



✘ Byzantine and Ottoman Marvels Tour

Interests: history, archaeology, culture, mythology

Your tour of the most renowned sites in Istanbul will start with the Hippodrome, which was one of the largest chariot race grounds of the Byzantine Empire. Explore the Blue Mosque within a complex that includes tombs, fountains, kitchens, and a bath. The blue Iznik Tiles covering the walls have given the mosque its popular name. You will also explore St. Sophia (the Church of Divine Wisdom) and one of the greatest marvels of architecture. This monument was constructed as a basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian. Your adventure will then continue through the Grand Bazaar, the largest and oldest covered Bazaar in Turkey with more than 4,000 shops. A variety of handicrafts, carpets, rare jewels, and souvenirs are all sold in small shops next to each other, with merchants selling everything from antiques, homewares, books, copperware, ceramics, gold, and inexpensive trinkets. Venture into the hidden courtyards and look out for marble fountains and ornate kiosks.

✘ Byzantine and Ottoman Wonders Tour

Interests: history, archaeology, culture, mythology

Today's tour will take you through some of the most renowned sites in Istanbul giving you a glimpse of the culture and history of this fascinating city. Your exploration will start with Topkapi Palace, the former location of the Imperial offices and residence of Ottoman Sultans, and now a magnificent museum exhibiting the imperial treasury, Chinese porcelain, weapons, calligraphy, and countless other artifacts. You will then continue to the Suleymaniye Mosque, one of the masterpieces of the famous Ottoman architect Sinan, this mosque was built in the name of Suleiman the Magnificent during the 16th century. Your last stop of the day will be the exciting Spice Market. Built in 1664, this large stone building includes a large number of shops and specializes in the sale of exotic spices. Today, these lovely small shops continue to sell spices, as well as dried fruits, nuts, seeds, and other

local delicacies. Some of the shops are gradually being transformed into shops featuring jewelry and other artisan items that would make a perfect souvenir to remind you of the time spent in Istanbul.

✘ Taksim Square Side Streets Tour and the Museum of Innocence

Interests: culture, history

Immerse yourself with the everyday life in Istanbul by starting your tour with a visit to one of its most vibrant spots – Taksim Square. Explore the heart of the city by taking side streets and off-the-beaten-path trails to reach the antique stores of Cukurcuma, where locals frequent its colorful antique stores to find some true gems and see fascinating collectibles in wood and glassware. Situated between Istiklal Street and the shores of the Bosphorus, Cukurcuma is a wonderfully laid back area to explore. You will then visit the Museum of The Innocence which is a 19th-century house named after Nobel Prize-winning author Orhan Pamuk's novel. Filled with exhibits and mementos that capture both the novel's setting (upper-class Istanbul in the 1970s) and its themes of love and obsession, the museum is a must-see for any literary aficionado.

✘ Fener and Balat, Old Istanbul Districts Tour

Interests: culture, history

Explore Fener and Balat, two historically rich neighborhoods of Istanbul nestled along the Golden Horn, and get the fell for the authentic, off-the-beaten-path Istanbul lifestyle. Here the houses are painted in a myriad of colors, washing lines are strung between buildings, kids play in the streets, and traces of Jewish, Armenian, and Orthodox communities still stand. You will visit the extraordinary Greek Orthodox Church, Hagia Blacherna or Mary Blachernae, built on a sacred water source and the only church in the whole world where there's a service on Friday mornings. St. Stephens of the Bulgars church is another noteworthy site in the area, renowned because it is made entirely from iron. From there, you will continue inland to visit the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, and up the steep hill to the imposing red brick Phanar Greek Orthodox College. Also located on top of the hill is the terracotta walled Church of the St Mary of the Mongols, the oldest church in Istanbul that has not been converted into a mosque and the only functioning Byzantine church. And since both Fener and Balat neighborhoods are very famous for their antique shops and so a visit to the Balat Market Place is the perfect way to conclude this tour.

✘ Art Tour with Pera Museum and Istanbul Museum of Modern Art

Interests: culture, art

The Pera Museum, which opened its doors in early June 2005, is the first step of a comprehensive cultural endeavor that the Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation launched in this distinguished venue to provide cultural services on a variety of levels. A historical structure which was originally constructed in 1893 by the architect Achille Manoussos in Tepebaşı (Istanbul's most prestigious district in those days) and which, until rather recently, was known as the Bristol Hotel, was completely renovated. Transformed into a fully equipped modern museum, this venerable building is now serving the people of Istanbul once again. Visit the Istanbul Modern Art Museum to gain a fresh perspective of the city. The museum has been likened to the Tate Modern in London, the exhibits are thought-provoking and feature contemporary art from both Turkish and International artists.



✘ **Bosphorus Asian Side Tour**

Interests: history, culture, sailing

Start your tour today with a visit Beylerbeyi Palace, a lavishly appointed 19th century summer palace where the last of the Ottoman sultans resided. Head to Camlica Hill, where visitors and locals alike flock to enjoy the breathtaking views of the city and its Bosphorus Strait. From there, continue to Baghdad Avenue. Located on the Asian side of the city and running almost parallel to the Marmara Sea shore, this avenue ranks as Istanbul's trendiest street and is lined with chic cafes, restaurants and shops selling the world's best known brand names. Then head to the Spice Market. Built in 1664, this large stone building includes a large number of shops and specializes in the sale of exotic spices. Today, these lovely small shops continue to sell spices, but also now sell dried fruits, nuts and seeds, and other edibles. Some of the shops are gradually being transformed into shops featuring jewelry and other high margin items. Finally, enjoy a cruise on the Bosphorus. This cruise along the waterway separating the two continents of Asia and Europe offers front-door views of marble palaces, ancient wooden green vistas, and modern residences and luxurious apartment buildings.

✘ **Istanbul by Night**

Interests: foodie, culture

Istanbul's nightlife is almost as famous as its historical monuments. This glimpse into the city's "other side" will take you through the city's shining lights and along the Bosphorus coastline. You will dine at a first-class restaurant and enjoy a delicious meal. The orient comes to life as you watch a floorshow of the famous belly dancers, typical Anatolian dances, and Turkish singers.



✘ **Walking Shopping Tour with Spice Market**

Interests: shopping, culture

After meeting your guide at your hotel, you will head over to the Istanbul district of Cukurcuma for a half-day shopping tour. Browse through the quirky boutiques of Turkey's most respected interior decorators and street-smart fashion designers. See the shops housed in old Italian palazzos, rummage through 18th and 19th-century curiosities, meet a colorful variety of local people, offering a richly creative array of furnishings and fabrics, scarves, clothes, antique ceramics, mosaics, handicrafts, gold and silver jewelry and valuable gemstones. Then continue to Tahtakales cobbled streets bustling with rustic vendors selling their aromatic wares - Turkish coffee, olives and cheese, fresh fish and Caspian caviar. At the end of the tour, you will be transferred back to your hotel.

✘ **Bosphorus Cruise and Spice Bazaar Tour**

Interests: culture, sailing

Start your tour with an exciting insight into the world of spices and aromas at the renowned Spice market. Discover spices from all over the world and practice your bargaining skills as you explore the stalls within this lively 17th-century market. Your tour will then continue with a thrilling Bosphorus sailing trip on a private yacht through the narrow straight of water separating Asia and Europe. Take in the sites as you pass magnificent palaces, Ottoman villas restored to their former glory, impressive fortresses, and waterside residences. Sit back, relax, and sip on soft drinks and tea as you revel in an entirely different perspective of Istanbul.



✘ **Cooking Experience in Istanbul**

Interests: cooking, foodie

Turkish cuisine is a diverse cuisine with a range of influences from Central Asia, the Middle East, Balkan & Mediterranean Cuisines and on your tour today, you will learn how to prepare traditional dishes. Aside from common Turkish specialties that can be found throughout the country, there are also many region-specific specialties. The Black Sea region's cuisine (northern Turkey) is based on corn and anchovies. The southeast—Urfa, Gaziantep and Adana—is famous for its kebabs, mezes and dough-based desserts such as baklava, kadayıf and künefe. Especially in the western parts of Turkey, where olive trees grow in abundance, olive oil is the major type of oil used for cooking. The cuisines of the Aegean, Marmara, and Mediterranean regions display basic characteristics of Mediterranean cuisine as they are rich in vegetables, herbs, and fish. Central Anatolia is famous for its pastry specialties such as mantı and gozleme. After the cooking lesson, you will eat the hearty foods that you have prepared and enjoy a nice conversation with your hosts.

✘ **Street Food Tour**

Interests: foodie, culture

Discover the delicacies of Istanbul during this unique street food tour. Traverse the stunning, hilly city, sampling the local delicacies along the way through street food stalls and bazaars. Take a stroll through historic and colorful Kadikoy Market, converse with fishermen on the Galata Bridge, eat some of the best baklavas on this side of the Bosphorus and then walk it all off by exploring the streets as your guide shares evocative historical details of this eye and tastebud pleasing metropolis.