

### Population:

Approximately 13 million in Greater Istanbul

### Currency:

New Turkish lira YTL. Six zeros have been deleted from the previous currency and 1 YTL is equal to a million old lira.

### 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](http://www.istanbul.com)  
[www.istanbultourist.com](http://www.istanbultourist.com)  
[www.istanbullife.org](http://www.istanbullife.org)  
[www.istanbulguide.net/istguide](http://www.istanbulguide.net/istguide)

### Newspapers:

English language:  
Daily Turkish News  
[www.turkishdailynews.com](http://www.turkishdailynews.com)  
[www.turkishpress.com](http://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](http://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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## ISTANBUL

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



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



### 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](http://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 buried 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 Asiatic 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. (See shopping)

*Address: Carsikapi Cad. Beyasit, Sultanahmet*

## **EATING**



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 luxury 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](http://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. And the owner, Yakub Arslan, serves traditional meze to bohemian regulars and cultural celebrities.

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

### **Refik**

Situated around the corner from Yakub 2 and run by one of his relatives, Refik serves homely Turkish classics that will make you want to return.

Address: *Sofyali Sok. 10-12, Tünel, Beyoğlu*  
Phone: *+90 212 243 28 34*

### **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**

A district near Sultanahmet with many good fish restaurants.

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

### **Galatasaray Fish Market And Çicek Pasajı**

Halfway through the market runs the Nevizade, 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 information: *Nevizade, Beyoğlu*

## **CAFES**



### **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*  
More information: *Pera Palas, Mesrutiyet Cad. 98, Tebevası, Beyoğlu*

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### **Pierre Loti Kahves**

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

Address: *Eyüp*

### **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 lightling, 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: (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.mangeriebebek.com](http://www.mangeriebebek.com)*

## **BARS & NIGHTLIFE**



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 Hüdavendigar Caddesi, HocaPaşa, İstanbul  
Phone: +90 212 520 71 61  
Internet: [www.orientexpresshotel.com](http://www.orientexpresshotel.com)*

### **Kaktüs**

A well-known, popular place where you can

begin (and end) your night out.

*Address: Imam Adnan Sok. 4, Beyoglu  
Phone: +90 212 293 61 00  
Internet: [www.kemanci.org](http://www.kemanci.org)*

### **Kemanci**

Restaurant, bar and pleasure temple on three floors. It's been around for a long time, but is still one of the most important nightlife addresses. Here you can listen to pop, rock and alternative music.

*Address: Siraselviler Cad. 69/1-3, Taksim*

### **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](http://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.

*Internet: [www.galatatower.net](http://www.galatatower.net)*

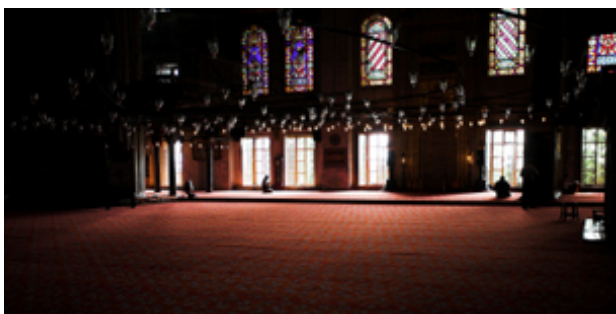
## **SHOPPING**



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 cheeses, honey and sausages. İstiklâl 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, İstiklâl Cad. 209, is also a shopping arcade with antique shops. Other fine streets in Istanbul are 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 is 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



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

### EXCLUSIVE Pera Palas Hotel

Pera Palas, 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: +90 212 222 80 90  
Internet: www.perapalas.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: İstiklâl Cad. 227  
Phone: +90 212 252 54 60  
Internet: www.richmondhotels.com.tr*

### GOOD VALUE 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: Sığaçsme Sok., Sultanahmet  
Phone: +90 212 513 36 60  
Internet: www.ayasofyapansiyonlari.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 Ünv. 12  
Phone: +90 212 638 97 44  
Internet: www.hotelpoem.com*

### BASIC 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. Rooms with views cost a little more.

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

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



## Airport

The international airport, Atatürk Hava Limanı, is 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*  
Internet: *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*  
Internet: *www.sgairport.com*

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## Public Transport

There is one public and one private bus network, IETT and Halk Otobus, respectively. The underground, Tünel, runs from Karaköy till Istiklâl 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 simplest 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 Istiklâl 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 ring 111.

### **Dentist**

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