



ISTANBUL GUIDEBOOK

WRITTEN BY HASAN KINAY

Earthissimo



Introduction to the Guide

At Earthissimo, we bring you a new app-style digital city guidebook designed to help you explore like a local—with just a click.

Every recommendation is carefully selected and personally verified, backed by feedback from over 20,000 travelers and more than 5 years of local expertise.

On the next page, you'll find a quick-access menu that makes it easy to jump straight to what you're looking for—no more endless scrolling. Just click and explore.

We're a travel startup on a mission to digitize experiences and support all your travel needs.

We work only with best local businesses and provide a platform where you can book travel experiences, services, tickets, and holiday packages—all in one place.

We truly hope this guidebook saves you tons of time and makes your Istanbul experience truly magical. Scroll down and see what's inside.

Need Travel Assistance?

 [Send Message](#)

Review Guidebook



Review Earthissimo



WHAT'S INSIDE

CLICK THE BUTTONS TO GO TO PAGES

①

MAP PINS FOR TOP SIGHTS &
RESTAURANTS & CAFES

CLICK HERE ✨

②

MUST KNOWN'S INSIDER TIPS

CLICK HERE ✨

③

CUSTOM ITINERIAES FOR EVERYONE

CLICK HERE ✨

④

FOOD OF ISTANBUL & OUR
FAVOURITES

CLICK HERE ✨

⑤

INTRODUCTION TO THE
SIGHTS & NEIGHBOURHOODS

CLICK HERE ✨

⑥

CULTURAL PRODUCTS & OUR
FAVOURITES

CLICK HERE ✨

⑦

BEST TOURS & TICKETS & OUR
FAVORITES

CLICK HERE ✨

Things to do!



Map Pins



Discover the best sights and local eats near you — all in just one click.



Open in the Google Maps app for the best experience.

Sights

CLICK HERE

Restaurants

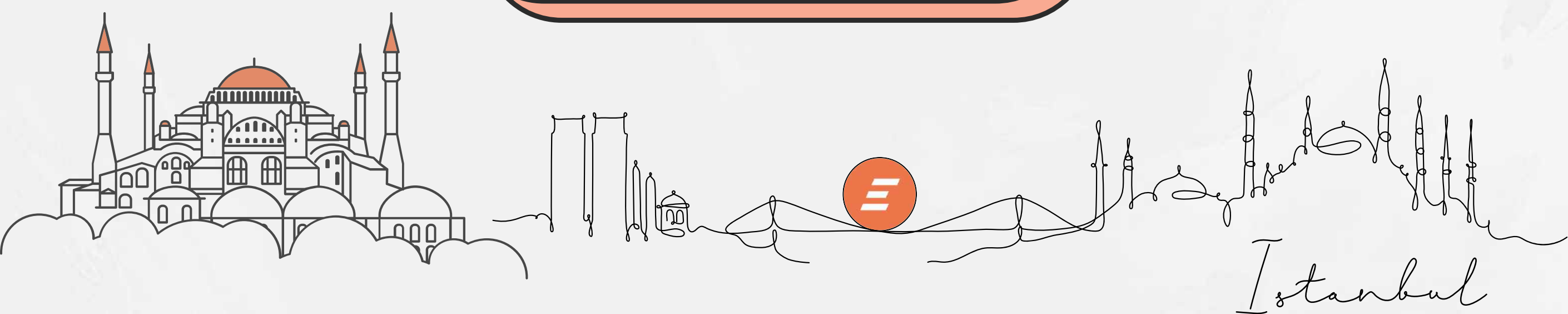
CLICK HERE

Cafes

CLICK HERE

Find things to do in Istanbul

CLICK HERE





INTRODUCTION TO ISTANBUL

Istanbul, Istanbul, Istanbul. What a relationship I've had with this diverse city. It's funny how one place in the world can hold so many memories of someone's life—and I'm glad that place, for me, is Istanbul. The people, the architecture, and the food—oh, the food. Everywhere you look, you'll find something that makes you hungry.

The city breathes through its neighborhoods, each with its own distinct character and way of life. Because Istanbul wasn't built all at once, you can always see the influence of different communities that shaped each area. The coolest part? Every neighborhood offers something unique to experience. Don't worry—your experience guy, Hasan, will share it all.

Whenever I try to summarize Turkey for people, I say: "Think of Turkey as the United States of the world from the 3rd century to the 18th century." This land was once the capital of trade and migration, a melting pot where people from all over the world came together. Even if you've lived here for ten years, it's hard to define what a "typical" Turkish person looks like. Turkey is a country of immigration—a place where East and West meet and build homes over time.

As an entrepreneur in the travel and technology space, I've had the chance to meet travelers from all over the world in recent years. And here's what I've learned: People are incredibly friendly, the food is amazing, and there's always something to do. Trust me—your time here will never feel like enough.

So don't rush. Just enjoy as much as you can while you're in this incredible city.

Must Known's & TIPS



Apps You'll Need

Click the icon to go to app

BOOK THINGS TO DO



BOOKING STAYS



MAPS & TRANSPORTATION



CALLING A TAXI



ORDERING FOOD



NIGHTLIFE & PARTIES



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Walking is always my first choice when traveling, but if you plan to use public transportation in Istanbul, you're in luck — it works well and is designed efficiently. These days, you don't even need to buy an Istanbul Kart. You can simply use your bank or debit card directly. Ferries, buses, trams, subways, and even cable cars are all part of the city's public transport network. Definitely download the Moovit app — it helps you navigate easily and double-check schedules to avoid surprises. And if something doesn't go as planned? No worries. Grab a good kebab or some baklava and keep enjoying your journey.

FERRY SCHEDULES

Public Ferries



Private Ferries

priced same with public ferries



BUS SCHEDULES

Click Here!)

AIRPORT SHUTTLE SCHEDULES

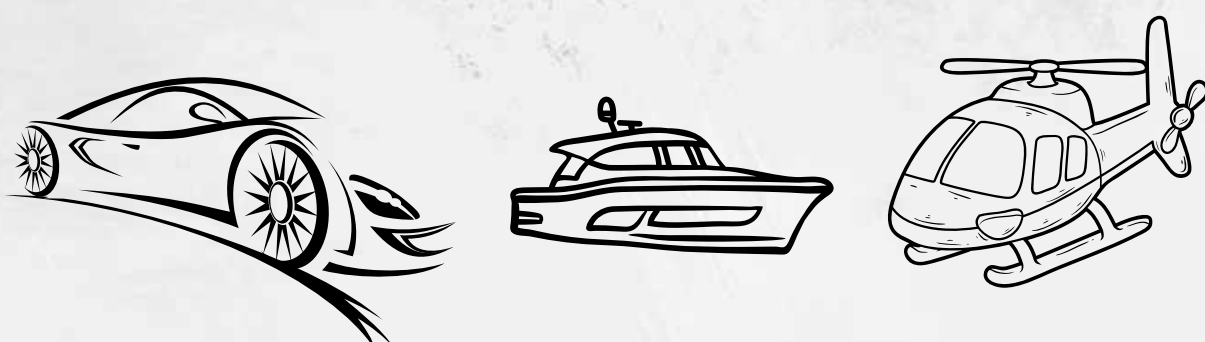
IST AIRPORT



SAW AIRPORT



REQUEST A PRIVATE TRANSFER



Click Here!)

IMPORTANT!

For taxis use martı, uber and bitaksi app

FAQ & LOCAL TIPS



HOW TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION?

Public transportation in Istanbul works well and is designed efficiently. Right now, you don't even need to buy a transportation card (IstanbulKart); you can just use your bank or debit card. To find the best transportation routes, you can use the Moovit app.



WHERE TO EXCHANGE CURRENCY FOR THE BEST PRICE?

The best option is to exchange currency in the city center. Currency exchanges throughout the city generally offer similar rates. For the most current rates, exchanging near the Grand Bazaar is a good option. Just be cautious not to exchange all your money at the airport.



HOW TO GET TO THE CITY CENTER FROM THE AIRPORT?

You can take a taxi using apps like Uber, Martı or Bitaksi. Additionally, both airports have subway to the central locations, though depending on where you're staying, the metro may not always be the best option. Instead of the metro, you can use airport shuttles. All the shuttle hours are given in the page before.



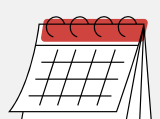
IS IT SAFE IN ISTANBUL?

Yes — Istanbul is generally a very safe city. I've lived in many different neighborhoods since childhood, and serious crime is quite rare. The city is well-patrolled, and public areas are usually busy and secure. Overall, the atmosphere is positive, and people are very friendly and helpful.



WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I VISIT A MOSQUE?

When visiting a mosque, men should wear something that covers their knees, and women should cover all parts of their bodies, including their hair. You can bring your own scarf or purchase one at the mosque entrance. Don't forget to wear socks while visiting.



WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO TRAVEL?

I recommend visiting during the months of April, May, June, September, and October for pleasant spring weather in the city.



WHAT ARE THE SCAMS IN THE CITY?

Like in every big city, don't trust people who offer to show you historical sites or invite you to random bars. The trick with shoe cleaners dropping their brush is not common anymore, but remain cautious and keep walking.



DO I HAVE TO NEGOTIATE?

If you're not serious about buying, it's best not to negotiate. If you're genuinely interested in purchasing something at the bazaars, feel free to negotiate—it's a bit like flirting for us. In touristy areas, give it a try; worst case, you'll enjoy tea and good conversation.



WHICH AREA IS BEST TO STAY?

I recommend staying in the Beyoğlu district — especially around Karaköy, Taksim Square, or along Istiklal Street. This area is close to Sultanahmet for sightseeing, offers vibrant city life, and gives you plenty of public transportation options. While it's great for being near the attractions, it's not the most local or quiet spot. Beşiktaş is another excellent choice, with easy access to ferries and a more authentic neighborhood feel. If you have time to explore further, consider staying in Kadıköy on the Asian side — a lively, creative, and walkable neighborhood with great food and local culture.



HOW TO USE TAXIS?

In the city center, short distances by taxi is very challenging. Minimum cost of taxis in Istanbul is 135TL which is approximately 4USD. Use apps like Uber or Bitaksi. If you must take a taxi, insist on using the meter. For short trips where the meter isn't an option and difficulty directly offering them a price could also work.



WHICH AREAS ARE BEST FOR NIGHTLIFE?

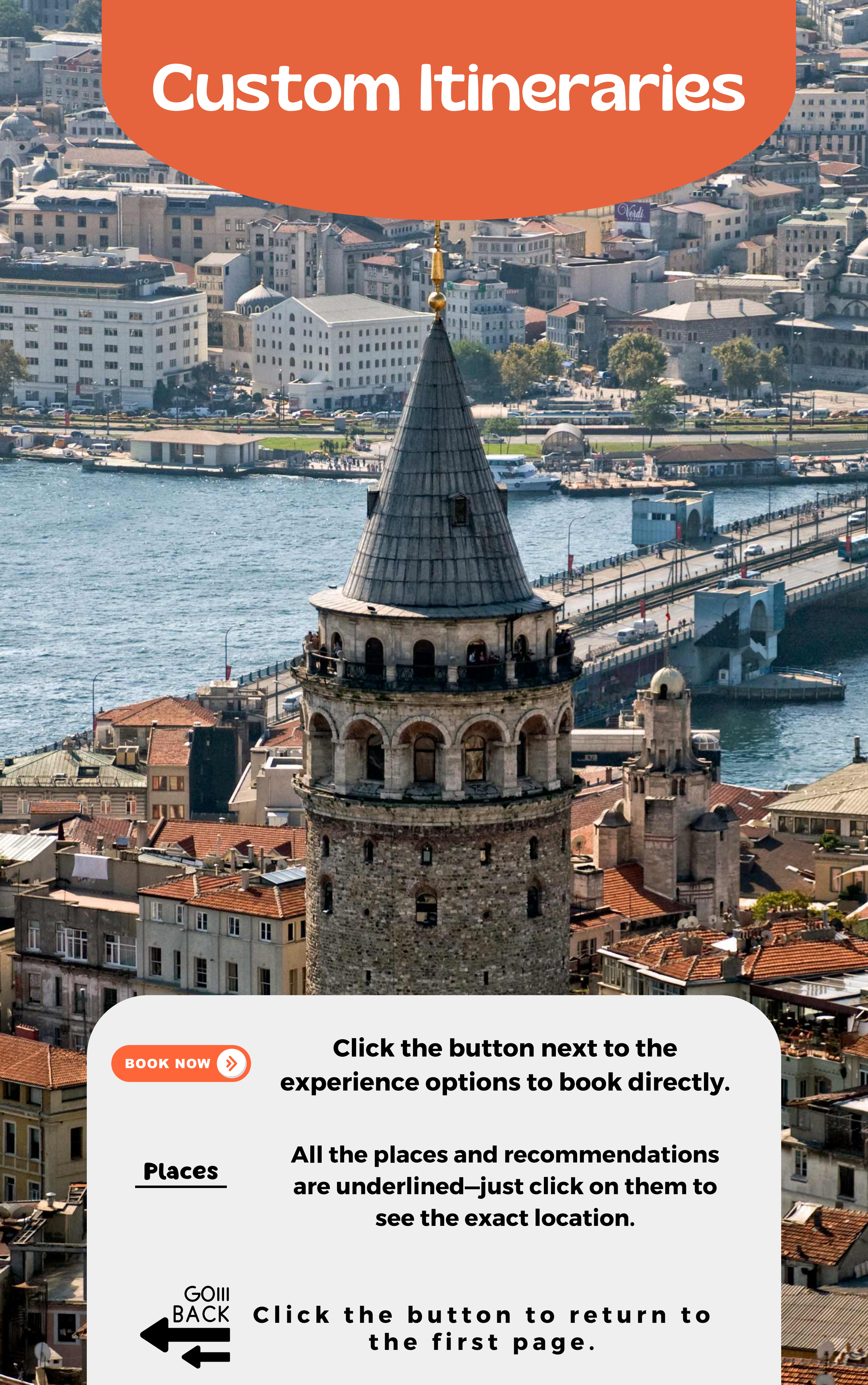
Beyoğlu, Beşiktaş, and Kadıköy are hands down the best areas for nightlife in Istanbul. In Istanbul you will find many options for rooftop bars & clubs while you can enjoy heavy nightouts with local clubs & bars.



IS TIPPING LEGIT IN ISTANBUL?

So in Turkey the deal is very simple if you like the service you tip if you didn't like you don't and normal amount would be %10-20 but if you really enjoyed the company or service sky is limit if you have money to effort.

Custom Itineraries



BOOK NOW 

Click the button next to the experience options to book directly.

Places

All the places and recommendations are underlined—just click on them to see the exact location.



Click the button to return to the first page.

Introduction to Itineraries

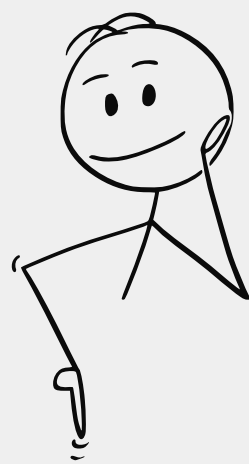
After helping travelers and agencies for over 5 years, I've seen that everyone wants something a little different from their trip. That's why instead of offering just one 3-day or 5-day plan, I've created several 1-day itineraries based on different interests and activities.

All you need to do is explore the 1-day plans and mix and match to create your perfect 3-day or 5-day trip.

Just a reminder—this is your trip, and the goal is to enjoy it. Don't worry too much about sticking to a strict schedule. Let the city surprise you!

Now scroll down to dive into the 1-day plans. After that, you'll find the full 3-day and 5-day options.

One last tip: If you see any place names underlined, those are clickable locations. You can simply tap them to open directions and move from one spot to the next—just enjoy!



Istanbul Essentials in 24 Hours



🍲 **Spice Bazaar** – Start your day in this lively market. Smell the spices, taste sweets, and feel the city's rhythm.

🍴 (Optional Breakfast)

Hungry? Try one of these local spots:

- **Şehzade Cağ Kebab** – for juicy meat on skewers
- **Bitlisli** – try the Ali Nazik dish and lahmacun
- **Ehli Keyf Café** – great for vegetarians and Turkish breakfast

🌳 **Gülhane Park** – Walk through this quiet park near the old city walls. A peaceful start before the sights.

🏰 **Topkapı Palace** – Explore the sultans' palace, full of history and great views of the sea.

🕌 **Hagia Sophia** → **Blue Mosque** → **Hippodrome** – These famous places are close together. Full of history, beautiful design, and big stories.

👣 (Optional Guide) – Want a deeper experience with no waiting for all these sights? Join our favorite local guide.

🎨 (Optional Art Class) – Take a short break and try traditional Turkish arts. Relax, learn, and make something to take home.

🛍️ **Grand Bazaar** – Step into a huge and old market with hundreds of shops selling handmade goods, snacks, and souvenirs.

🕌 **Süleymaniye Mosque** – A peaceful and beautiful mosque to end your day walk.

🌅 **Watch the Sunset** – Eat or snack nearby at a **terrace restaurant** with an amazing sunset view over the Golden Horn.

Evening

🚗 **Galata Tower** – Take a taxi here. Go up for city views or enjoy the streets and cafés around it.

🌀 (Optional Hamam) – Try a Turkish bath nearby. You'll feel relaxed and refreshed.

🚶♀️ **Istiklal Street** – Walk this fun street filled with music, food, lights, and shops.

🍽️ **Hafız Mustafa** – End your day with delicious Turkish desserts like baklava or künefe.

🌀 **Taksim Square** – Feel the city's energy. Want to party more or head home? It's your call.

Turkish Arts

BOOK NOW



Guided Tour

BOOK NOW




Turkish Bath

BOOK NOW



A Day Like a Local




 **Balat** – Start your day with a stroll through **Balat**, a neighborhood full of history, color, and charm.

 **Recommended Breakfast Spot: Velvet Cafe**
Enjoy a traditional Turkish breakfast in a cozy, authentic setting.

 **Optional Experience:**
Prefer a scenic start? Join a **Bosphorus Cruise with breakfast** before heading to Balat on foot or by public transport.

Walking Route in Balat

- Greek Orthodox Church
- Colorful Umbrellas & Stairs (Main Square)
- Greek Orthodox High School
- Kiremit Street (famous for its colorful houses)


 Wrap up your walk with a visit to our favorite local coffeeshop to soak in the Balat vibe. It's called "**Happie Balat**". Then explore the local shops on the main road.


 Catch a ferry from **Fener Ferry Port** to continue your day. Click here for the ferry hours

 **Optional Experience:**
Want the full flavor of Balat? Join **Istanbul's first food and community tour** — taste over 15 different dishes and meet the locals who make this area so special.


Afternoon:


Usküdar – Cross the Bosphorus to **Usküdar** to discover a more traditional, lived-in side of the city.


 **Valide-i Cedid Mosque**- Visit this beautiful mosque, then walk the street behind it for authentic Turkish dishes.

 **Mimar Sinan Market**- Experience a truly local market where Istanbulites shop for fresh, cultural ingredients.

 **Kanaat Lokantası**-Grab a legendary Turkish ice cream or a local dessert and keep strolling.

 **Mihrimah Sultan Mosque**- A masterpiece by the iconic Ottoman architect Mimar Sinan — don't miss the view.

 **Kuzguncuk**- End your day in this charming, colorful neighborhood. Enjoy Turkish tea in a local café, explore small artisan shops, and walk back to the Usküdar coast for **sunset views over the Bosphorus**.

 From Usküdar, ferries connect to all major parts of the city — easy and beautiful ride back wherever you're staying. Optional you can enjoy a dining on bosphorus for dinner

Cruise with Breakfast

BOOK NOW



Balat Food Tour

BOOK NOW





Cruise with Dinner



BOOK NOW



Highlights of Asian Side in a day



 **Kadıköy** – Start your day by taking a ferry to  Kadıköy and explore its vibrant markets. Use our restaurant list to discover our favorite food spots. Instead of eating everything in one place, we recommend trying small bites from different corners — it's the best way to taste it all!


 **Moda** – After soaking in the lively Kadıköy vibe, head towards  Moda. Enjoy a delicious coffee at one of the cafés we've listed in our guide. If you're into walking, don't miss a stroll along the Moda seaside — it offers a refreshing view of the Bosphorus from a different angle.


 Optional Experience:

Want the full flavor of Kadıköy? Join a food tour that covers both the European side and Kadıköy — experience all the tastes and local vibes in one go.

 Afternoon


 **Çengelköy** – Take a taxi to Çengelköy, a beautiful neighborhood where the scenic Bosphorus walk begins. Don't hesitate to try anything here — it's full of local flavors with a modern twist.


 **Beylerbeyi** – Head to Beylerbeyi, one of Istanbul's iconic neighborhoods. Stroll through the streets to see historic homes, and if you're interested, visit Beylerbeyi Palace.


If you're up for it, check out Çamlıca Mosque , the largest mosque in the city, with stunning panoramic views.

 Optional Activity:

Try a water bike or canoe ride between two continents! (or the other way around)

 **Kuzguncuk** – Enjoy Turkish tea at a cozy local café, explore artisan shops, and take a peaceful walk back to the Üsküdar coast to catch the sunset over the Bosphorus.

 **Üsküdar** – Finally, explore the traditional, lived-in charm of Üsküdar. (We already shared the itinerary for Üsküdar earlier — [\[click here to view it\]](#))

 Wrap up your day with an ice cream and decide how you'd like to spend your evening.

Europe to Asia Food Tour

BOOK NOW



Asian Side Highlights Tour

BOOK NOW




Waterbike / Canoe

BOOK NOW





Little Culture & Food & Drinks



 **Dolmabahçe Palace** – Start your day by visiting one of Istanbul's most iconic and glamorous palaces, right by the Bosphorus.

 **Dolmabahçe Café** – Take a break with a drink and enjoy a stunning view of Istanbul's waterside elegance.

 **Beşiktaş** – Head to lively Beşiktaş for a street food walk using our curated restaurant list. It's a bustling neighborhood full of flavor, energy, and local eats.


 **Ortaköy Mosque** – Visit one of Istanbul's most picturesque mosques, located right under the bridge that connects Europe and Asia. The view here is unforgettable!


 Then head back to Beşiktaş to catch a ferry.


 Optional Experience:
Bosphorus Yacht Cruise – Enjoy a scenic sunset cruise with music and wine while gliding between continents.

 Afternoon

 **Kadıköy** – Take the ferry from Beşiktaş to Kadıköy and explore the Asian side's vibrant food and drink culture. Use our favorite picks or just follow your taste buds!

 **Viktor Levi Wine House** – Craving something cozy? Tucked away in Kadıköy's backstreets, this charming wine house is perfect for sampling delicious Turkish wines.

 Your Choice – From Kadıköy, take a ferry wherever the night takes you. Want to keep the vibe going? Galataport is always a great spot for more drinks and Bosphorus views.

 Optional Experience
Join a private chef on her beautiful bosphorus viewed house for a hands on cooking. workshop and enjoying more wine in a beautiful terrace.

Yacht Cruise: Sunset & Music & Wine

Chef's. Terrace Bosphorus Dinner

BOOK NOW








BOOK NOW







Shop 'Til You Drop: Istanbul Edition!

 **Nișantaşı** – Start your day in  Nișantaşı, Istanbul's luxury shopping hub. Enjoy coffee or a light brunch in this elegant, European-style neighborhood where all the big fashion brands come together.



 **İstiklal Street** – Then take the cable car near   İstiklal Street, the vibrant heart of Istanbul's shopping and cultural scene. Filled with shops, historic buildings, and local businesses, this iconic street perfectly blends modern life with rich history.


 **[Click here for the cable car location.]**

 Afternoon

 **Spice Bazaar** – Cross the Galata Bridge to visit the  Spice Bazaar, a lively market bursting with colorful spices, teas, and local delicacies—a true feast for your senses!

 **Süleymaniye Mosque** – Head uphill to explore Süleymaniye Mosque, one of Istanbul's architectural gems. After your visit, relax at a nearby terrace café with stunning city views.

 **Grand Bazaar** – End your day at the legendary  Grand Bazaar, considered the world's first marketplace like Amazon! Here, you'll find carpets, jewelry, handmade crafts, and countless cultural treasures all under one roof.

 Optional Experience

We've partnered with a unique guide who grew up in the bazaars. Ready for an insider shopping tour to explore Istanbul's bazaars like a local?


Private Shopping Tour in Istanbul's Bazaars

BOOK NOW








Walking in Peace: A Bosphorus Stroll


 **Beşiktaş** – Start your day in lively Beşiktaş with a street food walk or a hearty breakfast. Use our restaurant list to find your favorite. Our go-to breakfast? A good döner kebab — yes, even in the morning!


 **Optional Stop:**
Before heading to Beşiktaş, visit Dolmabahçe Palace and enjoy a coffee at the palace café with a view of the Bosphorus.

 **Ortaköy Mosque** – One of Istanbul's most iconic views. This beautiful mosque sits just beneath the Bosphorus Bridge, where Europe meets Asia. Perfect for photos, simit, and maybe a kumpir (stuffed baked potato)!

 **Arnavutköy** – Take a walk or a short taxi ride to this charming neighborhood. Known for its colorful wooden houses, seaside promenade, and cozy cafés, it's a dreamy stop along the Bosphorus.

 **Bebek** – Continue your walk toward Bebek, one of the most luxurious neighborhoods in Istanbul. Grab a coffee or treat yourself to a fancy meal, and enjoy the peaceful Bosphorus views along the way.

 **Rumeli Fortress** (Rumeli Hisarı) – Visit this majestic fortress built in just 4 months before the conquest of Istanbul. It offers a stunning panoramic view of the Bosphorus and a peaceful atmosphere for a short rest.


 **Emirgan Park** – If you're still up for more walking, head to Emirgan Park. Famous for its tulips in spring and lush greenery year-round, it's the perfect spot to relax with a drink at one of the cafés inside.




Escaping to Princes' Islands





 **Burgazada** – Take a ferry from Kabataş or Kadıköy to Burgazada, one of the most peaceful and charming of Istanbul's Princes' Islands.

 **Hike to Madam Martha Bay** – Take a scenic hike through pine-scented paths to Madam Martha Bay, a quiet, secluded beach perfect for a refreshing swim or a peaceful pause.

 **Picnic by the Sea** – Pack some snacks and drinks, find a quiet spot near the beach, and enjoy a laid-back picnic with the soothing sound of the waves.


 **Return by the Seaside Road** – On your way back, follow the coastal path for beautiful sea views and a gentle walk through the island's calm atmosphere.


 **Ice Cream + Ferry Ride** – Wrap up your day with a sweet treat from a local ice cream shop, then catch the ferry back to the city with island memories in your pocket.




 **Optional Experience** – Want to make the most of your time? Book an Island Escape Tour with a local guide to discover hidden spots, stories, and tips only locals know.

 **Want to see another island?**

Hop over to **Büyükada**, the largest of the Princes' Islands, for more views, nature, and historic charm.

 You can explore Büyükada by e-bus, bike, or simply on foot — take your time and enjoy the slower pace of island life.

 **Suggested Route on Büyükada:**

-  **Splendid Palace Hotel** – Admire this historic pink mansion, an iconic building from the Ottoman era.
-  **Dilburnu Nature Park** – A peaceful pine forest by the sea, ideal for walking, resting, or taking photos.
-  **Aya Yorgi Church** – Hike up the hill to this famous monastery for incredible panoramic views of the Marmara Sea.

 **Where to Eat:**

- **Eskibağ Restaurant** – A bit on the pricier side, but the view and the seafood are well worth it. Perfect for a sunset meal with a glass of wine.
- **Beltur Café** – A more budget-friendly option run by the municipality. Great for fresh snacks and cold drinks with a sea breeze.

Island Escape Tour

BOOK NOW




Ferry Schedule


LEARN MORE

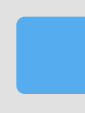



Hidden Istanbul




 **Start Your Day at Boris'in Yeri** – Begin with a traditional Turkish breakfast at this hidden gem. Known for their rich, milky products and homemade spreads, it's one of our favorite secret spots in the city.


 **Little Hagia Sophia (Küçük Ayasofya)** – Visit this serene and less-touristy version of the famous Hagia Sophia. Its peaceful garden and unique architecture make it a lovely stop.


 **Sokullu Mehmet Paşa Mosque** – Discover one of Istanbul's most beautiful mosques, famous for its breathtaking Iznik tiles and tranquil setting.

 **Optional Experience:**
Take a break and join a Traditional Turkish Marbling (Ebru) Workshop — a creative and relaxing way to experience local art in between your cultural walk.

 **A Unique Dessert Stop** – Head to the concept branch of Hafız Mustafa, right in the heart of the city. Our top pick? Ala Trileçe — creamy, light, and unforgettable.

 **Kariye Mosque (Chora)** – Explore this hidden treasure known for its stunning mosaics and frescoes that reflect the richness of Byzantine art.

 **Eyüp Sultan Mosque** – Visit one of Islam's most important sites in Istanbul. Afterward, explore the vibrant streets nearby — our restaurant list will help you find something tasty to eat.

 **Pierre Loti Hill** – End your day with tea and a panoramic view of the city. Take the cable car up or enjoy the walk — either way, the view is worth it.

✨ Then... it's all up to you!
Stay for sunset, explore more hidden corners, or head back with a day full of peaceful, cultural discovery.

Marbling Paper Workshop

BOOK NOW




Pedalling through the Islands




 **Heybeliada** – Take a ferry from Kabataş or Kadıköy to one of Istanbul’s most iconic Princes’ Islands — Heybeliada.


 Before you start pedaling, enjoy a coffee or snack at one of the cozy cafés. No stress — we’ve got you covered with our café & restaurant list!


 **Rent Your Bike** – Once you arrive, rent a bike from the center and begin your scenic island ride.


 **Heybeliada Ruhban Okulu** – Pedal up to this historic theological school with stunning views and a peaceful atmosphere.

 **Değirmenburnu Tabiat Parkı** – Ride through this beautiful nature park, perfect for a break, some photos, and a breath of fresh island air.

 **Optional Experiences:**

 **Guided Cycling Tour** – Take a unique tour to learn about the island’s history, culture, and natural gems — all while enjoying the ride.

 **Beach + Aquapark** – In the mood for a beach day? Try Cevahir Aqua Heybeliada for swimming, sun, and even a little waterpark fun!

 **Wrap Up** – Complete the loop around the island, enjoy the nature, and catch your ferry back whenever you’re ready — with a full day of sea breeze, cycling, and serenity behind you.

Cycling Tour

BOOK NOW



Ferry Schedule

LEARN MORE



Earthissimo Special One Day



Morning

Must Visit Sights Tour

BOOK NOW

Turkish Coffee Making & Fortune Telling

BOOK NOW

Afternoon

**Taste of Istanbul:
Food & Community**

BOOK NOW

**Turkish Marbling Paper
Masterclass**

BOOK NOW

Evening

**Bosphorus Yacht Cruise:
Sunset & Music & Wine**

BOOK NOW

**Chef's Terrace:
Bosphorus Dinner**

BOOK NOW

**Traditional Turkish Bath
Experience**

BOOK NOW

Food of Istanbul

CLICK HERE 

Click this button near each dish to find out my favorite resurant for it.



Suitable for vegans



Suitable for vegeterians



Click the button to return to the first page.



MANTI



[CLICK HERE](#)



Manti is Turkish dumplings, a special dish my grandma insists on for Sunday breakfast. She prepares it so we can eat four plates and do nothing else. The dough is simple, made with water, flour, and salt, stuffed with minced beef. The sauce is made with yogurt, garlic, and a spice mix of butter, paprika, pepper, or tomato paste.



DONER KEBAP

[CLICK HERE](#)



Döner kebab is a popular lunch dish in Istanbul, but I love having it for breakfast too. I used to beg my mother for döner kebab so often! It's made from marinated lamb meat and fat, cooked on a large skewer over a wood fire for a smoky flavor. The word 'Döner' means 'to turn' in Turkish, and it rotates horizontally around the wood fire. It's served hot in pita bread with tomatoes, peppers, and pickles, or simply on a plate.



BOREK



[CLICK HERE](#)



Börek is a dish that we sharing with our neighbouring countries through balkans, Its the type of dish that mom sends you to bakery to buy before breakfast then you dip in this delicassy into everything on the table. Its made out from filo pastry usually stuffed with minced beef and raisins but you will find other stuffings as well patato, cheese, spinach.



ÇİĞ KÖFTE



[CLICK HERE](#)



Çiğ köfte is one of my favorite things to eat in Istanbul. This delicious appetizer became our go-to snack after school. It's a paste made from a cereal grain called bulgur (cracked wheat). Inside the paste, you'll find pomegranate molasses, walnuts, olive oil, tomatoes, pepper, onions, garlic, and tomato and pepper paste, along with a variety of spices. Originally, it's made with raw beef, but most often, it's served with bulgur.



PİDE

[CLICK HERE](#)



Imagine a simpler version of pizza, but shaped horizontally instead of in a circle, and stuffed with cheese, beef, and vegetables. It's one of my favorite things to eat for lunch or dinner. Don't forget to drink Ayran with it!



ISKENDER KEBAP

[CLICK HERE](#)



This dish will spike up your cholesterol, but trust me, it's worth it. It's served on a hot plate with cubed roasted pita bread at the bottom, topped with döner kebab. Then, hot butter and tomato sauce are poured over it. It's one of the most delicious things to eat in Istanbul. Definitely check it out!



LAHMACUN

[CLICK HERE](#)



I think after döner kebab, lahmacun is my favorite dish. Imagine a crispy flatbread covered with a savory meat paste—actually, don't imagine, come and eat it! The dough is made with wheat flour, water, and salt, and the paste includes minced beef, garlic, tomato, parsley, and onions



KOKOREÇ

[CLICK HERE](#)



All over the world, people eat döner kebab when they get drunk, but in Turkey, after a good night, kokoreç is the go-to food. Kokoreç is made from lamb intestines, rolled on a stick, and cooked over a cool fire. Once the outside is seared, it's chopped up with tomatoes and peppers, then grilled with spices like oregano and paprika. Finally, it's put into hot bread. What can I say? Enjoy!



YAPRAK SARMA



[CLICK HERE](#)



Sarma means 'to roll' in Turkish. After a bazaar visit with mom, we would sit at the table and roll these babies together. It's made with vine leaves stuffed with an uncooked risotto mix that includes herbs and spices. Then it's boiled with water, orange juice, and lemon juice. It's an amazing appetizer to try.



DOLMA

[CLICK HERE](#)



Dolma means 'to stuff' in Turkish. It's simple: you choose any type of vegetable, hollow it out, and stuff it with an uncooked risotto mix. My favorite dolma is made with dried peppers, eggplants, or zucchini. Don't worry, I'll give you an amazing option for where to try all kinds.



TANTUNI

[CLICK HERE](#)



Tantuni is a beloved street food in Istanbul, made with thinly sliced beef or lamb stir-fried with onions, tomatoes, and green peppers. Seasoned with spices like cumin, paprika, and chili flakes, it's served hot in a thin flatbread or wrap (dürüm), often accompanied by parsley, lemon juice, and optional pickles or yogurt.



MENEMEN



[CLICK HERE](#)



Menemen is an essential part of our breakfast. It's basically the Turkish version of shakshuka, but scrambled. It's definitely a must-try in Istanbul, and guess what? I know where to try the best version.



ADANA KEBAP

[CLICK HERE](#)

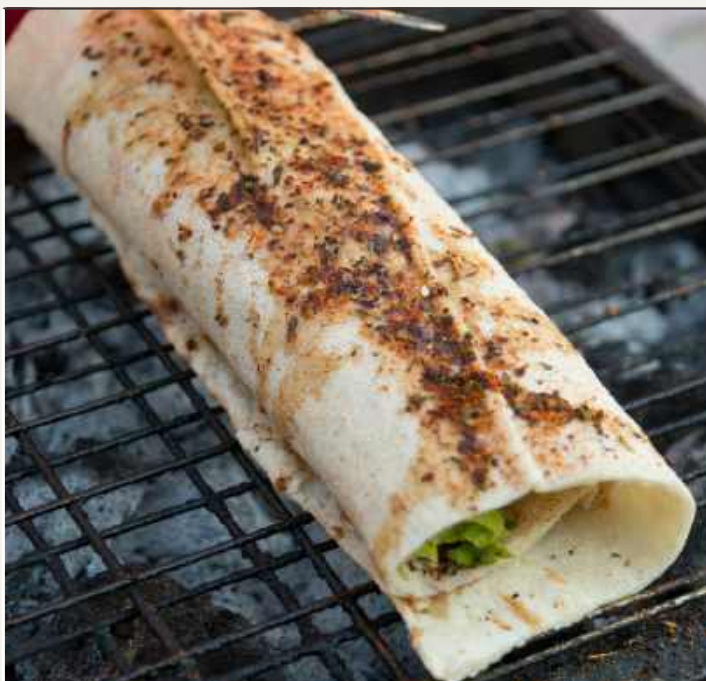
Adana kebab its basically minced beef or lamb spiced it out with paprika added some chopped tomato and pepper. then covered on the skewer lastly its cooked on the cool and wood fire. I'm sure you will try and see this everywhere.



BALIK EKMEK

[CLICK HERE](#)

This is one of the classical food of istanbul the dish is very simple its grilled macarel fish added onions and salad lastly, you put all the goodness into the bread and guys our bread is amazing.



BALIK DURUM

[CLICK HERE](#)

This is the dish invented maybe in last 6-7 years instead the white bread we use wheat flour made tortilla called lavaş. Outside of the wrap cover with molasses, oil and spices and cooked on the grill inside is grilled mackarel fish, roasted veggies, salad, more pomegrante mollases and spices



LAKERDA

[CLICK HERE](#)

Lakerda is made from pickled bonito, a type of fish in the mackerel family. The preparation involves curing slices of the fish in brine, which gives it a distinctively salty and rich flavor. It is often served as an appetizer or meze in our traditional restaurants.



SİMİT



[CLICK HERE](#)

Simit is one of the classic of our breakfast. If you are in Istanbul take your simit run to the one ferry take a tea from the ferry and just watch the view while having your little breakfast. Its a classic bread though covered with molasses and sesame seeds.



KUMPIR



[CLICK HERE](#)

Its one of the most common street food istanbul do I like it? so so I would say. After patato is baked you mash it with butter and cheese lastly you put the stuffings you like



MİDYE DOLMA

[CLICK HERE](#)

Stuffed mussels are one of the essentials of turkish cuisine I must say if you are in the beach or if its a match day. You would run for stuffed mussels when you are drunk as well. Mussels are steamed stuffed and steamed again.



İÇLİ KÖFTE

[CLICK HERE](#)

İçli köfte is stuffed bulghur balls. Stuffing includes cooked minced beef or lamb, walnuts, onion and spices. They usually serve this as an appetizer. but its good anyway.



TAVUK PİLAV

[CLICK HERE](#)

Here is your street food in Turkey if you are a gym rat dish is very simple rice with chickpeas served with boiled shredded chicken. Its a plain food but like I guess you can't always eat spicy right? maybe you can aha



POĞAÇA

[CLICK HERE](#)

Poğaç is a popular Turkish breakfast item. These savory pastries come in various shapes and sizes, filled with ingredients like cheese, potatoes, spinach, or olives, and flavored with herbs such as dill or parsley.



MEZES

[CLICK HERE](#)

Mezes are essential to Turkish cuisine. They alone can define a cuisine, offering a wide variety from roasted vegetable mixes with yogurt and olive oil to cured fishes and more.



BÜRYAN

[CLICK HERE](#)

Büryan is one of my favorite Turkish dishes known for its rich flavors and special cooking method. It features tender lamb or goat meat seasoned with spices like cumin and garlic, slow-cooked in a tandoor oven until juicy and smoky.





These lentil balls are packed with garlic, pepper, parsley, tomato and pepper paste, and all sorts of delicious spices. Wrapped in lettuce and drizzled with lemon juice, they are incredibly tasty.



MERCIMEK KÖFTESİ

[CLICK HERE](#)



Mücver is an appetizer made by blending cabbage, carrots, and herbs, then mixing in flour and eggs. You can either fry it or bake it, depending on your preference. Personally, I prefer the baked ones



MÜCVER

[CLICK HERE](#)



İmam Bayıldı is a traditional dish you can try in Istanbul. It's known as the 'fainting imam,' and it's a delicious Turkish dish made from roasted eggplants stuffed with a savory mixture of onions, garlic, tomatoes, and green peppers. Seasoned with herbs like parsley and dill, it's cooked slowly until tender and flavorful.



IMAM BAYILDI

[CLICK HERE](#)



Karniyarik is a household dish loved by the people of Istanbul. Translating to 'split belly' in Turkish, it consists of roasted eggplants that are slit and stuffed with a delicious mixture of ground meat (often lamb or beef), onions, garlic, tomatoes, and green peppers. Seasoned with traditional Turkish spices and herbs like parsley and mint, it's baked until the flavors meld together beautifully.

KARNIYARIK

[CLICK HERE](#)



GÖZLEME

[CLICK HERE](#)

Gözleme is a beloved dish in Istanbul. filling thin dough with cheese, spinach, or meat. Cooked until crispy, it's served hot with yogurt or ayran. When you don't want to go for the bakery in the morning that's something mama would do for the breakfast.



ŞIRDAN

[CLICK HERE](#)

Şırdan is a traditional Turkish dish where sheep intestines are stuffed with seasoned rice, herbs, and spices. Once filled, they are cooked until tender and served hot, prized for their savory flavors. Great dish to eat at night!



KURU FASULYE



[CLICK HERE](#)

Kuru fasulye is a classic Turkish dish that's a real comfort food for me. It's made with white beans cooked in a rich tomato-based sauce, simmered until tender with onions, tomatoes, garlic, and a blend of spices. It's best enjoyed hot, usually with rice or bread.



KISIR



[CLICK HERE](#)

It's a flavorful salad made with fine bulgur wheat, mixed with chopped tomatoes, onions, parsley, and a variety of herbs and spices like mint and red pepper flakes. The salad is dressed with olive oil and pomegranate molasses, giving it a tangy and refreshing taste. Kısır is perfect as a side dish or a light meal on its own, enjoyed especially during gatherings and picnics



MERCIMEK ÇORBASI

[CLICK HERE](#)

Mercimek çorbası is a staple in Turkish cuisine that I absolutely love. It's a hearty lentil soup made with red lentils, onions, carrots, and tomatoes, seasoned with a blend of spices like cumin and paprika. In traditional restaurants, mercimek çorbası is prepared simply with water and lentils, highlighting the natural flavors of the ingredients.



KELLE PAÇA

[CLICK HERE](#)

Kelle paça is a traditional Turkish dish that holds a special place in my heart—a classic that grandpa would take me to enjoy as a child. It's a hearty soup made from boiled sheep's head and feet, simmered for hours until the meat becomes tender and the broth rich and flavorful. The dish is seasoned with garlic, lemon, and vinegar. It's a gelatin bomb, guys!



EZOĞELİN

[CLICK HERE](#)

Ezogelin is a traditional Turkish soup that always brings back fond memories. It's a hearty mix of red lentils, bulgur, and rice, seasoned with tomatoes, onions, and a blend of spices like red pepper flakes, mint, and paprika. The soup is simmered until all the ingredients meld into a rich, flavorful broth. It's comforting, nutritious, and perfect for warming up on a chilly day.



TARHANA

[CLICK HERE](#)

Tarhana is a traditional Turkish soup that's like the world's first instant soup mix. Made from a fermented mixture of yogurt, vegetables, and grains that's dried and crumbled into a powder, it transforms into a rich, tangy soup when cooked. If you have a working mom, this is the soup you drink quite often. It's comforting, flavorful, and always brings back memories of family meals.



BAKLAVA

CLICK HERE



TURKISH DELIGHTS

CLICK HERE



KATMER

CLICK HERE



KAZANDIBİ

CLICK HERE

Baklava is a sweet treat that always makes me the happiest. In my opinion, it's by far the king of desserts in Turkey. Made from layers of thin, flaky pastry filled with chopped nuts and sweetened with syrup or honey, the result is a rich, sticky dessert that's crunchy and sweet. It's a classic favorite at family gatherings and celebrations

Turkish delights are a delightful treat that I always look forward to especially the new versions. They come in various flavors and colors, coated with powdered sugar or nuts, offering a chewy and sweet experience. These candies have a soft, jelly-like texture and are often flavored with ingredients like rosewater, citrus, or nuts. They're a traditional Turkish delicacy enjoyed as a sweet treat or gift for special occasions.

Katmer is a delightful Turkish pastry that I absolutely love. It's made from thin layers of dough that are folded and rolled out repeatedly to create a flaky texture. Typically filled with clotted cream (kaymak) and sprinkled with chopped pistachios, sugar, and sometimes cinnamon, it's then baked until golden and crispy. It goes perfect with a cup of Turkish tea or coffee.

Kazandibi is a burnt chicken pudding that's my special treat after a good hamam session. It's a creamy, caramelized dessert made from milk, sugar, rice flour, and shredded chicken, with a golden-brown crust that forms during cooking. Don't forget to ask for ice cream on top of it. If you're not a fan of the burnt taste, you can try “Tavukgöğsü,” which is the non-burnt version of kazandibi.



TULUMBA

[CLICK HERE](#)

Tulumba is a Turkish dessert that you can think of as the Turkish version of churros. These deep-fried doughnuts are soaked in sweet syrup, making them irresistibly sweet and sticky. They're often shaped like small tubes or fingers, giving them a distinctive appearance. Tulumba is a popular treat at celebrations and special occasions, enjoyed for its crunchy exterior and soft, syrupy interior.



İRMİK HELVASI

[CLICK HERE](#)

İrmik helvası is a traditional Turkish dessert that holds a special place in my heart, especially when enjoyed with ice cream. It's a sweet semolina pudding made from semolina flour (irmik), butter, sugar, and sometimes pine nuts or almonds. The semolina is toasted in butter until golden brown, then simmered in a sugar syrup until thickened. Flavored with cinnamon or vanilla, İrmik helvası is served warm or at room temperature.



KÜNEFE

[CLICK HERE](#)

Künefe is a must try dessert that consists of a crispy layer of shredded phyllo dough (kadayıf) that encases a gooey, stretchy layer of cheese, typically unsalted white cheese. The dessert is soaked in sweet syrup, often flavored with rose or orange blossom water, and topped with crushed pistachios or walnuts for added texture and flavor. Künefe is usually served warm, straight out of the oven, making it a delightful treat that combines crunchy, cheesy, and sweet flavors in every bite.



EKMEK KADAYIFI

[CLICK HERE](#)

Ekmek kadayıfı is a traditional Turkish dessert with a rich history, originating from the practice of using leftover bread to create a sweet treat. This dessert is irresistible to anyone in Turkey. It starts with a cake-like base made from yeast, molasses, and other delicious ingredients. The baked cake is then soaked in a sugar syrup and served with clotted cream, providing a delightful contrast of textures and flavors.



SÜTLAÇ

[CLICK HERE](#)

Sütlaç is our version of rice pudding—a treat that brings pure joy when found in the fridge. Made from rice, milk, sugar, and often flavored with vanilla or cinnamon, the rice is simmered in milk until creamy, sweetened, and baked until golden-brown on top.



TURKISH ICE CREAM

[CLICK HERE](#)

Turkish ice cream, known as "dondurma," is a dessert renowned for its chewy texture and resistance to melting. Many of you may already be familiar with it from watching videos of ice cream vendors and their entertaining tricks. It's made with milk, sugar, and often salep (a flour made from orchid tubers) or mastic resin, which give it its characteristic elasticity.



LOKMA

[CLICK HERE](#)

Lokma is a dessert that's basically small, round doughnuts. They're fried to golden perfection, so they're crispy on the outside but super soft inside. After frying, they're soaked in this sweet syrup—sometimes with flavors like lemon or cinnamon. It's the kind of dessert you see a lot during holidays and family get-togethers. Everyone loves digging into these warm, syrupy bites.



HALKA TATLISI



[CLICK HERE](#)

Halka tatlısı is a Turkish dessert that translates to "ring dessert" in English. It's essentially a sweet, ring-shaped pastry that's deep-fried until crispy and golden. After frying, it's traditionally soaked in a light sugar syrup, sometimes flavored with lemon or rose water, to add sweetness and moisture. The texture is crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, making it a delightful treat to enjoy with tea or coffee.



MILKY BAKLAVA

[CLICK HERE](#)

This dessert is a must-watch, as you can easily consume countless pieces. This variation of baklava maintains its layers of filo dough and nuts but is served with a creamy, often milk-based sauce that adds richness and a different texture compared to traditional baklava. It's sometimes dusted with cocoa or other flavorful powders on top for an extra delicious touch.



KEŞKÜL

[CLICK HERE](#)

Keşkül is an almond-based milk pudding, usually served in a bowl and eaten with a spoon. It's often garnished with coconut shavings or pistachio nuts, giving it a rich texture and flavor



GÜLLAÇ

[CLICK HERE](#)

This is the dessert that gets you excited about Ramadan. It is usually served only during Ramadan. Güllaç consists of very thin layers of starch sheets softened in sweetened milk, layered with ground nuts (usually walnuts), and flavored with rose water. It's often garnished with pomegranate seeds or ground pistachios, adding a cool color to this white dessert.



MUHALLEBİ

[CLICK HERE](#)

Muhallebi is essentially a Turkish pudding, known for its creamy texture and delightful flavor. It's made from milk, sugar, and thickening agents like rice flour or cornstarch.



TURKISH TEA

Yes, in this country we love tea. Turkey is the biggest consumer of the tea in the world. It is typically brewed using a special double teapot called a "çaydanlık." The bottom pot holds boiling water, while the top pot holds loose black tea leaves and a small amount of water, which brews into a strong tea concentrate. It's well integrated with Turkish hospitality. You will find a good tea everywhere in the city.



TURKISH COFFEE

[CLICK HERE](#) 

In Turkey, we're heavy consumers of caffeine, and in Istanbul, you'll see this closely. Coffee is mostly enjoyed with friends and good conversation. Turkish coffee, or "Türk kahvesi," is a traditional brew made by mixing finely ground coffee with water and sugar in a "cezve." It's heated until foamy and poured into small cups without filtering. Served with water and often Turkish delight, the grounds settle at the bottom and are sometimes used for fortune-telling.



AYRAN

Ayran is the most consumed soft drink in Turkey, perfectly paired with any meaty or savory meal. It's made from yogurt, water, and a pinch of salt. Almost, in every restaurant you will find Ayran.



ŞALGAM

[CLICK HERE](#) 

Şalgam is made from fermented black carrots and turnips, giving it a tangy and slightly spicy flavor. In Turkey, if you go for a fish meal or a traditional meyhanes dinner, you'll often see it on the table



SAHLEP

[CLICK HERE](#)

Sahlep is a drink enjoyed on rainy days or when you want to relax. It's made from the powdered root of wild orchids, mixed with hot milk and sugar, then topped with cinnamon.



BOZA

[CLICK HERE](#)

Boza is a drink enjoyed during Ramadan. During this time, you'll see boza sellers walking the streets, ready to fill up your bottles. It's primarily made from millet or wheat, giving it a slightly thick consistency similar to a thin pudding or smoothie. Boza is often sweetened with sugar or honey and flavored with cinnamon.



ŞERBET

[CLICK HERE](#)

Şerbet is made by dissolving sugar in water over low heat to create a syrup. It's flavored with fruit juices like lemon, orange, or rose water, and sometimes enriched with herbs or spices. Once prepared, şerbet is typically served chilled, making it a refreshing choice, especially during hot weathers



RAKI

[CLICK HERE](#)

Raki is one of the essentials of Turkey's alcohol culture. It's a drink that can keep you talking for hours. An anise-flavored liquor, it turns milky white when mixed with water, earning it the nickname "lion's milk." We usually enjoy Raki as part of a social experience. It holds significant cultural importance in Istanbul, always with lively gatherings, conversations, and the enjoyment of food.



TURŞU SUYU

[CLICK HERE](#)



KEFIR

[CLICK HERE](#)



POMEGRANTE JUICE

[CLICK HERE](#)



GAZUZ

[CLICK HERE](#)



Turşu suyu, also known as pickle juice, is a great drink choice if you're eating fish near Eminönü or if you're randomly visiting a pickle store to create your own mix.

Kefir is by far my favorite drink. I guess you wonder how many probiotics it contains and how much Mama would push you to drink it. It's made by fermenting milk with kefir grains, which are a combination of bacteria and yeast.

Pomegranate juice, called nar suyu in Turkish, is one of the nicest things you can enjoy while walking around the city, spiking your glucose levels. Pomegranates originated from Turkey, and their juice is simply delicious

"Gazoz" is a refreshing Turkish soda that blends sparkling water with various fruit syrups, creating a fizzy, sweet beverage. It's a popular drink enjoyed throughout Turkey, often served chilled and perfect for hot days.

Sights & Neighbourhoods of Istanbul

Explore the finest experiences Istanbul has to offer — including expertly guided tours, immersive workshops, and rich cultural encounters, thoughtfully curated for you.



Click this to see the locations.



FATİH DISTRICT

The Fatih District is located on the European side of Istanbul, on the southern peninsula. In this district, you'll find the historic center and most of the main tourist attractions.

Sultanahmet

Sultanahmet is a must-visit when you're in Istanbul. It's packed with iconic landmarks like Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, Basilica Cistern, Grand Bazaar, and Topkapi Palace—all within walking distance. The area is full of cafes, restaurants, and shops, making it easy to spend a full day exploring. It's also well-connected to other parts of the city. That said, Sultanahmet can get very crowded and touristy. Restaurant and shop owners may be pushy, and prices tend to be higher. Don't miss Süleymaniye—it offers stunning views, charming cafes, and a quieter nightlife, which some visitors really enjoy.

Sirkeci & Eminönü

Sirkeci is in the northern part of the Old City. It's not as crowded as Sultanahmet, but you can still walk to many of the main attractions in Sultanahmet. It's close to a metro line, the ferry terminal, and Galata Bridge. From here, you can easily get to Karaköy, Galata, Taksim, and other places along the Bosphorus Strait. Being near the metro and ferry makes it easy to explore beyond the historic district once you've seen all the main sights. Definitely try "Balık Ekmek" while you are in here.

Balat

Balat is known as Istanbul's most colorful neighborhood and people. You will find amazing local vibe in here its also a part that your author Hasan is grew up and runs his food and community experience. It's full of narrow, cobblestoned streets and brightly painted houses. It has a local neighborhood feel with lots of cool cafes, shops, and restaurants. Definitely, must visit in Istanbul if you are interested in local life.



BEYOGLU DISTRICT

The Beyoğlu district is a great place to stay, offering a perfect blend of nightlife and traditions. The area boasts unique architecture and a wide variety of delicious food, which I love.

Karaköy

Karaköy is a small, relatively flat area at the bottom of the hill under Galata. It offers incredible views across the Golden Horn waterway and is close to Galata Bridge, making it well-connected to the southern peninsula and Sultanahmet. Whether you take the metro or a ferry, it's easy to get almost anywhere in the city from Karaköy. This vibrant area is full of shops, restaurants, and bars, offering a great nightlife.

Galata

Galata is a charming and trendy neighborhood with plenty of shops, restaurants, cafes, and nightlife. Located on top of a hill, the area features winding and hilly streets, which can be challenging if you have mobility issues. The elevation provides some hotels and rooftop bars with panoramic views. It's also home to the Galata Tower, a top tourist attraction. Galata is within walking distance of Istiklal Street to the north and Galata Bridge to the south, but staying here requires some effort to get to the historical sites in Sultanahmet Square. Both Galata and Karaköy are close to the main cruise ship terminal, so they can get extra crowded with tourists from time to time.

Taksim

Taksim is Istanbul's more modern and commercial hub. Istiklal Street, a bustling pedestrian shopping street, connects Galata to Taksim. The area offers major brand-name hotels and luxury accommodations, making it ideal for those seeking comfort and convenience. Taksim has a lively nightlife scene, while nearby Cihangir provides a cozier vibe with good street entertainment. Although it's a bit farther from major tourist sites, the metro station at Taksim Square offers easy access across the city.



BEŞİKTAŞ DISTRICT

Growing up in Istanbul, Beşiktaş was always buzzing with energy. The center is packed with cafes, bars, and restaurants, and the Fish Market. It's super easy to get around from here, whether you're hopping on a bus, a ferry, or just walking. This area is a mix of the old and new, perfect for anyone who loves a lively city vibe. Plus, great area to try street & modern food of Istanbul

Arnavutköy

Arnavutköy is like a hidden gem along the Bosphorus. The wooden Ottoman houses and quiet streets give it a peaceful, almost village-like feel. It's famous for seafood and offers stunning views. It's a great spot for a calm, scenic day out, yet it's not too far from the city center.

Bebek

Bebek is where you go to see and be seen. It's one of the poshest areas in Istanbul, right on the Bosphorus. Trendy cafes, upscale restaurants, and stylish boutiques line the streets. The views are incredible, and the vibe is luxurious. It's a bit further from the historic sites, but totally worth it for the scenery and atmosphere.

Ortaköy

Ortaköy is always buzzing with life. The mosque here is stunning, and the market is full of unique finds. It's a great spot for grabbing kumpir or waffles by the water. With the Bosphorus Bridge in the background, the views are amazing. It's lively, eclectic, and a true slice of Istanbul's vibrant culture.

Nişantaşı

I summarize this part as the Champs-Élysées of Istanbul. You will find all the luxury brand shops there, with a great atmosphere of luxury and modern cafes and bars. Plus, the architecture is very cool as well.



ÜSKÜDAR DISTRICT

Üsküdar was always a place with a unique charm. It's the neighbourhood located in Asian side of Istanbul. The center is bustling with local life, perfect for traditional activities like visiting a hamam or exploring the lively markets. The food is good, and people are honest. It's easy to get around with ferry connections to the European side, and the vibe here is a mix of tradition and modernity. Everything feels less touristy, making it great for sightseeing and soaking up authentic Istanbul vibes.

Kuzguncuk

Kuzguncuk feels like a village within the city. It's known for its colorful houses, quiet streets, and friendly atmosphere. The neighborhood is full of cozy cafes and artisan shops, making it a great spot for a relaxing day out. The strong sense of community and the beautiful Bosphorus views make Kuzguncuk a special place.

Beylerbeyi

Beylerbeyi is all about its stunning waterfront and the beautiful Beylerbeyi Palace. Growing up, visiting this area felt like stepping into a different era. It's quieter than other neighborhoods, with charming cafes and seafood restaurants right by the water. The views of the Bosphorus Bridge are amazing, especially at sunset.

Çengelköy

Çengelköy is famous for its historic charm and lovely waterfront. It's a great place for a leisurely stroll, with plenty of cafes and spots to enjoy tea by the Bosphorus. The area is also known for its delicious food, especially the iconic Çengelköy böreği (savory filo pastry).

Çamlıca

Great for enjoying the view from the hills and visit big mosque of Istanbul.



Kadıköy District

Kadıköy is a lively part of the city located in Asian Side. It's where you'll find a mix of young people, hipster vibes, and Turkish culture. The center is bustling with activity, perfect for enjoying street food and traditional dishes. Kadıköy is known for its vibrant atmosphere, with plenty of bars, cafes, and diverse entertainment options, making it a hub for the younger crowd.

Moda

Moda feels like a cozy village within Istanbul. Its streets are lined with charming cafes, creating a relaxed and inviting atmosphere. This neighborhood offers beautiful views of the Sea of Marmara, perfect for walking near seaside and a leisurely day out.

Caddebostan

Caddebostan is loved for its seaside charm and vibrant shopping scene. It features parks, sandy beaches, and a lively promenade perfect for picnics, cycling, and sunset strolls. The area is also a hotspot for cafés and restaurants serving both Turkish and international cuisine. With its family-friendly atmosphere and strong café culture, Caddebostan is a local favorite—especially along Bağdat Caddesi, the main street lined with modern shops and eateries, ideal for shopping and dining.



Princes' Islands

The Princes' Islands are a group of charming, car-free islands just a 1-2 hour ferry ride from Istanbul. They offer the perfect mini-vacation during your stay in the city—combining beaches, nature, and a peaceful island vibe

Büyükada

The largest of the Princes' Islands, Büyükada offers a peaceful escape from the city with its charming wooden mansions, car-free streets, and beautiful sea views. You can explore by bike or horse-drawn carriage, enjoy fresh seafood, and relax on quiet beaches

Heybeliada

Known for its lush pine forests and historic monasteries, Heybeliada is a green retreat just a short ferry ride from Istanbul. It's perfect for nature lovers and those seeking a calm, scenic getaway. The island is great for biking, with peaceful trails and beautiful views, plus cozy cafés and walking paths to explore.

Burgazada

Burgazada is a small, tranquil island favored for its relaxed vibe and local charm. It's ideal for a quiet day trip, with lovely seaside restaurants and peaceful spots to swim or hike.

Kınalıada

Kınalıada is the closest Princes' Island to Istanbul, popular for its sandy beaches and clear waters. It offers a laid-back atmosphere, making it a great spot for swimming and enjoying fresh seafood by the sea.

FERRY SCHEDULES

[Click Here!](#)

Top 10 Attractions to Visit

BOOK NOW



Get online tickets

MORE INFORMATION



History & Info

The tickets at the door are cheaper than online, but long lines can be a problem at most of these attractions. If your time is important online tickets are way to go



Click the button to return to the first page.



BOOK NOW



Topkapi Palace

MORE INFORMATION



BOOK NOW



Hagia Sophia

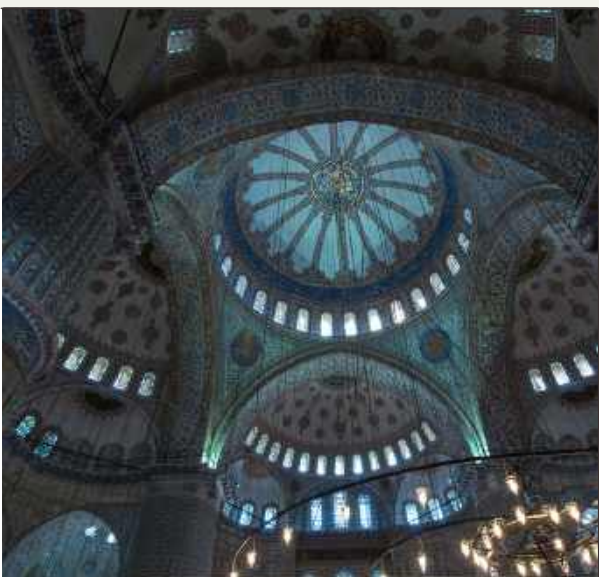
MORE INFORMATION



FREE ENTRY

Süleymaniye Mosque

MORE INFORMATION



FREE ENTRY

Blue Mosque

MORE INFORMATION



FREE ENTRY

Grand Bazaar

MORE INFORMATION





BOOK NOW



Galata Tower

MORE INFORMATION



BOOK NOW



Dolmabahce Palace

MORE INFORMATION



BOOK NOW



Basilica Cistern

MORE INFORMATION



BOOK NOW



The Chora

MORE INFORMATION



Pass by

Maiden's Tower

MORE INFORMATION



Some other cool museums to visit if you like



BOOK NOW



Rahmi Koc Museum

MORE INFORMATION



BOOK NOW



Modern Art Museum

MORE INFORMATION



BOOK NOW



Istanbul Archeology Museum

MORE INFORMATION



BOOK NOW



Digital Experience Museum

MORE INFORMATION



BOOK NOW



Sakıp Sabancı Museum

MORE INFORMATION



Cultural Products

Discover all the cultural and must-buy Turkish products — from carpets, instruments to spices, we've covered it all for you.



Click the button to return to the first page.



TURKISH CARPETS

Used for centuries in homes, mosques, and palaces, Turkish carpets are both decorative and symbolic, often gifted at weddings or used during prayer. Their history dates back to the Seljuk Empire and later flourished under the Ottomans. They're known for their durability, natural dyes, and intricate motifs that often tell regional stories. Most are handwoven using wool or silk on a double-knot technique unique to Türkiye.



EVIL EYE

Traditionally hung in homes, worn as jewelry, or placed on newborns, the evil eye is believed to protect against bad luck and envy. Its origins trace back thousands of years and are deeply rooted in Anatolian and Mediterranean cultures. It's a popular souvenir for its cultural meaning and eye-catching design. Made from hand-blown glass, each piece is typically crafted in small ateliers using traditional methods.



IZNIK TILES

Originally used to decorate Ottoman mosques and palaces, Iznik tiles are known for their bright cobalt blue, turquoise, and red floral patterns. They became prominent in the 16th century during the height of Ottoman art. These tiles are admired for their beauty and craftsmanship, making them a prized souvenir. Each tile is handmade using quartz-rich clay and painted with natural pigments before being glazed and kiln-fired.



HANDMADE CERAMICS

Commonly found in Turkish homes and bazaars, handmade ceramics are used for serving food, tea, or as decorative pieces. Their tradition dates back to ancient Anatolia and evolved through Seljuk and Ottoman styles. They're popular for their vibrant colors, practical use, and artistic value. Each piece is shaped by hand or wheel, then painted and glazed before firing, often featuring floral or geometric motifs.



MOSAIC LAMPS

Traditionally used to light up Turkish homes, tea houses, and courtyards, mosaic lamps reflect the rich blend of Byzantine and Ottoman aesthetics. They became widespread in the late Ottoman era and are now popular for adding a warm, colorful glow to any space. A favorite among travelers, they're valued for their craftsmanship and beauty. Each lamp is handmade by setting colored glass pieces and beads into geometric patterns over a glass base.



COFFEE SET

Sharing coffee is a cherished ritual in Turkish culture – a way to welcome guests, connect with friends, or even read fortunes from the leftover grounds. Istanbul was the first city in the world to open public coffee houses in the 1500s, making it the birthplace of café culture. Turkish coffee is slow-brewed in a small pot called a cezve and served in tiny, elegant cups. A full set usually includes the cezve, cups, saucers, and a decorated tray – often made of copper or brass and beautifully engraved. It's a thoughtful and authentic souvenir that brings a taste of tradition home.



TURKISH TEA SET

Tea is a daily addiction enjoyed throughout Türkiye, the country that drinks the most tea per person in the world. Served in tulip-shaped glasses, Turkish tea symbolizes friendship and hospitality, often shared with family and guests. A typical set includes a double-stacked teapot called a çaydanlık, small glasses, and saucers—usually made from glass and sometimes decorated with traditional motifs. It's a charming souvenir that captures the warmth of Turkish culture.



CALIGRAPHY PIECES

Calligraphy holds a special place in Islamic and Ottoman art, often used to decorate mosques, homes, and official documents. It became especially popular during the Ottoman Empire, turning sacred texts and poetic lines into visual art. These pieces are meaningful to buy for their cultural depth and timeless elegance. Each one is carefully hand-drawn using traditional tools like reed pens and ink, often on parchment or textured paper.



TURKISH DELIGHTS

Traditionally offered to guests and kids during holidays and celebrations, Turkish delights have been a sweet part of Turkish culture since the Ottoman era. They became popular in the 18th century – think of them as the original gummy bears or Haribos. Made from sugar and starch, they're flavored with rose, pistachio, lemon, and more. When I was a kid, I never liked them... but now there are modern versions stuffed with nut butters, rolled like sushi, and covered in nuts. Yes – I'm absolutely addicted.



BAKLAVA

Baklava is one of Türkiye's most iconic desserts, traditionally served during holidays, weddings, and special family gatherings. Its roots go back to the Ottoman kitchens, where it was a royal treat. Made by layering paper-thin sheets of phyllo dough with crushed nuts (usually pistachios or walnuts) and soaking it in syrup, it's rich, flaky, and perfectly sweet. Freshly made baklava from local patisseries is a must-try – and yes, it makes a great gift too (if it lasts that long!).



TURKISH COFFEE

A centuries-old tradition, Turkish coffee is served in small cups and often followed by fortune-telling from the grounds. It's rich, strong, and recognized by UNESCO as part of Türkiye's cultural heritage. Buying the finely ground coffee makes a perfect souvenir – easy to carry and a great way to share a piece of local culture at home.



TURKISH TEAS

Tea is a daily ritual in Türkiye, enjoyed everywhere from homes to street corners. Alongside strong black çay, you'll find fruity blends like apple, pomegranate, and lemon, as well as herbal teas like rosehip and sage. They're flavorful, easy to carry, and beautifully packaged – making them a perfect souvenir to share or sip back home.



TURKISH SPICES

Spices are at the heart of Turkish cuisine, adding depth to dishes like kebabs, stews, and mezes. Popular choices include sumac, pul biber (crushed red pepper), cumin, dried mint, and isot – a smoky, spicy chili from southeastern Türkiye. You’ll also find sahlelep, a unique powdered orchid root used to make a warming, creamy winter drink. Spice mixes are especially tasty and impressive, combining these flavors in perfect harmony. These aromatic, affordable, and easy-to-pack spices and specialties make perfect souvenirs to bring Turkish flavors home.



NUTS

Turkey is renowned for producing some of the highest quality pistachios and hazelnuts in the world. These nuts are widely used in Turkish cuisine, from snacks to desserts like baklava and Turkish delight. They make a delicious and healthy souvenir that captures the rich flavors of Türkiye and are perfect for sharing as gifts.



DRIED FRUITS & HONEY

Dried fruits like apricots, figs, and mulberries have been enjoyed in Türkiye for centuries, prized for their natural sweetness and long shelf life. Turkish honey, often harvested from wildflower-rich regions, is known for its rich flavor and purity. Both make wonderful, wholesome souvenirs that bring a taste of Turkey’s natural bounty home with you.



RAKİ

Rakı is Turkey’s iconic anise-flavored liqueur, often regarded as the national drink. Traditionally enjoyed with mezes during long, lively dinners, it’s nicknamed “lion’s milk” because it turns milky white when mixed with water. Distilled from grapes and flavored with aniseed, rakı makes a unique and cultural souvenir – perfect for sharing a true taste of Turkish tradition with friends and family back home.



BACKGAMMON SET

Backgammon is one of Turkey's oldest and most beloved games, played in homes, cafés, and parks for centuries. It's not just a game but a social ritual that brings people together over strategy and friendly competition. Turkish backgammon sets are often handcrafted from wood with intricate inlays, making them beautiful keepsakes and perfect souvenirs that capture a piece of local culture.



OTTOMAN JEWELRY

Ottoman jewelry reflects centuries of rich history and exquisite craftsmanship, often featuring intricate designs inspired by nature and Islamic art. Worn by sultans and nobles, these pieces symbolize power, beauty, and tradition. Handmade using precious metals and stones, Ottoman-style jewelry makes a stunning souvenir that carries the elegance and stories of Türkiye's imperial past.



HAMAM TOWELS

Hamam towels, or pestemal, have been used for centuries in Turkish baths (hamams) as lightweight, absorbent wraps. Made from natural cotton or linen, they dry quickly and are much thinner than regular towels, making them perfect for travel or everyday use. Their classic striped designs and soft texture make hamam towels a practical and stylish souvenir from Türkiye.



PASHMINAS

Pashminas have been treasured for centuries as luxurious shawls and scarves, known for their softness and warmth. Though originally from the Kashmir region, pashminas are popular in Türkiye for their elegant style and comfort. Made from fine wool or cashmere, they're often handwoven and dyed in beautiful colors—making them a fashionable and thoughtful souvenir.



COPPER COOKWARES

Copper cookware has been a staple in Turkish kitchens for centuries, prized for its excellent heat conductivity and durability. Often handcrafted by skilled artisans, these pots and pans add both function and beauty to cooking. Buying copper cookware is a great souvenir – it brings authentic Turkish culinary tradition into your home and lasts for generations with proper care.



NATURAL SOAPS

Natural soaps have been a part of Turkish bathing traditions for centuries, often made with olive oil, herbs, and essential oils. Popular for their gentle cleansing and nourishing properties, they’re handcrafted using traditional methods. These soaps make a lovely, fragrant souvenir—perfect for bringing a bit of Turkish wellness and luxury into your daily routine.



DESIGNER CLOTHES

Turkey is famous as a replica heaven, attracting many visitors looking to buy high-quality replicas of big brand designer clothes. Alongside this, the country also has a growing fashion scene blending traditional motifs with modern styles. Whether you’re after replicas or authentic local designs, shopping here offers a unique way to bring a piece of Türkiye’s style home.



LEATHER GOODS

Turkey is renowned for its high-quality leather products, from jackets and bags to shoes and belts. Turkish leather is soft, durable, and often handcrafted using traditional techniques passed down through generations. Buying leather goods here means getting stylish, long-lasting items that carry the craftsmanship and heritage of Türkiye.



SILK CLOTHING

Silk has been treasured in Turkey since the Silk Road era, symbolizing luxury and elegance. Turkish silk clothing often features beautiful patterns and a soft, smooth texture that feels great to wear. Handmade or carefully crafted, these pieces make exquisite souvenirs that reflect the country's rich history and refined taste.



TRADITIONAL COLOGNE

Kolonya is a beloved Turkish tradition—this citrus-scented cologne is used to welcome guests, refresh hands, and cool down on hot days. Introduced during the Ottoman era, it's made from alcohol and natural fragrances like lemon or rose. Lightweight and refreshing, traditional cologne makes a perfect souvenir that captures Turkish hospitality and daily life.



FASHION ACCESORIES

Turkey offers a wide range of fashion accessories—from handmade scarves and belts to statement jewelry and hats—that blend traditional craftsmanship with modern trends. These accessories add a unique touch to any outfit and make stylish, affordable souvenirs reflecting Türkiye's vibrant culture and creativity.



WATER PIPES

Water pipes, known as nargile or hookah, have been a popular social pastime in Turkey for centuries. Often enjoyed in cafés with friends, smoking flavored tobacco through a beautifully crafted pipe is a cultural ritual. Turkish water pipes are usually handmade with intricate designs, making them a decorative and authentic souvenir for those interested in traditional leisure.



BAGLAMA

The bağlama is a traditional Turkish stringed instrument central to folk music and storytelling. Dating back centuries, it's often played during gatherings and celebrations, carrying the soul of Anatolian culture. Handmade with wood and nylon or gut strings, the bağlama makes a meaningful souvenir for music lovers interested in Turkey's rich musical heritage.



TURKISH DRUMS

Turkish drums like the darbuka, davul, and def have played a vital role in traditional music and ceremonies for centuries. Used in festivals, weddings, and folk dances, their deep rhythms bring energy and life to every celebration. Handmade from wood and animal skin, these drums make vibrant souvenirs that capture the heartbeat of Turkish culture.



KEMENCE

The kemençe is a traditional bowed string instrument from the Black Sea region, known for its haunting, soulful sound. Played in folk music and dances, it has been part of Turkish culture for centuries. Handmade with wood and horsehair strings, the kemençe is a beautiful souvenir for music lovers wanting to experience Turkey's rich regional traditions.



ZURNA

The zurna is a traditional Turkish woodwind instrument with a sharp, powerful sound often heard at weddings, festivals, and outdoor celebrations. Made from wood and played with a double reed, it has been used for centuries to energize dances and mark special occasions. Handmade and full of character, a zurna makes a striking souvenir representing Turkey's lively musical heritage.

How can I find things to do?

We've built the ultimate platform to connect you with unique places and people — offering over 300 curated experiences across Türkiye, brought to you by a team that has helped more than 20,000 travelers.

Experiences

[DISCOVER NOW](#)

Tours, activities, and services — handpicked for the best experience and curated from the very best across Türkiye.

Tickets

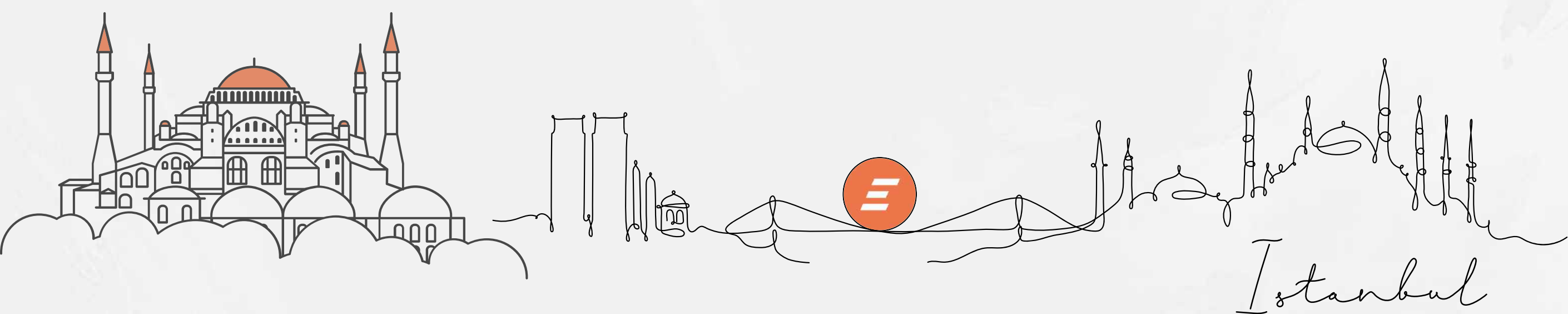
[DISCOVER NOW](#)

Access for unique events, museums, shows and places.

Trips

[DISCOVER NOW](#)

Unforgettable Holiday Deals, Day Trips & Experiences Across Türkiye



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT OUR EXPERIENCES

Before you dive into our favorite tours & experiences in the city, here's something important to know:

At Earthissimo, we handpick only the best tour operators—those who've been delivering great service for years, have a strong online presence, and consistently maintain a satisfaction rating above 4.9 out of 5.

Our mission is to help you experience the most authentic side of the city—guided by locals who've spent years creating meaningful and memorable experiences. Most of the operators featured on our platform have hundreds, even thousands, of positive reviews from guests around the world.

In short, we've done all the hard work—so all you need to do is choose how you'd like to enjoy your time here.

If you're interested in any of the services listed below, simply fill out the form, connect with us on the platform, or reach us via WhatsApp.

CUSTOM TOURS

[Click Here!](#)

PRIVATE TRANSFER

[Click Here!](#)

BOAT RENTALS

[Click Here!](#)

ITINERARY PLANNING

[Click Here!](#)



Best Experiences in Istanbul



Explore the finest experiences Istanbul has to offer — including expertly guided tours, immersive workshops, and rich cultural encounters, thoughtfully curated for you.



BOOK NOW



Click this button to see the details and book the experiences directly



Click the button to return to the first page.



BOOK NOW



Yacht on the Bosphorus: Sunset, Wine & Music



BOOK NOW



Istanbul Essentials Tour: Must-Visit Sights



BOOK NOW



Chef's Terrace: Bosphorus Dinner



BOOK NOW



Taste of Istanbul: Food & Community



BOOK NOW



Baklava Masterclass: From Scratch



BOOK NOW



Private Swimming Yacht Tour: Relax & Water All Day



BOOK NOW



Marbling Paper Masterclass



BOOK NOW



Private Shopping Tour: Bazaars of Istanbul



BOOK NOW



Traditional Turkish Bath Experience



BOOK NOW



Island Escape: Hike & Swim



BOOK NOW



Taste of Tradition: Dervish Show & Dinner



BOOK NOW



Luxury Private Yacht Tour: Sunset & Chill



BOOK NOW



Ottoman Cuisine Cooking Workshop



BOOK NOW



Dine on Bosphorus: Luxury Cruise Dining



BOOK NOW



Turkish Coffee: Making & Fortune Telling



BOOK NOW



Bosphorus Cruise: Turkish Breakfast



BOOK NOW



Europe to Asia Food Adventure



BOOK NOW



Art of Turkish Tiles: Painting Workshop



BOOK NOW



Turkish Food Night: Rooftop Experience



BOOK NOW



Istanbul's Most Famous Pub Crawl



BOOK NOW



Istanbul Private Helicopter Tour



BOOK NOW



Istanbul Graffiti: Street Art Workshop



BOOK NOW



Crafting Tradition: Turkish Mosaic Lamp



BOOK NOW



Hot Stones Massage: A Wellness Experience



BOOK NOW



Istanbul Asian Side Highlights & Culture



BOOK NOW



Private Istanbul Photoshoot Tour



BOOK NOW



Princes' Islands Cycling Tour



BOOK NOW



Smell of Istanbul: Perfume Workshop



BOOK NOW



Taste of Anatolia: Cooking Workshop



BOOK NOW



World & Turkish Teas Brewing Workshop

About Us



Earthissimo is a travel & hospitality startup born in Istanbul, created by a team that has helped over 20,000 travelers discover the best of each city.

Our mission is simple: to help you explore, experience, and enjoy—without the hassle. We work only with top-rated local agencies, making it easy to book all kinds of experiences, tickets, and holiday packages in one place. You can also request personalized travel services like custom tours, private transfers, itinerary planning, or boat rentals—right through our platform.

We also offer exclusive digital city guidebooks that highlight the very best each destination has to offer, helping you travel smarter and deeper.

For anything you need on your journey—we're here for you.

If you enjoyed this guidebook, we'd truly appreciate your support with a quick review. It means the world to us.

Review Guidebook



Review Earthissimo



Enjoy Your Istanbul Trip

Earthissimo Team

*Follow
-US-*

