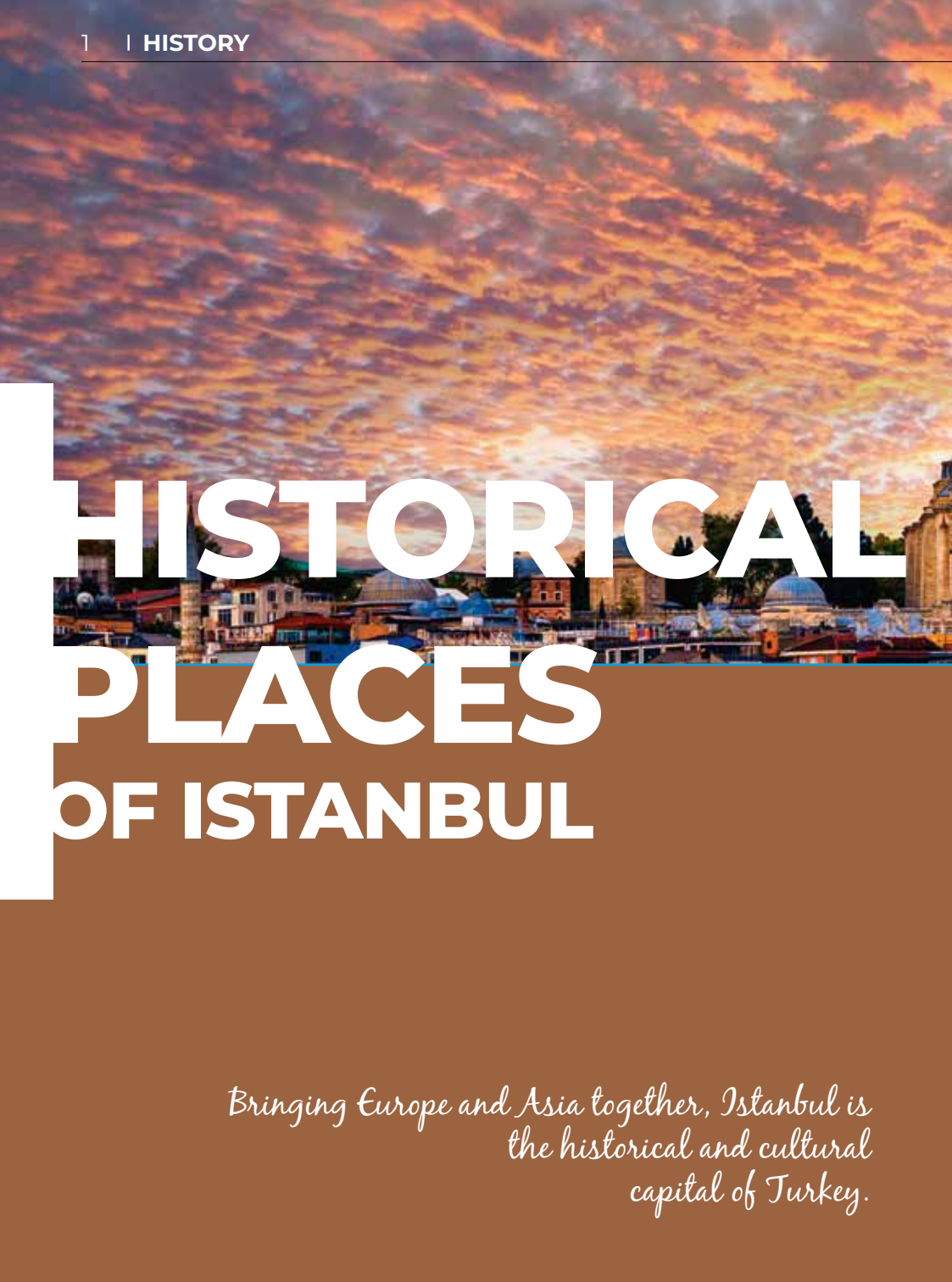




HISTORICAL PLACES OF ISTANBUL

*Bringing Europe and Asia together, Istanbul is
the historical and cultural
capital of Turkey.*



Considered as a global city, Istanbul was the European Capital of Culture in 2010.

Did you know?

Istanbul is known as the City on the Seven Hills. The city has inherited this denomination from Byzantine Constantinople which – consciously following the model of Rome – was built on seven hills too.

THE CITY'S BIGGEST ATTRACTION IS ITS HISTORIC CENTER, THE HISTORICAL PENINSULA, AND IT IS PARTIALLY LISTED AS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE.

Istanbul's history dates back to 6th millennium BCE. It is thought that people used to live around the Kucukcekmece Lake during the Neolithic and Chalcolithic eras. Tools dating back to the Lower Palaeolithic Era were excavated in Dudullu, while some dating back to the Middle Palaeolithic Era and the Upper Palaeolithic Era were discovered around Aqaci. Ruins dating back to the Neolithic Period (6500 BC) were discovered during the excavations of the Marmaray immersed tube tunnel, some dating back to the Bronze Age (5500-3500 BC) were discovered in Fikirtepe while some ruins were discovered in Kadikei, dating back to the Phoenicians.

Istanbul's history can be divided into 3 parts: the Byzantine period, the Ottoman period and the current Republic period. The Byzantine period started in 324 and continued until 1453. In 330, Constantinople was proclaimed the capital of the Roman Empire. During most of the Middle Ages, the latter part of the Byzantine era, Constantinople was the largest and wealthiest city on the European continent and at times the largest in the world. In 1453, after an eight-week siege, Sultan Mehmed II "the Conqueror"

captured Constantinople and declared it the new capital of the Ottoman Empire. The conquest of Constantinople became a legend and an inspiration to countless books and movies. Istanbul acted as the capital of Ottoman Empire until October 29th, 1923. On that day, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey declared the establishment of the Turkish Republic, with Ankara as its capital.

Even now, every single street of Istanbul has some pieces of Ottoman and Byzantine Empires. The city is living and breathing with its thousands-of-years-long history. It is the capital of history and culture and the heart of civilizations.

During the conquest of Constantinople, it is rumored that the Ottomans and Sultan Mehmet moved the ships over land. Sultan Mehmet was 21 years old when he conquered this city and was a genius statesman and a military leader who was also interested in literature, fine arts and monumental architecture. He was educated by famous scholar Aksemseddin and according to Ottoman historians he was speaking 7 languages fluently.

HIPPODROME OF CONSTANTINOPLE: SULTANAHMET SQUARE

If you are getting ready to visit Istanbul, no doubt your first address should be Sultanahmet Square. The square is also known as the "Hippodrome" and "Horse Square". Sultan Ahmed Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Topkapı Palace and Basilica Cistern, some of the most known touristic spots of Istanbul, are all within the borders of Hippodrome. The region has many touristic hotels, cafes, restaurants and shops and provides an entertaining and dynamic energy to tourists. The square was called "Horse Square" during the Ottoman period because the word hippodrome comes from the word hippos (horse) and dromos (path or way). Throughout the Byzantine period

and even before those times, the square was the light of social life and used for horse racing and chariot racing. Although the structures do not exist anymore, if you look carefully, you can still see the remnants of the giant hippodrome. It is possible that much more of the Hippodrome's remains still lie beneath the parkland of Sultanahmet Square.



Did you know?

In the entrance of the glorious hippodrome, there used to be 4 horse statues. Today, you can see them in front of St Mark's Basilica because they got stolen during the Latin invasion.





ISTANBUL'S PEACEFUL AND HARMONIOUS BEAUTY: SULTAN AHMED MOSQUE

When one tries to describe the allure and beauty of the Sultan Ahmed Mosque "the Blue Mosque", it feels like there are no words good enough... The mosque and its atmosphere trigger so many emotions and change the nature of every single person who sets his or her foot inside.

The mosque was constructed between 1609 and 1616 during the rule of Sultan Ahmed I and it is one of the most precious pieces of Turkish – Islamic architecture.

The mosque was the primary imperial mosque of The Ottoman Empire and has five main domes, six minarets and eight secondary domes. The hand-painted blue tiles of the mosque's interior walls are well-known internationally and that's why the mosque is also called as the Blue Mosque. At its lower levels and at every pier, the interior of the mosque is lined with more than 20,000 handmade İznik style ceramic tiles which have more than 60 different tulip designs. The tiles symbolize peace and happiness. In the lower area the mosque has 200 stained glass windows. The dome and ceiling decorations of the mosque are also very remarkable. In 1985, the mosque was added into Historic Areas of Istanbul - UNESCO World Heritage Centre list.

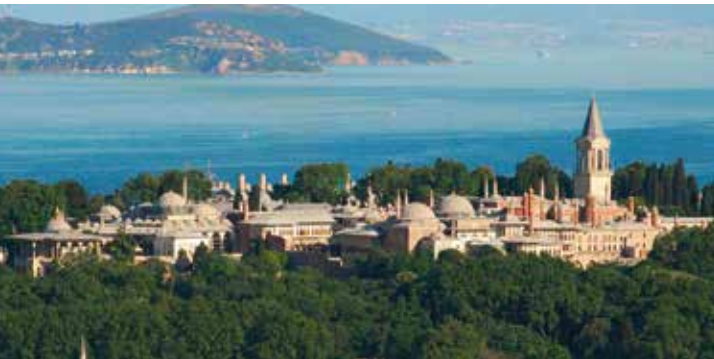
Besides being one of the most popular tourist attractions of Istanbul, it is also a working mosque and is therefore closed to tourists during prayer time. Don't forget to see this breath-taking historical building which is one of the most majestic mosques in the world!



Did you know?

The architect of the Sultan Ahmed Mosque is Sedefkâr Mehmed Ağa, who was a student of the Ottoman architect Mimar Sinan.

HEART AND SOUL OF OTTOMAN EMPIRE: TOPKAPI PALACE



Topkapi Palace was the main residence and administrative & educational headquarters of the Ottoman Empire for 400 years and had the honor of witnessing many intriguing and authentic moments of the emperorship. The palace complex is located on the Seraglio Point (Sarayburnu) and overlooks the Golden Horn, where the Bosphorus meets the Marmara Sea. The terrain is hilly and the palace itself is located at one of the highest points close to the sea.

The construction was ordered by Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror

and continued between the years of 1460 and 1478. The palace complex consists of four main courtyards and many smaller buildings. Female members of the Sultan's family lived in the "harem", and leading state officials, including the Grand vizier, held meetings in the Imperial Council building. In the early 1850s, the palace became inadequate based on the requirements of state ceremonies and protocol, and so the sultans moved to Dolmabahçe Palace, located on the Bosphorus. Following the end of the Ottoman Empire in 1923, Topkapi was transformed into a museum by the

government in 1924.

The Topkapi Palace complex has hundreds of rooms and chambers, including the Ottoman Imperial Harem and the treasury, called "hazine" where the Spoonmaker's Diamond and Topkapi Dagger are on display. The museum collection includes many precious pieces of Ottoman architecture and art, and also Ottoman clothing, weapons, armor, miniatures, religious relics, and illuminated manuscripts like the Topkapi manuscript. It is one of world's most extensive palace-museum complexes with its archive which has more than 300,000 documents.

The palace covers an area of approximately 700,000 square meters, a major part of which is set aside for the Royal Gardens (Hasbahçe). The court of Topkapi Palace is divided into two sections: the Outer Palace (Bîrûn) and the Inner Palace (Enderûn); the Harem is a part of the latter. In 2018, the palace received 2,980,450 visitors from all around the world and became the most visited museum of Turkey.

Did you know?

Contrary to common belief, Topkapi Palace is not the first palace built during the Ottoman period. The first one was the "Old Palace" (Saray-ı Atik). Unfortunately, there are no remnants of the palace.



THE ONE AND ONLY HAGIA SOPHIA

The Hagia Sophia, one of the historical architectural wonders of the world, has a very important place in the art world with its architecture, grandness, size and functionality. The Hagia Sophia, the biggest church constructed by the East Roman Empire in Istanbul, has been constructed three times in the same location. The church was the place in which rulers were crowned, and it was also the biggest operational cathedral in the city throughout the Byzantine period.

The first church was constructed by Emperor Konstantios (337-361) in 360. No remains have been recovered from the first church; however, the bricks found in the museum storage branded 'Megale Ekklesia' are predicted to belong to the first construction. The second church was reconstructed by Emperor Theodosios II (408-450) in 415. Some of the remains were found during excavations and architectural pieces that belong to the monumental entrance can be seen in the west garden. The current structure was constructed by Isidoros (Milet) and Anthemios (Tralles) by Emperor Justinianos's (527-565) orders between the dates 532 and 537. Resources show that on the opening day of the Hagia Sophia, Emperor Justinianos entered the temple and said, "My Lord, thank you for giving me chance to create such a worshipping place," and followed with the words "Süleyman. I beat



you," referring to Süleyman's temple in Jerusalem. Following conquer of Istanbul in 1453, Hagia Sophia was renovated into a mosque. The structure was fortified and was well protected after this period, and remained as

Did you know?

The Hagia Sophia was completed in a short period of five years and remained as the world's largest cathedral for nearly a thousand years.



a mosque. Additional supporting pillars were installed during the East Roman and Ottoman periods. The minarets designed and implemented by Mimar Sinan have also served to this purpose.

The Hagia Sophia was converted into a museum by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's orders and has been functioning as one since 1935. The museum welcomes visitors from all around the world and is one of the most magnificent tourist attractions of Istanbul. The design and architecture of the museum is unbelievably gorgeous.



ONE OF THE OLDEST ROMAN PLACES OF WORSHIP: LITTLE HAGIA SOPHIA



Little Hagia Sophia Mosque, formerly the Church of the Saints Sergius and Bacchus, was converted into a mosque during the Ottoman Empire. This Byzantine building was built in 536 and likely was a model for Hagia Sophia. It is one of the most important early Byzantine buildings in Istanbul. It was recognized at the time as an adornment to the entire city, and a modern historian of the East Roman Empire has written that the church, "by the originality of its architecture and the sumptuousness of its carved decoration, ranks in

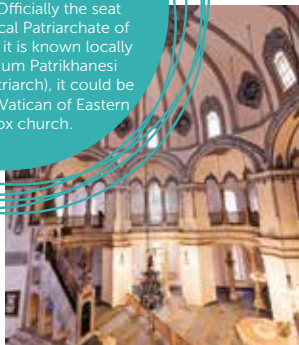
Constantinople second only to St. Sophia itself."

The building stands in Istanbul, in the district of Fatih, and gave its name to the neighborhood. Don't forget to visit and enjoy the peace of Istanbul in the garden of this wonderful mosque...



Did you know?

The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople has been the spiritual center of the Greek Orthodox world since around 1600. Officially the seat of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, it is known locally as the Fener Rum Patrikhanesi (Fener Greek Patriarch), it could be considered the Vatican of Eastern Orthodox church.



“THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SAVIOR IN CHORA”: CHORA MUSEUM



Did you know?

The museum has a Golden award-winning book called *The Church of Chora* book. It is an interactive museum guide describing some of the oldest and finest surviving Byzantine mosaics and frescoes in the church.



A simple building from the outside but a spectacular church from inside... Welcome to the Chora Museum which is located at the Edirnekapi neighborhood of Istanbul. The original church was built in the early 4th century but the majority of the fabric of the current building dates from 1077–1081. In the 16th century, during the Ottoman period, the church was converted into a mosque and finally it became a museum in 1948. Even though it is one of the most interesting places in Istanbul, this incomparable building was left out in the cold for years.

It is the only museum in Istanbul where you can find the most beautiful samples of mosaic and

fresco arts. The mosaics of the former Chora Church tell biblical stories, which can be followed like a graphic novel. One of the most important works of art within the museum is the Christ Pantocrator mosaic. It is located in the outer narthex, above the entrance door

to the inner narthex. No matter from which direction you look at this mosaic, you feel like Christ is watching you. Don't forget to check out the frescoes of Parekklesion and mosaics which depict the life of Virgin Mary and the journey of Jesus Christ.



AN ENCHANTING BEAUTY: BASILICA CISTERN

The producers of Dan Brown's *Inferno* book's movie were looking for a magical and charming historical venue. The place had to be one of a kind and marvelous and they chose Istanbul and Istanbul's legendary Basilica Cistern.... The movie did not harm the cistern at all and made it more famous globally. The cistern deserves all of the attention and the compliments it receive because of its enchanting beauty.

The Basilica Cistern located in the southwest of Hagia Sophia

Constructed for Justinianus I, the Byzantium Emperor (527-565), this big underground water reservoir is called as "Yerebatan Cistern" among the public because of the underground marble columns. As there used to be a basilica in the place of the cistern, it is also called Basilica Cistern. The cistern is 140 m long, and 70 m wide, and covers a rectangular area as a giant structure.

Accessible with 52-step staircase, the cistern shelters 336 columns, each of which is 9 m high. Two Medusa heads, which are used as supports under the two columns at

the northwest edge of the cistern, are the great work of art from the Roman period. The enlarged cistern provided a water filtration system for the Great Palace of Constantinople and other buildings, and continued to provide water to the Topkapı Palace during the Ottoman era and into modern times.

The Basilica Cistern is currently operated by Kültür A.Ş. (Culture Co.), one of the institutes of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, and functions as a museum and is a venue for many national and international events.

Did you know?

Historical texts claim that 7,000 slaves were involved in the construction of the cistern.

ISTANBUL'S GORGEOUS PROTECTOR: RUMELI FORTRESS

Young Ottoman Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror had to come up with the right strategy when he decided to conquer Istanbul. Anadoluhisari, which is on the Asian side of the city, wasn't able to control the ships coming from the Black Sea. So, the construction of Rumelihisari (Rumeli Fortress) "Rumelian Castle" began in 1452 right across Anadoluhisari and lasted 4 months. According to the famous architect and art historian Ekrem Hakkı Ayverdi, almost 300 foremen, 700-800 workers, 200 drivers, boatmen, movers and countless volunteers worked on it's construction. The castle gave its name to the region which is within the Sariyer district of Istanbul. It is the cornerstone of Constantinople becoming Istanbul.

Rumelihisari got damaged from an earthquake in 1509 and the big fire of 1746, but it is determined to continue to protect Istanbul. This time, the castle does the protection with art and music. This priceless structure is being used as a museum and an open-air theatre. It hosts many national and international music events in summer. Also, some of the historical pieces from early centuries like cannonballs are exhibited in the yard of Rumelihisari.

Did you know?

Rumor has it that Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror personally worked on the construction of Rumelihisari and outlined its plan.



ROSE FROM THE ASHES, A ONE-OF-A-KIND CHURCH: BULGARIAN ST. STEPHEN “IRON” CHURCH

Bulgarian St. Stephen Church, aka Iron Church, is located in a traditional and historical district of Istanbul, Balat. The story of the church is very intriguing and well-known internationally. Last year, the church building opened after a seven-year long restoration. The church's original structure was wooden but it

suffered from a fire and burned down completely. After that, the larger current building was constructed at its place. An iron frame was preferred to concrete reinforcement because of the weak ground conditions and financial issues of Bulgarians living in Istanbul. Each and every single part of the church is made

of cast iron and during the first week of the grand reopening, 2000 people from all around the world visited. There are only two other iron churches in the world and they keep vanishing day by day. Today, Istanbul's Iron Church is being visited by thousands of national and international tourists.



Did you know?

Bulgarian St. Stephen Church is very important to Bulgarians culturally and religiously. Almost 500 tons of iron was used during the construction of the Iron Church.

A HEALING CHURCH ON THE STREETS OF BALAT: SURP HIRESDAGABED ARMENIAN CHURCH

Balat is a colorful district of Istanbul with its narrow and hilly streets, churches and old traditional houses. When you walk through the streets of Balat, you almost feel like you are in an old Istanbul movie. The district has hosted many different civilizations for many years and there are still many historical structures and building within the region. One of these structures is Surp Hiresdagabed Armenian Church.

After the conquest of Istanbul, some of the Greek churches were transformed into mosques and some are transferred to Armenians. Surp Hiresdagabed Church was transferred to Armenians in 1628 and renovated. The church was renovated once again in 1835 and has been operating in its current state since then.



Did you know?

It is rumored that, the church hosts a special healing ceremony on September 12th every year and many people from all over the city come over to heal and find peace.

GAZING ON ISTANBUL FROM PIERRE LOTI...

1800s... Famous French writer Pierre Loti is gazing on Istanbul's Golden Horn view while smoking his hookah. He thinks of his dearest darling and words are flowing in his mind. He has no idea that years later, this hill will be named after him. He continues to admire the scenery.

Yes, it is time to talk about one of Istanbul's most delightful places, a legendary and famous beauty, Pierre Loti hill. The name Pierre Loti comes from the French

writer Pierre Loti who loved Istanbul during his time here (1850-1923). Loti spent a lot of time on the hill, drinking coffee and watching the scenery. The coffeehouse on the hill is so famous that, when people came to Istanbul, it is often the first place they visit. Most of the books mentioning the hill calls it "the Lover's Hill".

Pierre Loti hill was reorganized in 1997 with a tourism project of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality.

Deserted buildings around the area got demolished and wooden mansions matching the Ottoman – Turkish architecture were built. In 2010, the Municipality of Eyup organized an event for Turkish and French painters. They gathered on Pierre Loti hill and painted the view of the Golden Horn for a week. We can easily say that Pierre Loti hill is more than a beautiful touristic spot for Turkey. It also symbolizes the friendship between two countries.

Did you know?

Loti wrote his first novel for his Turkish lover Hatice, on Pierre Loti hill. The heroine of this sad love story, Hatice, is buried at Old Topkapı Cemetery.



UNDER THE WINGS OF GALATA TOWER...

Maiden's Tower might have felt a bit lonely in Üsküdar. We don't know what the architects of the era thought exactly, but they built Galata Tower right across from it. Some believe that two towers have been in love with each other for centuries but they cannot get together because of the intervening Bosphorus. Both of these towers have countless legends and stories dedicated to them. They are the precious and beloved symbols of Istanbul.

Uniting these two towers was a mission for Hezârfen Ahmed Çelebi, a legendary Ottoman aviator. Allegedly, this adventurous scientist flew from the very top of the Galata Tower and landed in Üsküdar (Asian Side of the city). Even though some of leading and respectable Ottoman historians state that this story wasn't verified by any sources, Istanbul's residents

prefer to believe this legend. In fact, the movie "İstanbul Beneath My Wings" (İstanbul Kanatlarımlın Altında – 1996) which tells the life story of Hezârfen Ahmed Çelebi became a cult movie in Turkey.

Well, what is the mystery of Galata Tower? In 528, during the reign of Byzantine Emperor Anastasius I, the tower was built as a light house but got destroyed at the Fourth Crusade. In 1349, Galata Tower was rebuilt by Genovese and named it Christea Turris (Tower "of Christ) because they believed that Christ will come there.

In 2013, this rare statue became a part of UNESCO World Heritage Center's Tentative List. The nine-story tower is 66.90 meters long and weighs 10,000 tons. During the Ottoman period, Galata Tower functioned as a jail, observatory house, and

watch tower. There were some bones and skulls in the canals of the tower and this arose many rumors at the time. Most known rumor was that, there was a cult living around the tower and they ripped the hearts of women.

The tower was once more restored during the reign of Sultan Mahmud II and shaped into its current appearance. In 1960s, Galata Tower was commercialized and opened to the public. Today, the tower functions as 360-degree viewing platform of Istanbul. In time, Galata Tower became a national and international touristic place and now there are many cafes, restaurants and souvenir shops around the tower. From the top of the tower, you can see Golden Horn and Bosphorus with a panoramic view. On the top floor, there is a "Beltur" restaurant which is owned by İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality.

Did you know?

Galata Tower is one of the oldest towers of the world and it is believed that, with whomever you climb up to the tower first, you will be marrying that person.



LOOKING OVER ISTANBUL FROM DOLMABAHÇE AND BEYLERBEYI PALACES...

One of them is located in one of the most crowded neighborhoods of Istanbul, Beşiktaş, and the other watches over the city from the hills of Üsküdar. Istanbul has many magnificent palaces all over the city, but these two act like the mind and soul of the city as they look at each other from two different sides of Bosphorus.

Dolmabahçe Palace was built between the years 1843 and 1856 with the order of Sultan Abdulmecid who was the 31st Ottoman Sultan. The palace mainly consists of three parts; Imperial Mabeyn (State Apartments), Muayede Hall (Ceremonial Hall) and the Imperial Harem. Topkapı was lacking in contemporary style, luxury, and comfort, as compared to the palaces of the European monarchs, so Abdulmecid decided to build a new modern palace. The project was designed by Armenian-Ottoman architects Garabet Balyan, his son Nigoğayos Balyan and Eranis Kalfa. He received some criticism but silenced everyone by saying: "Ugliness and wickedness are banned here, there is only beauty." Dolmabahçe Palace witnessed the last era of Ottoman Empire and first era of the Republic. Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk used the palace for his studies and as a Presidential House between



Beylerbeyi Palace

the years 1927 and 1938. Beylerbeyi Palace was built between the years 1863 and 1865 with the order of Sultan Abdulaziz. The palace was constructed to serve as a summer residence of Ottoman sultans and a state guest house to entertain the foreign heads of state and sovereigns.

The architect of the palace is Serikiz Bey, who is also a member of the Balyan family. The crystal chandeliers of the palace are mostly French Baccarat and the carpets are from Hereke. This delicately designed palace is also a must-see tourist attraction.

Did you know?

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk spent the last days of his life in the palace as his health deteriorated. He died at 9:05 A.M. on November 10, 1938. That day, all the clocks in the palace were stopped and set to 9:05 after his death. Today, the clock in the room in which he died still points to 9:05.



Dolmabahçe Palace

THE MYSTICAL STORY OF ISTANBUL'S WITNESS: MAIDEN'S TOWER

Once upon a time, there was a very powerful and magnificent king living in Istanbul. The king only had one weakness: his beloved daughter.... One day, he went to an oracle to learn about his future and the oracle said: "A snake will bite your daughter and she will die." The king was ready to lose everything but not his daughter. He immediately gave an order to his people and a construction of a tower on a small island around Üsküdar region began. He sent his daughter to the tower for her to live there. The tower received food and beverage from time to time. One day, a snake sneaks into a fruit basket and his sweetheart daughter dies from its bite. No matter what you do, you can't escape fate...

We call it "Maiden's Tower". It is the first scene that comes to mind when someone says Istanbul... Once it was very popular on postcards, now it is very popular on social media... Maiden's Tower is the

apple of Istanbul's eye with its architectural structure and many legends.

This exceptional structure's history dates back 2500 years and it witnessed everything that the city has encountered throughout its history. It was used as a watchtower, defense tower, lighthouse, quarantine station and much more. Today, it only speaks the language of love. Maiden's Tower is the symbol of marriage proposals and

declarations of love. It has a charming atmosphere with the magical view of the Bosphorus. The facility within the tower serves as a café – restaurant during the day and becomes a special restaurant and a unique venue in the evening. There are several shuttle boats going to the tower at certain times from Kabatas (European Side) and Üsküdar (Asian Side) all week. Don't forget to make reservations!

Did you know?

Famous poet Bedri Rahmi Eyüboğlu's "The Saga of Istanbul" poem goes like this: "Say Istanbul and towers come to mind... If I paint one, the others are jealous. Maiden's Tower ought to know better - she should marry Galata Tower and breed little towerlets."



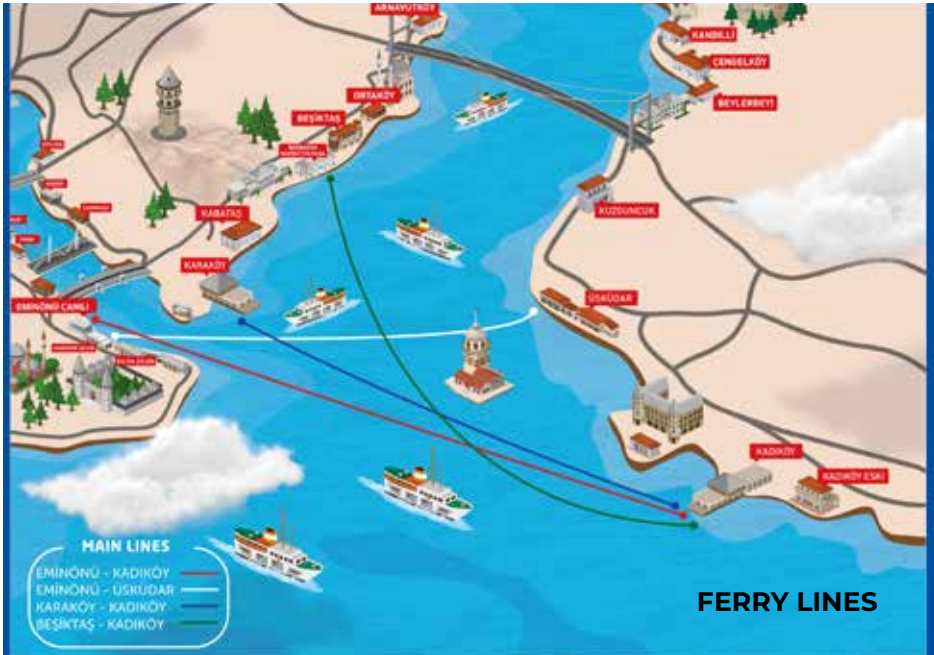
Geographically and historically, Istanbul is a meeting and a crossing point for all nations. The city has always been an essential passageway and a global trade road. At some point in your life, your path will definitely cross with Istanbul.

Well, the actual phrase is “all roads lead to Rome” but the “Rome” in the saying is actually East-Rome. Do you know which city was the capital of East-Rome? You guessed it right, Istanbul. Today, the famous Milion monument is still standing in Istanbul, in the district of Eminönü, at the northern corner of the square of Hagia Sophia, and close to the Basilica Cistern. The Milion was a monument erected in the early 4th century AD in Constantinople. It was the Byzantine zero-mile marker, the starting-place for the measurement of distances for all the roads leading to the cities of the Byzantine Empire.

Modern-day Istanbul offers a huge network of public transportation to its citizens that include; buses and railways such as metro, tram systems and Marmaray. Travelers can find variety of great options to get around the city. Traffic is still an

issue, so taxis aren't always the best solution to get around. To travel from the European side to the Asian side, the best and the most gorgeous way of transportation is the ferries. The whole public transportation system of the city can easily be accessed with a single card, which is Istanbulkart. It is easy to access other cities of the country from Istanbul. The city has 2 international airports: Sabiha Gokcen International Airport and the brand new Istanbul Airport. By using the new Istanbul – Izmir Highway, the distance between two cities reduces to 3.5 hours. The High Speed Train service of Turkey allows the passengers to travel to Ankara, the capital of the city, in 4 hours.

Remember, no matter which road you chose to use on your way to Istanbul, that road either belonged to Alexander the Great, Napoleon or Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror.



Inner Istanbul Ferry Lines

- ➔ KADIKÖY - EMINÖNÜ
- ➔ KARAKÖY - KADIKÖY
- ➔ ÜSKÜDAR - EMINÖNÜ
- ➔ KADIKÖY - BEŞİKTAŞ
- ➔ HALIC HATTI
- ➔ BOSTANCI - KARAKÖY - KABATAS

Bosphorus Lines

- ➔ SARIYER - ANADOLU
- ➔ KAVAGI - RUMELİ KAVAGI
- ➔ KUCUKSU - BEŞİKTAŞ - KABATAS
- ➔ CENGELKÖY - İSTİNYE
- ➔ KADIKÖY - SARIYER
- ➔ ANADOLU KAVAĞI - ÜSKÜDAR
- ➔ ÜSKÜDAR - ORTAKÖY
- ➔ RUMELİ KAVAĞI - EMINÖNÜ
- ➔ İSTİNYE - ÇUBUKLU
- ➔ KÜÇÜKSU - İSTİNYE

Princes' Islands Lines

- ➔ KABATAS - EMINÖNÜ - KADIKÖY - ADALAR
- ➔ BOSTANCI - ADALAR
- ➔ BEŞİKTAŞ - KINALIADA - BURGAZADA
- ➔ BEŞİKTAŞ - HEYBELİADA - BÜYÜKADA
- ➔ BOSTANCI - ADALAR
- ➔ EMINÖNÜ - KADIKÖY - ADALAR

Bosphorus Tours

- ➔ FULL BOSPHORUS CRUISE
- ➔ SHORT BOSPHORUS TOUR



APPS OF THE CITY

If you're living or visiting a metropolitan city like Istanbul, transportation is mostly a big problem for you. Let us suggest you some of the local apps we use to make our lives easier. Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality's mobile traffic app "İBB Cep Trafik" allows you to follow the roads live to check the situation of traffic and Google Maps and Yandex Maps are easy to use for drivers of the city. If you decide to use public transportation, subway app of the city "Metro Istanbul" allows you to check the schedule. If you're going to take the bus, "Mobiett" app lets you see the closest bus stops and follow all buses. "İspark" app is also a life-saver for drivers because it allows you to see the parking areas all around the city.

FREE WI-FI TO ALL!

If you are a traveler, it is vital for you to have Wi-Fi on your phone. When you come to Istanbul, you don't have to worry about a thing. You can find free Wi-Fi in most of the tourist attractions like Taksim Square, İstiklal Street, Sultanahmet Square, Beşiktaş Square, Kadıköy neighborhood and more. You just have to log in with your mobile phone number and voila!



THE NEW GENERATION IDEA HUB: TEKNOPARK İSTANBUL

Teknopark İstanbul is a science and technology park which is being developed by the Under Secretariat for Defense Industries and the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce to contribute to Turkey's technology development capacity for local and international

entrepreneurs. Teknopark İstanbul hosts 1,350 national projects which are developed by 280 companies. The goal is to have 1000 companies under a million m2 area and to provide 10 billion dollars of added value until the year 2023.



ISTANBUL

3 bridges
between
2 continents



8th most visited city in the world



2 airports



capital of

3
empires



4

historical bazaars



5

imperial palaces

dozens of summer palaces and mansions



IN NUMBERS

15,067,712
people



58
universities

91
museums



8500
years of history

121
modern shopping
malls



11
technoparks

13,433,101
international visitors in 2018

117,199
bed capacity



THE AYASOFYA

Hürrem Sultan Hamam



The Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hamam is located in the treasured historical peninsula, between the Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sophia. The facility has three different sections; Turkish bath, Mihri Restaurant and café. The Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hamam is the biggest historical hamam in Turkey and was designed and built by Mimar Sinan, the chief Ottoman architect. It was built at the request of Hurrem Sultan (Roxelana), the wife of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in the 16th century (1556-1557 AD). It was built where the ancient public baths of Zeuxippos (100-200 AD) used to stand. The hamam was restored according to its original features with a huge investment. The facility reopened in 2011 with

the brand name of "Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hamam". The hamam which is located in the middle of Sultanahmet Square is a holy shrine just like its neighbors. It is a shrine of healing and purification with water which is a part of an extensive culture... This spiritual and physical purification shrine where Ottoman soul is presented with modern needs has been receiving a lot attention since the day it is restored.

The Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hamam is a pioneer within the other Turkish baths with its luxurious and glorious service understanding. The hamam allows its guests from all around the world to experience a Sultan-like day.

AN ENCHANTING ARCHITECTURE!

The structure belongs to the classical period Ottoman bath architecture with its double bath shape and 75 meters length. It opened a new era in Turkish Bath architecture and has the title of being the first structure where women and men sections are on the same axis. At the Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hamam, trained expert bath attendants, rubbers, masseurs and masseuses provide their exclusive services. Prepare to be born again and stay healthy on the marble bath basins while enjoying the historic domes of the hamam.



KEYF-I HAMAM WITH JUDAS TREE SCENT

According to the Ottoman Archives, Judas tree flower was Hürrem Sultan's favorite and after her Turkish baths, she received Judas tree scent oil massages. This tradition continues at the Ayasofya Hürrem Sultan Hamam. All the packages at the hamam start with a personal care kit consisting of a specially designed Ottoman-style gold-plated basin, bath-gloves (kese), natural olive oil soap and other Sultan-worthy accessories. In these elite packages, depending on the package you chose, you will enjoy the traditional body scrubbing and relaxing bubble wash ritual, Judas tree scent oil aromatherapy massage, body care rituals, clay and peeling applications. Feel free to choose any of the 4 different rituals and 4 different massage services. Hamam culture is an important representative of cleanness, healing, purification, entertainment and social sharing. Hamam tradition has been reinterpreted for the modern culture in the Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hamam.



This historical "spiritual and physical shrine" which served to Sultans, carries on the Ottoman soul harmonized with the modern needs. The hamam presents a Sultan-worthy day in this enchanting atmosphere to its guests by using the purifying power of the culture.



THE PANORAMA 1453 MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The Panorama 1453 Museum of History is a marvelous venue which portrays the historical process of the conquest of Istanbul and allows its visitors to relive that day. The museum was established by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality in 2009 and holds the title of 'the world's first full-panoramic museum'. The Panorama 1453 Museum of History has two main sections. The first section starts with the entrance and goes through the panoramic picture. What differs the museum from other panoramic museums is this picture which was applied onto



a hemisphere of 38 m diameter. The interior of the hemisphere is covered by the picture. It is 2350 cubic meters and allows visitors to observe it from all aspects and directions. The picture creates a depth perception and as soon as the visitors see it, they are not able to perceive the real dimension with their eyes. This is an unforgettable museum which creates a unique experience for everyone. Don't forget to add The Panorama 1453 Museum of History on your list!

FLOWER PASSAGE “ÇİÇEK PASAJI” WITH NO FLORISTS

Çiçek Pasajı “Flower Passage” is one of the most famous and popular food & beverage venues of Istanbul which hosts many seafood restaurants. The history of the passage is another story. An Ottoman-Greek banker, Christakis Zografos, built a new type of building called “Cité de Pera” in 1876. The building/bazaar had 24 shops designed in Parisian style, which was trendy at those times, and 18 luxurious apartments over the shops. In 1908, the ownership of the building was transferred to the Grand Vizier Mehmed Said Pasha, after a while florists began to settle within the passage and its name was turned into the “Flower Passage”. After 1940, restaurants took place in the passage; and this gradually moved apartment owners and florists to other places but the name “flower” (çiçek) remained. The restaurants within Çiçek Pasajı reflects the traditional Turkish cuisine & seafood cuisine and the passage is definitely one of the must-visit places in Istanbul.



ESMA SULTAN MANSION



The mansion took its name after Esmâ Sultan, the daughter of the 32nd Ottoman ruler, Sultan Abdülaziz. The fabulous and historical mansion witnessed many events and figures over

time. When Esmâ Sultan died in 1899, Abdul Hamid II gave the mansion to his daughter Cemile Sultan. In 1915, the mansion was claimed from the Ottoman Empire, and in succession, was

used as a Greek school in 1918 and it became a tobacco depot in 1922. In 1975, the mansion suffered a very big fire and the only thing remained was its exterior walls. In the early 90s, a hotel group purchased Esmâ Sultan Mansion and rebuilt the building. Its original character and floor plan was preserved, as it adopted a new cultural identity. In 2001, in line with Philip Robert's project, the building underwent renovations from within, gaining a sturdy, yet classy iron and glass interior. This renovation allowed the mansion to remain open all year-round.



A FAIRYTALE LAND: THE ÇEMBERLİTAŞ HAMAM



Çemberlitaş Hamam is a historical Turkish bath which was constructed by Sinan the Architect (Mimar Sinan). The hamam has been working since 1584, the day it was opened. It is located on Çemberlitaş



Square on Divanyolu Street. The Çemberlitaş Hamam was planned as a double bath consisting of two identical, side-by-side facilities. The bath has 38 washing stalls. The plan of the hot area is unique, as it does not entirely conform to traditional layouts. This space is shaped like a square on the outside, but the inner dimensions are in the shape of a circle formed of twelve columns, becoming a twelve-cornered

polygon. The hamam is one of Sinan's latest works and his long experience and great skill allowed him to combine functionality, elegance and tranquility without abandoning his basic style that is devoid of overly decorated elements. The architecture of Çemberlitaş Hamam remains a focal point for Turkish and foreign researchers, photographers, filmmakers, media professionals and students.

HACOPULO PASSAGE

This little passage is one of the hidden gems of Beyoğlu, İstiklal Street, with little cafés and shops selling souvenirs, it's maybe the cutest place to sip a cup of Turkish tea anywhere in the city. In 1871, merchant Hacopulo's passage-way had houses on the upper floors and shops on the lower floor, and this original design remains intact up to the present day. The narrow façade of the arcade on the İstiklal side displays neoclassical features, while the structures facing the inner courtyard are more neo-Renaissance in style.

BEYKOZ KUNDURA FACTORY

As an industrial cultural heritage, Beykoz Kundura is serving the creative industry as an event venue and a set for filming. The building was founded as a tanning yard.



It participated in the International Paris Fair, which was difficult to enter at the time, and Expo Universelle. After that, it won a medal for its manufacturing plant in the International Vienna Fair. In the 90s, the building was operating as Sümerbank Leather Shoe Factory. Since 2010, Beykoz Kundura is being used as a natural stage for filming with its unusual architecture and themed-areas.





PRACTICAL INFO



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Medical emergency /

Ambulance: **112**

Fire: **110**

Police: **155**

Forest fires: **177**

Missing child /

Women's helpline: **183**



PHARMACIES

Pharmacies are open Monday to Saturday from 09:00 to

19:30. Most are closed on

Sundays, but there is always one pharmacy in an area open 24 hours.



LANGUAGE

Turkish



CURRENCY

The Turkish lira is the official currency of Turkey. Bank notes come in denominations of 5,

10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 TL.

Coins come in the amounts of 1, 5, 10 and 25 Kuruş and 1 lira.



ATMS

ATMs can be found all around the country. All of them offer foreign language options and pay out Turkish liras. Cash withdrawal limits vary from bank to bank and are around 500\$/€ to 1.000\$/€ TL.



CHANGING MONEY

Foreign Exchange offices, which are known as "döviz bürosu" can be found throughout the country. Operating hours are mostly Monday to Friday, from 09:00 to 17:00. In the arrivals section of Istanbul Airport and Sabiha Gökçen Airport, there are 24 hour Exchange offices. Also the Exchange offices located in shopping malls and touristic areas are open later and on Saturdays. US Dollars and Euros are accepted in highly touristic districts like Sultanahmet and Taksim but rates are often better.



CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards are widely used and accepted. Visitors can use their Visa, Mastercards, Amex and Diner's.



WEIGHT AND MEASURES:

Metric System



ELECTRICITY:

220 volt, 50 cycle. Most hotels have a receptacle with 110 volts. Socket type is standart European two-pin.



BUSINESS AND BANKING HOURS:

Offices and banks are generally open 09.00 to 17.00 Mondays to Fridays, and close for lunch 12.00 to 13.30.



DEMORGRAPHICS:

Istanbul is the largest populated city of Turkey with a population of 14.7 million.



LOCAL TIME

UTC / GMT + 2 hours



OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS:

April 23rd: National Sovereignty and Children's Day.
May 19th: The Commemoration of Atatürk Youth and Sports Day.
August 30th: Victory Day.
October 29th: Republic Day.
1st of May: Worker's Day.
Ramadan:
24-26 May (only for 2020)
Eid Al-Adha:
31 July - 3 August (only for 2020)



NATURE & CLIMATE:

Istanbul is a city where four seasons can be experienced. Spring and autumn are two unpredictable seasons with a range from chilly to warm. The average winter weather is between 5 C and 9 C. During the summers average temperature is between 18 C and 28 C. The hottest months are July and August while the coldest months are January and February.



POST OFFICE

Post Offices and the Postal Service in Turkey are generally abbreviated to PTT.
(www.ptt.gov.tr)



VISAS:

To enter into Turkey visas are required but most of the visas can be purchased for 10 Euro or 20 dollar at Turkey's airports or border gates. Since the information of visas is changeable, please contact the visa information for foreigners on Turkish Foreign Ministry website. www.mfa.gov.tr
Turkey's electronic online visa application system offers to its applicants a comfortable and practical way to obtain visa. www.evisa.gov.tr



TELEPHONE

Istanbul's telephone service has two area codes, one for the Anatolian side and one for the European. If the land line you need to call is on the other side you must also include its area code (0216 for the Anatolian side and 0212 for the European side).
Turkey's country code is 90.



HOSPITALS

In Istanbul, you can find world-class hospitals and medical facilities. Many doctors in Turkey speak English. In an emergency, foreigners who do not have social security insurance can go to any hospital, where they will not be charged.



PRACTICAL TURKISH

Hello

Merhaba (mehr hah bah)

How are you?

Nasıl-sın? (na suhl suhn)

Fine, thank you

İyiyim, teşekkürler (ee yee yeem teh shek ür lerr)

What is your name?

Adın ne? (ad uhn ne)

My name is ____

Adım ____ (Ad uhm ____)

Nice to meet you

Memnun oldum (mem noon oll doom)

Please

Lütfen (Luet fen)

Thank you

Teşekkür ederim (teh shek uer eh der emm)

You're welcome

Bir şey değil (bir shey de yeel)

Yes

Evet (eh vet)

No

Hayır (hah yuhr)

Excuse me?

Bakar mısınız? (bah kar muh suh nuhz)

Excuse me? (begging pardon)

Afedersiniz (af air dair sin nız)

I'm sorry

Özür dilerim (ö zuer dil air rim)

Goodbye

Hoşçakalın (hsh cha kaluhn)

Goodbye

Güle güle (guele guele)

Good morning

Günaydın (guen eye duhn)

Good afternoon

Tünaydın (tuen eye duhn)

Good day

İyi günler (e yee guen ler)

Good evening

İyi akşamlar (e yee ak aham lar)

Good night

İyi geceler (e yee ge jay ler)

Good night (to sleep)

İyi uykular (e yee yoo ku lar)

Welcome

Hoşgeldin (hosh gel din)

I don't understand

Anlamıyorum (an la muh yor uhm)

Where is the toilet?

Tuvalet nerede? (too va let ner eh de?)