Istanbul

The beating heart of Turkey, Istanbul is a charming blend of modernity and tradition, set to take your breath away. Ancient colourful domes housing the best of modern luxury and a dated allure spell this city of lush greenery and towering minarets.

A city of vibrant flea markets and high end shopping centres, strict religion and dynamic progression, age old palaces and palatial modern buildings, Istanbul locks enough in itself to fail words. Visit the Topkap Palace, Sultanahmet Mosque or Basilica Cistern, engage in retail therapy and pick up rugs and Turkish Tea, or simply take a walking tour of the city and be captivated by the beauty that resides in every turn and corner.

When To VISIT


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Weather</th>
<th>Carry</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Rain</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Very cold</td>
<td>Heavy woollen, umbrella.</td>
<td>8.5°C</td>
<td>3.0°C</td>
<td>57.5999984741210 94mm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
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<td>2.700000047 683716°C</td>
<td>69.5mm</td>
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<tr>
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<td>27mm</td>
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<tr>
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<td>24.60000038 1469727°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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What To SEE

http://www.ixigo.com/places-to-visit-see-in-istanbul-ip-1140405
Hagia Sophia

Hagia Sophia, located in Istanbul, Turkey, was chosen a world heritage site by UNESCO in 1985. It is in the European part of the city in Sultanahmet area (old town), nearby Topkapi palace in Istanbul. Over 500 years following the conquest of Muslims, it became a jewel for the Muslim world and as the grand mosque of the Sultans. In 1935, Hagia Sophia was converted into a museum of Turkish Republic by the orders of Ataturk and became one of the most significant monuments not only in Turkey but on earth with its architecture and its historical richness.

Hagia Sophia today defines the intricacy of Turkish design and architecture, with its tombs, exclusive artwork on its doors, ceilings, and walls and a library full of valuable information and insights on the local culture.

Historic Areas of Istanbul

Come to Istanbul to experience the years of culture, architecture, artifacts, and history. The Historic Areas of Istanbul are quite extensive with a lot of great monuments (Camiis, Top Kapi, Basilica Cistern, Hagia Sofia) to see, restaurants to eat from and a lot of shops to buy from. These are a group of sites in the city of Istanbul, Turkey which was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985. For all those who want to learn about the Ottoman Empire, this is a must visit place for them. Explore as much as you can and do not miss shopping at spice bazar.

Blue Mosque

The Blue Mosque or Sultan Ahmed Mosque is a historic mosque in Istanbul. There are two stories behind why it is known as the Blue Mosque. One because the interior of the mosque is covered in Blue znik tiles and second, because years back, the sailors who use to sail by the mosque on the Marmara Sea use to see the blue colour of the sea reflected in the mosque. The tomb was constructed between 1609 and 1616 and has five main domes, six minarets, and eight secondary domes. There is no admission fee but one has to follow the rules and dress code while entering the mosque.

Beylerbeyi Palace

The Beylerbeyi Palace, located in the Beylerbeyi neighbourhood of Istanbul, Turkey at the Asian side of the Bosphorus was an Imperial Ottoman summer residence built in the 1860s. It was commissioned by Sultan Abdülaziz (1830–1876) It is now situated immediately north of the 1973 Bosphorus Bridge. This summer residence of the Sultans was also used to house foreign heads of state visiting the Ottoman capital. Several palaces had been built and demolished at this site over the years.

The present structure was built between 1861-1865 and the exterior and interior decoration is a blend of Eastern, Turkish and Western motifs. The three-storied building is divided into two sections, the harem (for women) and the selamlk (for men), and has 26 rooms and 6 halls. The original furniture,
carpets, curtains and other fixtures have been preserved in good condition. The decorations of the facade on the seaside, the well-kept gardens, the spiral staircase, and the hall with a pool in the central section are some of the eye-catching features of the palace.

5 Istanbul Archaeology Museums

Istanbul Archaeology Museums is a group of 3 archaeological museums including the Archaeological Museum (main building), Museum of the Ancient Orient and Museum of Islamic Art. Tracing back its origin, it was established in 1891 by decree and it was known as Imperial Museum during its initial days. However, the present neo-gothic structure was built in the year 1908 by Alexander Vallaury who also designed some of the other famous buildings of Istanbul. It has the distinction of being the 1st museum to have a collection of Turkish art and so it deserve a special mention here.

Osman Hamdi Bey was the the 1st curator and founder of the museum and its ownership passed into different hands over several years. The collection here boasts of artefacts such as Alexander Sarcophagus, Sarcophagi of Tabnit, Sarcophagus of the Crying Women, Mother-Goddess Cybel, The Troy exhibit, Busts of Zeus and Alexander the Great, 800,000 Ottoman decorations, medals, seals, coins among other items. With so much to learn and explore, the museum is definitely worth a visit.

Where To Eat

Cankurtaran Mh., Alemdar Cad, 34122 Fatih/Istanbul Province, Turkey

1 Çi Köfteci Ali Usta

Mimar Vedat Sokak, Muhsinolu Han entrance, Sirkeci, Istanbul, Turkey

A small street food stall, Çi Köfteci Ali Usta's legend precedes itself. Set by a street in Sirkeci, you simply have to follow the long queue of patiently waiting customers in almost militaristic order and aroma of Çi Köfteci Ali Usta's much celebrated ci köfte- be in line and patiently await your turn and you just might be rewarded with a free meatball and, more importantly, entry into the VIP salon, a small seating area just behind the eatery. Break the line and you will find yourself pelted with lemons or sprayed chopped lettuce.

At Çi Köfteci Ali Usta, ci köfte, a bulgur and onion mash, are stuffed with dried red pepper, giving it its distinctive color and tang. Order for a durum, wherein several koftes are loaded into soft portions of lavash bread along with aryana, a yogurt based refreshing classic Turkish drink and you are in for an otherworldly experience at Çi Köfteci Ali Usta.

2 Kuru Fasulyeci Erzincanl Ali Baba

Prof Siddik Sami Onar Caddesi, 11 Suleymaniye, Istanbul, Turkey +90-212-5136219

In a city replete with eating joints that are landmarks in themselves and carry in them the spirit of ancient Istanbul, Kuru Fasulye is the restaurant's signature dish- white beans simmered in tomato sauce and served usually with rice, pilaf, and pickles.

Thronged throughout the day with locals the moment it opens early morning, Kuru Fasulye's Ali Baba is also perhaps one of the few places in Istanbul where you can watch the city in all its hues and colors.

3 KızılKayalar

Sira Selviler Cad. No:2/L, Taksim Meydanı Istiklal Girisi, Istanbul, Turkey

Fasulye Ali Baba is one such restaurant literally serving a slice of old Istanbul. Set right opposite the Suleymaniye mosque, Kuru Fasulye's Ali Baba has 3rd-4th generations as its patrons. Having been established in 1924, out here Kuru Fasulye is the restaurant's signature dish- white beans simmered in tomato sauce and served usually with rice, pilaf, and pickles.
Known far and wide for its sloppy, gooey burgers which are rich with aromatic and tasty juices, the Kızılkayalar Hamburger has featured in innumerable guide books and tourist's favourites, all for it's heavenly tastes. Healthy by know means, the burger/patty is without a doubt one of Istanbul's most popular grubs, easy on the pockets and great on the taste buds.

Half of Taksim Square's crowd seems to be crowded around kızılkayalar, so it might not be the best idea to try to seat yourself in the pocket sized indoor seating. A better idea would be to grab your burger and walk into the Square. Variants in chicken and beef are available, and you can also try the Doner Kebab if you want, but it is the Wet Burger that truly commands a visit.

Icli Kofte are basically crunchy wheat shells, filled with yummy filling of ground meat, parsley, onion and spices. A local favourite in Istanbul and available at every nook and corner, nobody seems to perfect this recipe like Fatma Hanım and her daughter in law, who roll these little balls of yumminess like instinct at Sabırtası's Icli Kofte.

The outside is usually fried and crunch, and as your teeth sink it, this crunchiness gives way to steaming hot, melt in the mouth and dizzy your senses filling. Trust an old hand, it's a feeling no short of making the trip to heaven and back. There are two varieties on offer, the boiled and the steamed, but we suggest you forego your diet for one day and opt for the greasy Icli Kofte.

4 Sabırtası Icli Kofte

Sabiırtası Icli Kofte

Istiklal Cad. No: 112, Kat : 5 , (opposite of Yapıkredi Bank), Galatasaray, Istanbul, Turkey

+90-212-2448226

5 Tarihi Sultanahmet Köftecisi Selim Usta

Tarihi Sultanahmet Köftecisi Selim Usta

Divan Yolu, Caddesi 12, Istanbul, Turkey

+91-212-5200566

A perennial local favorite, Tarihi Sultanahmet Köftecisi Selim Usta, is one of the most sought after eateries that are there in Istanbul. It's their blue meatball menu that is, for some reason, highly sought after and responsible for the long queues of local lining up outside the eatery. Spiceless grilled meatballs, made of beef, and bean salad make its favourite portions. There is also Lamb Shish and a rice dish mixed with noodles on the menu's offering.

Cosy, with an ambience that sets off easy banter, Tarihi Sultanahmet Köftecisi Selim Usta, ever since its inception in 1920, makes for a definite visit in Istanbul, if only to know why this eatery has been around longer than the republic of Turkey.
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