking what they serve you as a beverage. There are certain times that you have drink a definite beverage. Even breakfast in Turkish language has a relation to a drink that is consumed for centuries in this country. Here are some of the beverages that a traveler in Turkey would definitely encounter;

Turkish Coffee; The oldest coffee consuming people in the world are Turks. Originating from Yemen and Ethiopia, in 16th century with the order of the Sultan, the first coffee beans arrived to Istanbul. After the arrival of coffee, in Istanbul there were countless numbers of coffee houses. Turks loved this drink that much that after breakfast, they used to drink one cup of this coffee to start the day more energetic. Kahvaltı / breakfast in Turkish language comes from here. Kahvaltı means before coffee. There are number of traditions related to coffee as well. One of them for example, before the marriage, when the families of the groom and bride meets for the first time, bride is asked to make the coffees. This would be



Turkish Coffee

the first impression of the bride in the new family. Even there is an expression in Turkish as "One cup of coffee provides 40 years of friendship".

Tea; If you ask what the most common drink in Turkey is, the answer is going to be tea, even before water. Even though agriculture of tea in Turkey started in the late 70s, Turkey became one of the highest consumer of tea in the world. Turks would never have breakfast without tea. There is no real time for tea. When you see a friend, during work, when you have guests, in the evening with the family and so on.

Ayran; The most common drink to have with Kebab in Turkey is Ayran. It is yoghurt with water and salt and a must to try while in Turkey.

Sherbet; This is what the people in Ottoman Era would drink a lot before the famous brands of carbonated beverages today. Sherbet is mainly prepared out of fruits and seeds, sugar and several spices like cardamom and cinnamon. Rose and pomegranate are the main flavors.

General Information

Alcohol in Turkey

Despite the main idea Turkey is a Muslim country and there may be strong regulations about alcohol, the usage of alcohol in Turkey is quite common. According to the religion Islam, alcohol is strictly prohibited but as the lifestyle in Turkey is more liberal, finding alcohol in Turkey is rather easy. Even Turks do have their national alcoholic beverage that they enjoy on the side of the fresh fish from the Bosphorus. There are local grapes that Turks enjoy their local wines in several different regions in Turkey. There are several regulations about alcohol as well. Below the age of 18, one cannot buy alcohol in Turkey. The places you can find alcohol are big supermarkets, some shopping malls and stores that they have specific license to be able to sell alcohol. The places that they have specific license for alcohol are called as TEKEL SHOP. All in all, here is some examples of alcoholic beverages that one can easily find in Turkey.

Raki – If the question is what the most common alcoholic beverage in Turkey is, the answer is Raki. The Turks even call it as their national drink and there are several funny sayings about it in Turkey. The first one is I don't remember the question but the answer is Raki. This is an underline to Raki's high level of alcohol. Turks do also have a nickname for Raki, Aslan Sutu / Lion's milk. This is

to say Raki doesn't come from lion but a few sips can make you feel like a lion. But what exactly is Raki? It is made of distilled grapes and then aniseed. The percentage of alcohol is between 45 and 60 percent. As a result, majority adds water to soften it up and the water color drink changes its color to white. It is generally served with mezes or fish.

Wine: There are several regions in Turkey that you can find high quality of wine because of the climate and fertile land. Cappadocia and Ankara regions are two of the territories you can find the best quality wines in Turkey. There are kind of grapes that you can find all over the world such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Aside from that, there are several kind of grapes that you can only try and taste in Turkey. For the red wines for example, Okuzgozu / Ox Eye is one of the best grape kind that comes from the east of Turkey. This is a dry wine with a dense flavor. For the white wines, Emir from Cappadocia region is the best choice with sparkling wines as well.

Beer: Without question the oldest alcoholic beverage in Turkey is beer. We can trace it 6000 years ago, starting with the Sumerians, beer is brewed in Turkey. There are two main brands, Efes and Turk Tuborg. Efes has 80 percent of the market with several kinds having 5 to 8 percentage of alcohol. Tur Tuborg is one of the 5 top beer brewing companies in the world. Aside from Turkish market, there are more than 10 countries that they export their beer.



Transportation in Istanbul

Airport Transfers

There are two international airports in Istanbul. The European side airport, Istanbul, and the Asian side airport, Sabiha Gokcen. Both of them are international airport with a wide range of flight schedule from all over the world. The distance from both airports are roughly the same with about 1.5 hours to the city center.

Istanbul Airport Transfer options:

Shuttle: As the Istanbul airport is the newest airport in Turkey, there is not a metro connection from the city center to the airport directly. Havaist is a bus company that runs buses 7/24 from/to the airport. The fee is about 2 Euros and the payment has to be done by credit card or Istanbulkart. You can check the website for departure times and terminals.



<https://hava.ist/en>



Metro: There are reciprocal metro services to Istanbul Airport from Kağıthane and Gayrettepe regions. You can buy your ticket from the machines at the entrance of the metro or pay with Istanbul Card. The website for metro lines



<https://www.metro.istanbul/en/>

Private Transfer and Taxi: You can reach your hotel with comfortable and safe vehicles by purchasing online before arriving or you can purchase at the airport from agencies inside. Airport privates transfer fees are around 40 - 50 Euros. There is also the possibility of transportation by taxi. You can rely on airport taxis.

Sabiha Gökçen Airport Transfer Options:

Shuttle: Havabus company has shuttle transfers from/to many points in Istanbul during the day. You can use the shuttle service by paying about 2,5 Euros. Cash payments are not accepted. You can pay by cash or Istanbul Card. Please check the website for departure times.



<https://www.havabus.com/>

Transportation in Istanbul

Private Transfer and Taxi: You can reach your hotel with comfortable and safe vehicles by purchasing online before arriving or you can purchase at the airport from agencies inside. Airport private transfer fees are around 40 - 50 Euros. There is also the possibility of transportation by taxi. You can rely on airport taxis.

Public Transportation

As Istanbul is a city with a population of 15 million people, the transportation becomes a really important matter for everyone. Despite being busy time to time, the city has a really good transportation system. There are ferries combining European side to Asian side, metro lines that covers majority of the attractions, buses to nearly every corner of the city or, if you want to feel really like a local, a strange yellow bus that runs when it is full. You can use Istanbulkart (pass card only valid in Istanbul) for majority of the means of public transportation. "Istanbul Card" can be used physically and mobile. You can obtain the Istanbul Card from the kiosks near the stop and use it by loading the amount you need. You can also download the Istanbul Card application with scanning QR codes;



Apple Store



Google Play

Ferry Lines

The most nostalgic way of transportation in Istanbul without question is the ferries. There are many people working in the European side and living in the Asian side or vice versa in Istanbul. So, they need to commute every day. Before 1973, which is the year that the first bridge was constructed between European side and Asian side, the only way of commuting between European and Asian side of Istanbul was the ferries. Today there are 3 bridges and 2 tunnels under the sea that connects the both sides but still the most nostalgic style is the ferries. Every busy seashore section in Istanbul has a port. The most famous ones are, Eminönü, Uskudar, Kadıkoy, Beşiktaş and so on. Don't miss the chance of using the fastest mean of commuting between the continents.

Google Map Locations of Main Ports:

Şehir Hatları Port in Old City Ferry to Asian Side and Princes Islands



Turyol Port in Old City Ferry to Asian Side and Princes Islands



Dentur Avrasya Port
Ferry to Asian Side and
Princes Islands



Transportation in Istanbul

Metro

Being second oldest in Europe after London metro, the metro system in Istanbul is not that wide spread throughout the city. It covers majority of the famous places and quite efficient because of not being effected by the traffic. Here are some of the most useful metro lines in Istanbul.

M1 - Yenikapı / Ataturk Havalimanı
M2 – Yenikapı / Haciosman
M3 – Kirazlı / Başakşehir
M4 – Kadıköy / Tavşantepe
M5 – Üsküdar / Çekmeköy

Other than the metro lines, there are also famous tram lines in Istanbul. Especially for a traveler, two of them are quite useful. One of them Is T1 tram line which covers majority of the historical sites of Istanbul including, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Grand Bazaar and many others. The second one is the historical tram that runs from the beginning to the end of İstiklal Street with the number T2.

To download Istanbul Railway Network

map scan the QR Code:



Bus & Metrobus

Most probably the cheapest and the most convenient transportation method in Istanbul is public buses. It may be crowded, the people may not speak English but if you know how to use the public buses, you may go anywhere in Istanbul. Every bus has a number that identifies the route. The locals will not tell you where to go with the bus, they will tell you which number you have to take. For example, bus number 35 goes from Kocamustafapaşa to Eminönü. The route is always the same route with punctual departure times. If the route is a busy route, you can see the same number buses in every 5 minutes. The only downside about the public buses is the rush hour. Traffic in Istanbul sometimes may be quite heavy. The government also saw this problem and wanted to sort it out with a new system. Metrobus is the newest solution for skipping the traffic in Istanbul. Metrobus means a bus line that runs in the main alter of Istanbul with a special track. As it has its own separated path, it is not effected out of the traffic problem at all. The downside of Metrobus is that it can be quite crowded especially in the rush hour.

Hop on Hop Off Bus

Bigbus Istanbul is the operator of touristic hop on hop off bus in Istanbul. There are 2 routes red and blue. You can visit reach to top highlights of Istanbul

Transportation in Istanbul

with Bigbus. You can get the bus from Old City front of Hagia Sophia and New City at Taksim Square.

Bigbus Istanbul Red Route Stops:

Sultanahmet Square

Eminönü Galata Bridge

Tophane

Port

Dolmabahçe Palace

Naval Museum

Beylerbeyi Palace

Taksim Square

Şişhane – İstanbul Modern

Egyptian Spice Bazaar

Bigbus Istanbul Blue Route Stops:

Golden Horn

Pierre Loti Cable Car

Rahmi Koç Museum

Miniatürk

Dolphinarium İstanbul

Dolmuş

This is the most traditional style of transportation in Istanbul. These are yellow little minibuses that follow a definite route and work 7/24 in Istanbul. Dolmuş means full. The name comes from how it functions. It only starts its journey when every seat is occupied. So literally when it is full, it starts riding. After starting the journey, Dolmuş will never stop unless somebody wants to step off. After one steps off, the driver looks for the people that may wave them to step on during the journey. There is no set price for the Dolmuş. The passengers pay according to the distance.



Taxi

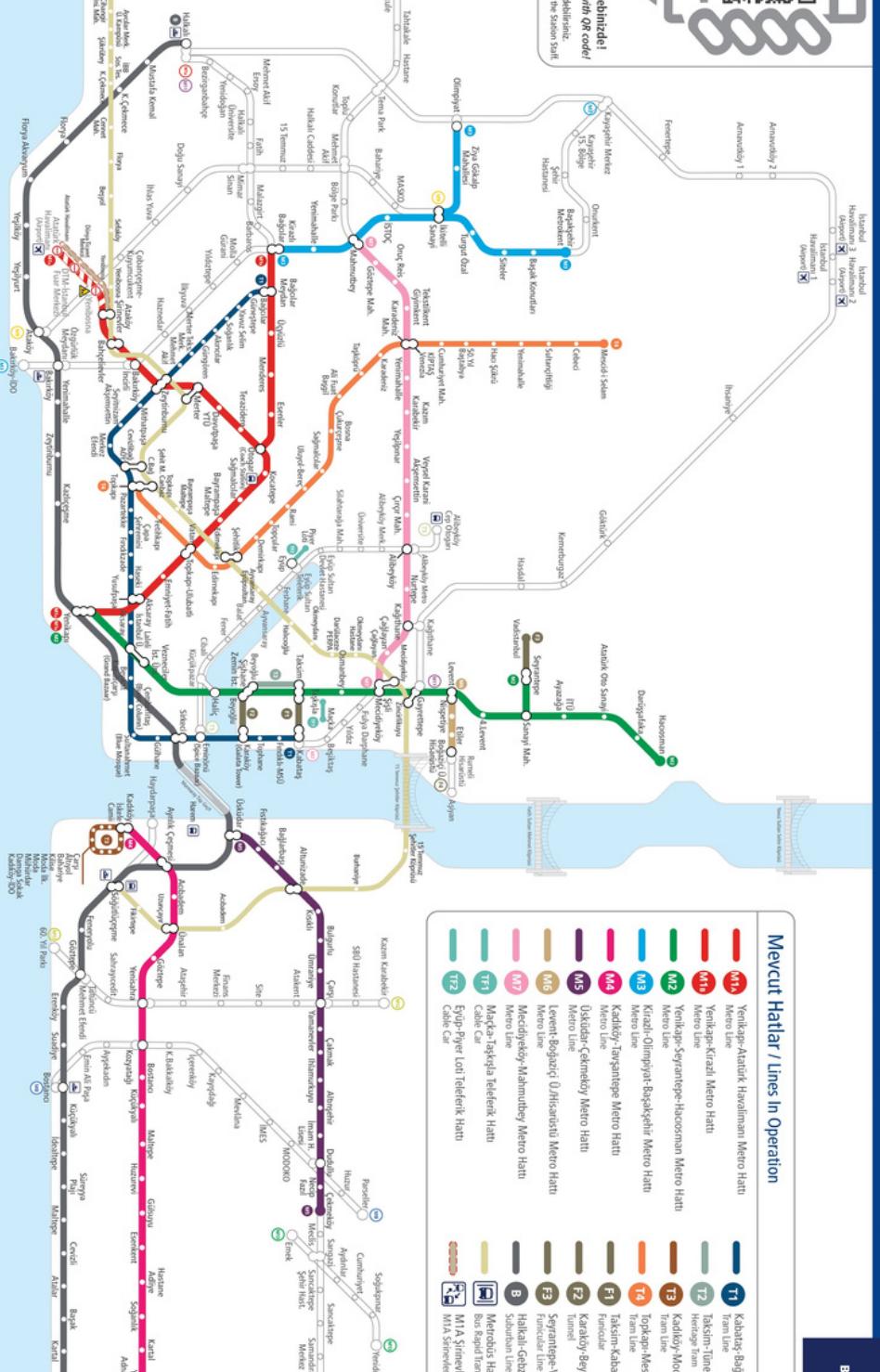
If you want to reach wherever you are going in Istanbul as fast as possible, the solution is the taxis. If you work in a city of 15 million people and your daily routine is searching for the routes with less traffic, you would know the fastest route from A to B no matter what time of the day is. The rules for the taxis are simple. We don't negotiate the price of taxis. In every taxi, the official rule is that they have to have a meter. We don't tip the taxis but round up the fare. For example if the meter says 38 TL we hand 40 and say keep the change.



Sultanahmet (Old City) Tram Station

İstanbul Raylı Sistemler Ağ Haritası / Istanbul Railway Network Map

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City Sites

Highlights of Istanbul Hagia Sophia

Imagine a building that is standing in the same place of 1500 years. The number one temple for two religions. The headquarter of Orthodox Christendom and the first mosque in Istanbul. Constructed within only 5 years. Being the biggest dome with 55.60 height and 31.87 diameter for 800 years in the world. Depictions of the religions side by side. Coronation place for the Roman Emperors. Meeting place of the Sultan and his people. That is the famous Hagia Sophia of Istanbul. In 2020 Hagia Sophia is converted to Mosque from Museum and opened the visit out of prayer times.

Visit Information: You can visit Hagia Sophia 7 days a week out of prayer times. Pray times change with the season but close 2 times in day time for noon and late afternoon pray for 45 minutes. There is no entrance fee for Hagia Sophia, you can join 1 hour guided tours starting from 14 Euros.

How to get there: Location of the Hagia Sophia is in the heart of the old city. It is easy to access with the public transportation.

From the old city hotels: Get the T1 tram to Sultanahmet tram station. From there it takes a 5 minute walk to the entrance of Hagia Sophia

From Taksim Hotels: Get the funicular



Hagia Sophia

from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From there take the T1 tram to Sultanahmet tram station. It is 5 minutes walk from the tram station to the entrance of Hagia Sophia.

From Sultanahmet Hotels: Hagia Sophia is walking distance from majority of the hotels in Sultanahmet area.

Topkapı Palace

Topkapı Palace is the biggest museum in Istanbul. Location of the palace is just behind the Hagia Sophia in the historical city center of Istanbul. Original function of the palace was being the house for the Sultan. Today the palace is functioning as a museum. Highlights in this palace are; Harem, treasury, kitchens and many more.

Visit Information: You can visit Topkapı Palace everyday except Tuesdays. On summer period between April 1st – September 30th it is open from 9:00 to 18:45 (Ticket Office is closing at 18:00), on winter period between October 1st – March 31st it open between 10:00 to 16:00. Entance ticket is 100 Turkish Liras

City Sites

also guided tours are available starting from 18 Euros.

How to get there: Location of the Palace is the Sultanahmet area. Historical city center of Istanbul is easy to access with public transportation.

From Old City Hotels: Get the T1 tram up to Sultanahmet tram station. From the tram station to the palace is just 5 minutes walks.

From Taksim Hotels: Get the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From Kabataş take the T1 tram to Sultanahmet station.

From Sultanahmet Hotels: It is walking distance to majority of the hotels in the area.

Visit Information: You can visit Basilica Cistern everyday between 9:00 to 18:00. Entrance ticket is 30 Turkish Liras also guided tours are available starting from 10 Euros.

How to get there: Location of the Palace is the Sultanahmet area. Historical city center of Istanbul is easy to access with public transportation.

From Old City Hotels: Get the T1 tram up to Sultanahmet tram station. From the tram station to the palace is just 5 minutes walks.

From Taksim Hotels: Get the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From Kabataş take the T1 tram to Sultanahmet station.

Basilica Cistern

Located in the heart of the historical city center. Basilica Cistern is the largest cistern in the historical city of Istanbul. Cistern is hosting 336 columns. The function of this outstanding construction was enabling drinking water to Hagia Sophia. Great Palace of Palatium Magnum and fountains and baths located throughout the city.



Basilica Cistern

Dolmabahçe Palace

One of the most amazing European style palaces in Istanbul, Dolmabahce Palace, stands on the side of the Bosphorus straight. With 285 rooms, this palace is one of the biggest in Turkey. Balyan family constructed the palace between 1843-1856 within 13 years. After the opening of the palace, Ottoman royal family started living here until the collapse of the empire. After the royal family, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, lived here until his death in 1938. From then on the palace functions as a museum and host thousand of visitors during the year.

Visit Information: You can visit Dolmabahçe Palace everyday except Mondays between 9:00 to 17:30 Ticket

City Sites

Office is closing at 16:30). Entrance ticket is 90 Turkish Liras for Selamlik Section and 60 Turkish Liras for Harem section, guided tours are available starting from 18 Euros.

How to get there: Location of the Palace is on the Bosphorus shore and easy to access with public transportation.

From Old City Hotels: Take the T1 tram to Kabatas station which is the end of the line. From Kabatas tram station the Dolmabahce Palace is 5 minutes walk.

From Taksim Hotels: Take the funicular from Taksim square to Kabatas. From Kabatas tram station the Dolmabahce Palace is 5 minutes walk.



Dolmabahçe Palace

Blue Mosque

Located in the heart of the old city, Blue Mosque is the most famous mosque not only in Istanbul but also in Turkey. Known with the name Blue, the original name of the mosque is Sultanahmet Mosque. The Blue Mosque name comes from the tiles decorating the inside of the mosque. These tiles come from the most famous tile producing city of Turkey, İznik. The tradition of naming the mosques in

in Ottoman Era is simple. The mosques are named after the ones who give the order of the mosque and spend money for the construction. For this reason majority of the mosques carry the name of those people. For this reason, the name Sultanahmet may mean three different things. One is the mosque, one is the Sultan who gave order for the mosque and the last one is the Sultanahmet area.

Visit Information: You can visit Blue Mosque 7 days a week out of prayer times. Pray times change with the season but close 2 times in day time for noon and late afternoon pray for 45 minutes. There is no entrance fee for Blue Mosque, you can join 1 hour guided tours starting from 10 Euros.

How to get there: Location of the Blue Mosque is in the heart of the old city. It is easy to access with the public transportation.

From the old city hotels: Get the T1 tram to Sultanahmet tram station. From there it takes a 5 minute walk to the entrance of Blue Mosque

From Taksim Hotels: Get the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From there take the T1 tram to Sultanahmet tram station. It is 5 minutes walk from the tram station to the entrance of Blue Mosque.

From Sultanahmet Hotels: Blue Mosque is walking distance from majority of the hotels in Sultanahmet area.

City Sites

Bosphorus

In ancient Greek, Bosphorus means "Cow's Gate". The story is going all the way to Zeus and Io. According to mythology, Io was a beautiful girl. Zeus, being married to Hera, couldn't stop himself resisting the beauty of Io and want to be together with her. In a meeting of Zeus and Io, Hera feels something wrong and comes to the meeting place. Zeus, being the head god in mythology feels that something is wrong and turns Io to a white cow and himself to a cloud. But Hera this time feels something wrong and sends a fly to the cow. Because of the fly, Io starts running and passes the Bosphorus by giving its name. Because of this story, the name of Bosphorus was given to this straight. Coming from an ancient Greek story, the name is same in majority of the languages. Geographically speaking, Bosphorus is a straight that connect two seas to each other, The Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea. The total length of it is nearly 30 km with an average depth of 50 meters. But is it just a geographical thing to the city of Istanbul? What is the real meaning of it? One of the symbol parts of the city, without the question, is Bosphorus. If there is that much history in Istanbul, the Bosphorus needs a special shout out. This is the place that continents meet or separate, this is the place that east meets west or orient meets with occident.

The gem of the city with countless palaces, fortresses, expensive houses, fisherman and ferries. If you want to make a painting of Istanbul, there has to be the Bosphorus. Water gives life from the beginning of history but here Bosphorus gave everything to the city of Istanbul. That was the reason the city served as a capitol for the Romans. That was the dream of Ottoman Sultans to rule their empires. All in all, if Istanbul is an important city today, it owes a great deal to the Bosphorus.



Bosphorus

90 Minutes Cruise

If you have limited time but still want to enjoy the endless beauty of the Bosphorus, this is the tour for you. What do you need to enjoy the Bosphorus in a rather short period of time? A ferry, a cup of strong Turkish tea and the Bosphorus with all its beauty. The ferry departs from the port and makes its way all the way to the second bridge in the Bosphorus offering the views of palaces, fortress, restaurants and many more. A visit to Istanbul will be never completed without a cruise in the Bosphorus. Depending on the time you have, you can disembark the boat in the Asian side and stroll around the authentic neighborhoods of the Uskudar area, as well.

City Sites

Visit Information

The ferry operates every day between 10.00-20.00 in every hour. The fee for the ferry is 25 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, walk to the other side of the Galata Bridge. The port for the 90 minutes Bosphorus Cruise is located just on the sea shore.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, walk to the other side of the Galata Bridge. The port for the 90 minutes Bosphorus Cruise is located just on the sea shore.

Hop on Hop off Cruise

If you have time and see the Bosphorus in a rather detailed way, Hop On – Hop Off Bosphorus tour is a good fit for you. In this tour, you can start your ferry ride from Kabataş, and then follow the stops Beşiktaş, Emirgan, Küçüksu, Beylerbeyi and Kabataş back. In every stop, you can leave the ferry for your own exploration. There are lots to visit in every stop. For example, in the first stop, Beşiktaş, Naval Museum, the tomb of Barbarossa Hayrettin (a navy admiral from the 16th century that gave the name Beşiktaş to this neighborhood) and the live fish market of Beşiktaş. In the second stop,

Emirgan, there is the most famous garden which is famous for tulips in every April. The third stop, Küçüksu, there is the Küçüksu Pavilion which was the place the Ottoman royal family was using as a summer pavilion in the 19th century. In the final stop before returning back to Kabataş, Beylerbeyi, there is the Beylerbeyi Palace that Ottoman royal family was using as a guest house for their royal visitors. All in all, if you want to see the Bosphorus in depth, this will be the best option for you.

Visit Information

The ferry operates every day between 11.45-15.45 in every hour. The fee for the ferry is 25 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, walk to the Kabataş port. The ferry departs from the DENTUR area.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, walk to the Kabataş port. The ferry departs from the DENTUR area



Maidens Tower on Bosphorus

City Sites

Dinner & Cruise on Bosphorus w Turkish Night Show

If you want to make combo of Bosphorus at night with romantic views of it, a nice Turkish style dinner and cultural entertainment, don't miss Dinner & Cruise on Bosphorus with Turkish Night Show. In this tour, you can see the illuminated historical buildings of Istanbul, the bridges that connects Europa and Asia and many more. For the tour you can either choose to be picked up from the hotel or you can come to the meeting point. After you hop on the boat there is the welcome cocktail and majestic Bosphorus. After the Turkish style dinner, there is the folkloric dances of Turkey. Last but not the least, a Turkish night out will be incomplete without a belly dancer. Join this tour for making a special night unforgettable or making a usual night a little unusual.

Visit Information

The boat departs every day 20.00 and hotel pick up available up to request. The cruise lasts around 3 and half hours and usually ends at 23.30.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: There is a pick up and drop off service by supplier.

From the Taksim Hotels: There is a pick up and drop off service by supplier



Throughout the Bosphorus

If you want to enjoy the Bosphorus from where it begins to it ends, this is the best tour for you. In the whole day tour you start the ferry ride from the old city, making stops of Beşiktaş, Üsküdar, Kanlıca, Sarıyer, and Rumeli Kavağı on the route to reach the end of the Bosphorus, Anadolu Kavağı. You can either hop off the ferry in one of these stops to continue your own experience or wait till the final station to see the end of the Bosphorus. When the ferry arrives to the final station, Anadolu Kavağı, it gives a stop around 2 hours and returns back. Within this 2 hour time, you can enjoy the fresh fish from the Bosphorus or make your way till the top of the hill for beautiful pictures or visit the Roman Yoros Castle. The ferry returns back by using the same route and arrives back to the original point at around 16.00.

Visit Information

The ferry operates every day at 10.35. The price is 25 TL per person

City Sites

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, walk to the Şehir Hatları port. The ferry departs from the Şehir Hatları port.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, walk to the Şehir Hatları port. The ferry departs from the Şehir Hatları port.

Historical Bazaars Grand Bazaar

The oldest and the biggest shopping mall in the world is said to be Grand Bazaar of Istanbul. Hard to confirm that but definitely the most colorful market in the world is the Grand Bazaar. It was the order of Sultan Mehmet the 2nd after conquering Istanbul to economically support the Hagia Sophia. In the 15th century, it had two buildings that the roofs were covered and highly secured because of the goods inside. When we came to 19th century it had 64 different streets, 26 gates and more than 4000 thousand shops. When we make a simple math, roughly 8000 people work there and numbers of the daily visitors reach to half a million people on some days of the year. Today there are different sections of the market that they are focusing on definite items meaning there is the gold section, silver section, and antique

section even a section for the 2nd hand books. The most famous saying in the market is "Come to the Grand Bazaar. If you find the gate that you entered in, you become a traveler. But if you can't, then you become a merchant."

Visit Information

The Grand Bazaar is open every day except on Sundays and the national / religious holidays between 09.00-18.00. There is no entrance fee for the market.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: The Grand Bazaar is walking distance to many of the hotels in the area.

From the Taksim Hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 to Beyazit / Grand Bazaar station. The Grand Bazaar is walking distance from the station.



Spice Bazaar

Many of the travelers think Grand Bazaar and the Spice Market are the same. But the reality is a little different. Both of these markets were constructed with the same purpose. Economical support for

City Sites

the mosques of Istanbul. While the Grand Bazaar was supporting the Hagia Sophia, Spice Market was supporting the New Mosque which was constructed in the 17th century. Spice Market or Egyptian Market has its name from natural reasons. It was the place to find spices and majority of the goods and seller were originally from Egypt. Today the market has no connection to the mosque and it is one of the best places to understand Turkish Cuisine.

Don't Miss!!!

Pandeli Restaurant

Kurukahveci Mehmet Efendi

Visit Information

The Spice Market is open every day except and the national / religious holidays between 09.00-19.00. There is no entrance fee for the market.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take T1 tram to Eminönü station. From the station The Spice Market is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the station The Spice Market is walking distance.



Arasta Bazaar

Arasta Bazaar

Located on the side of the Blue Mosque, Arasta Bazaar was constructed as a part of the Blue Mosque complex in the 17th century. The main purpose of the market was creating funds by the rents of the shops to upkeep the massive mosque complex. Majority of the mosques in Istanbul has a market that was originally financing the free services of the mosques up to the Republic Era. After the republic, majority of the shops were bought by people and turned out to have no connection to the mosques. Arasta Bazaar has lots of shops focusing on different products and still serves for its guests.

Visit Information

Arasta Bazaar is open every day between 09.00-19.00. There is no entrance fee for the Arasta Bazaar.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Arasta Bazaar is walking distance from majority of the hotels in the area.

From the Taksim hotels: - Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 to Sultanahmet station. From the Sultanahmet station, Arasta Bazaar is walking distance.



Spices

City Sites

Mosques Suleymaniye Mosque

There are more than 3000 mosques in Istanbul. Majority of the travelers are thinking all of the mosques look the same after seeing 1 or 2 examples. If you see the Suleymaniye Mosque though, you would say none of the other mosques you saw before looks even feels like it. Constructed in 16th century by the most famous architect of the Ottomans, Suleymaniye is the biggest Ottoman mosque in Istanbul. Sinan, the architect of the mosque, says it is one of the three top works of him during his life. Like the other mosques in Istanbul, Suleymaniye is also constructed as a complex and the complex includes, universities, schools, accommodation areas, hospitals, libraries and a Turkish bath.

Visit information

The Suleymaniye mosque opens at 08.00 until 16.30 for the visitors. As it is a functioning mosque, it is close for visitors during the prayers.

How to get there

From the old city hotels:

Take the T1 tram to Beyazit / Grand Bazaar station. From the station Suleymaniye Mosque is 10 minutes walk.

From Taksim hotels: Take the bus number 32D, 35C, 76D, 80T or 89C to Halim Iscan Gecidi / bicycle market station. From the station Suleymaniye Mosque is 10 minutes walk.



Eyupsultan Mosque

There are a lot of mosques in Istanbul but what makes them different than each other? for example, can we say the size of the mosque has a relation with the importance of it? the answer is going to be negative. Sometimes that is not the size that makes the mosque important but the background story of it. Eyup Sultan mosque is one of the oldest mosques of Istanbul. Located outside of the city walls, the mosque is the burial place of one of the closest companions of prophet Muhammed of Islam. According to some Muslims, one of the top 4 mosques in the world after Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem.

Visit information

The Eyup Sultan mosque opens at 08.00 until 16.30 for the visitors. As it is a functioning mosque, it is close for visitors during the prayers.

How to get there

From the Old city hotels: -Take the T1 tram to Eminonü station. From there walk to the big public bus station on the other side of the Galata Bridge. From the

City Sites

station get the bus number 99 or 99Y to Teleferik Pierreloti station. From there, the Eyup Sultan Mosque is 5 minutes walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the bus number 55T from the underpass in the Taksim square to Eyupsultan station. From the station the Eyup Sultan Mosque is a 5 minutes walk.

Rustem Pasha Mosque

Built in the 16th century, Rüstem Paşa Mosque is one of the most beautiful mosques in Istanbul. Rustem Paşa was one of the most powerful people in the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent. He was a Balkan convert that made his way from the stables of the palace to the top. He became the husband of the only daughter of the Sultan and the Grand Vizier of the most powerful era of the Ottomans. Then, he wanted to show his power one more final time and ordered this mosque to the chief architect of the palace, Sinan. If you want to see the best examples of the İznik tiles today, this is the place to go.

Visit information

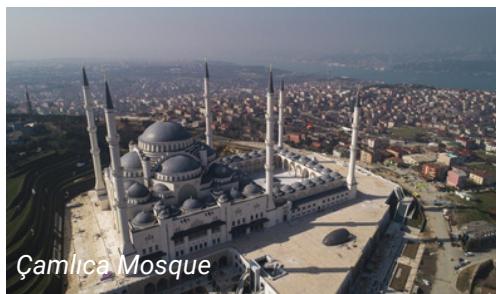
The Rüstem Paşa mosque opens at 08.00 until 16.30 for the visitors. As it is a functioning mosque, it is close for visitors during the prayers.

How to get there

From the Old City Hotels: Take the T1 tram to Eminönü station. From the station the Rüstem Paşa mosque 5

minutes walking distance.

From the Taksim Hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From Kabataş take the T1 tram to Eminönü. From the station the Rüstem Paşa mosque 5 minutes walking distance



Çamlıca Mosque

All of the mosques were not built in the Ottoman Era. There are some beautiful examples constructed within the Republic Era as well. As a part of the mega projects in Turkey, the mosque was opened in the year 2019. The projects main aim was having a mosque visible from every section of the city at the top of the highest hill in Istanbul to be a new symbol of the city. The mosque was constructed in Seljuk architectural design and has a lot of symbols inside. For example, it has six minarets / second after the Blue Mosque, symbolizing six main beliefs in Islam. It has sixteen names of Allah inside the dome, symbolizing 16 Turkish nations in the history. With a total capacity of 63.000, this mosque is the biggest in Istanbul.

City Sites

Visit Information

The Çamlıca Mosque opens at 08.00 until 16.30 for the visitors. As it is a functioning mosque, it is close for visitors during the prayers.

How to get there

From the Old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Eminonu station. From the Eminonu station, take the ferry to Kadıkoy. From the Kadıkoy Square, take the bus number 14F to Çamlıca Camii Station. From the station, the mosque is walking distance.

From the Taksim Hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş station. From the station take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the Eminonu station, take the ferry to Kadıkoy. From the Kadıkoy Square, take the bus number 14F to Çamlıca Camii Station. From the station, the mosque is walking distance.

Chora Mosque

Located out of the city center, Chora is not appreciated as much as it deserves. The history of the building goes back to 6TH century AD. It was originally part of a monastery complex and later on became a part of a late Roman palace in Istanbul. Literally Chora means outside or outer section. There are two main ideas about the meaning of the name. One idea says it is because of its location far away from the city center. The second idea is spiritual usage of the phrase. Outside of daily life or daily hassle of the city. What

makes Chora one of a kind is the inner decoration. The whole bible is depicted on walls of the Chora by mosaics and frescoes. You can see the story of Virgin Mary and Jesus from the beginning to the end of the bible in this fascinating building. In 2020, Chora converted to Mosque from Museum

Visit Information

The Chora Mosque is open 7 days a week between 09.00 to 18.00 in the summer time and between 09.00 to 16.30 in the winter time can be visited out of pray times.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Eminonu station. From the station walk to the big public bus station on the other side of the Galata Bridge. Take the bus number 31E or 36KE to Edirnekapi station. From the station Chora Museum is 5 minutes walk.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the bus number 87 from the Taksim square underpass to Edirnekapi station. From the station Chora Museum is 5 minutes walk.



City Sites

Towers & Hills & Fortresses Galata Tower

Galata Tower is one of the most important symbols of Istanbul. Throughout the history, Galata tower was the silent witness to all of the victories, battles, meetings and religious togetherness in Istanbul. That was this tower that they believe the first aviation trial took place. Galata tower goes back to 14th century and it was originally constructed as a security point for the port and the Galata region. Although there are several records saying there was a wooden tower dating older than that, the tower that is standing today goes back to Genoese colony period. Throughout the history, Galata Tower had lots of other purposes such as, fire watch tower, security tower even a prison for a while. Today, the tower is in the protection list of UNESCO and functions as a museum.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Karakoy station. From the Karakoy station, the Galata tower is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the M1 metro from the Taksim Square to Sishane station. From the Sishane metro station, the Galata Tower is walking distance



Maiden's Tower

"You left me behind like the maiden's tower in the Bosphorus,
If you return one day,
Don't forget,
Once you were the only one who loved
me,
Now the whole Istanbul"
Sunay Akin

May be the most nostalgic, poetic even the most mythical place in Istanbul is the Maiden's tower. It was originally planned as place to collect the tax from the ships that passes the Bosphorus but the locals had a different idea. According to the myth, one king learns that his daughter will be assassinated. To protect the girl, the king orders this tower in the middle of the sea. But according to the story, the unlucky girl was still assassinated by a snake hidden to a grape basket. These kind of stories may be the reason why a lot of poems directed this tower in so many poems of themselves. Today the tower functions as a restaurant with a small museum inside as well.

City Sites

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Eminonu. From Eminonu, take the ferry to Uskudar. From Uskudar walk 5 minutes to Salacak. Maiden's Tower has its own port for the visitors in Salacak port.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabatas. From Kabatas, take the ferry to Uskudar. From Uskudar walk 5 minutes to Salacak. Maiden's Tower has its own port for the visitors in Salacak port



Maiden's Tower

Pierre Loti Hill

Probably the most nostalgic corner of the city is Pierre Loti Hill. Starting from the 16th century, there were countless numbers of famous tea and coffee houses spreading through the city of Istanbul. But by time, like everything else, the huge number of these houses were abandoned and some of them were even destroyed. One of these famous houses, named after the famous French writer, Pierre Loti still serves for its customers in the need of good coffee and views. The

nostalgic coffee house is still standing with a beautiful gift shop for the ones who are interested about the 19th century Istanbul with the help of the books of Pierre Loti.

Visit Information

The Pierre Loti hill is open throughout the day. The nostalgic coffee operates between 08:00-24:00

How to get there

From the Old City Hotels: Take the T1 tram to Eminönü station. From the station, walk to the big public bus station on the other side of the Galata Bridge. From the station, get the bus number 99 or 99Y to Teleferik Pierre Loti station. From the station, take the Teleferik / Cable Car to the Pierre Loti Hill.

From the Taksim Hotels

- Take the bus number 55T from the big underpass in Taksim Square to Eyupsultan station. From the station, walk to the Teleferik / Cable Car station behind the Eyüp Sultan mosque. From the station, take the Teleferik / Cable Car to the Pierre Loti Hill.

Çamlıca Hill

Would you like to enjoy the views of Istanbul from the highest hill of Istanbul? If the answer is yes, the place to go is Çamlıca Hill in the Asian side of Istanbul. The name refers to the pine forests that are the final examples in the city after a big construction process in Istanbul in the last 40 years. Çam in Turkish means

City Sites

pine. With a height of 268 meters from the sea level, Çamlıca Hill offers the visitors an amazing view of Bosphorus and the city of Istanbul. There are lots of restaurants and gift shops to make the visit unforgettable with breathtaking views.

Visit Information

The Çamlıca Hill is open throughout the day. The restaurants and gift shops in the area usually works between 08.00-24.00.

How to get there

From the Old City hotels: Take the T1 tram to Eminönü station. From the station, take the ferry to Üsküdar. From the station in Üsküdar, take the Marmaray M5 to Kısıklı. From the station in Kısıklı, Çamlıca Hill is 5 minutes' walk.

From the Taksim Hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the station in Kabataş, take the ferry to Üsküdar. From the station in Üsküdar, take the Marmaray M5 to Kısıklı. From the station in Kısıklı, Çamlıca Hill is 5 minutes' walk

Çamlıca Tower

Constructed at the highest hill in İstanbul, Çamlıca Tower was opened in the year 2020 and became the highest manmade tower of the city. The main purpose of the project was cleaning all the other broadcasting tower on the hill and creating a symbol building for the city of İstanbul. The shape of the tower resembles tulip which is originating from

Turkey and the national symbol of the country. The height of the tower is 365 meters and 145 meters of it was planned as an antenna for broadcasting. Including two restaurants and a panoramic viewpoint, the total cost of the tower was calculated around 170 million dollars. If you want to enjoy the highest tower of İstanbul with amazing meals and fascinating views, one of the best places to come would be Çamlıca Tower.

Rumeli Fortress

If you want to enjoy good views of the Bosphorus with a little touch of history, Rumeli Fortress is the place to go. Constructed in the 15th century with the order of Sultan Mehmet the 2nd, the fortress is the biggest fortress that is still standing on the Bosphorus. It was originally functioning as a base to rule the conquest of İstanbul with a secondary purpose of controlling the trade between the Sea of Marmara and The Black Sea. Being the only natural connection between these two seas, even today it is an important trade route. Today the fortress is functioning as a museum with a beautiful collection of Ottoman cannons.

Visit Information

The Rumeli Fortress is open every day except Mondays between 09.00-17.30. Entrance fee is 25 TL per person.

How to get there

From the Old City Hotels: Take the T1

City Sites

tram to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the bus number 22 or 25E to Aşıyan station. From the station, Rumeli Fortress is 5 minutes walk.

From the Taksim Hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the bus number 22 or 25E to Aşıyan station. From the station, Rumeli Fortress is 5 a minutes walk.

Cisterns Şerefiye Cistern

Cisterns in Istanbul were vital back in the Roman Era. The main reason for that was having lack of springs in the city center. As a result Romans constructed a pipe that was coming from the outskirts of the city to the city center. Then, the water that was brought was stored in these water storages. Şerefiye Cistern was one of these cisterns and may be the oldest that is still standing today. Constructed in 4th century by the Emperor Theodosius, Şerefiye Cistern was supplying water for the center of the city. After a really long renovation programme the cistern was opened in the year 2018.

How to get there

From the Old city hotels: The Şerefiye Cistern is walking distance to majority of the hotels in the area.

From the Taksim Hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 tram to Çemberlitaş station. From the Çemberlitaş station, Şerefiye Cistern is a 5 minutes walk.

Binbirdirek Cistern

Binbirdirek Cistern or with its original name Filoxenos Cistern goes back to 4th century AD. It is the second largest cistern after the Basilica Cistern with its 224 columns in Istanbul. Majority of the construction is done with recycled material like many other buildings back in the Roman Era. The cistern was functioning until 16th century and then was converted to be a factory in the Ottoman Era. Today aside being a museum, the cistern is also available for special gatherings.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: The Binbirdirek Cistern is walking distance to majority of the hotels in the area.

From the Taksim Hotels: Get the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabatas. From Kabatas, take the T1 tram to Sultanahmet station. From the station, the Binbirdirek Cistern is walking distance.



Şerefiye Cistern

City Sites

Museums Archeology Museum

Being one of the oldest museums in Istanbul, Archeology Museum is a place that you can enjoy several days. The first archeology movements in Turkey started in 1880s with predominantly European archeologists. Osman Hamdi Bey is considered to be the first Turkish archeologist. After his law education in Europe, with the permission of the Sultan, he worked in several excavations in Syria. The findings were stored in Hagia Irene up to the year 1891. In the year 1891, Alexandre Vallaury finished the Archeology Museum construction and the findings were moved there. Today the museums hosts 3 separate buildings. After the entrance on the right, there is findings from the ancient civilizations, such as Hittites, Egyptians, Sumerians and Acadians. In the main building, there are Greek and Roman Sculptures and findings in Anatolia sections. In the final building, which is the oldest building in the Archeology Museums from the 15th century, there is the tile collections.

Visit Information

The archeology museums are open every day except on Mondays between 09.00-17.30. The entrance fee is 50 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Archeology Museums in Istanbul is walking distance

to majority of the hotels in the area.

From the Taksim Hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the station in Kabataş, take the T1 tram to Sultanahmet. From the station in Sultanahmet, Archeology Museums in Istanbul is walking distance.



Beylerbeyi Palace

In the 19th century, the Ottomans constructed several European style palaces in the Bosphorus to show the power of themselves one more final time. One of these constructions was the Beylerbeyi Palace. It was one of the works of the famous Armenian architect family, Balyans, between the years of 1861-1865. It was originally planned as a guesthouse for the kings that came to visit the Sultan. Some of the notable people who stayed in this palace are Iranian Shah Nasreddin, King Franz Joseph and the wife of Napoleon the 3rd, Eugenie.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Eminönü station. From the

City Sites

station take the ferry to Uskudar. From Uskudar take the bus number 15, 15H,15P or 15s to Beylerbeyi Sarayı station. The palace is walking distance from the station.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the ferry to Uskudar. From Uskudar take the bus number 15, 15H,15P or 15s to Beylerbeyi Sarayı station. The palace is walking distance from the station.



Miniaturk

The Miniaturk Museum is located on the side of the Golden Horn with a really interesting collection waiting for its visitors. The museum has miniature models of major historical buildings in Turkey and the land of the Ottoman Empire. In a total area of 60.000 square meters, the Miniaturk museum offers its visitors a unique example of a journey including temples, bridges, mosques, palaces and many more. Aside the museum there are facilities of restaurant and markets, gift shops and helicopter

simulators as well. If you have limited time in Istanbul, this would give you an idea about how much more time you need to see the entire country.

Visit Information

The Miniaturk Museum is open every day between 09.00-19.00. The entrance fee is 20 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, walk to the other side of the Galata Bridge to the big public bus station. From the station take the bus number 47, 47Ç or 47E to Miniaturk station. From the Miniaturk station, the museum is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the bus number 36T from the underpass in Taksim Square to Miniaturk station. From the Miniaturk station, the museum is walking distance.

Rahmi Koç Museum

Would you like to dive into the industrial revolution of Turkey with a lot of interesting collections in a historical building? If the answer is yes, the place to go is Rahmi Koç Museum in Istanbul. The museum hosts their guests in a former Lengerhane (means the place that they make anchors for the ships), renovated to be the industrial museum of Turkey. Rahmi Koç is a well-known entrepreneur that gives jobs for more than 100.000 people and his company group is one of

City Sites

the biggest in Turkey. What can you see in this fascinating museum and what are the collections? Starting from marine history to scientific tools, from aviation history to communication tool, from machines to transportation vehicles and many more. A visit to Rahmi Koç Museum will be great addition to your experience.

Visit Information

The Rahmi Koç Museum is open every day except on Mondays and national / religious holidays between 09.30-19.00. The entrance fee for the museum is 28 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, walk to the other side of the Galata Bridge to the big public bus station. From the station take the bus number 47/47Ç or 47E to Kızılay Minare station. From the Kızılay Minare station, the museum is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the bus number 36T or 38T from the underpass in Taksim Square to Kızılay Minare station. From the Kızılay Minare station, the museum is walking distance.



Rahmi Koç Museum

on a dome that makes optic illusions. These optic illusions gives the visitors the feeling of being in a 15th century battlefield. There are several exhibition halls before the main area that talks about the history of Istanbul and the importance of it throughout the history as well. If you enjoy medieval military history, this is the museum to visit while you are in Istanbul.

Visit Information

The Panorama 1453 museum is open every day between 09.00-17.00. The entrance fee is 20 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Topkapı / Cevizlibağ station. From the station, the museum is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 to Topkapı / Cevizlibağ station. From the station, the museum is walking distance.

Panorama 1453

Located outside of the historical walls of Istanbul, Panorama 1453 gives the feel of the Conquest of Istanbul by Sultan Mehmet the 2nd in 15th century. Opened in the year 2009, more than 8 artists worked in the project to create paintings

City Sites

Hagia Irene Museum

Hagia Irene Museum is the only Byzantium church which was never converted to a mosque in Istanbul. The history of the building goes back to the time of Constantine the great, 4th century AD. From the records we know today that the church of Constantine was destroyed in the Nika Revolt in 6th century and a new church was constructed with the order of Justinian the 1st in 6th century AD. Later, Hagia Irene was considered to be the chapel of the patriarchal church, Hagia Sophia. As the building stayed inside of the Topkapı Palace after 15th century, the building was converted to be the security and protection area. This was the point that the things started going a little bit interesting for the Hagia Irene. The name Hagia Irene means Holy Peace Church but the function of the building was keeping guns and soldiers inside. After the republic, the building started functioning as a museum and today it is the only Byzantium church having an original atrium that is still standing.

Visit Information

The Hagia Irene Museum is open every day except on Tuesdays between 09.00-17.00. The entrance fee is 36 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: The Hagia Irene Museum is walking distance to majority of the hotels in the area.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 to Sultanahmet station. From the Sultanahmet station walk to the Topkapı Palace. The Hagia Irene Museum is in the first garden of the palace.



Hagia Irene

Carpet Museum

If you like the handmade Turkish carpets, the best place to visit will be the Carpet Museum. The location of the museum is between Hagia Sophia and Topkapı Palace which is a convenient location and easy to get to. Original purpose of these buildings that is functioning as the museum today was kitchens for the poor or travelers. In every mosque complex there were additions for social purposes like that. If you are poor or a traveler passing by, you could go to these kind of kitchens which in Istanbul there were hundreds of them once, you could come to these kinds of places and get the food for free. Today in the museum, you can see the Ottoman carpets that were weaved between 15th to 19th centuries. In the museum today, you can also see

City Sites

an original building from the time of Hagia Sophia Church with the name, Skeuophylakion meaning the place of the sacred items which was used to keep religious icons or materials of the Hagia Sophia.

Visit Information

The Carpet Museum is open every day except on Mondays between 09.00-16.00. The entrance fee is 10 TL per person.

How to get there

From the Old City hotels: The Carpet Museum is walking distance to majority of the hotels in the area.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 to Sultanahmet station. From the Sultanahmet station walk behind the Hagia Sophia. Before entering to the Topkapı Palace, the Carpet Museum is located on the right hand side.

Mosaic Museum

In the area today the Blue Mosque, Hippodrome and Topkapı Palace is located today, there was the biggest palace of the Eastern Roman Empire once. After declaring the city of Istanbul as the new capital of the Roman Empire, Emperor Constantine ordered a palace for the kings of Rome. It was a huge palace and according to the records highly luxurious as well. Out of a huge palace construction, today one of the

places that a traveler may enjoy the luxury of a Roman Palace is the Mosaic Museum. The excavated area on the side of the Blue Mosque in 1950s was a peristyle section of the palace. Meaning a rectangle area surrounded with the columns, the mosaics of this area gives a lot of ideas about the daily lives of the Romans. The floors of this sections is covered with mosaics that majority of them are in situ.

Visit Information

The Mosaic Museum is open every day between 09.00-17.00. The entrance fee of the museum is 30 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: The Mosaic Museum is walking distance to majority of the hotels in the area.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 to Sultanahmet station. The Mosaic Museum is in Arasta Bazaar, which is 5 minutes' walk behind the Blue Mosque.

Toy Museum

Toy Museum of Istanbul opened in the year 2005 with great efforts of the writer / poet Sunay Akın. Being first of its kind in Turkey, the main aim of the museum is to give the chance of 3 generations enjoying the collection at the same time. The museum is created with the objects that were collected over 20 years from 40 different countries by Mr. Akin. Creating

City Sites

good relations with the examples of its kind in Europe, the museum became one of the most recognized museum not only in Turkey but also in the world about the history of toys. The collection includes lots of different kinds of toys manufactured starting from 1700s to modern times. If you want to learn the history of toys and some rare examples of toys in the world, the Toy Museum in Istanbul would be the best fit.

Visit Information

The Museum is open every day except on Mondays between 11.00-19.00. The entrance fee is 18 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Sirkeci Station. From the Sirkeci station, take the MARMARAY to Göztepe station. From the Göztepe station, the Toy Museum is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the ferry to Uskudar. From the Uskudar station, take the MARMARAY to Göztepe station. From the Göztepe station, the Toy Museum is walking distance.



Hisart Museum

If you want to enter to a gate and suddenly sit with the Ottoman soldiers, Hisart Museum will give the feel with full meaning of it. Starting as an interest of himself at early ages, artist Nejat Çuhadaroğlu, created Hisart Museum including paintings, statutes and models of the Ottoman Era between the years of 1453 and 1923. Awarded by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in the year 2021, you can see the mannequins that shows the costumes, rifles, medals, hats of soldiers of Ottoman Era. Aside the collections, there is a gift shop and a cafeteria area in the Hisart Museum.

Visit Information: Hisart Museum is open every day except on Mondays between 12.00-18.00. The entrance fee for the museum is 35 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, take the bus number 46Ç from the other side of the Galata Bridge to İstanbul Adalet Sarayı station. From the Adalet Sarayı station, Hisart Museum is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From Kabataş station, take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, take the bus number 46Ç from the other side of the Galata Bridge to İstanbul Adalet Sarayı station. From the Adalet Sarayı station, Hisart Museum is walking distance.

City Sites

Galata Mevlevi Lodge

" Raise your words,
Not your voice,
It is the rain that grows the flowers,
Not thunder."
"Come, come, whoever you are.
Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.
It doesn't matter. Ours is not a caravan of
despair.
Come, even if you have broken your vows
for a thousand times.
Come, yet again, come, come"



Galata Mevlevi Lodge

Visit Information:

The Galata Mevlevi Lodge Museum is open everyday except on Mondays between 09.00-17.30.

How to get there: From the old city and Sultanahmet hotels: Take the T1 tram to Karaköy station. From the Karaköy station, take the Tunnel metro to the top of the hill. The Galata Mevlevi Lodge Museum is walking distance on the right hand side after the exit.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the nostalgic tram from the beginning of the İstiklal Street till the end of the line. The Galata Mevlevi Lodge Museum is walking distance at the end of the line on the left hand side.

Ural Ataman Car Museum

If you like nostalgic cars making turning points in the car manufacturing industry, Ural Ataman Car Museum is the place to go. Opened in the year 2000, in a size of 2000 square meter area, Ural Ataman Car Museum offers a unique experience with nostalgic cars manufactured between 1920 to 1970. There are more than 60 different models that created important changes in the history of car manufacturing with their original parts and modifications. To be able to match

City Sites

the atmosphere, there is also the nostalgic restaurant that you can also experience the diner style bars in the USA in 50s and 60s. If you visit the Ural Ataman Car Museum, don't miss the famous model cars section which has its own reputation as the best collection of the museum.

Visit Information

The Ural Ataman Car Museum operates on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 11.00 -18.00. The entrance fee is 5 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the bus number 29D to Metin Oktay station. The museum is walking distance from the station.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the bus number 29D to Metin Oktay station. The museum is walking distance from the station.



Ural Ataman Car Museum

Museum of the History of Science and Technology in Islam

Created by a Turkish Islamic science historian, Professor Fuat Sezgin, in the former royal stables of Topkapı Palace, the museum of the history of science and technology in Islam is one of the unique museums of Istanbul. The main purpose of the museum is to display the inventions of Muslim scientists between 9th and 16th centuries. There are clock examples to calculate the prayer times, astronomy section, war technology, math and geometry, mining section, medicine section and many more. If you are interested about the Muslim inventions in the course of history, this is the only museum in Istanbul.

Visit Information

The museum is open every day between 09.00-17.30. The entrance fee is 18 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: The Museum of the history of science and technology in Islam is walking distance to majority of the hotels in the area.

From Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From Kabataş station, take the T1 to Gülhane station. From the Gülhane station, the museum is walking distance.

City Sites

Art Museums Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum

If you are interested about the history of Islam, Turkish and Islamic Arts is the best place to visit. The building of Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum was originally a palace. Ibrahim Paşa, the brother in law of Suleyman the Magnificent was using it as a gift after the marriage of him with the sister of the Sultan. It was the biggest palace in Istanbul which was not owned by the Sultan or the family of the Sultan. Later on, the building started to be used as a residence for the Grand Viziers of the Sultan. With the republic the building was converted to be the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museums. In the museum today, you can see the calligraphy works, decorations of the mosques and palaces, Holy Quran examples, carpet collections and many more.

Visit Information

Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum is open every day between 09.00-17.30. The entrance fee is 50 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: The Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum is walking distance to majority of the hotels in the area.

From the Taksim Hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the station in Kabataş, take the T1 to Sultanahmet station. From

the Sultanahmet station, the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum is walking distance.



Istanbul Modern

If you are a fan of Modern Arts, the place to go is the first modern museum of Istanbul, Istanbul Modern. Opened in the year 2004, the museum suddenly became the center of the modern arts in Istanbul and initiated other modern museums in Istanbul to open. The wide range of collection becomes even bigger with temporary exhibitions throughout the year. In Istanbul Modern collection, there are paintings, photographs, videos and statues created from the beginning of 20th century up to today. In the permanent exhibitions, you can see every possible collection that shows modern and contemporary Turkish Art. All in all, one of the best museums to admire modern and contemporary arts, Istanbul Modern would be a good place.

Visit Information

The Istanbul Modern is open every day except on Saturdays and Mondays between 11.00-17.00. The entrance fee is 68 TL per person.

City Sites

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, take the bus number 66 from the other side of the Galata Bridge to Şişhane station. From the Şişhane station, İstanbul Modern is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the M2 metro from the Taksim Square to Şişhane station. From the Şişhane station, İstanbul Modern is walking distance.

Pera Museum

Pera Museum is one of the best known museums and cultural centers of Istanbul. Opened in the year 2005 by the Suna – İnan Kıraç foundation, Pera Museum also became internationally famous by bringing the works of the famous artists, Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Goya, Akira Kurosawa and many others as temporary exhibitions. Aside of the temporary exhibitions, you can enjoy orientalist paintings, Anatolian weights and measurement tools and tile collections in the permanent exhibition of the Pera Museum.

Visit Information

The Pera Museum opens every day except Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays between 11.00-18.00. The entrance fee is 25 TL per person

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, take the bus number 66 from the

other side of the Galata Bridge to Şişhane station. From the Şişhane station, Pera Museum is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the M2 metro from the Taksim Square to Şişhane station. From the Şişhane station, Pera Museum is walking distance.



Salt Galata

Opened in the year 2011, SALT Galata is among the famous modern art exhibition centers in Istanbul. The building that serves as SALT Galata today was constructed by the famous architect, Alexandre Vallaury, in the year 1892. The construction project back then was for the Ottoman Bank, but throughout the history there were lots of additions and modifications in the building. In the year 2011 with the final renovations, the building was renovated according to the original plan and opened as the SALT Galata. Aside being a museum of economy, SALT Galata earns its fame by busy temporary exhibition calendar. If you enjoy modern art and have time in Istanbul, do check the exhibitions of SALT Galata.

City Sites

Visit Information

SALT Galata is open every day except on Mondays between 12.00-18.00. There is no entrance fee for SALT Galata.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Karaköy station. From the Karaköy station, SALT Galata Museum is walking distance

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From Kabataş station, take the T1 to Karaköy station. From the Karaköy station, SALT Galata Museum is walking distance.

Sakıp Sabancı Museum

Originally constructed in the year 1925 by the Italian architect Edoardo De Nari on the side of the Bosphorus, Sakıp Sabancı museum gives the visitors the chance to visit a yalı style house. Meaning a wooden house on the side of the sea, yalı style houses are a trademark of Bosphorus and the most expensive style of accommodation in Istanbul. Owned by one of the most famous entrepreneur family of Turkey, Sabancı family, the exhibitions include book and calligraphy collection, painting collection, furniture and decorative objects collection, the paintings of famous artist Abidin Dino and many more.

Visit Information

The Sakıp Sabancı Museum is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 10.00-17.30. The

entrance fee is 50 TL per person.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, take the bus number 25E to Çınaraltı station. From the Çınaraltı station, Sakıp Sabancı Museum is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From Kabataş station, take the bus number 25E to Çınaraltı station. From the Çınaraltı station, Sakıp Sabancı Museum is walking distance.



Sakıp Sabancı Museum

Attractions for Fun w Family

Madame Tussauds

Would you be interested in taking selfies with world famous artists or pop singers? If the answer is yes, Madame Tussauds in Istanbul would be the place to go. This is a museum that has wax models of the world famous people that you can see from really close. Located conveniently in the heart of the new city, you can get the public transportation to get to this fascinating museum. What you would see inside is not just world famous people, but also famous characters from the history of Ottoman Empire and Turkish Republic.

Visit Information

You can visit Madame Tussauds Istanbul everyday between 10:00 to 20:00. You can get ticket from entrance and online.

How to get there

Location of the Madame Tussauds is in the middle of the Istiklal Street which is colourfull and most famous city of Istanbul located in Taksim. It is easy to access with the public transportation.

From the old city hotels: Get the T1 tram to Kabataş tram station. From there it get the funicular to Taksim Square which takes 3 minutes. Madame Tussauds is 7-8 minutes walking distance from square.

From Taksim Hotels: From Taksim Square it is 7 - 8 minutes walking distance.



Istanbul Aquarium

If you want to have a different alternative to relax, Istanbul Aquarium offers their visitors everything. Located on the sea shore in Yeşilköy area, The Istanbul Aquarium has a shopping mall, restaurants and the biggest aquarium in Istanbul. In Istanbul Aquarium, you can see the fish kinds from all over the world and Turkey. Compared with other museums, Istanbul Aquarium is one of the best not only in Turkey and in the world. You can see lots of different fish kinds from all over the world including piranhas or experience the Amazon feel with its original trees and animals or dive into a water tank with sharks inside. All in all, a visit to Istanbul Aquarium is one of a kind experience.

Visit Information

Istanbul Aquarium is open every day between 10.00-19.00

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, take the bus number BN1, BN2 or BN3 to Istanbul Akvaryum station. From the station Istanbul Aquarium is walking distance.

Attractions for Fun w Family

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, take the bus number BN1, BN2 or BN3 to Istanbul Akvaryum station. From the station Istanbul Aquarium is walking distance.

Shopping Mall is walking distance from the 4. Levent station.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the M2 from the Taksim Square to 4. Levent station. Sapphire Shopping Mall is walking distance from 4. Levent the station.



İsfanbul Theme Park

İsfanbul Theme Park

İsfanbul Theme Park opened in the year 2013 with an investment value of 650 million dollars. With a huge investment like that, after the construction, it became the biggest theme park in Istanbul and in top 10 in Europe. It offers shopping malls, restaurants, accommodation centers and many more. In the theme park, there are lots of different concepts suitable for every age group. Starting from the classic Merry Go Around to Drop Tower, from bumper cars to the Magical Room, 4D cinemas are some of the things that you can enjoy inside İsfanbul Theme Park.

Visit Information

İsfanbul Theme Park is open every day between 11:00-19:00. Depends on weather it may be closed some days in winter.

Sapphire Observation Deck

Located in Levent area, Sapphire Shopping Mall offers their visitors one of the most beautiful views of the city of Istanbul with a height of 261 meters. Sapphire Observation Deck gives the chance of the best pictures to its visitors with the views of the Bosphorus from its beginning to its end. While you may enjoy the endless views of the city, you can also try 4D helicopter simulator with breathtaking animations of the historical building in Istanbul. Last but not the least, Vista Restaurant serves fantastic meals to make this visit a one of kind experience.

Visit Information

Sapphire Observation Deck is in the Sapphire Shopping Mall which operates every day between 10.00-22.00. The entrance fee for the deck is 38 TL per person

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, take the funicular to Taksim station. From the Taksim station, take the M2 to 4. Levent station. Sapphire

Attractions for Fun w Family

How to go there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, take the bus number 99Y from the big public bus station on the other side of the Galata Bridge to Maliye Blokları station. From the Maliye Blokları station, İstanbul Theme Park is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 tram to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, take the bus number 99Y from the big public bus station on the other side of the Galata Bridge to Maliye Blokları station. From the Maliye Blokları station, İstanbul Theme Park is walking distance.

Museum of Illusions

Do you want to challenge your own instincts and challenge them? Museum of Illusions opened in the year 2015 in Zagreb for the first time with this motto. After the Zagreb museum, there are 15 different Museum of Illusions in 15 different cities. Museum of Illusions İstanbul offers their visitors from every age group and guarantees good time for especially families. There are lots of interesting sections such as Infinity Room, The Ames Room, Tunnel and Reverse House. Unlike other museum, photography and videos are allowed to increase the fun and make this visit unforgettable. There is gift shops and cafeteria area in the museum.

Visit Information

The museum is open every day between 10.00-22.00.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, take the bus number 66 from the big public bus station on other side of the Galata Bridge to Şişhane station. The museum is walking distance from the Şişhane station.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the M2 metro from the Taksim Square to Şişhane station. The museum is walking distance from the Şişhane station.



Museum of Illusions

Faruk Yalçın Zoo

Opened in the year 1993, Faruk Yalçın Zoo has more than 250 species with more than 3000 animal population. Being a private initiative, Faruk Yalçın Zoo became the house of 62 kinds of animals in the danger of extinction and more than 400 plant kinds. In a year this famous zoo attracts more than 500.000 visitors which 150.000 of them students brought for educational purposes. Faruk Yalçın Zoo is the biggest zoo with the numbers of

Attractions for Fun w Family

animals accredited by the Ministry of Forestry in Turkey.

Visit Information

Faruk Yalçın Zoo is open every day between 09.30-18.00.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the ferry to Uskudar. From the Uskudar port, take the Harem-Gebze minibus to Çayiroğlu. From the Çayiroğlu station, take the bus number 501 to Darıca. From the Darıca station, Faruk Yalçın Zoo is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the ferry to Uskudar. From the Uskudar port, take the Harem-Gebze minibus to Çayiroğlu. From the Çayiroğlu station, take the bus number 501 to Darıca. From the Darıca station, Faruk Yalçın Zoo is walking distance.



Sealife Aquarium

Sealife Aquarium

Located inside of the Forum Istanbul Shopping Mall, Sealife Aquarium is the biggest not only in Istanbul but also in Turkey. In an area of 8.000 square meters and with 80 meters long underwater observation tunnel, Sealife Aquarium is

also amongst the biggest in the world. There are more than 15.000 species including 15 different kinds of sharks, thornback and many others. To have the feel of the tropics, in the Sealife Aquarium, there is also the Rain Forests section for an interesting experience.

Visit Information

Sealife Aquarium is open every day between 10.00-19.30.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take T1 to Yusufpaşa station. From the Yusufpaşa station, change the line to M1 metro to Kocatepe station. Sealife Aquarium is walking distance to Kocatepe station inside the Forum Istanbul Shopping Mall.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take T1 to Yusufpaşa station. From the Yusufpaşa station, change the line to M1 metro to Kocatepe station. Sealife Aquarium is walking distance to Kocatepe station inside the Forum Istanbul Shopping Mall.

Emaar Aquarium

Opened in the Asian side of Istanbul inside of the one of the newest shopping malls of Istanbul, Emaar Aquarium offers more than 20.000 sea animals with 200 different kinds. With more 5 different theme sections, Emaar Aquarium is giving you the chance to see the animals in their natural living conditions. With a tunnel 3.5 meters from the aquarium,

Attractions for Fun w Family

visitors have the chance to experience the life underwater with 270 degrees.

Visit Information

Emaar Aquarium is open every day between 10:00-22:00.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, take a ferry to Uskudar. From Uskudar, it takes 10 minutes by taxi to Emaar Aquarium.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take a ferry to Uskudar. From Uskudar, it takes 10 minutes by taxi to Emaar Aquarium.

Legoland

Opened in the year 2015 inside the Forum Istanbul Shopping Mall, Legoland gives the chance of a unique experience for especially the families with kids. If you want your kids to test their imagination by playing fun games, Legoland will be the best fit for you. With 5 different sections of Lego games area separated according to the age group, there is also a laser gun game with 4D cinema center. Also there is a theme cafeteria and a gift shop to make the experience unforgettable.

Visit Information

Legoland is open every day between 10:00-20:00.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take T1 to Yusufpaşa station. From the Yusufpaşa

station, change the line to M1 metro to Kocatepe station. Legoland is walking distance to Kocatepe station inside the Forum Istanbul Shopping Mall.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take T1 to Yusufpaşa station. From the Yusufpaşa station, change the line to M1 metro to Kocatepe station. Legoland is walking distance to Kocatepe station inside the Forum Istanbul Shopping Mall.



Xtrem Aventures

Serving for more than 10 years all around the world, Xtrem Aventures, opened their branch in Istanbul Maslak UNIQ in 2015. In the Xtrem Aventures Park, there are tracks for age group 3-8, over 8 years old and for adults. There are also 180 meter long Zipline Track, Quick Jump track that you can jump from 15 meters with a robe attached on you, rope sections in 4 different difficulty category and many more. If you want to challenge yourself while in Istanbul, Xtrem Aventures is the right place.

Attractions for Fun w Family

Visit Information

Xtrem Aventures is open every day except on Mondays between 10:00-19:00.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, take the bus number 41E to Maslak Kültür Merkezi station. Xtrem Avventures is walking distance from the station.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the bus number 41E to Maslak Kültür Merkezi station. Xtrem Avventures is walking distance from the station.

Viasea Lionpark

Opened in the year 2018, Viasea Lionpark is home to 30 different wild cat with 10 different kinds. Amongst what you can see in this theme park is lions, tigers, leopards and jaguars. Viasea Lionpark is also home to some endangered species such as White Lion. With a decreasing number of 30 all over the world, 5 White Lions are under the protection of Viasea Lionpark. Other than seeing the lions, you can also feed them and take pictures with them in Viasea Lionpark.

Visit Information

Viasea Lionpark is open every day between 11:00-18:30.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Sirkeci station. From the Sirkeci station, take the MARMARAY to Tuzla station.

From the Tuzla station, take the bus number C-109 to Viaport Marina station. Viasea Lionpark is walking distance from the Viaport Marina station.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 tram to Sirkeci station. From the Sirkeci station, take the MARMARAY to Tuzla station. From the Tuzla station, take the bus number C-109 to Viaport Marina station. Viasea Lionpark is walking distance from the Viaport Marina station.

Jungle&Safari&Dungeon

Located inside of the Isfanbul Theme Park, Jungle&Safari&Dungeon gives the travelers a unique experience. If you want to enjoy your day with a really fun activity as a family, Jungle&Safari&Dungeon is a good fit for you. You can visit the jungle theme with lots of wild animals inside, you can jeep safari suitable for all ages and see the dungeon theme for a little excitement. Don't miss this unique activity while in Isfanbul Theme Park.

Visit Information

Isfanbul Theme Park is open every day between 11:00-19:00.

How to go there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, take the bus number 99Y from the big public bus station on the other side of the Galata Bridge to Maliye Blokları station. From the Maliye

Attractions for Fun w Family

Blokları station, Isfanbul Theme Park is walking distance.

From the Taksim station: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the T1 tram to Eminönü station. From the Eminönü station, take the bus number 99Y from the big public bus station on the other side of the Galata Bridge to Maliye Blokları station. From the Maliye Blokları station, Isfanbul Theme Park is walking distance.

Beşiktaş Stadium Tour

If you are a fan of soccer & football, this tour is a must to do in Istanbul. Being the oldest sports club of Turkey, Beşiktaş Football and Gymnastic, aka. BJK, opened their doors to supporters and football lovers all over the world, to enjoy their venue, Vodafone Park. In this tour, you can see the press tribune, press lodge, administration offices, changing rooms and pitch accompanied by an official guide of the club. With the help of the Green Box technology, you can take pictures of yourself with your favorite players and backgrounds.

Visit Information

The stadium tour is available every day except of match days and some national / religious holidays.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, the stadium is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the

funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, the stadium is walking distance.

Fenerbahçe Stadium Tour

Being one of the biggest football clubs of Turkey, Fenerbahçe football stadium is waiting its guest for a different stadium experience. Located in the Asian side of Istanbul, Fenerbahçe Football stadium is the 4th biggest stadium in Turkey. You can join the tour to see the history of the football club that was opened in the year 1907. There are collections starting from the important players, trophies, notable coaches and presidents and many more. For a different experience, you can contact us for VIP tours that you can celebrate birthdays or special events.

Visit Information

The tour is available on every weekday between 10:00-17:30

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, take the ferry to Uskudar. From the Uskudar station, take the MARMARAY to Söğütlü Çeşme station. From the Söğütlü Çeşme station the stadium is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take the ferry to Uskudar. From the Uskudar station, take the MARMARAY to Söğütlü Çeşme station. From the Söğütlü Çeşme station the stadium is walking distance.

Shopping Malls

Cevahir Shopping Mall

Located in the heart of the city center with its 6 floors and 230 shops, Cevahir Shopping Mall, is one of the biggest shopping malls that attracts one of the highest numbers of visitors per day in Istanbul. The restaurants that you can taste different cuisines, game areas for the kids and especially convenient excess with the metro system are what makes Cevahir Shopping Mall attractive for majority of the travelers that comes to Istanbul.

Visit Information

Cevahir Shopping Mall is open every day between 10:00-22:00

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, take the funicular to Taksim. From the Taksim station, take the M2 metro to Şişli station. From the Şişli station, there is a direct entrance to the shopping mall.

From the Taksim hotels: Take M2 metro to Şişli station. From the Şişli station, there is a direct entrance to the shopping mall.

Istinye Park

With more than 300 shops and a land of 270.000 square meter area, Istinye Shopping Mall, is one of the most famous and luxurious shopping mall of Istanbul. The international brands such as Louis Vuitton, Chanel and Hermes and restaurants that has gourmet meals are

amongst what you can easily find in Istinye Shopping Mall.

Visit Information

Istinye Shopping Mall is open every day between 10:00-22:00.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, take the funicular to Taksim. From the Taksim station, take the M2 metro to İTÜ-Ayazağa station. From the İTÜ-Ayazağa station, İstinye Shopping Mall is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: From the Taksim station, take the M2 metro to İTÜ-Ayazağa station. From the İTÜ-Ayazağa station, İstinye Shopping Mall is walking distance.

Kanyon

With its location close to the city center and easily accessible by metro, Kanyon Shopping Mall serves its customers with international brands and delicious meals. There are more than 120 shops and 30 different restaurants in Kanyon Shopping Mall.

Visit Information

Kanyon Shopping Mall is open every day between 10:00-22:00.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, take the funicular to Taksim. From the Taksim station, take the M2 metro to Levent station. From the Levent station, there is a direct entrance to the shopping mall.

Shopping Malls

From the Taksim hotels: From the Taksim station, take the M2 metro to Levent station. From the Levent station, there is a direct entrance to the shopping mall.

Zorlu Center

The center of shopping and luxury, Zorlu Center, is one of the newest shopping malls of Istanbul with international brands and luxury restaurants. With its famous performance center quite popular in the city, Zorlu Center is also quite easy to access with its central location.

Visit Information

Zorlu Center is open every day between 10.00-22.00.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, take the funicular to Taksim. From the Taksim station, take the M2 metro to Gayrettepe station. . From the Gayrettepe station, there is a direct entrance to the shopping mall.

From the Taksim hotels: From the Taksim station, take the M2 metro to Gayrettepe station. . From the Gayrettepe station, there is a direct entrance to the shopping mall.

Emaar Square

One of the newest and biggest shopping malls of the Asian side of Istanbul, Emaar Shopping Mall, is the center of the luxury. Aside international brands and famous restaurants inside, with its theme aquarium, Emaar Square gives lots of

different options for entertainment for its visitors.

Visit Information

Emaar Square is open every day between 10.00-22.00.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 tram to Kabataş station. From the Kabataş station, take a ferry to Uskudar. From Uskudar, it takes 10 minutes by taxi to Emaar Square.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take a ferry to Uskudar. From Uskudar, it takes 10 minutes by taxi to Emaar Square.

Forum Istanbul

As well as more than 300 international brands, Forum Istanbul Shopping Mall, also attracts visitors with its venues such as theme aquarium and Legoland. Forum Istanbul is also famous for its more than 50 restaurants that you can taste Turkish or international foods.

Visit Information

Forum Istanbul is open every day between 10.00-22.00.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take T1 to Yusufpaşa station. From the Yusufpaşa station, change the line to M1 metro to Kocatepe station. Forum Istanbul is walking distance to Kocatepe station.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the funicular from the Taksim Square to Kabataş. From the Kabataş station, take T1 to Yusufpaşa station. From the

Shopping Malls

Yusufpaşa station, change the line to M1 metro to Kocatepe station. Forum İstanbul is walking distance to Kocatepe station.

Viaport Asia

If you don't like to be inside of a building or get bored quickly in a shopping mall, Viaport Asia is just for you. Unlike majority of the shopping malls in İstanbul, Viaport Asia consists of open streets with luxury shops and restaurants, activity center, gaming areas and many more. With its location close from the Sabiha Gökçen Airport, Viaport Asia is also a good option also for the travelers flying from there.

Visit Information

Viaport Asia is open every day between 10:00-22:00.

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Sirkeci station. From the Sirkeci station, take the MARMARAY to Pendik station. From the Pendik station, take the minibus that goes regularly to Viaport Asia.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the M2 metro to Yenikapı station. From the Yenikapı station, take the MARMARAY to Pendik station. From the Pendik station, take the minibus that goes regularly to Viaport Asia.

Palladium

Located on the Asian side of İstanbul, Palladium may be a good option for the travelers staying on the Asian side with its famous international brands. You can

easily find what you are looking for in Palladium with its more than 200 shop.

Visit Information

Palladium is open every day between 10:00-22:00

How to get there

From the old city hotels: Take the T1 to Sirkeci station. From the Sirkeci station, take the MARMARAY to Ayrılıkçeşmesi station. From Ayrılıkçeşmesi station, take M4 metro to Yenisahra station. From the Yenisahra station Palladium is walking distance.

From the Taksim hotels: Take the M2 metro to Yenikapı station. From the Yenikapı station, take the MARMARAY to Ayrılıkçeşmesi station. From Ayrılıkçeşmesi station, take M4 metro to Yenisahra station. From the Yenisahra station Palladium is walking distance

Sample Itineraries

From museums, monuments, landmarks, and art galleries, Istanbul has lots to offer. Our example itinerary will make your trip perfect. Everything awaits for just two things. An ambitious traveler and Istanbul E-pass. Let the Istanbul e-pass guide you through the history and mystery of this one of a kind city in the world.

Day 1

Hagia Sophia Guided Tour
Topkapi Palace Guided Tour
Hagia Irene Guided Tour
Basilica Cistern Guided Tour
Blue Mosque Guided Tour
Grand Bazaar Guided Tour
Bosphorus Cruise w Dinner and Turkish Show

Day 2

Bosphorus Cruise
Dolmabahce Palace Guided Tour
Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum
Guided Tour
Şerefiye Cistern Tour
Whirling Dervishes Show

Day 3

Madame Tussauds
Museum of Illusions
Sapphire Observation Deck
Skyride 4D Simulation
VR Experience
Beşiktaş Stadium Tour

Day 4

Sealife Aquarium
Legoland Discovery Centre
Hop on Hop Off Bosphorus Cruise
Sakıp Sabancı Museum
Ural Ataman Classic Car Museum

Day 5

Bursa Tour Day Trip From Istanbul

Day 6

Istanbul Aquarium
İsfanbul Jungle Park & Safari & Dungeon
Xtrem Aventures Zip Line
Dialogue in the Dark & Silence

Day 7

Sapanca Lake & Maşukiye Tour Day Trip From Istanbul