

Population

Approximately 13 million in Greater Istanbul

Currency

Turkish Lira, TL1 = 100 kuruş

Opening hours

The official opening hours for shops are 9.00-18.00. However, some traders and shops stay open until midnight. Most hotels will have at least one 24 hour restaurant.

Internet

www.istanbul.com
www.istanbultourist.com
www.istanbullife.org

Newspapers

English language:
Daily Turkish News
www.turkishdailynews.com
www.turkishpress.com

Emergency numbers

112

Tourist information

Arrival hall at airport
tel +90 212 663 07 93
Hotel Hilton
tel +90 212 233 05 92
Railway station Sirkeçi
tel +90 212 511 58 11
Hippodrome
tel +90 212 518 18 02
www.istanbultourist.com

ISTANBUL

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Contents: The City, Do & See, Eating, Cafes, Bars & Nightlife, Shopping, Sleeping, Essential Information, Maps

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It's easy to lose yourself in Istanbul's grandiose history, but modern Istanbul is a simmering metropolis, well worth a visit in its own right. The shopping is world class and the nightlife pulsates around Taksim Square. Even though Istanbul is no longer the capital, it's still the country's business and cultural centre, still the city where new trends are created.



THE CITY



© Hector Garcia

Constantinople, the centre of the Byzantine Empire which lasted over a thousand years, later became Istanbul, the capital of the Ottoman Empire for almost 500 years. The city is a mixture of Europe and Asia, a unique urban composition. A stroll around Sultanahmet, inside the city walls, among mosques, museums and the Great Bazaar is a trip through both history and daily life.

Modern Istanbul is on the other side of the Galata Bridge in Beyoglu, around Taksim and the northern suburbs with lots of good restaurants and shopping. Istanbul's Asiatic quarters have avoided much of the tourism and have retained a more humdrum character. Waterways play a central role in the life of the city and boat traffic on the Bosphorus, the Golden Horn and the Sea of Marmara is extremely intensive. Along the banks you can find small cafés where you can enjoy a glass of tea and magnificent views over the town.



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DO & SEE



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Turkish Baths

It's said that if you've never tried a Turkish bath then you've never been really clean. The visitor moves through several hot rooms and finally arrives at the massage table for a real going over. Men and women bathe separately, exceptions are made at certain times for tourists. Here is one recommended bathhouse:

Çemberlitas Hamam. Situated near the Bazaar, this is the oldest hamam in town and was reputedly built by the master architect Sinan.

Address: Vezirhan Cad. No: 8, Çemberlitaş
Phone: +90 212 522 79 74
Internet: www.cemberlitashamami.com.tr

Topkapi Palace

The palace of the sultans with its many courtyards and gates is more reminiscent of a fossilised camp than a palace, there are several special museums in the area. The Treasure Chamber, where the famous dagger and Spoonmaker diamond are the real rarities of the collection, and the harem, where the sultan's wives and children lived, is not included in the ticket price to the palace.

Address: Babühümayun Cad., Sultanahmet
Phone: +90 212 512 04 80

Aya Sofya

Aya Sofya is a remarkable mixture of Christianity and



Islam, a church with minarets and a mosque with pictures of the Virgin Mary. The building is one of the wonders of world architecture which was only surpassed after a thousand years by St. Peter's church in the 16th-century.

Address: Ayasofya Meydani, Sultanahmet
Phone: +90 212 522 17 50

Sultanahmet Or The Blue Mosque

Built at the beginning of the 16th-century, this is the only mosque in Istanbul with six minarets. The building was given its name by the 20.000 blue Iznik tiles used in its construction.

Address: Hippodromen, Sultanahmet
Phone: +90 212 518 13 19

Süleymaniye

Süleymaniye is the largest mosque dating from 1557 and also contains the mausoleum of sultan Süleyman and his wife Roxelane. The master architect Sinan built many of Istanbul's mosques during the 1500s and is buries next to the mosque.

Address: Prof Siddik Sami Onar Cad. Sultanahmet
Phone: +90 212 514 01 39

Chora Monastery / Kariye Camii

The Monastery was founded in the 5th century and contains wonderfully beautiful frescos and mosaics dating from 1000-1300 representing the Virgin Mary and the life of Jesus.

Address: Kariye Camii Sok. Edirnekapi
Phone: +90 212 631 92 41

Boat trips

Boats travel along the shores of the Bosphorus from Eminönü, they chug quietly under the bridges that connect Europe and Asia. One hour away is Anadolukavagi, a little Asian fishing village with lots of pleasant restaurants.

You can travel to the largest of the Prince Islands with

a Seabus, departing from Kabatas below the Dolmabahçe Palace. If you want to visit more of these islands, you can take the ordinary boat from Eminönü.

Great Bazaar

The Great bazaar attracts many people – far too many if you come at rush hour. It's a good idea to arrive early in the morning and enjoy a cup of tea in one of the cafés whilst the bazaar comes to life. There are thousands of stalls, selling virtually everything, carpets, gold, cloth, spices. The bazaar is a world of its own and it's easy, but fun, to get lost in the teeming alleyways.

Address: Carsikapi Cad. Beyasit, Sultanahmet

EATING



© John Picken

A meal often begins with meze—a number of small dishes such as aubergine purée, börek, various salads and cheese. Filling vegetables such as tomatoes, paprika, aubergines and zucchini with rice and minced meat is typically Turkish (dolmasi). There are special restaurants that only serve kebab or köfte, meatballs, look for Kebabci or Köfteci. Simpler restaurants are called Lokanta.

Four Seasons

The luxurious Four Seasons hotel is a converted prison from around 1800 near the Topkapi Palace. The restaurant is in a round outbuilding on what was once the prison yard, and here you can eat like a prince.

Address: Tevfikhane Sokak 1, Sultanahmet
Phone: +90 212 638 82 00



Internet: www.fourseasons.com/istanbul/dining.html

Pandeli

A lunch restaurant on the first floor of the Spice Bazaar, decorated with blue Iznik tiles. Serves traditional Turkish food with some Greek dishes.

Address: Misir Carsisi 1, Eminönü
Phone: +90 212 527 39 09

Yakub 2

Situated on a side street to Istiklâl Cad. The owner, Yakub Arslan, serves traditional meze to bohemian regulars and cultural celebrities.

Address: Asmalı Mescit Cad. 35-37Beyoğlu
Phone: +90 212 249 29 25

Rejans

A little difficult to find, but worth the trouble, Rejans is on a side street to Istiklâl Cad. Started by Russians after the 1917 revolution, it has retained its aristocratic atmosphere and fine Russian cuisine.

Address: Olivio Geçidi 15, Beyoğlu
Phone: +90 212 244 16 10
Internet: www.rejansrestaurant.com

Kumkapi

Kumkapi means "sand gate" in Turkish and is a district near Sultanahmet with many good fish restaurants.

Address: Kumkapi, Sultanahmet
Internet: www.kumkapirestaurants.com

Galatasaray Fish Market and Çiçek Pasajı

Halfway through the market runs the Nevzade, a lane with a string of good value Meyhanes—traditional taverns. The flower thoroughfare next to the market is a reconstructed restaurant street, but it's a little more expensive.

Address: Istiklâl Caddesi
More Info: Nevzade, Beyoğlu

CAFES



© Hussein Alazaat

Patisseri Pera

Time has stood still here since 1892 and you almost expect Mata Hari to sit down at the next table to enjoy one of the delicious pastries.

Address: Mesrutiyet Cad. 98, Tebevası, Beyoğlu
Phone: +90 212 377 40 00
Internet: www.perapalace.com
More Info: Pera Palace Hotel

Pierre Loti Kahvesi

This café is rightfully renowned for its fantastic view over the Golden Horn. Extremely popular with Turkish families and tourists.

Address: Eyüp
Phone: +90 212 518 57 00
Internet: www.pierrelotihotel.com
More Info: Pierreloti Hotel

Mesale Restaurant

A local hotspot with great service and a vibrant atmosphere, stop by for some tea and shisha. The café serves cocktails, but nothing with alcohol, although the smoking of hookhas is frequent.

Address: Prof.Bulent Tarcan Sk.6/1 Mecidiyekoy

Café Smyrna

A homey atmosphere with helpful staff, good food and soft lighting, these are the things awaiting you at Café



Smyrna. A great place to relax and wind down while sipping a cup of turkish coffee.

Address: Akarsu Caddesi, No. 29, Cihangir
Phone: +90 212 244 24 66

Mangerie

This is the perfect place to go for breakfast or brunch. Nice ambience with a magnificent view of the water and street below.

Address: Bebek Mh., Cevdet Paşa Caddesi 69
Phone: +90 212 263 5199
Internet: www.mangeriebek.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



© Jimmy Baikovicus

The really trendy places are outside the city centre, in Etiler, Levent and Örtaköy, but there's also plenty to do around Taksim.

Orient Express Bar

A nostalgic must where kings, spies, writers and film stars have all taken a drink. Don't forget to see Agatha Christie's room 411, which is now a museum.

Address: 34 Hüdavendigâr Caddesi, HocaPaşa
Phone: +90 212 520 71 61
Internet: www.orientexpresshotel.com

Reina

Reina has become a well known and highly appreciated party venue, for locals as well as tourists. It opened in 2002 and has been seen frequently in the media, thanks to celebrity guests.

Address: Muallim Naci Cad. 44
Phone: +90 212 259 59 19 / +90 212 259 59 21
Internet: www.reina.com.tr

Hodjapasha

Hodjapasha is a Culture Center located in a former Turkish bath. These days you can come here an evening for inspiring music and dance shows. Here you can see solo oriental dances as well as group performances and dances from different regions of Anatolia.

Address: Ankara Caddesi, HocaPaşa Hamam Sok 3
Phone: +90 212 511 46 26 / +90 212 511 46 36
Internet: www.hodjapasha.com

Roxy

Another reliable address that has kept its position over the years with performances by national and international stars.

Address: Siraselviler Cad., Arslan Atari Sok. 3, Taksim
Phone: +90 212 249 12 83
Internet: www.roxy.com.tr

Galata Tower

On the upper floors of this nine-story tower is a nightclub which hosts Turkish shows like belly dancing. The medieval stone tower is located just to the north of the Golden Horn and is an important landmark in Istanbul.

Address: Bostancı Mh. Özlem Sk 15
Phone: +90 212 293 81 80
Internet: www.galatatower.net



SHOPPING



© Christopher

Formerly, the various guilds had their own special areas in the Great Bazaar, Kapalı Çarşı, now it's mostly leather, carpets and gold. The Bazaar has over 5.000 shops and haggling is essential.

The Spice Bazaar is at the base of the Galata Bridge in Eminönü, and is also called the Egyptian bazaar because the imported spices came from Egypt. In the lanes around the bazaar you can buy cheese, honey and sausage.

Istiklâl Caddesi is a once fashionable old street in the Pera district, now called Beyoğlu. Much of the better shopping has moved to the suburb of Etiler, but some good shops still remain. As well as being an old cinema, Atlas Han, Istiklâl Cad. 209, is also a shopping arcade with antique shops. Another fine street in Istanbul is Vali Konagi Caddesi in the Nisantasi district behind the Hilton Hotel, with many brand name shops.

A good shopping district is the long Bagdat Caddesi on the Asiatic side. There are many trendy brand name shops here and prices are sometimes lower than in town because few tourists find this area.

On the way to the airport next to the Sea of Marmara lies Galleria, a large shopping centre. Another modern bazaar is Akmerkez in Etiler/Levent. There are 241 shops and restaurants on four floors. Take the Metro from Taksim.

SLEEPING



© leyla.a

Because of inflation, prices are usually shown in euros or dollars.

Pera Palace Hotel

Pera Palace hotel, built in 1892, is an antique gem. Built for passengers on the Orient Express, numerous heads of state, authors and artists have stayed here. The décor is old-fashioned and oriental, far removed from modern trends. The lift is an experience in itself.

Address: Mesrutiyet Cad. 52
Phone: +90 212 377 40 00
Internet: www.perapalace.com

Hotel Richmond

A centrally situated hotel, close to both Taksim and Tünel. Good café on the ground floor and occasional belly-dancing in the restaurant. Standard rooms are comfortable, but not very large.

Address: Istiklâl Cad. 227
Phone: +90 212 252 54 60
Internet: www.richmondhotels.com.tr

Ayasofya Pansiyonlari

A completely unique environment immediately behind Aya Sofya. The wooden houses from the 19th-century have been lovingly renovated and the rooms have a delicate, old-world charm.

Address: Suguçesme Sok., Sultanahmet
Phone: +90 212 513 36 60
Internet: www.ayasofyapensions.com



Hotel Poem

Two old wooden houses with a garden, near Aya Sofya, where all the rooms are named after poets. Some rooms have views over the Bosphorus.

Address: Süleymaniye Mh., İstanbul Ün. 12
Phone: +90 212 638 97 44
Internet: www.hotelpoem.com

Hotel Hippodrome

Hotel Hippodrome is a pink, three-storey building with a terrace overlooking the Blue Mosque. Traditional interior with lots of genuine oriental carpets. Rooms are decorated in warm colours.

Address: Mimar Mehmetaga Cad. 38, Sultanahmet
Phone: +90 212 517 68 89
Internet: www.hippodromehotel.com

Ararat

All rooms are individually decorated in the Byzantine style by the Greek artist Nikos Papadakis. The Blue Mosque is nearby.

Address: Torun Sok. 3, Sultanahmet
Phone: +90 212 516 04 11
Internet: www.ararathotel.com

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



© budget travel accommodation

Airport

The international airport, Atatürk Hava Limani, lies near the Sea of Marmara, around 25 km from the city centre. Buses run to Taksim Square every 30 minutes, journey time 45 min, cost 10 YTL. Taxis cost 15-20

euros. The simplest and quickest journey is by Metro to Aksaray and takes around 35 minutes, costing 1.30 YTL.

Phone: +90 212 465 55 55
Web: www.ataturkairport.com

Istanbul's other airport, Sabiha Gökçen, is on the Asiatic side and is used mostly by domestic flights and some smaller airlines. The airport bus to Taksim costs 10 YTL. There is no direct transport between the airports - change at Taksim.

Phone: +90 216 585 50 00
Web: www.sgairport.com

Public Transport

There is one public and one private bus network, IETT and Halk Otobus, respectively. The underground, Tünel, runs from Karaköy till İstiklâl Cad. in Beyoğlu and takes a few minutes. There is also a museum tram up toward Taksim Square.

Another tram route, Tramway, goes from Kabatas via Galata bridge and the Spice Bazaar to the south-western suburbs. The Metro goes from Taksim north to Levent and from Aksaray to Otogar in Esenler, where buses depart for other parts of Turkey and Europe and to the airport. Bus, Metro and tram cost 1.30 YTL in the city centre area.

Dolmuses are minibuses or large taxis that depart when they are full, and stop where you want them to. They are the cheapest form of transport.

Ferries between Europe and Asia leave from Eminönü, Karaköy and Besiktas to Üsküdar, Kadıköy and Harem.

Akbil is a type of payment card that can be loaded with various sums and used on buses, boats and trams. Can be bought at major junctions. One-day cards costs 6.5 YTL and you can travel as much as you like.



Taxi

Taxis are yellow in the inner city and lilac in the suburbs. There are numerous taxi companies. Different hotels work with different companies and can book your transport to the airport. It's best to hail a taxi on the street, or go to a taxi rank and ask for a business card. If you're satisfied with the company, keep on using it.

Post

The main post office is on Yeni Posthane Cad., near the railway station Sirkeçi. Other PTT-offices are on Taksim Square and İstiklâl Cad. Open 09-17. Closed Sundays.

Pharmacy

Eczanesi. In the window of the pharmacy there is the address and telephone number of the current duty pharmacy. You can also call 111.

Dentist

Call 112 or contact the German hospital, which has a dentists' reception.

Address: Siraselviler Cad. 119, Taksim
Phone: +90 212 293 21 50

Telephone

Country number +90

Area code: 0212

Electricity

220 volt







Aga Cesmesi	A3 A4	Hukümet Konagi	B3 C3	Ragip Gumuspala Caddesi	A2
Ahir Kapi	C4	İlk Beldiye	B1	Refik Saydam Caddesi	B1
Akbiyik	C4	İmran Oktem	B4	Resadiye	B2
Aksakal	B4	Isik (Sultanahmet)	B4	S. Beyazit	A2
Alemdar Caddesi	C3	İsmetiye Caddesi	A3 B3	S. Mektebi	C1 D1
Alisan	A4	İstasyon Arkasi	C3	Sabuncu Han	B2 B3
Ankara Caddesi	B3 C2	K. Hamam	A4	Sadirvan	C4
Asir Efendi Caddesi	B3	Kabba Sakal Caddesi	C4	Sair Laleli Cesme	B1
Asma Kandil	A3	Kadirga Hamami	A4 B4	Sair Ziya Pasa	B1
At Meydani	C4	Kadirga Limani Caddesi	A4 B4	Sansa	A4
Ataturk Koprusu	A1	Kaleci	B4	Sarapnel	A4
Atlama Tasi Caddesi	A2	Kalpakcilarbasi	A3 B3	Sari Beyazit	A2
Aynacilar	B3	Karakoy Square	B1 C1	Serdari Ekrem	B1 C1
Babatigit	A4	Kart Cinaqr	B1	Seref Ef	B3
Babi Ali Caddesi	B3	Kasnakclar	A2	Sishane	B1
Babi Humayun Caddesi	C3 C4	Kemankes Caddesi	C1	Siyavus Pasa	A2 A3
Bakircilar Caddesi	A3	Kennedy Caddesi	A4 C2 C4 D3 D4	Soguk Cesme	C3
Bali Pasa Yok	A4	Kible Cesme Caddesi	A2	Su Terazisi	B4
Batumlu	A4	Kiliccilar	B3	Suleymaniyeye Caddesi	A3
Besim Omer	A3	Klodfarer	B4	Sultan Mektebi	B3
Bogaz Kesen Caddesi	C1	Komurcu Caoraz	A4	Tahmis Caddesi	B2
Bozdogan Kemerli	A3	Koprucu	B3	Tahtakale	B2
Buyuk Hendek	B1	Kucuk Ayasofya Caddesi	B4 C4	Tarakcilar	B3
Buyuk Postane Caddesi	B2 B3	Kucuk Haydar	A4	Tatar Beyi Dibek	B1 C1
Caferiye	C3	Kumbaraci Yokusu	C1	Tavasi Cesme	A4
Cakmacilar Yokusu	A3 B3	Kumkapi Kurban	A4	Tavsanta	A3 A4
Cankurtaran	C4	Kumluk	A4	Tavuk Pazari	B3
Carkcilar	B3	Kutlugun	C4	Telli Odalr	A4
Catal Cesme	B3 C3	Kutucular	A2 B2	Tersane Caddesi	B1
Cemal Nadir	B3	Kutucular Caddesi	A2 B2	Terzihane	B4
Cifte Gelinler Caddesi	A4	Kuyusu	A4	Tigcilar	A3 B3
Cinci Meydan	B4	Leblebici	A2	Tiyatro Caddesi	A4
Comertler	B4	Luleci Hendek	C1	Tophane İskeleyi	C1
Daltaban Yokusu	A3 A4	Macuncu	B3	Torun	C4
Darulfunun Caddesi	A3	Mahmutpasa	B3	Tulumbaci Sitki	C1
Defterdar Yokusu	C1	Meclisi Mebusan Caddesi	C1 D1	Turanli	A3 A4
Divan Yolu Caddesi	B3 B4	Mengene	B3	Turkeli Caddesi	A4
Dizdariye Cesmesi	B4	Mesrutiyet Caddesi	B1	Turkocagi	B3
Dokmeciler Hamai	A2	Meydani	B4 C4	Ucler	B4
Ebusuud Caddesi	B3 C3	Mimar Mehmet Aga	C4	Universite Caddesi	A3
Emin Sinan Hamami	A4 B4	Mimar Sinan	A2	Unkapani	A2
Fenerli Kapi	B4 C4	Mithat Pasa	A4	Utangac	C4
Fetva Kokusu	A2	Molla Tasi	A4	Uzun Carsi Caddesi	A2 B2
Florya - Sirkeci Sahil Yolu	B4	Mollafenari	B3	Vasif Cinar Caddesi	B3
Fuat Pasa Caddesi	A3	Murat	C3	Vezirhani	B3
Futuhat	B1	Nakilbent	B4	Vezneciler Caddesi	A3
Galata Koprusu	B2	Namahrem	A2	Voyvoda Caddesi	B1
Galata Kulesi	B1	Necati Bey Caddesi	C1	Yaglikcilar Caddesi	A3
Galata Mumhane	C1	Nobethane	C3	Yahya Pasa	A4
Galip Dede	B1	Nuruosmaniye	B3	Yalcin	B2
Gedik Pasa Cami	A4 B4	Okcu Musa Caddesi	B1	Yali Kosku	B2
Gedikpasa Caddesi	A4	Orhaniye	C3	Yanik	B1
Gulhane Parki Yolu	C3	Oyuncu	C4	Yeni Cami Caddesi	B2
Gumruk	C1	Persmbe Pazari	B1	Yenicieriler Caddesi	A3
Haci Kadin Caddesi	A2	Peykhane	B4	Yogurtcuoglu	A2 A3
Hamidiye Caddesi	B2 B3	Piyer Loti Caddesi	B4	Yokusu	B4
Hayriye Hanim	A2	Prof. Cemil Bilsel Caddesi	A2	Yukusu	A4
Hisar Dibi	B4	Prof. Siddik Sami Onar Caddesi	A2 A3	Zeynep Sultan	C3 C4
Hoca Hani	B3	Prof. Umit Yasar Doganay	A3	Zincirlihan	B1
Hoca Tahsin	C1				