



İSTANBUL is the NEW COOL

İstanbul, the bustling metropolis of Türkiye, is a city full of charm, where the past goes hand in hand with the present and every step brings to light a relic of times gone by. At the crossroads of two continents - Europe and Asia - this spectacular city has absorbed the best of both worlds.

With its beautiful historic landmarks, quintessential cuisine, vibrant nightlife, festivals of art and music, celebration of faith, labyrinths of marketplaces and shopping arcades, the beating heart of İstanbul, and the soul of Bosphorus under the watchful eye of the Maiden's tower is a traveller's dream.

As an imperial capital of 1,500 years, İstanbul is rich in architectural monuments reflecting its past splendor.

At every turn in the city one can happen upon Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman palaces, mosques, churches, monasteries, monuments, walls, and ruins. The old city center, with its places of worship, government, trade and entertainment, was where the citizens mingled, enjoying the benefits of the security and bounty of the state while maintaining their culture and way of life.

Historic Areas of İstanbul

The Historic Areas of İstanbul, cover four main areas: The Archaeological Park, the Süleymaniye Mosque and its associated conservation area, Zeyrek Mosque and its associated conservation area, and the City Walls of İstanbul. İstanbul, has been associated with the world's major political, religious, and artistic events for over 2,000 years. The cultural property in this area includes unique monuments and masterpieces of universal architecture. Two of these monuments are Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque, built by Anthemius of Tralles and Isidore of Miletus in AD 532-537, and the Süleymaniye Mosque, a masterpiece of Mimar Sinan ("Architect Sinan"). The 6,650-meter-long city walls of Theodosius II, with its second line of defenses created in AD 447, has been one of the world's leading references in military architecture.



The Art and Cultural Quintessence of İstanbul

İstanbul today is a renaissance of art, music and culture, known for its rich historical heritage. It has woven a tapestry of creativity that is the envy of cultural cities around the world, with revitalised and redeveloped neighbourhoods and waterfronts welcoming a new wave of museums, design-conscious architecture, restaurants, bars, cafés and definitive cultural centres.

MUSEUMPASS İSTANBUL



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The ability to combine tradition and modernity is one of İstanbul's greatest talents. The old city reflects the cultural influences of the many empires that once ruled here; the skyline, built up over many centuries, tells the story of politics, religion and art amaze visitors, while the fashionable neighbourhoods offer everything you'd expect from a cosmopolitan metropolis.

Culture Route Festival

İstanbul

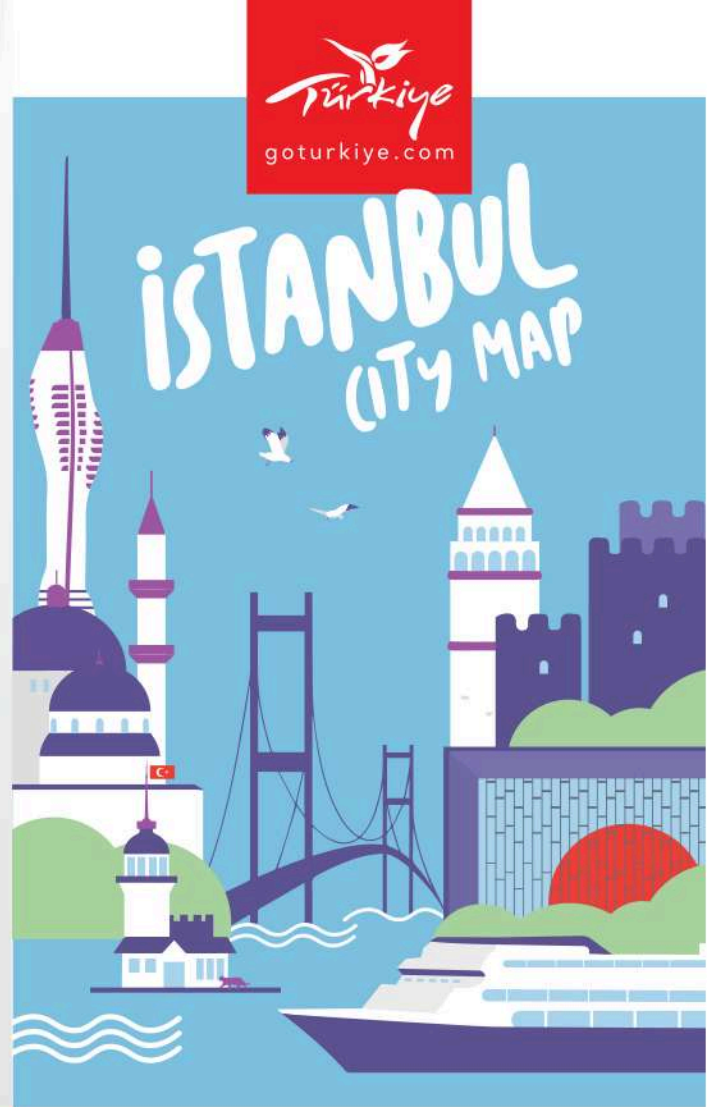
Sept. 28 - Oct. 6

There's a Festival in Town!

TÜRKİYE CULTURE ROUTE FESTIVAL

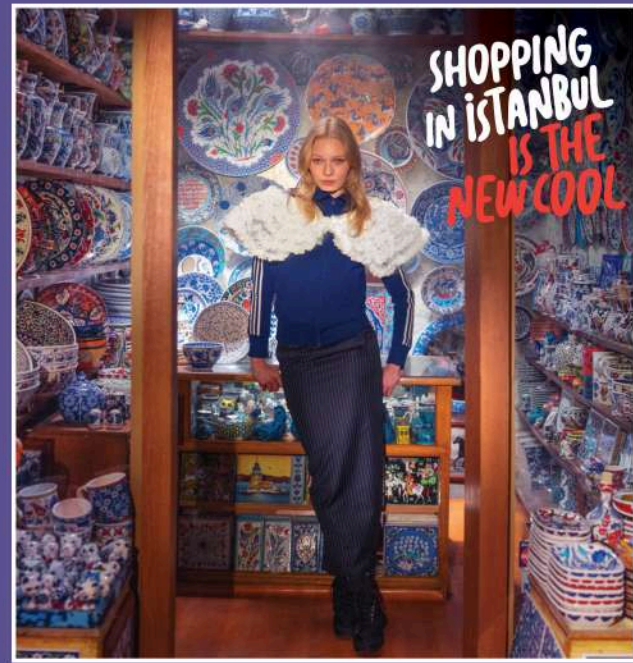


İstanbul Culture Route kulturyolufestivali.com



The Other Shore

Another historical area of İstanbul, on the opposite shore of the Golden Horn, is the former district of Pera, meaning "the other shore." The cosmopolitan character of ancient İstanbul is reflected in the following buildings in Pera: the Galata Tower built by the Genoese, stately consulates which were embassies, and the Art Nouveau buildings of İstiklal Avenue. Church of St. Anthony of Padua, is visited frequently by devout visitors of every religion. Palaces, summer palaces, castles, and large mansions built by the Ottomans continue to adorn İstanbul. After Topkapı Palace, Yıldız Palace and Dolmabahçe Palace on the shores of the Bosphorus became the residences of the Ottoman sultans. İstanbul is also famous for the elegant wooden houses, known as yalis, built along the shores of the strait.



The Ultimate Shopping Experience

Shopping in İstanbul is an experience in itself. The city is the fashion and business capital of Türkiye, and as such there are tons of different places to indulge in a little retail therapy, from modern malls and boulevards to the centuries-old Grand Bazaar. So, if you are looking for somewhere to splash your cash, you are in luck. If you are a thrifter shopper, you are also well served: there are plenty of bargains to be had in this glorious city. You just need to know where to look.



Culinary Adventures in İstanbul

İstanbul's vibrant food culture offers a rich variety of flavours and with almost a restaurant on every corner, you are definitely spoiled for choice.

From the myriad sights on the streets of İstanbul, the appetising appearance of the different foods, the evocative of smells along the way, the different textures you can touch and eat, to the sound of the crunch and the hustle and bustle of the crowds, all your senses will be put to the test.

If your palate craves the unusual or you want to challenge your taste buds with a variety of dishes, İstanbul is rich in contemporary classic and modern blends of Turkish cuisine infused with other Mediterranean and international delicacies.

As we say in Turkish: "Afiyet Olsun".

The Sights of Classic Sophistication

It's hard to imagine visiting İstanbul, a city steeped in historical culture and significance, without visiting two sought-after attractions. The Ayasofya Camii and İstanbul Archaeology Museums are both within walking distance of each other. After spending several hours in both, you will amaze yourself and be brought back to a world of rare antiquity and beauty. So let's take a visit to these classical wonders of the world.

The Ayasofya Grand Mosque (Hagia Sophia), is an architectural marvel, it defines the heart and soul of old İstanbul, combining the characteristics of a city that spans time, continent, and culture.



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM



The İstanbul Archaeological Museums

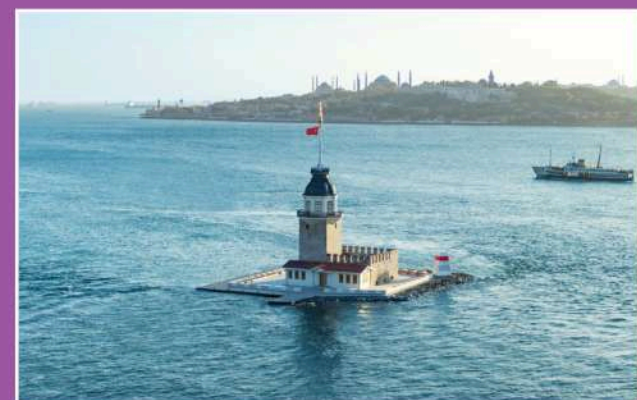
The İstanbul Archaeological Museums are one of the city's most important historical complexes, whose collections contain at least one million unique exhibits belonging to the various civilisations that once flourished on the territory of present-day Türkiye and the former eras of Turkish history.

Along the Bosphorus

The Bosphorus Strait divides the city of İstanbul in half, with one half of the city in Asia and the other in Europe. The strait, which in some places is only 500 metres apart, has become a popular trading centre and tourist attraction owing to its dream-like awe. The attraction of hopping on a local ferry at the harbour and reaching another continent in a few minutes never seems to wear off.

The region is home to a multitude of exceptional sights and architectural heritage like the Maiden Tower, the Beylerbeyi Palace, the Rumeli Fortress, the Dolmabahçe Palace, Küçüksu Pavilion, the Çırağan Palace, and the Beylerbeyi Mosque.

The Ottoman-era mansions also known as Yalis along the banks of the Bosphorus are considered prime examples of the architecture of the period. Some villas and mansions on both sides of the Bosphorus have survived from the past to the present and are symbols of history and visions of tranquility.



Fun Facts About İstanbul

Beneath the bustling streets of İstanbul lies the Basilica Cistern, an ancient underground water reservoir built in the 6th century, featuring 336 marble columns.

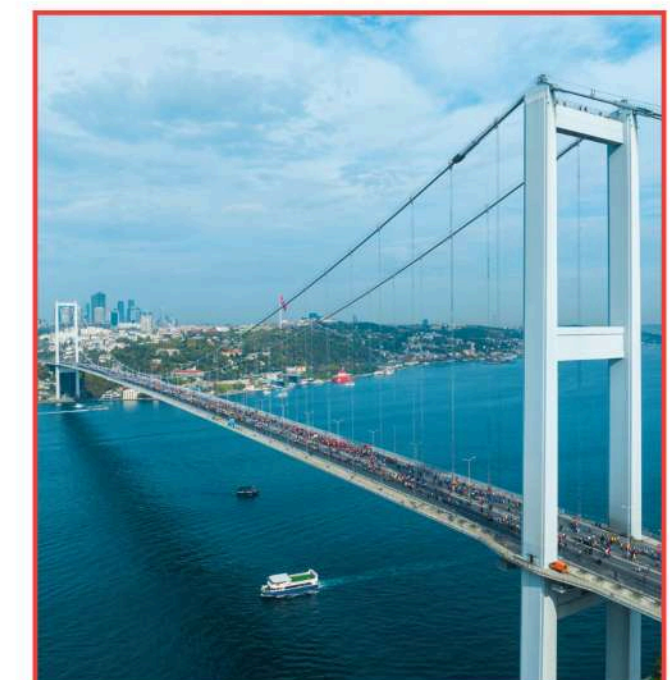
While often associated with the Dutch, the world's first tulip mania actually began in İstanbul during the Ottoman Empire, leading to a frenzy of tulip trading.

İstanbul's coffee culture dates back to the 16th century, and the city played a key role in introducing coffee to Europe.

The Grand Bazaar, established in 1461, is considered one of the world's oldest and largest covered markets, with over 60 streets and 4,000 shops.

İstanbul hosts the only transcontinental marathon in the world where participants run across two continents, starting in Asia and finishing in Europe.

İstanbul Archaeological Museums is home to the world's oldest known Love Poem and the world's first peace treaty, the Treaty of Kadesh.



Princes' Islands

The stunning archipelago of Princes' Islands off the coast of İstanbul in the Sea of Marmara is the perfect getaway for residents of one of the world's busiest cities, İstanbul. Just a short ferry ride from the shores of the historic city, the islands offer a rare glimpse of a multicultural society in modern Türkiye and are strongly reminiscent of life in the days of the Ottoman Empire.

Also known as İstanbul Islands or Kızıl Adalar, which means "Red Islands", is one of the most popular day trip destinations from İstanbul, especially during the summer. Büyükdada, Kınalıada, Burgazada and Heybeliada offer pristine beaches ideal for soaking the sun, narrow streets where you can rent a bike for an adventure on two wheels, and lush nature to have a refreshing break. The islands are a wonderful retreat for locals and visitors alike, each with its own character and rhythm of life they will inevitably hold and charm you.



Go Türkiye



İstanbul