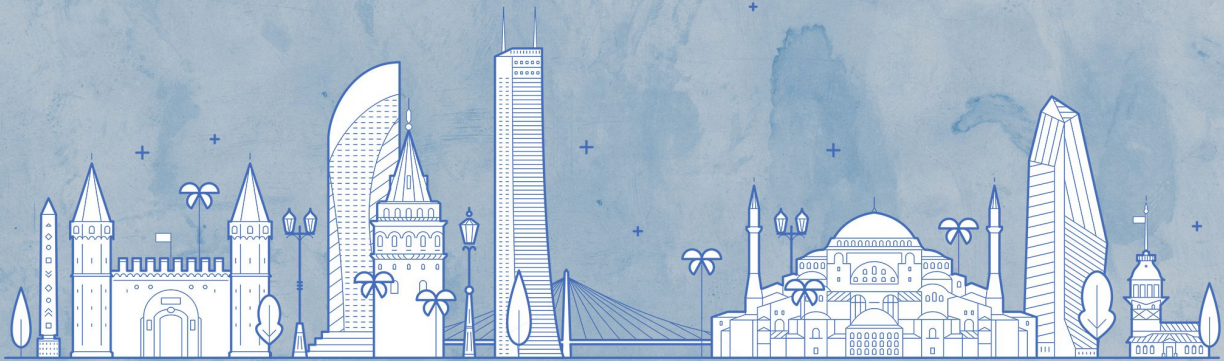


BEST THINGS TO DO IN ISTANBUL



İSTANBUL

Istanbul, in northwestern Turkey, is the only city in the world that spans 2 continents and is a constantly evolving cosmopolitan crossroads. From magnificent mosques to mouthwatering meze, from ancient architecture to contemporary clubs, you'll be mesmerized by the dazzling array of cultural experiences on offer.

Istanbul has a timeless charm that owes much to its rich history. The city was historically referred to as Byzantium and Constantinople. It served as a focal point of several ancient empires. Numerous architectural wonders, remnants of these empires, still stand tall in the heart of the city. These include the Hagia Sophia, which stood the tests of time and continues to invite awe with its display of dazzling mosaics.

- GRAND BAZAAR
- ÇAMLICA HILL
- MAIDEN'S TOWER
- THEODOSIAN WALLS
- GALATA TOWER

GRAND BAZAAR

Istanbul borders the narrow Bosphorus Strait where the waters of the Black Sea meet the inland Sea of Marmara. It was historically a main point of arrival for trade ships. You can wander the cramped alleys of the covered Grand Bazaar to see the city's colourful commercial activities alive and kicking. This huge market comprises a network of indoor souks (smaller marketplaces) and lanes lined with peddlers.

ÇAMLICA HILL

If you're looking for a great view of Istanbul, head up to Çamlıca Hill. It's one of Istanbul's highest hills and offers breathtaking skylines over the city. You can find a café at the peak as well as a park that makes for a cool resting spot to take in the memorable sights. You can view both the Asian and European sides of Istanbul.

MAIDEN'S TOWER

This lighthouse sits on top of a tiny islet in the Bosphorus Strait, which you can reach on a 15-minute boat ride from the docks in Üsküdar. It dates to the 12th century and is steeped in a mix of legends, particularly of a princess who met her tragic fate, hence its moniker. Climb up to the top floor of the lighthouse, and you can enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea at the rooftop café with amazing views of both the European and Asian sides of Istanbul.

THEODOSIAN WALLS

The Walls of Constantinople is a historical landmark in Istanbul that also goes by different names, such as the Theodosian Walls, the Istanbul City Walls, and the Historic walls of Topkapi. These are a series of stonewalled fortifications that have surrounded Istanbul since its founding as Constantinople by Constantine the Great.

GALATA TOWER

Galata Tower is a historic landmark in the district of the same name where you'll find a fascinating piece of history and a stunning viewpoint for sights of the city. It reaches 67 metres into the air and was once the tallest building in the entire city. When you visit, you'll find a variety of historical items on display in addition to scenic views from the observation balcony near the top.

Everyone can find something worthwhile at Galata Tower when they visit, especially if it's one of the first places you visit in the city. Taking in the views from here is a good way to get an idea of the city's layout before you start adventuring out further. Kids and adults alike are welcome here, and most visitors spend about an hour or so here exploring the tower's interior and taking in the views.



GRAND BAZAAR

ÇAMLICA HILL



MAIDEN'S TOWER



THEODOSIAN WALLS



GALATA TOWER

