

A journey to the center of the world.

ISTANBUL



Visitor's
Guides
2023



ROUTES
WORLD



Istanbul welcomes Routes World 2023!

15-17 October 2023



HOST OF ROUTES WORLD 2023





ISTANBUL IN NUMBERS

-  | **3** **Bridges Between**
2 Continents
-  | **2** **Airports**
Istanbul and Sabiha Gökçen Airport
-  | **5** **Imperial Palaces**
Dozens of summer palaces and mansions
-  | **3** **Capital Of**
Empires
-  | **4** **Historical**
Bazaar
-  | **58** **Universities**
-  | **91** **Museums**

-  | **150.000** **Appx.**
Bed Capacity
-  | **15,462,245** **Inhabitants**
-  | **8500** **Years of**
History
-  | **16,018,276** **International**
Visitor 2022
-  | **121** **Modern**
Shopping Malls
-  | **11** **Technoparks**
-  | **8th** **Most Visited City**
In The World

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HISTORICAL PLACES OF ISTANBUL

For ages, the city of Istanbul hosted countless cultures and civilizations and acted as the capital of various ruling empires. Istanbul has a lot unique qualities with its deep-rooted history, economic value, geographical location and culture. It is definitely a "must-see destination" for all kinds of travelers and a financial center for global brands. Once-proud Constantinople's history is marvelous and memorable.

Rumor has it, that even the establishment of Istanbul began with a myth. Byzas, son of King Nisos of Megara, wants to build a new city. He consults an oracle about the location. The oracle says "You will build your city right across the city of the blind." Byzas gets confused but thinks about this prophecy. He arrives to Sarayburnu and sees Chalcedon, the district which is known as Kadıköy now. He can't help but say "How did they not see the obvious value of this place? People of Chalcedon must have been blind..." After that, he remembers what the oracle said and becomes the eponymous founder of Byzantium.

**Bringing Europe and Asia together,
Istanbul is the historical and
cultural capital of Türkiye.**



DID YOU KNOW?

Constructed for Justinianus I, the Byzantium Emperor (527-565), this big underground water reservoir is popularly known as "Basilica Cistern" because of its underground marble columns.

Considered as a
global city, Istanbul was the
*European Capital of
Culture in 2010.*



DID YOU KNOW?

Istanbul is known as the 'City on the Seven Hills'. The city has inherited this denomination from Byzantine's Constantinople which – consciously following the model of Rome – was built on seven hills as well.

THE CITY'S BIGGEST ATTRACTION IS ITS HISTORIC CENTER, THE HISTORICAL PENINSULA.

Istanbul's history dates back to 6th millennium BCE. It is thought that people used to live around the Küçükçekmece Lake during the Neolithic and Chalcolithic eras. Tools dating back to the Lower Palaeolithic Era were excavated in Dudullu, while some dating back to the Middle Palaeolithic Era and the Upper Palaeolithic Era were discovered around Ağaçlı. Ruins dating back to the Neolithic Period (6500 BC) were discovered during the excavations of the Marmaray immersed tube tunnel, some dating back to the Bronze Age (5500-3500 BC) were discovered in Fikirtepe while some ruins were discovered in Kadıköy dating back to the Phoenicians.

Istanbul's history can be divided into 3 parts: the Byzantine period, the Ottoman period and the current Republic period. The Byzantine period started in 324 and continued until 1453. In 330, Constantinople was proclaimed the capital of the Roman Empire. During most of the Middle Ages, the latter part of the Byzantine era, Constantinople was the largest and wealthiest city on the European continent and at times the largest in the world. In 1453, after an eight-week siege, Sultan Mehmed II "The

Conqueror" captured Constantinople and declared it as the new capital of the Ottoman Empire. The conquest of Constantinople became a legend and an inspiration to countless books and movies. Istanbul acted as the capital of Ottoman Empire until October 29th, 1923. On that day, the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye declared the establishment of the Turkish Republic, with Ankara as its capital.

Every street in Istanbul still bears remnants of the Ottoman and Byzantine Empires. The city is living and breathing with its thousands-of-years-long history. It is the capital of history and culture and the heart of civilizations.

During the conquest of Constantinople, it is rumored that the Ottomans and Sultan Mehmet moved the ships over land. Sultan Mehmet was 21 years old when he conquered this city and was a genius statesman and a military leader who was also interested in literature, fine arts and monumental architecture. He was educated by famous scholar Aksemseddin and according to Ottoman historians he was speaking 7 languages fluently.

HIPPODROME OF ANCIENT CONSTANTINOPLE SULTANAHMET SQUARE

Without a doubt, Sultanahmet Square should be the first touristic destination a first-time visitor must explore in Istanbul. The square is also known as the "Hippodrome" and "Horse Square". Sultan Ahmed Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Topkapı Palace and Basilica Cistern, some of the most known touristic spots of Istanbul, are all within the borders of Hippodrome. The region offers all visitors countless touristic hotels, cafes, restaurants and shops and provides an entertaining and dynamic energy to tourists. The square was previously called "Horse Square" during the Ottoman period since the word hippodrome comes from the

word hippos (horse) and dromos (path or way). Throughout the Byzantine period and even before those times, the square acted as the central hub for socialization and was also used for horse racing and chariot racing.

Although the structures do not exist anymore, if you look carefully, you can still see the remnants of the giant hippodrome. It is possible that much more of the Hippodrome's remains still lie beneath the parkland of Sultanahmet Square.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the entrance of the glorious hippodrome, there used to be 4 horse statues. Today, you can see them in front of St Mark's Basilica because they got stolen during the Latin invasion.

ISTANBUL'S PEACEFUL AND HARMONIOUS BEAUTY: SULTAN AHMED MOSQUE

When one tries to describe the allure and beauty of the Sultan Ahmed Mosque "the Blue Mosque", it feels like there are no words good enough... The mosque and its atmosphere trigger so many emotions and change the nature of every single person who sets his or her foot inside.

The mosque was constructed between 1609 and 1616 during the rule of Sultan Ahmed I and it is one of the most precious structures of Turkish – Islamic architecture.

The mosque was the primary imperial mosque of The Ottoman Empire and has five main domes, six minarets and eight secondary domes. The hand-painted blue tiles of the mosque's interior walls are wellknown internationally and that's why the mosque is also called as the Blue Mosque. At its lower levels and at every pier, the interior of the mosque is lined which include

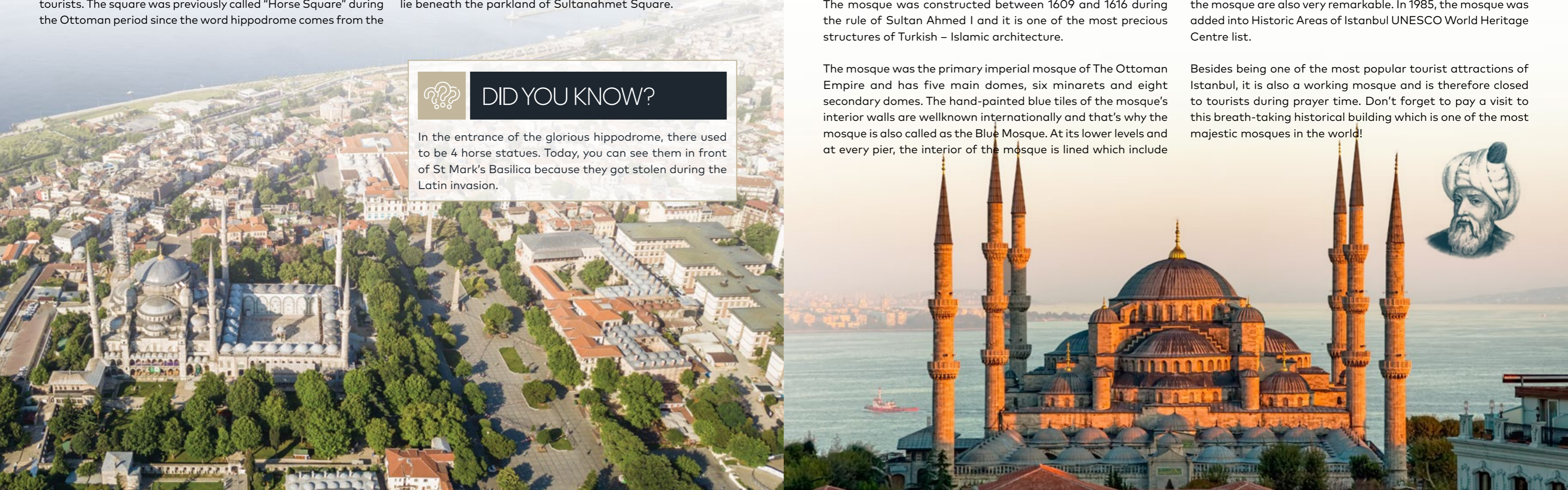


DID YOU KNOW?

The architect of the Sultan Ahmed Mosque is Sedefkâr Mehmed Ağa, who was a student of the renowned Ottoman architect Mimar Sinan.

more than 20,000 handmade İznik style ceramic tiles which have more than 60 different tulip designs. The tiles symbolize peace and happiness. In the lower area the mosque has 200 stained glass windows. The dome and ceiling decorations of the mosque are also very remarkable. In 1985, the mosque was added into Historic Areas of Istanbul UNESCO World Heritage Centre list.

Besides being one of the most popular tourist attractions of Istanbul, it is also a working mosque and is therefore closed to tourists during prayer time. Don't forget to pay a visit to this breath-taking historical building which is one of the most majestic mosques in the world!



HEART AND SOUL OF OTTOMAN EMPIRE: TOPKAPI PALACE

The Topkapı Palace complex has hundreds of rooms and chambers, including the Ottoman Imperial Harem and the Treasury, called "Hazine" where the Spoonmaker's Diamond and Topkapı Dagger are on display. The museum collection includes many precious pieces of Ottoman architecture and art, along with also Ottoman clothing, weapons, armor, miniatures, religious relics, and illuminated manuscripts such as the Topkapı manuscript. It is one of world's most extensive palace-museum complexes with its archive which has more than 300,000 documents.

Topkapı Palace served as the administrative and educational headquarters of the Ottoman Empire for 400 years and had the honor of witnessing many intriguing and authentic moments of the emperorship. The palace complex is located on the Seraglio Point (Sarayburnu) and overlooks the Golden Horn, where the Bosphorus meets the Marmara Sea. The terrain is hilly and the palace itself is located at one of the highest points close to the sea.

The construction was ordered by Sultan Mehmed The Conqueror and continued between the years of 1460 and 1478. The palace complex consists of four main courtyards and many smaller buildings. Female members of the Sultan's family lived in the "Harem", and leading state officials, including the Grand vizier, held meetings in the Imperial Council building. In the early 1850s, the palace became inadequate based on the requirements of state ceremonies and protocol, so the sultans moved to Dolmabahçe Palace, located on the Bosphorus. Following the end of the Ottoman Empire in 1923, Topkapı was transformed into a museum by the government in 1924.

The palace covers an area of approximately 700,000 square meters, a major part of which is set aside for the Royal Gardens (Hasbahçe). The court of Topkapı Palace is divided into two sections: the Outer Palace (Bîrûn) and the Inner Palace (Enderûn); the Harem is a part of the latter. In 2018, the palace received 2,980,450 visitors from all around the world and became the most visited museum of Türkiye.



DID YOU KNOW?

Contrary to popular belief, Topkapı Palace is not the first palace built during the Ottoman period. The first one was the "Old Palace" (Saray-ı Atik). Unfortunately, there are no remnants of that palace today.



THE ONE AND ONLY HAGIA SOPHIA MOSQUE

With its architectural design, grandeur and functionality, the Hagia Sophia, one of the globe's historical wonders, holds a significant place in the world of art. The Hagia Sophia, the biggest church constructed by the East Roman Empire in Istanbul, has been constructed three times in the same location. The church was the place in which rulers were crowned, and it was also the biggest operational cathedral in the city throughout the Byzantine period.

The first church was constructed by Emperor Konstantios (337-361) in 360. No remains have been recovered from the first church; however, the bricks found in the museum storage branded 'Megale Ekklesia' are predicted to belong to the first construction. The second church was reconstructed by Emperor Theodosios II (408-450) in 415. Some of the remains were found during excavations and architectural pieces that belong to the monumental entrance can be seen in the west garden. The current structure was constructed by Isidoros (Milet) and Anthemios (Tralles) by Emperor Justinianos's (527-565) orders between the dates 532 and 537. Resources show that on the opening day of the Hagia Sophia, Emperor Justinianos entered the temple and said, "My Lord, thank you for giving me chance to create such a worshipping place," and followed with the words "Süleyman, I beat you," referring to Süleyman's temple in Jerusalem. Following the conquest of Istanbul in 1453, Hagia

Sophia was renovated into a mosque. The structure was fortified and was well protected after this period, and remained as a mosque. Additional supporting pillars were installed during the East Roman and Ottoman periods. The minarets designed and implemented by Mimar Sinan have also served to this purpose.

The Hagia Sophia was converted into a museum on 1935 by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's orders. In 2020, the Hagia Sophia was converted into a mosque and reopened to worship. The Hagia Sophia Mosque welcomes visitors from all around the world and is one of the most magnificent tourist attractions of Istanbul.



DID YOU KNOW?

One of the seven ancient wonders used in the church's construction was the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus. Columns from this long-abandoned site were used to fortify the interior of the Hagia Sophia. Additional materials might have come from ancient sites in Baalbeck and Pergamom.



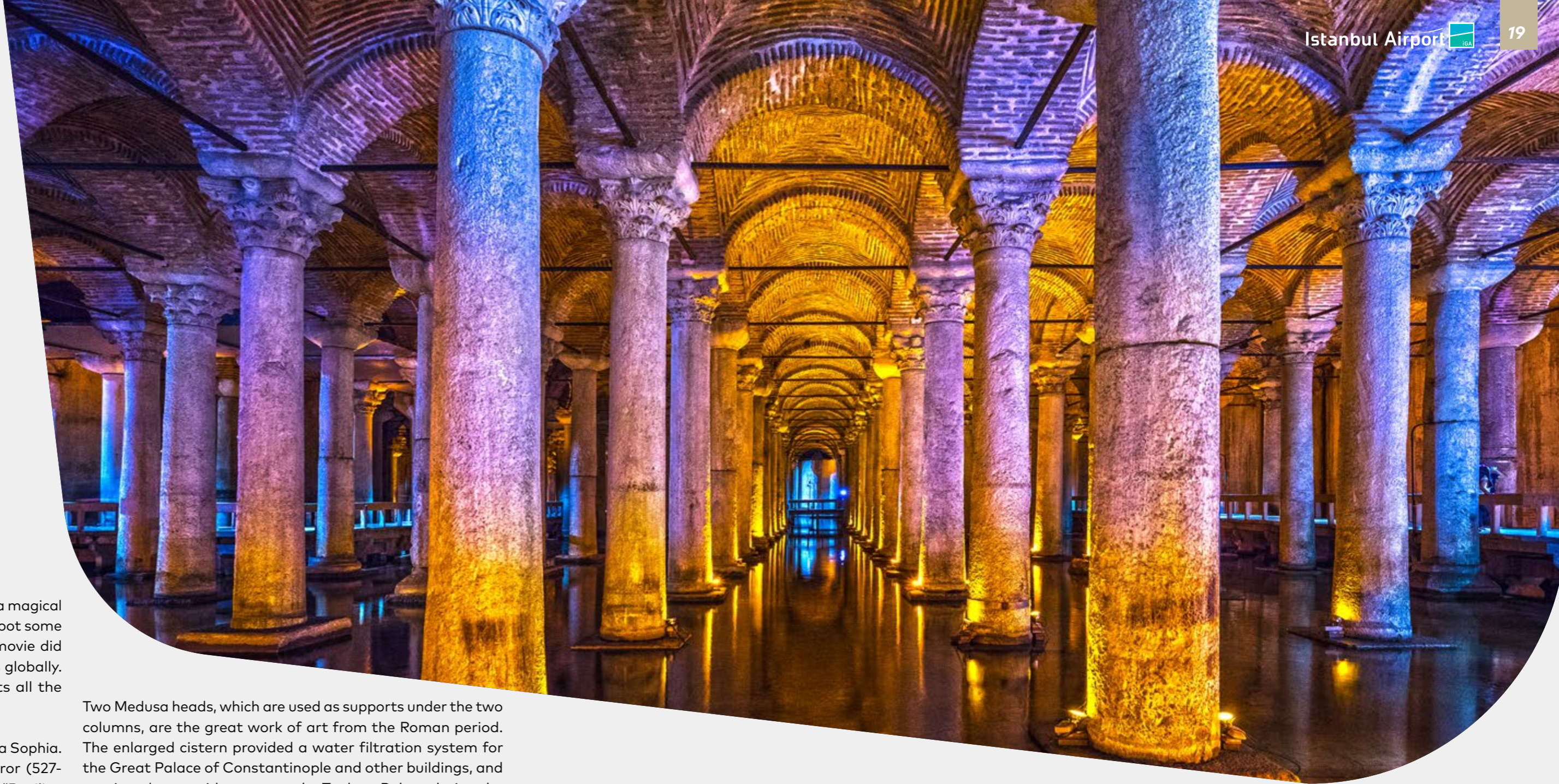
AN ENCHANTING BEAUTY BASILICA CISTERN

The producers of Dan Brown's *Inferno* were looking for a magical and charming historical venue. Thus they decided to shoot some scenes in Istanbul's legendary Basilica Cistern. The movie did not harm the cistern at all and made it more famous globally. Given its enchanting atmosphere, the cistern merits all the attention it gets.

The Basilica Cistern is located in the southwest of Hagia Sophia. Constructed for Justinianus I, the Byzantium Emperor (527-565), this big underground water reservoir is called as "Basilica Cistern" among the public because of the underground marble columns. As there used to be a basilica in the place of the cistern, it is also called Basilica Cistern. The cistern is 140 meters long, and 70 meters wide, and covers a rectangular area as a giant structure. Accessible with a 52-step staircase, the Cistern shelters 336 columns, each of which is nine meters high.

Two Medusa heads, which are used as supports under the two columns, are the great work of art from the Roman period. The enlarged cistern provided a water filtration system for the Great Palace of Constantinople and other buildings, and continued to provide water to the Topkapı Palace during the Ottoman.

The Basilica Cistern is currently operated by Kültür A.Ş. (Culture Co.), one of the affiliates of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, and functions as a museum and a venue for many national and international events.



"AN OUTSTANDING ARTISTIC SIGNIFICANCE" CHORA MOSQUE

Looking like a fairly simple structure from the outside, the interior of the Chora Mosque dazzles its visitors with its spectacular frescos. Located at the Edirnekapi neighborhood of Istanbul. The original church was built in the early 4th century but the majority of the fabric of the current building dates from 1077–1081. In the 16th century, during the Ottoman period, the church was converted into a mosque and it became a museum in 1948. In 2020, the museum was converted into a mosque and was reopened to worship. Even though it is one of the most interesting places in Istanbul, this incomparable building was left out in the cold for years.

It is the only place in Istanbul where you can find the most beautiful samples of mosaic and fresco arts. The mosaics of the former Chora Church tell biblical stories, which can be followed like a graphic novel.



DID YOU KNOW?

The museum has a Golden award-winning book called *The Church of Chora*. It is an interactive museum guide describing some of the oldest and finest surviving Byzantine mosaics and frescoes in the church.



THE TIMELESS YEDIKULE FORTRESS

Yedikule Fortress is located right in the middle of Istanbul's land walls as one of the most precious legacies of Fatih Sultan Mehmet Han; the common point of Ottoman and Byzantine history. Yedikule Fortress, which lent its name to the district, has been an important center of city life in Suriçi since the day it was built. It looks like a citadel with its elegant towers built over time, the Fatih Mosque built right after the conquest, and a neighborhood that was once built in its garden. Although the Fatih Mosque, which forms the neighborhood and the tiny square

eventually, don't exist in the present day; Yedikule Fortress is still one of the star venues of Istanbul due to the eye-catching view of the towers and the legends of Fortress that go beyond borders. After the conquest, Fatih Sultan Mehmed Han had the walls repaired and had three additional towers built here, and the fortress had 7 towers in total. After the construction of the towers was completed in 1457, Yedikule, which gave its name to the district, has become today's inner castle.



A ROMAN LANDMARK



DID YOU KNOW?

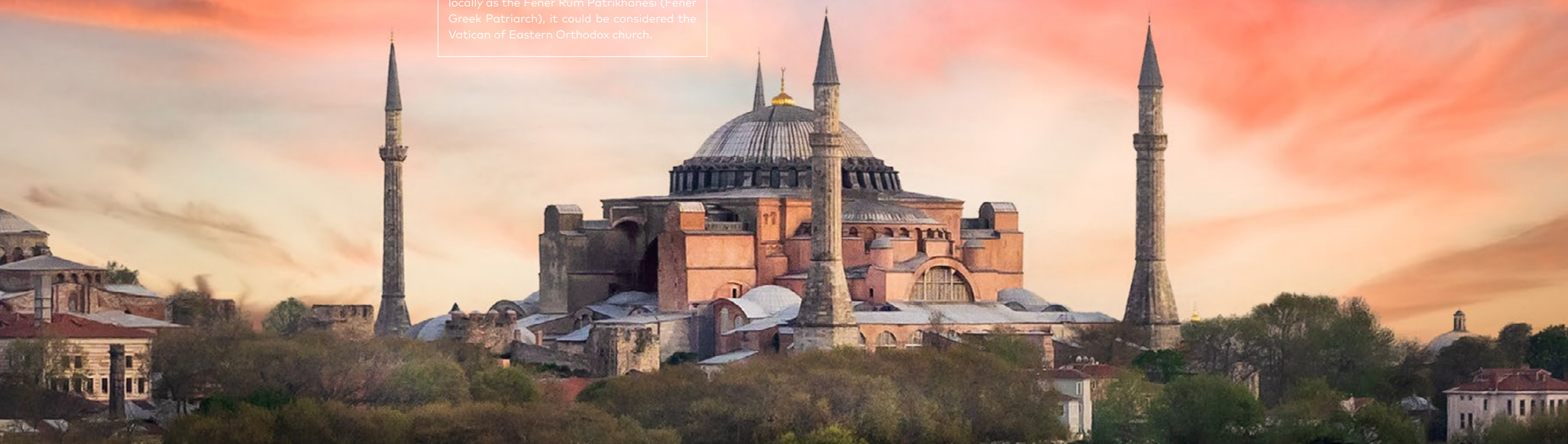
The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate Istanbul has been the spiritual center of the Greek Orthodox world since around 1600.

Officially the seat of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, it is known locally as the Fener Rum Patrikhanesi (Fener Greek Patriarch), it could be considered the Vatican of Eastern Orthodox church.

LITTLE HAGIA SOPHIA MOSQUE

Little Hagia Sophia Mosque, formerly the Church of the Saints Sergius and Bacchus, was converted into a mosque during the Ottoman Empire. This Byzantine building was built in 536 and likely was a model for Hagia Sophia. It is one of the most important early Byzantine buildings in Istanbul. It was recognized at the time as an adornment to the entire city, and a modern historian of the East Roman Empire has written that the church, "by the originality of its architecture and the sumptuousness of its carved decoration, ranks in Constantinople second only to St. Sophia itself."

The building stands in Istanbul, in the district of Fatih, and gave its name to the neighborhood. Don't forget to visit and enjoy the peace of Istanbul in the garden of this wonderful mosque...



ISTANBUL'S GORGEOUS PROTECTOR RUMELI FORTRESS

Young Ottoman Sultan Mehmed The Conqueror had to come up with the right strategy when he decided to conquer Istanbul. Anadoluhisarı, which is on the Asian side of the city, wasn't able to control the ships coming from the Black Sea. Thus, the construction of Rumelihisarı (Rumeli Fortress) "Rumelian Castle" began in 1452 right across Anadoluhisarı and lasted 4 months. According to the famous architect and art historian Ekrem Hakkı Ayverdi, almost 300 foremen, 700-800 workers, 200 drivers, boatmen, movers and countless volunteers worked on its construction. The castle gave its name to the region which is within the Sarıyer district of Istanbul. It is the cornerstone of Constantinople becoming Istanbul.

Rumelihisarı got damaged from an earthquake in 1509 and the big fire of 1746, but it is determined to continue to protect Istanbul. This time, the castle does the protection with art and music. This priceless structure is being used as a museum and an open-air theatre. It hosts many national and international music events in the summer.. Also, some of the historical pieces from early centuries like canonballs are exhibited in the yard of Rumelihisarı.



DID YOU KNOW?

Rumor has it that Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror personally worked on the construction of Rumelihisarı and outlined its plan.





ROSE FROM THE ASHES BULGARIAN ST. STEPHEN "IRON" CHURCH

Bulgarian St. Stephen Church, aka Iron Church, is located in Istanbul, Balat. The story of the church is very intriguing and well-known internationally. Last year, the church building was reopened to the public after a seven-year long restoration. The church's original structure was wooden but it suffered from a fire and was reduced to ashes. After that, the larger current building was constructed at its place. An iron frame was preferred to concrete reinforcement because of the weak ground conditions and financial issues of Bulgarians living in Istanbul. Each and every single part of the church is made of cast iron and during the first week of the grand reopening, 2000 people from all around the world visited. There are only two other iron churches in the world. Today, Istanbul's Iron Church is being visited by thousands of national and international tourists.



DID YOU KNOW?

Bulgarian St. Stephen Church is very important to Bulgarians culturally and religiously. Almost 500 tons of iron was used during the construction of the Iron Church.

A HEALING CHURCH ON THE STREETS OF BALAT SURP HIRESDAGABED ARMENIAN CHURCH

Balat is a colorful district of Istanbul with its narrow and hilly streets, churches and old traditional houses.

When you walk through the streets of Balat, you almost feel like you are in an old Istanbul movie. The district has hosted many different civilizations for many years and there are still many historical structures and building within the region. One of these structures is Surp Hiresdagabed Armenian Church.

After the conquest of Istanbul, some of the Greek churches were transformed into mosques and some were transferred to Armenians. Surp Hiresdagabed Church was transferred to Armenians in 1628 and renovated. The church was renovated once again in 1835 and has been operating in its current state since then.



DID YOU KNOW?

It is rumored that, the church hosts a special healing ceremony on September 12th every year and many people from all over the city come over to heal and find peace.



GAZING ON ISTANBUL FROM PIERRE LOTI

1800s... Famous French writer Pierre Loti is gazing on Istanbul's Golden Horn view while smoking his hookah. He thinks of his dearest darling and words are flowing in his mind. He has no idea that years later, this hill will be named after him. He continues to admire the scenery.

The name Pierre Loti comes from the French writer Pierre Loti who fell in love with Istanbul during his time here (1850-1923). Loti spent a lot of time on the hill, drinking coffee and watching the scenery. The coffeehouse on the hill is so famous that, when people came to Istanbul, it is often the first place they visit. Most of the books mentioning the hill calls it "the Lover's Hill".

In 1997, Pierre Loti hill was reorganized with a tourism project of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality initiated by. Deserted buildings around the area got demolished and wooden mansions matching the Ottoman Turkish architecture were built. In 2010, the Municipality of Eyup organized an event for Turkish and French painters. They gathered on Pierre Loti hill and painted the view of the Golden Horn for a week. We can easily say that Pierre Loti hill is more than a beautiful touristic spot for Türkiye. It also symbolizes the friendship between two countries.



DID YOU KNOW?

Loti wrote his first novel for his Turkish lover Hatice, on Pierre Loti hill. The heroine of this sad love story, Hatice, is buried at Old Topkapı Cemetery.



UNDER THE WINGS OF GALATA TOWER

Maiden's Tower might have felt a bit lonely in Üsküdar. We don't know what the architects of the era thought exactly, but they built Galata Tower right across from it. Some believe that two towers have been in love with each other for centuries but they cannot get together because of the intervening Bosphorus. Both of these towers have countless legends and stories dedicated to them. They are the precious and beloved symbols of Istanbul.

Uniting these two towers was a mission for Hezârfen Ahmed Çelebi, a legendary Ottoman aviator. Allegedly, this adventurous scientist flew from the very top of the Galata Tower and landed in Üsküdar (Asian Side of the city). Even though some of leading and respectable Ottoman historians state that this story wasn't verified by any sources, Istanbul's residents prefer to believe this legend. In fact, the movie "Istanbul Beneath My Wings" (İstanbul Kanatlarımda – 1996) which tells the life story of Hezârfen Ahmed Çelebi became a cult movie in Türkiye.

In 528, during the reign of Byzantine Emperor Anastasius I, the tower was built as a light house but got destroyed at the Fourth Crusade. In 1349, Galata Tower was rebuilt by Genovese and named it Christea Turris (Tower "of Christ) because they believed that Christ will resurrect there.

In 2013, this rare structure became a part of UNESCO World Heritage Center's Tentative List. The nine-story tower is 66.90 meters long and weighs 10,000 tons. During the Ottoman period, Galata Tower functioned as a jail, observatory house, and watch tower.

The tower was once more restored during the reign of Sultan Mahmud II and shaped into its current appearance. In 1960s, Galata Tower was commercialized and opened to the public. Today, the tower functions as 360-degree viewing platform of Istanbul. In time, Galata Tower became a national and international touristic place and now there are many cafes, restaurants and souvenir shops around the tower. From the top of the tower, you can see Golden Horn and Bosphorus with a panoramic view.



DID YOU KNOW?

Galata Tower is one of the oldest towers of the world and it is believed that, with whomever you climb up to the tower first, you will be marrying that person.



LOOKING OVER ISTANBUL FROM DOLMABAĞÇE AND BEYLERBEYİ PALACES

One of them is located in one of the most crowded neighborhoods of Istanbul, Beşiktaş, and the other watches over the city from the hills of Üsküdar. Istanbul has many magnificent palaces all over the city, but these two act like the mind and soul of the city as they look at each other from two different sides of Bosphorus.

Dolmabahçe Palace was built between the years 1843 and 1856 with the order of Sultan Abdulmecid who was the 31st Ottoman Sultan. The palace mainly consists of three parts; Imperial Mabeyn (State Apartments), Muayede Hall (Ceremonial Hall) and the Imperial Harem. Topkapı was lacking in contemporary style, luxury, and comfort, as compared to the palaces of the

European monarchs, so Abdulmecid decided to build a new modern palace. The project was designed by Armenian-Ottoman architects Garabet Balyan, his son Nigoğayos Balyan and Evanis Kalfa. He received some criticism but silenced everyone by saying: "Ugliness and wickedness are banned here, there is only beauty." Dolmabahçe Palace witnessed the last era of Ottoman Empire and first era of the Republic. Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk used the palace for his studies and as a Presidential House between the years 1927 and 1938.

Beylerbeyi Palace was built between the years 1863 and 1865 with the order of Sultan Abdulaziz. The palace was constructed to serve as a summer residence of Ottoman sultans and a state guest house to entertain the foreign heads of state and sovereigns. The architect of the palace is Serkiz Bey, who is also a member of the Balyan family. The crystal chandeliers of the palace are mostly French Baccarat and the carpets are from Hereke. This delicately designed palace is also a must-see tourist attraction.



DID YOU KNOW?

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk spent the last days of his life in the palace as his health deteriorated. He died at 9:05 A.M. on November 10, 1938. That day, all the clocks in the palace were stopped and set to 9:05 after his death. Today, the clock in the room in which he died still points to 9:05.



THE MYSTICAL STORY OF ISTANBUL'S WITNESS MAIDEN'S TOWER

Once upon a time, there was a very powerful and magnificent king living in Istanbul. The king only had one weakness: his beloved daughter... One day, he went to an oracle to learn about his future and the oracle said: "A snake will bite your daughter and she will die." The king was ready to lose everything but not his daughter. He immediately gave an order to his people and a construction of a tower on a small island around Üsküdar region began. He sent his daughter to the tower for her to live there. The tower received food and beverage from time to time. One day, a snake sneaks into a fruit basket and his sweetheart daughter dies from its bite. No matter what you do, you can't escape fate...

This exceptional structure's history dates back 2500 years and it witnessed everything that the city has encountered throughout its history. It was used as a watchtower, defense tower, lighthouse, quarantine station and much more. Today, it only speaks the language of love.

Maiden's Tower is the symbol of marriage proposals and declarations of love. It has a charming atmosphere with the magical view of the Bosphorus. The facility within the tower serves as a café – restaurant during the day and becomes a special restaurant and a unique venue in the evening. There are several shuttle boats going to the tower at certain times from Kabatas (European Side) and Üsküdar (Asian Side) all week. Don't forget to make reservations!

We call it "Maiden's Tower". It is the first scene that comes to mind when someone says Istanbul... Once it was very popular on postcards, now it is very popular on social media... Maiden's Tower is the apple of Istanbul's eye with its architectural structure and many legends.



DID YOU KNOW?

Famous poet Bedri Rahmi Eyüboğlu's "The Saga of Istanbul" poem goes like this: "Say Istanbul and towers come to mind... If I paint one, the others are jealous. Maiden's Tower ought to know better she should marry Galata Tower and breed little towerlets."

ALL ROADS LEAD TO BOSPHORUS

The original saying is 'all roads lead to Rome,' but it's worth noting that in this context, 'Rome' actually refers to the East Rome. Do you happen to know which city served as the capital of the East Rome? You guessed it right, Istanbul. Today, the famous Milion monument is still standing in Istanbul, in the district of Eminönü, at the northern corner of the square of Hagia Sophia, and close to the Basilica Cistern. The Milion was a monument erected in the early 4th century AD in Constantinople. It was the Byzantine zero-mile marker, the starting-place for the measurement of distances for all the roads leading to the cities of the Byzantine Empire.

Modern-day Istanbul offers a huge network of public transportation to its citizens that include; buses and railways such as metro, tram systems and Marmaray. Travelers can find variety of great options to get around the city. Traffic is still an issue, so taxis aren't always the best solution to get around. To travel from the European side to the Asian side, the best and the most gorgeous way of transportation is the ferries.

The whole public transportation system of the city can easily be accessed with a single card, which is Istanbulkart. It is easy to access other cities of the country from Istanbul. The city has 2 international airports: Sabiha Gokcen International Airport and the brand new Istanbul Airport. By using the new Istanbul – Izmir Highway, the distance between two cities reduces to 3.5 hours. The High Speed Train service of Türkiye allows the passengers to travel to Ankara, the capital of the city, in 4 hours.

Remember, no matter which road you chose to use on your way to Istanbul, that road either belonged to Alexander the Great, Napoleon or Sultan Mehmet The Conqueror.

Geographically and historically, Istanbul is a meeting and a crossing point for all nations. The city has always been an essential passageway and a global trade road. At some point in your life, your path will definitely cross with Istanbul.



DID YOU KNOW?

Istanbul offers 24-hour services on eight bus routes and six metro lines on Fridays, Saturdays and religious and public holidays."



THE APPLE OF ISTANBUL'S EYE BOSPHORUS

The Bosphorus is what makes this city alive. When looked at geographically, it is a narrow, natural strait and an internationally significant waterway and is a continental boundary between Europe and Asia. It is also the world's narrowest strait used for international navigation, the Bosphorus navigation connecting the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara, and, by extension via the Dardanelles, the Aegean and Mediterranean seas. The one-of-a-kind and dazzling views of Bosphorus cannot be found anywhere else in the world. So much so that, countless number of poets, writers, painters and artists took inspiration from it and created a library full of pieces dedicated to it. Today, there are 3 grand bridges which connect the continents of Europe and Asia: 15 July Martyrs Bridge (The Bosphorus Bridge), Sultan Mehmed The Conqueror Bridge (Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge) and Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge.

FOUR SEASONS OF A SPLENDID EXPERIENCE FERRIES OF ISTANBUL

Ferries of Istanbul (Şehir Hatları Administration) have a history of 165 years. The foundations of the Marmara Sea line were laid in 1844 and started to operate ferries between Sirkeci (historical peninsula district) and the Prince Islands, and between Sirkeci and Pendik (Asian side of the city). In time, ferries became a symbol of Istanbul and the Bosphorus. The main network of the ferries include 6 "Bosphorus" lines to and from main districts of Istanbul: Eminönü, Üsküdar, Kadıköy and Beşiktaş, Karaköy and Kabataş. Ferries also operate in many lines (Inner Istanbul Ferry Lines) between other districts of the city. There are also the Princes' Islands lines and the "famous" Bosphorus Tours. All-day long Bosphorus Tours are available for those who wish to experience the history and enjoy the amazing views of Istanbul on board, and non-stop short Bosphorus Tours are offered for those with limited time.

WORLD'S FASTEST-GROWING METRO LINE METRO ISTANBUL

Metro Istanbul was established as an affiliate company by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality in 1988 to operate railway system network in Istanbul. Metro Istanbul continues to operate existing tram, metro, light rail, funicular and aerial cable car lines as an affiliate company of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. Metro Istanbul has a vision of becoming a globally exemplary brand. Winning UITP's (International Association of Public Transport) best practice award in meeting high passenger demand with T1 Kabataş-Bağcılar Tram Line is a significant indicator of this vision. The total length of urban rail system network in Istanbul is 297,22 km and Metro Istanbul operates 207,72 km of this network and along with rendering services to 2 million people every day with its 18 urban rail system lines within this network. Metro Istanbul continues to work for its aim of carrying Istanbul to the future by rendering fast and effective transportation services at world standards, constantly enhancing its transportation technologies, constantly investing in Research & Development and Human Resources.



SYMBOL OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OF ISTANBUL TRAM

The 19th century's popular transportation vehicle tram was first used in United States in 1852 and Paris in 1855. Istanbul met with this modern vehicle in 1871. Horse-drawn trams started working between Azapkapı and Beşiktaş. After the attention they received, the system spread rapidly to the whole city. At the end of the first year, the tram system carried four and a half million passengers in Istanbul with 430 horses. The signature red-colored trams were a very fashionable way of transportation in the Ottoman Empire. Other important cities of the empire like Thessaloniki, Damascus and Baghdad caught up immediately. Unfortunately, after the start of the Balkan War and World War I, all of the horses were summoned into the army and tram services took a sad break.

In 1914, trams came back to the lives of Istanbul residents as electric vehicles. In 1933, Türkiye's founder Atatürk directly gave an order to have 320 more trams within the city. However, around 1960s trams weren't able to keep up with the pace and size of the city and in 1966 trams of the city worked one last time and left their place to Trolleybuses. Though Istanbul residents never forgot trams... So much so that, the question of restoring old wagons at the museum and electric trams once again coming into service for nostalgia arose in 1989.

The most suitable place for this project was Istiklal Street which was getting ready for pedestrianization.

Thus today's nostalgic tram line at Taksim started operating. The tram was embraced instantly with its red & white colors and original structure and became the symbol of Istiklal Street, Beyoğlu, Istanbul and Türkiye.





WORLD'S SECOND OLDEST METRO LINE THE TUNNEL

Istanbul's very own Tunnel allows you to travel from Karaköy to Galata. It is known as the world's second oldest metro line which has been serving the city for the last 150 years. A French architect Eugene-Henri Gavand, visited Istanbul in 1867 and observed that a large number of people walked the steep road between Galata and Karaköy every day. In 1871, he decided to design an underground railway in the form of a lift between these two locations so that the people and goods could be transported. After the approval of Sultan Abdulaziz, Gavand completed the Tunnel in just four years. The line was renewed in 1968 for electricity and has been providing non-stop service since 1971. The 573-meter-long Tunnel has a single-wagon metro and travels the distance in 90 seconds. Since the alternative of the Tunnel is the 1000-step stairway, that 90 seconds means a lot to Istanbul

residents. Today, the Tunnel is still used actively by Istanbul residents and offers a magical and nostalgic atmosphere to everyone for 90 seconds.

ISTANBUL'S WHEELED- METRO METROBUS

Metrobus is one of the most creative solutions produced in order to decrease Istanbul's traffic density. The system was put into service in 2007. Metrobus works on the most important arterial road of the city and crosses between the two continents. The system allows passengers to transit through specific roads and saves time by shortening the distances. There are now 535 vehicles working within the system and each vehicle arrives 30 seconds apart.

Metrobus carries almost one million passengers daily. Even though it gets a little crowded during rush hour, Metrobus has

a very important role within urban transportation.

With its environmentally-friendly and comfortable vehicles, Metrobus is almost like a wheeled-metro. If you are in a rush in Istanbul, keep in mind that you can always choose to travel with Metrobus.

WORLD'S NEW "SILK ROAD" MARMARAY

Marmaray is the 76.6 km long commuter rail line of Istanbul. It comprises a rail tunnel under the Bosphorus strait, and the modernization of the existing suburban railway lines along the Sea of Marmara from Halkalı on the European side to Gebze on the Asian side. The procurement of new rolling stock for suburban passenger traffic is also a part of the project.

Marmaray is the fourth underground system of the city. The name "Marmaray" comes from combining the name of the Sea of Marmara, which lies just south of the project site, with ray, the Turkish word for rail.

SHORTEST ROAD BETWEEN TWO CONTINENTS EURASIA TUNNEL

In Istanbul, there are many different ways to travel from one continent to the other. The brand new Eurasia Tunnel is the most special way to do it because it is world's first and only highway tunnel which connects the Asian and European continents.

Eurasia Tunnel is world's first twin-deck highway tunnel crossing beneath the seafloor. The tunnel covers a route of 14.6 kilometers. While the 5.4-kilometer section of the project consists of a twin-deck tunnel under the seafloor built with special technology and connection tunnels, a total of 9.2-kilometer routes on both the Asian and European sides includes road expansion and improvement works. It only takes 15 minutes to cross between continents. Eurasia Tunnel is an exemplary, worldclass project with its sensitive approach to the environment, community and city. The air quality in the region is continuously monitored and it is being ensured that the emission values meet set standards.



INNER ISTANBUL FERRY LINES

- Kadıkoy - Eminönü
- Karaköy - Kadıköy
- Üsküdar - Eminönü
- Kadıkoy - Beşiktaş
- Haliç Hattı
- Bostancı - Karaköy - Kabataş

BOSPHORUS LINES

- Sarıyer - Anadolu Kavağı - Rumeli Kavağı
- Küçüksu - Beşiktaş - Kabataş
- Çengelköy - İstinye
- Kadıköy - Sarıyer
- Anadolu Kavağı - Üsküdar
- Üsküdar - Ortaköy
- Rumeli Kavağı - Eminönü
- İstinye - Çubuklu
- Küçüksu - İstinye

PRINCES' ISLANDS LINES

- Kabataş - Eminönü - Kadıkoy - Adalar
- Bostancı - Adalar
- Beşiktaş - Kınalıada - Burgazada
- Beşiktaş - Heybeli Ada - Büyükada
- Bostancı - Adalar
- Eminönü - Kadıköy - Ada

BOSPHORUS TOURS

- Full Bosphorus Cruise
- Short Bosphorus Tour



HIDDEN GEMS OF ISTANBUL

How long does it take to explore a city? When it comes to Istanbul, finding a right answer is not that easy. Istanbul's famous attractions are well-known by everyone, here, we wanted to let you discover some of the hidden gems of the city.

Real travelers always visit the popular tourist attractions of a city at least once, but they are more curious about the hidden gems and unknown historical spots of a destination. It is always a pleasure to discover locally popular markets and streets of a city or to explore a forgotten historical area. You will get a lot of answers from many blogs and websites on attractions and must-see spots of Istanbul, but you will probably won't find the hidden beauties of the city on that list. Since Istanbul is an extensive city filled with many interesting neighborhoods and areas, it is hard to explore the city in a short period of time. Let's take a look at some of the hidden but magnificent gems of Istanbul...

*The Name Balat Is Probably Derived From
Greek Palation (Palace), From Latin Palatium,
After The Nearby Palace Of Blachernae.*



DID YOU KNOW?

Byzantine Greek historian Procopius stated that two Nestorian Christian monks eventually uncovered the way silk was made. From this revelation, monks were sent by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian (ruled 527–565) as spies on the Silk Road from Constantinople to China and back to steal the silkworm eggs, resulting in silk production in the Mediterranean.

HIDDEN SEASIDE TOWN OFFERING STUNNING VIEWS ŞİLE

The laid-back seaside town of Şile is located on the Asian side of the city by the shores of the Black Sea. There has been a fishing village here since 700 BC and a lighthouse since the Ottoman period. Today, Şile is a beach resort, popular amongst people who are seeking a resort atmosphere without the expense of travelling to the Mediterranean Sea. Şile is about an hour's drive from the city and was always considered as a place for a quiet retreat.. During Türkiye's economic boom of the 1990s, a great many summer homes and holiday villages were built for

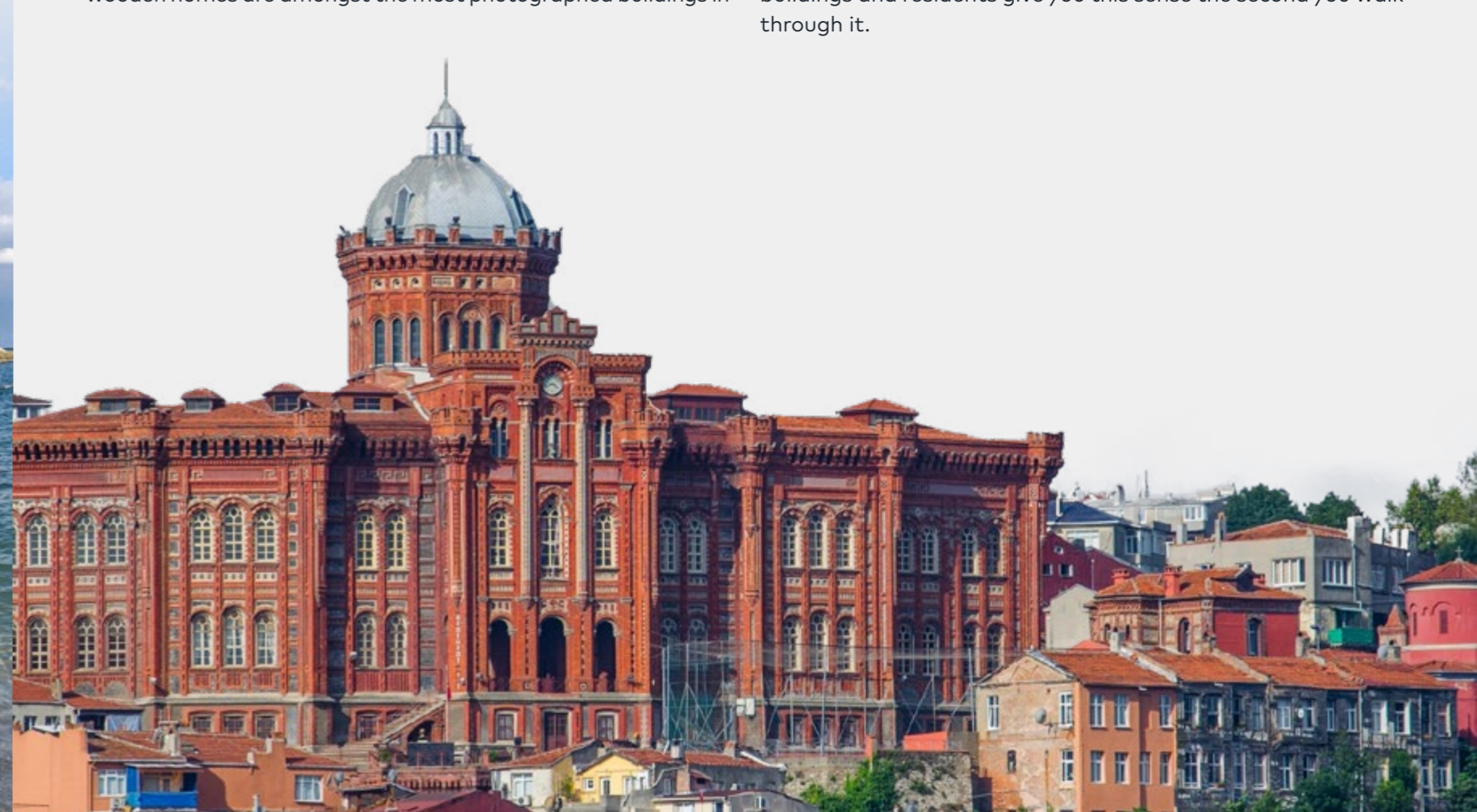
the city's middle class. There is a small but sandy beach, a little harbour of fishing boats, a dense forest behind and a quiet pleasant atmosphere during the week. There are a number of bars and restaurants with sea views especially in the little park around the lighthouse. Şile is also known for Şile cloth, a crimped-looking, light, see-through cotton fabric, made on the Şile coast, sold in many shops in the town and sent to the bazaars of Istanbul. There is a fair to promote Şile cloth in the town held every summer.



A HISTORIC AND COLORFUL NEIGHBORHOOD BALAT

Balat is one of the oldest and most spectacular districts of Istanbul. When you step foot along its narrow cobbled streets and historic buildings, you feel an atmosphere unlike anywhere else in Istanbul, and the world. The district is hidden away from the city a little bit, set past the Eminönü along the Golden Horn. It's quite close to the metro stop along the Golden Horn, a comfortable walking distance. Once you step inside Balat, it feels like as you've stepped into an Istanbul of yester year. Perhaps the most iconic part of Balat is the district's colorful houses along sloping cobbled streets. These homes are mostly over 50-years-old, and in some cases are up to 200-years-old. These historic wooden homes are amongst the most photographed buildings in

the city, and because of its popularity many of these streets now feature cafés and restaurants for you to stop off at and admire the setting. The neighborhood itself is very welcoming. Balat is a district that has traditionally been home to minorities in the city, with many Jewish families and Greek Orthodox families making it their homes. The stunning massive Fener Greek High School is still in operation here and you can see it from many different angles all over the neighborhood. Along the coast is a Bulgarian church, with iron castings manufactured in Vienna and a belfry tower that was a gift from Russia. In short, this district consists of one of the city's most diverse and its historic buildings and residents give you this sense the second you walk through it.





A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE CITY KİLYOS

Kilyos is a popular seaside resort located in the northern coast of the city, in the Sarıyer district. Kilyos is also named as Kumköy, meaning "sandy village" in Turkish. Kilyos is best-known for its beautiful sandy beaches, restaurants, summer time entertainment and water sports activities. There is a 14th-century Genoese castle in the village, which was restored during the era of the Ottoman sultan Mahmud II, but it is not publicly accessible since it is located in the military zone. At Kilyos, you can swim, enjoy the water sports, walk inside the forest and eat some seafood. There are public and private beaches around Kilyos and some of the private beaches are popular with their parties, festivals and concerts.

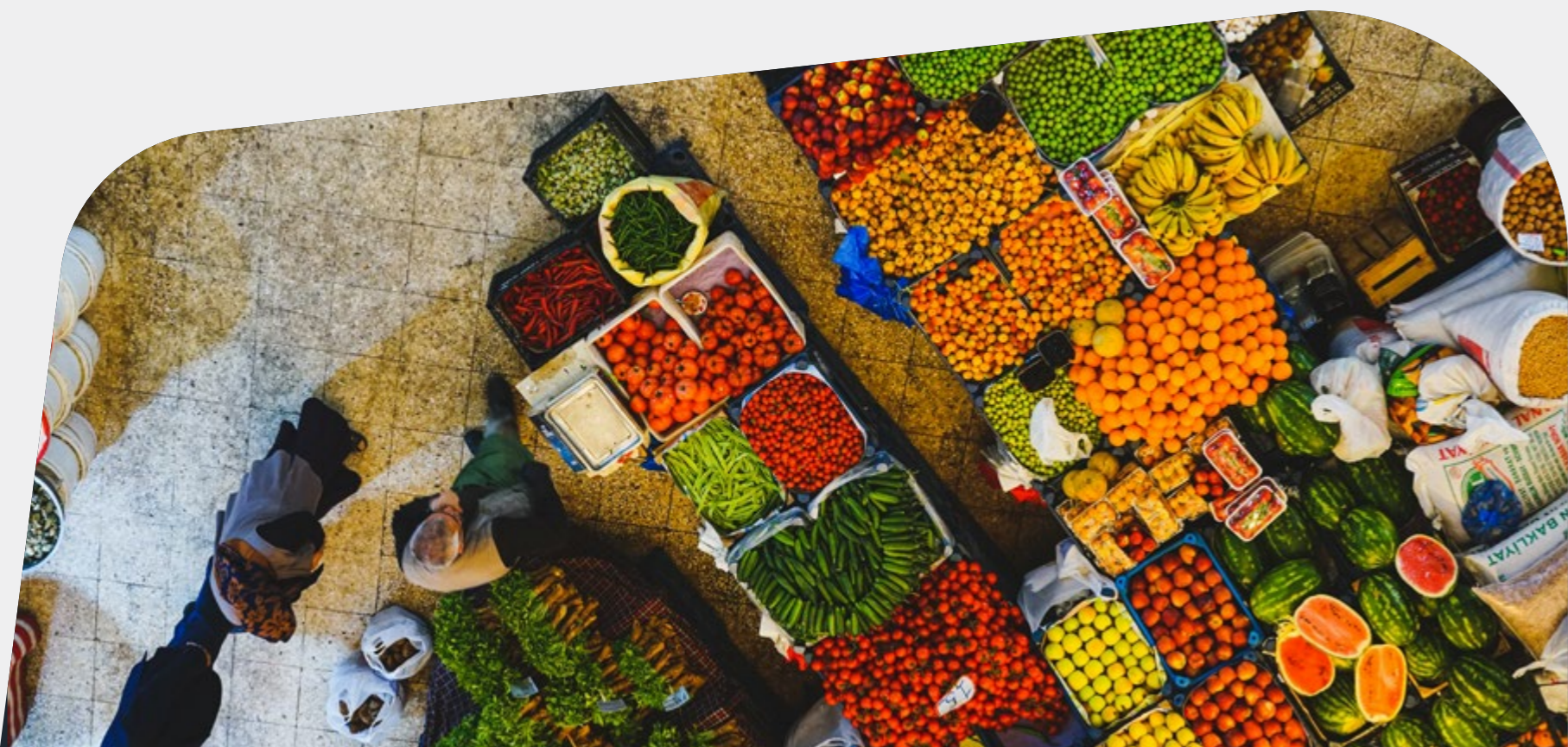
LAST REMAINS OF ROMANS THE VALENS AQUEDUCT

The Valens Aqueduct is a Roman aqueduct which was the major water-providing system of the Eastern Roman capital of Constantinople. Completed by Roman Emperor Valens in the late 4th century AD, it was maintained and used by the Byzantines and later the Ottomans, and remains as one of the most important landmarks of the city. The most visible bridge section of the aqueduct stands in the quarter of Fatih, and spans the valley between the hills occupied today by the Istanbul University and the Fatih Mosque. The surviving section is 921 metres long, about 50 metres less than the original length. The Atatürk Bulvarı boulevard passes under its arches.



A GENUINE TURKISH BAZAAR EXPERIENCE WOMEN'S BAZAAR

Siirt Bazaar, also known as Women's Bazaar, is located across Istanbul Manifaturacılar (Textile Merchant's) Bazaar. For those who are not familiar with this place, this special bazaar located in the heart of the city may surprise visitors. Local foods from the eastern provinces of Siirt, Adiyaman, Mardin, Diyarbakır, Bitlis and Muş are laid out all around like an exhibition. You can see herbs you've never heard of before and try wonderful pastries made with these herbs. If you head toward the honey stands, you can take your pick from among the wide variety of tasty sweetness. Though it's a wonderful spot to observe local life, the vibrant Women's Bazaar isn't for the faint-hearted. Freshly slaughtered sheep carcasses swing in the wind and shops sell dried sheep heads, pungent tulum cheese and other unusual produce. Most shopkeepers are from the southeastern corner of Türkiye – specifically Siirt – and the tasty food served at the bazaar's eateries reflects this. The bazaar made it into the "Favorite Streets in 12 European Cities" list of New York Times in 2015.



A SENSE OF WILDERNESS IN THE MIDST OF ISTANBUL BELGRAD FOREST

Belgrad Forest is located in the northwest of the city, and this 55,000 hectare proliferation of protected woodland provides plenty of hiking, mountain biking, and summer shade, perfect for scorching hot summer days when the thought of a crowded beach becomes uncomfortable. A very popular area for barbecues, with numerous picnic spots and even an on-site cafe, you'll find Belgrad to be a place of both leisure and activity. There is a 6 km footpath that surrounds a central lake that is a favorite for runners, while there are also a number of unmarked trails. If you're up for a little exploring, there's a massive aqueduct near the road that used to be an Ottoman water supply system that led all the way to Taksim Square, while you'll also encounter the scattered remains of a community formed hundreds of years ago by displaced Serbians from the city of Belgrade. Getting to and from the forest may be a little tough if you don't have a rental car; a cab ride is decently cheap from Haciosman, while buses depart from various points in Istanbul to Bahcekoy, which is a moderate walk from the park entrance.



DID YOU KNOW?

Belgrad Forest is named after the thousands of Serbs that Suleiman the Magnificent transferred to Istanbul after the 1521 Siege of Belgrade.

THE CITY OF ICONS

Istanbul, the magnificent city of marvels, is filled with historical, religious, cultural, political and social iconic structures and venues.

As one of the most charismatic sea roads of the world, the Bosphorus itself is an icon of Istanbul, Europe and Asia. The structures like the ancient walls of the city, Golden Horn and Hagia Sophia are enough to be symbols on their own. However, the city also has some cultural and social iconic venues which are as effective to Istanbul's being as their older brothers and sisters. Now, we invite you to their dreamy world...

The Panorama 1453 Museum Of History Is
The World's First Full-Panoramic Museum.



DID YOU KNOW?

"Pera (from the Greek word for "across") was used to describe the area between the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus, but now the official name of the area is Beyoğlu."



HÜRREM SULTAN HAMMAM

Hürrem Sultan Hammam is located in the treasured historical peninsula, between the Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sophia. The facility has three different sections; the Turkish bath, Mihri Restaurant and café. Hürrem Sultan Hammam is the biggest historical hammam in Türkiye and was designed and built by Mimar Sinan, the chief Ottoman architect. It was built after a request from of Hürrem Sultan (Roxelana), the wife of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in the 16th century (1556-1557 AD). It was built where the ancient public baths of Zeuxippus (100-200 AD) used to stand. The hammam was restored according to its original features with a huge investment. The facility reopened in 2011 with the brand name of "Hürrem Sultan Hammam". The hammam which is located in the middle of Sultanahmet Square is a holy shrine just like its neighbors. It is a shrine of healing and purification with water which is a part of an extensive culture... This spiritual and physical purification shrine where Ottoman soul is presented with modern needs has been receiving a lot attention since the day it is restored. Hürrem Sultan Hammam is a pioneer within the other Turkish baths with its luxurious and glorious service understanding. The hammam allows its guests from all around the world to experience a Sultan like day.





AN ENCHANTING ARCHITECTURE

The structure bears remnants of the classical period Ottoman bath architecture with its double bath shape and 75 meters length. It opened a new era in Turkish Bath architecture and has the title of being the first structure where women and men sections are on the same axis. At the Hürrem Sultan Hammam, trained expert bath attendants, rubbers, masseurs and masseuses provide their exclusive services. Prepare to be rejuvenated on the marble bath basins while enjoying the historic domes of the hammam.

THE PANORAMA 1453 MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The Panorama 1453 Museum of History is a marvelous venue which portrays the historical process of the conquest of Istanbul and allows its visitors to relive that day. The museum was established by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality in 2009 and holds the title of 'the world's first full-panoramic museum'. The Panorama 1453 Museum of History has two main sections. The first section starts with the entrance and goes through the panoramic picture. What differs the museum from other panoramic museums is this picture which was applied onto a hemisphere of 38 m diameter.

The interior of the hemisphere is covered by the picture. covers an area of 2,350 cubic meters and allows visitors to observe it from all aspects and directions. The picture creates a depth perception and as soon as the visitors see it, they are not able to perceive the real dimension with their eyes. This is an unforgettable museum which creates a unique experience for everyone. Don't forget to add The Panorama 1453 Museum of History on your list!





A FLOWER PASSAGE WITH NO FLORISTS INSIDE ÇİÇEK PASAJI

Çiçek Pasajı "Flower Passage" is one of the most famous and popular food & beverage venues of Istanbul which hosts many seafood restaurants. The history of the passage is another story. An Ottoman-Greek banker, Christakis Zografos, built a new type of building called "Cité de Pera" in 1876. The building/ bazaar had 24 shops designed in Parisian style, which was trendy at those times, and 18 luxurious apartments over the shops.

In 1908, the ownership of the building was transferred to the Grand Vizier Mehmed Said Pasha, after a while florists began to settle within the passage and its name was turned into the "Flower Passage". After 1940, restaurants took place in the passage; and this gradually moved apartment owners and florists to other places but the name "flower" (çiçek) remained. The restaurants within Çiçek Pasajı reflects the traditional Turkish cuisine & seafood cuisine and the passage is definitely one of the must-visit places in Istanbul.

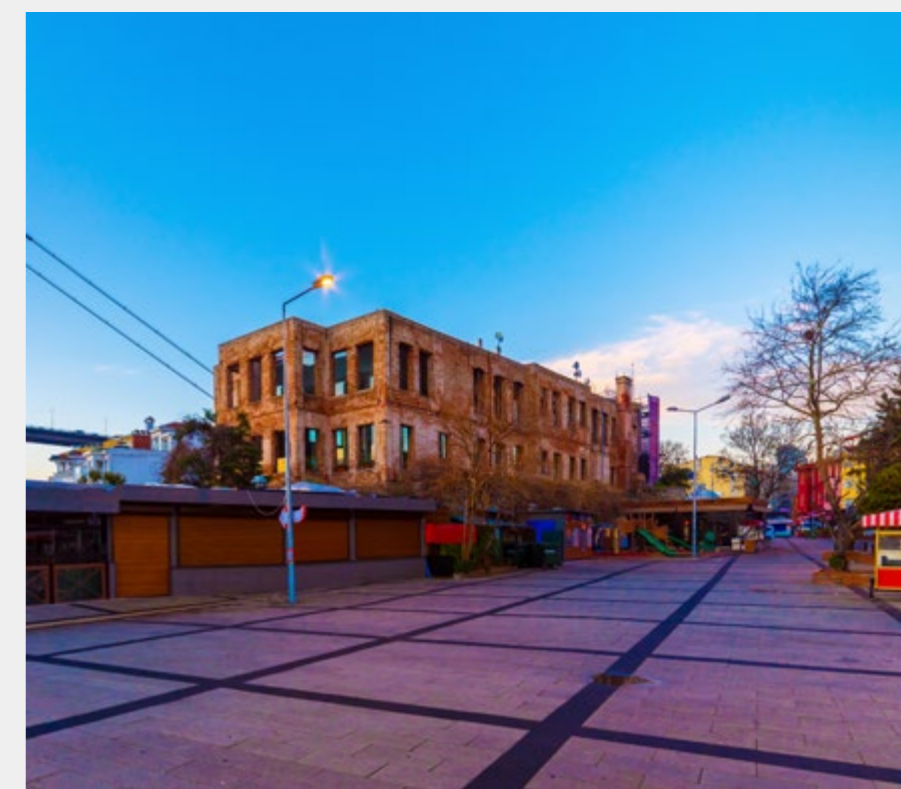


ESMA SULTAN MANSION

The mansion took its name after Esma Sultan, the daughter of the 32nd Ottoman ruler, Sultan Abdülaziz. The fabulous and historical mansion witnessed many events and figures over time.

When Esma Sultan died in 1899, Abdul Hamid II gave the mansion to his daughter Cemile Sultan. In 1915, the mansion was claimed from the Ottoman Empire, and in succession, was used as a Greek school in 1918 and it became a tobacco depot in 1922.

In 1975, the mansion suffered a massive fire and the only thing remained was its exterior walls. In the early 90s, a hotel group purchased Esma Sultan Mansion and rebuilt the building. Its original character and floor plan was preserved, as it adopted a new cultural identity. In 2001, in line with Philip Robert's project, the building underwent renovations from within, gaining a sturdy, yet classy iron and glass interior. This renovation allowed the mansion to remain open all year-round.





A FAIRYTALE LAND THE ÇEMBERLİTAŞ HAMAM

Çemberlitaş Hamam is a historical Turkish bath which was constructed by Sinan the Architect (Mimar Sinan). The hamam has been operating since 1584, the day it was opened. It is located on Çemberlitas Square on Divanyolu Street. The Çemberlitas Hamam was planned as a double bath consisting of two identical, side-by-side facilities. The bath has 38 washing stalls. The plan of the hot area is unique, as it does not entirely conform to traditional layouts. This space is shaped like a square on the outside, but the inner dimensions are in the shape of a circle formed of twelve columns, becoming a twelve conered polygon.

The hamam is one of Sinan's latest works and his long experience and great skill allowed him to combine functionality, elegance and tranquility without abandoning his basic style that is devoid of overly decorated elements. The architecture of Çemberlitaş Hamam remains a focal point for Turkish and foreign researchers, photographers, filmmakers, media professionals and students.



HACOPULO PASSAGE

This little passage is one of the hidden gems of Beyoğlu, İstiklal Street, with little cafés and shops selling souvenirs, it's maybe the cutest place to sip a cup of Turkish tea anywhere in the city. In 1871, merchant Hacopulo's passage-way had houses on the upper floors and shops on the lower floor, and this original design remains intact up to the present day. The narrow façade of the arcade on the İstiklal side displays neoclassical features, while the structures facing the inner courtyard are more neo-Renaissance in style.



BEYKOZ KUNDURA FACTORY

As an industrial cultural heritage, Beykoz Kundura is serving the creative industry as an event venue and a set for filming. The building was founded as a tanning yard.

It participated in the International Paris Fair, which was difficult to enter at the time, and Expo Universelle. After that, it won a medal for its manufacturing plant in the International Vienna Fair. In the 90s, the building was operating as Sümerbank Leather Shoe Factory. Since 2010, Beykoz Kundura is being used as a natural stage for filming with its unusual architecture and themed-areas.



WORLD'S NEW TRANSPORT HUB

ISTANBUL
AIRPORT

Inspired by the history of ancient city, Istanbul Airport is one of the world's biggest and most impressive airport with its unique design and cuttingedge technology. As a global hub, Istanbul is a center of attraction with the scope of opportunities it provides. Located at the intersection of Asia, Europe and Middle East, Istanbul Airport is a geopolitically strategic connection point for all destinations. Istanbul Airport started its operations on the 95th Anniversary of the Republic, October 29th, 2018. The first phase of the airport has a passenger capacity of 90 million. Once complete, the airport will host flights to more than 350 destinations with an annual capacity of 200 million passengers.

Apart from the departure destination, once a passenger arrives to Istanbul Airport, with the best possible customer and premium services which are available at all times creates a home feeling.

It really does not matter where you come from, Istanbul Airport makes sure that you feel at home and receive the best service possible at all times. The design of the Air Traffic Control Tower, as it called as 'masterpiece', is a marvelous combination of art and technology received the 2016 International Architecture Award by the Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design, and The European Center for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies. Design of the tower was inspired by the unique beauty of the tulip flower, a key motif in the Turkish-Islamic culture and Istanbul's rich cultural heritage. The award-winning design was created by Pininfarina and it reflects the story of Istanbul which unifies countless cultures. Once again, the flow of trade, politics and culture which crosses their paths in Istanbul is ready to be transported from Istanbul Airport to the whole wide world. Let yourself be a part of this journey!

Istanbul Airport Factsheet:

-75.6 million sqm. total airport area

-6 runways, 3 checkpoints

-326 destinations, In 3 hours, 133 destinations

-55,000 m² Duty Free Area & 31,694 m² Food & Beverage Area

-Passenger capacity of 90 million yearly

iGA'S JOURNEY

iGA (Istanbul Grand Airport) is an airport infrastructure contractor company, established in October 7, 2013 to construct the Istanbul Airport and operate it for 25 years. Located 35 kilometers from the city center, iGA the construction plan of the airport was divided into four phases. Within the scope of the first phase, currently there are three runways and a terminal building with a 90-million passenger capacity. When all phases are completed, iGA Istanbul Airport will offer flights to more than 300 destinations with an annual passenger capacity of 200 million.

As of April 2022, the partnership status of iGA, which is progressing towards its future goals with conviction in aviation as Türkiye's foremost strategic line of business, due to its solid partnership structure, is as follows: 55% to Kalyon Havaşılık ve İnşaat A.Ş., 45% to Cengiz İnşaat Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş.

Vision

To offer the airport experience of the future, from today.

Mission

To be a global hub that offers the most comfortable and impeccable travel experience to all its guests, passengers/visitors and stakeholders all over the world.

iGA Istanbul Airport has also received many national and international certificates in its four-year service journey thanks to its exemplary practices in the aviation sector, and has received more than 60 awards in total. In addition, iGA Istanbul Airport has achieved great success by obtaining an international certificate, the "Airport Pandemic Certificate" given by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and signing the "COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol" published by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). It became the first airport in the world to receive the "Airport Health Accreditation" certificate issued by the Airports Council International (ACI). Furthermore, it has earned the title of "The Best Airport in Europe" in the field of digital transformation by being awarded the "Digital Transformation Award" within the scope of the 16th ACI Europe Awards given by the Airports Council International (ACI). In addition to these awards, it was also awarded with the "5-Star Airport" award according to the evaluation of Skytrax, one of the most influential aviation organizations in the international arena, and owing to the measures it took against the COVID-19 pandemic, it was awarded the "5-Star COVID-19 Airport" and has become one of the two airports in the world receiving both awards at the same time.

As a result of the "Readers' Choice" survey, which is one of the foremost awards organizations conducted annually by the luxury travel and life magazine Condé Nast Traveler of Condé Nast publishing group, one of the leading publishing groups in the world, iGA Istanbul Airport has taken the lead in the list of "The Best Airports in the World". iGA's success was not limited to the award received from Condé Nast Traveler. In addition to the "Airport of the Year" award presented by Regional Air Transport Awards, one of the top publications in the global aviation industry, in 2021 and 2022, iGA Istanbul Airport was also presented the "Best Airport for Layovers" and the "Most Family-Friendly International Airport" award at the "2022 Leisure Lifestyle Awards" by the U.S.-based travel magazine, Global Traveler. iGA Istanbul Airport has also won the "Extraordinary Success" award given by the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX), and EMEA Finance's "Best Syndicated Loan in the EMEA Region" and "Agreement of the Year" awards. The debt refinancing transaction worth 5.8 billion Euros performed by iGA in 2021 was chosen the "Infrastructure Finance Agreement of the Year" by Bonds, Loans & Sukuk Türkiye.

VISION

Within the scope of our activities carried out in line with national and international standards, we support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and taking these principles as our guideline, we work with all our stakeholders to strive to leave a better world for future generations. At Istanbul Airport, we aim to become carbon neutral by 2050, and we continue to move forward following our sustainability principles in our

practices since the beginning of our operations. We review all operations, examine all proceedings, and take concrete steps towards our goal.

Our respect for the planet is prioritized in everything we do, and our sense of responsibility towards future generations shapes our practices.

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2050

Our carbon management activities are carried out in line with procedures adhering to the Standard 14064-1 Quantification and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals at the Organization Level. As of December 2020, Istanbul Airport completed the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) Program of the ACI, successfully obtaining a carbon accreditation certificate and joining the list of climate-friendly airports. In 2022, as a result of the carbon footprint management and reduction activities conducted within the framework of its sustainability policies, iGA succeeded in raising its certificate from Level 1 to Level 3 within the scope of the same program. Furthermore, a 2050 Carbon Neutral roadmap has been created in line with the IPCC 1.50C goals. In addition to our energy efficiency activities, feasibility studies are being carried out for the installation and use of zero-emission technologies, as well as afforestation activities to create a carbon sink

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

In line with the Energy Management Policy, the ISO 50001 Energy Management System has been installed and effective practices are being implemented to ensure conscious consumption and energy saving. In addition to carrying out system-based energy efficiency practices, the consumption of all systems is monitored to detect unusual activity and measures are taken when necessary. Thanks to the greenhouse gas management system which works in integration with the ISO 50001 Energy Management System, greenhouse gas emission sources are determined effectively and improvement activities are carried out on important energy consumption points. All systems are checked continuously through reviews, ensuring their performance.

As a result of our LEED Certificate application, one of the most important green building certifications in the field of sustainability, we received the LEED Gold for the Terminal Building and Ali Kuşçu Mosque and the LEED Certificate for the Control Tower and the Community Guesthouse.



CARGO AND LOGISTICS CENTER

Türkiye's flight range to Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, North and East Europe is only five hours.

Between 2009 and 2017, cargo operations' compound annual growth rate (CAGR) increased by 18.7% and aircraft movement (ATM - landing take-off total aircraft movement) compound annual growth rate increased by 5.5%.

Many important domestic and foreign companies providing services in the fields of cargo, logistics and temporary storage are located in the Cargo and Logistics Centre.

Parking positions for this center, where more than 30 wide-body cargo airplanes can park or dock simultaneously, are located in front of the warehouse. The efficient operation infrastructure that extends between passenger terminals and distant parking areas provides great convenience. The functional structure uses the service tunnels on the airside and follows a path under runways and taxi routes without being affected by airplane traffic.

In the total usage area of 86 thousand square metres planned for the Cargo and Logistics Centre, where circulation is intense, there are car parks where 4,500 large and small vehicles can be parked.

The Cargo Hub and Logistics Center hosts many domestic and foreign companies that provide services such as warehousing,

temporary storage, duty-free storage, logistics, handling, line maintenance, and airline catering. It is built on a wide area in order to provide services such as storage of imported and exported cargo goods, storage of goods for which customs clearance is processed and in free circulation, along with ground services, line maintenance and airline catering to meet customer needs at the highest level.

With the leading companies of the industry such as Turkish Cargo, Çelebi, HavaŞ, MNG, UPS, S Sistem, and DHL Express, iGA Istanbul Airport Cargo Hub is rapidly moving forward to become the world's largest cargo hub. At the same time, with the time-dependent service quality in the field of aircraft maintenance facilities of our Aircraft Maintenance and Repair Center, established on an area of 700 thousand square meters located between two parallel runways, The Cargo Hub has the potential to become the world leader in the industry. In addition, it will create an infrastructure of aircraft parts supply in the aviation industry, reducing foreign-source dependency and will become a worldwide center in this field.

Furthermore, there are parking lots where 18 thousand large and small vehicles can be parked in a total usage area of 456.000 square meters planned for backup areas where the circulation is intense, and there is an alternative entrance for passengers and employees to access the Cargo Hub without being stuck in traffic during rush hour.



CARGO HUB AND LOGISTICS CENTER RENTING PROCESS

Airport City and the Directorate of Rental Areas rent the spaces located in the Cargo Hub to domestic and foreign companies that provide services such as temporary and duty-free storage, handling, airline catering, and line maintenance. Also, offices with sizes ranging from 12 to 24 square meters in the Air Cargo Agency Building can be leased periodically to agencies and companies that provide customs consultancy services.

If you want to rent a land to provide services such as warehousing, ground handling, airline catering, or line maintenance, or if you want to rent an office to provide forwarding (transport organization) and customs consultancy services at iGA Istanbul Airport Cargo Hub, you can contact us at CSL25.MATM@igairport.aero or through the other communication channels available on our website regarding your rental inquiries.

The Regional Directorate of Cargo and Support also coordinates the operational functioning of all these areas.

We would like to see you in iGA Istanbul Airport, which is rapidly progressing towards being the largest cargo center of the world. When submitting your rental request, we kindly ask you to share the details of your company and background information about the area of business you will perform at the location you wish to rent. Each submission that you make will be evaluated in detail and you will be contacted as soon as possible.



NETWORK MAP

iGA Istanbul Airport has been the most resilient airport in the sector. During the unprecedented crisis of COVID-19, like many global airports, we at the airport decided to prepare ourselves for the post-pandemic era. iGA Istanbul Airport has the most central geographical location connecting east to the west, and north to the south. Within 2 hours drive, we have a catchment area of 20 mio people and 200mio people within 2 hours flight. iGA Istanbul Airport provides best possible connectivity to +100 destinations in Europe, 54 destinations in Africa and +50 domestic destinations.

Our current home is constructed for future and has capacity for 90mio people as Phase 1 of iGA Istanbul Airport is completed. When all 4 phases are complete, we will accommodate 200 mio passengers yearly.

Pre-Pandemic, we had 66 airlines operating to our airport and current number has reached 96 airlines with 300 destinations. Beside 96 airlines and being the largest airport in Europe in terms of passengers we do not have presence of any carriers from America`s, Air China, Thai Airways, ANA, Shenzhen Airlines among others.

Key points from our strategy for post pandemic era includes key strategic markets with China being our first priority followed by Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, sub-continent and GCC in The East and P2P from Europe and Cruise market from North America. And additionally, direct routes to Australia are high on our priority list.

We are a customer centric airport. Besides focusing on Route Development, we have decided to develop products for Z-generation, +65 travelers, travelers with families, Pakistani market, "Chinese Friendly Airport".

Finally, to have an aggressive strategy like we do, we do not have aviation taxes in Türkiye, no slot restrictions at our airport, we are open 24/7 and we work closely with each and every airline to help them with operational efficiency.





IST AVIATION STRATEGIES

Istanbul Airport has been the most resilient airport during the pandemic and was the first mega hub in Europe to fully recover.

We increased scheduled airlines operating from 65 pre pandemic to currently 95 carriers.

We have increased our destination network from 260 pre pandemic to 311 destinations.

Istanbul Airport welcomes 250.000 passengers daily in average and 1500 daily ATM`s.

We expect to reach 75mio passengers in 2023 (69 mio in 2019).

Despite its rapidly progressing development, Istanbul Airport has still underserved potential.

It is a market with 20mio people within 2 hours drive.
We have +200 mio people within 2 hours flight.
Strong Point to point market We do not have night curfew, open 24/7, no slot restrictions or capacity constraint.

Beside being a large transfer point, Istanbul is also a destination. We hope we have changed your perception concerning Istanbul during the last 3 days at Routes World as a "Must Visit" leisure destination and Istanbul Airport as "Gateway to The World".

World-famous chefs, gourmets and anyone who visited Türkiye at least once, know that Turkish cuisine is very rich in its nature. We listed most of the street foods in Istanbul, some of the best restaurants in the city and one-of-a-kind delicacies of Türkiye for you.

CUISINE & RESTAURANTS

Turkish Coffee Is A Part Of Unesco's Representative List Of The Intangible Cultural Heritage Of Humanity.

Turkish cuisine is largely the heritage of Ottoman cuisine and influenced those and other neighboring cuisines, including those of Southeast Europe (Balkans), Central Europe, and Western Europe. Turkish cuisine varies across the country. The cooking of Istanbul, Bursa, Izmir, and rest of the Asia region inherits many elements of Ottoman court cuisine, with a lighter use of spices, a preference for rice over bulgur, koftes and a wider availability of vegetable stews and fish. The cuisine of the Black Sea Region uses fish extensively while the cuisine of the southeast) is famous for its variety of kebabs, mezes and dough-based desserts such

as baklava and künefe. The cuisines of the Aegean, Marmara and Mediterranean regions are rich in vegetables, herbs, and fish. Central Anatolia has many famous specialties mostly based on dough such as mantı and gözleme. As the center of the country, Istanbul brings all of these delicious and wonderful dishes together. Istanbul has different kinds of street food, and even its own districts have their "famous" dishes. We underlined Turkish cuisine's "best of the best" for you. Don't leave Istanbul without tasting at least 5 of these favorite foods!



DID YOU KNOW?

The city offers all kinds of Turkish food and as a global city, it has a lot of restaurants which focus on international cuisines.



STREET FOOD



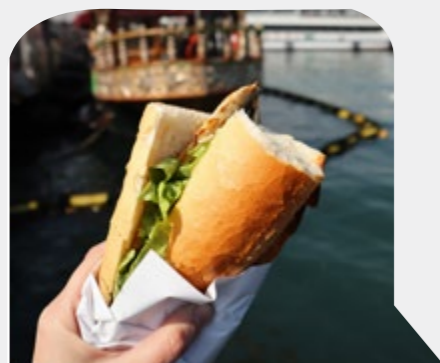
SİMİT

Simit is a ring-shaped bagel-like bread covered with sesame seeds. It is by far the most common and popular street food of Istanbul. People here mostly consume with cheese and a cup of Turkish tea. The yummy trio of simit, cheese and tea kind of tastes better if you are on a ferry ride on Bosphorus.



KOKOREÇ

Kokoreç is made with either lamb or goat intestines that are wrapped around seasoned offal. It is most commonly served as a sandwich or on a plate with garnishes.



FISH & BREAD

These sandwiches are mostly found in Eminönü district. It is a freshly grilled fish fillet packed in half a loaf of white bread with plenty of onions, tomatoes, salad, and herbs.

OF ISTANBUL



MEATBALLS IN BREAD

It is one of the most popular and beloved street foods of Istanbul and Türkiye. Along with mixed seasoning, sliced tomatoes, green peppers and onions, this meatball sandwich will blow your mind.



CHICKEN & RICE

Chicken & Rice duo is sold anywhere and everywhere on the streets of Istanbul. It is simply butter rice with chickpeas topped with chicken breast. A lot of people also like to add ketchup & hot peppers to top off the dynamic duo with ketchup or black pepper.



STUFFED MUSSELS

Mussels filled with herbed rice with a mixture of herbs are another popular street food, and the vendor will continue handing you a new one with a spritz of lemon until you say stop.



LOKMA

This is a popular street food existing since the Ottoman era. Lokma, hoop desserts, are pastries made of leavened and deep fried dough, soaked in syrup or honey, sometimes coated with cinnamon or other ingredients like melted chocolate and freshly diced fruits.



PICKLE JUICE

A glass of pickle juice, either spicy or not, is famed as a quick, tasty and natural cure for even the fiercest of headaches. It is yummy and full of minerals.



ROASTED CHESTNUTS

In the winter, roasted chestnuts are one of the most popular street foods and quite the delicious snack.



KUMPIR

Baked potatoes filled with every single garnish imaginable is a great street food. Usually, people put black-green olives, mushrooms, sausages, pickles, corn, ketchup and some butter within. The most famous Kumpir places are located at Ortaköy neighborhood.



ÇİĞ KÖFTE

Çiğ Köfte is a raw meatball dish in Turkish cuisine. It is traditionally made with either beef or lamb, but in Turkish restaurants and on streets only the vegetarian variety made with extra fine bulgur are served. It is sold in a lettuce leaf and it has to be spicy!



BOZA

Boza is a traditional Turkish beverage, known for its unique flavor and creamy texture. Made through the fermentation of a mixture of yogurt and wheat, Boza has a slightly tangy taste and is often garnished with cinnamon or cloves. It's a popular choice, especially during the winter months, offering both warmth and a delightful taste.

ONE-OF-A-KIND AND MUST TASTE FOODS OF THE CITY

TURKISH COFFEE

The well-known taste of Türkiye, Turkish coffee, is the favorite drink of Turkish people. Especially in the morning and afternoon, well, any time of the day actually. The best side dish of Turkish coffee is a fine chat with a friend. Turkish coffee first appeared in the Ottoman Empire, after a while the strong coffee was considered a drug and its consumption was forbidden. Due to the immense popularity of the beverage, the sultan eventually lifted this prohibition. Turkish coffee culture had reached Britain and France by the late 17th century. The first coffee house in Britain was opened by a Turkish Jew in the mid-17th century. The coffee is prepared using very finely ground coffee beans, unfiltered. Turkish coffee refers to a method of brewing very finely ground coffee. Any coffee bean may be used; arabica varieties are considered best, but robusta or a blend is also used. The beans must be ground to a very fine powder, which is left in the coffee when served. Turkish coffee is made by bringing the powdered coffee with water and usually sugar to the boil in a special pot called cezve in Türkiye. As soon as the mixture begins to froth, and before it boils over, it is taken off the heat; it may be briefly reheated twice more to increase the desired froth. The

best way to do it is distributing about one-third of the coffee to individual cups; the remaining amount is returned to the fire and distributed to the cups as soon as it comes to the boil.

The coffee is traditionally served in a special type of small porcelain cups. Sugar is added to Turkish coffee while brewing, so the amount of sugar must be specified when preparing the coffee. It may be served unsweetened (sade), with little or moderate sugar (orta), or sweet (şekerli). Turkish coffee is more than just a type of coffee for us, it is kind of a lifestyle.





TURKISH DELIGHT LOKUM

Turkish delight or lokum is one of the most famous and wellknown food of Türkiye. Turkish delight is a family of confections based on a gel of starch and sugar. Different kinds of the delight consist largely of chopped dates, pistachios, and hazelnuts or walnuts bound by the gel; traditional varieties are often flavored with rosewater, mastic, Bergamot orange, or lemon. The confection is often packaged and eaten in small cubes dusted with icing sugar, copra, or powdered cream of tartar to prevent clinging. Other common flavors include cinnamon and mint. The origin of the confection is not well established, but it is known to have been produced in Türkiye as early as the late 1700s. Don't forget to pick up a box of Turkish delight on your way back home!



BAKLAVA

Baklava is one of the well-known desserts of Türkiye. It is not actually based on Istanbul, but it is very famous within the city. Chopped nuts are spread in between hundreds of paper-thin phyllo pastry (yufka) layers, dressed with butter, baked and sweetened with syrup or honey. The best baklava depends on the quality of the flour, the thinness of the dough (phyllo) and the syrup-to-dessert ratio.. Although the history of baklava is not well documented, its current form was probably developed in the imperial kitchens of the Topkapı Palace in Istanbul. The Sultan presented trays of baklava to the Janissaries every 15th of the month of Ramadan. Definitely try out some baklava before you leave Istanbul!

TURKISH PIZZA "LAHMACUN"

Often referred to by tourists as "Turkish pizza", lahmacun is a very uncomplicated meal of thin dough topped with a minced meat-onion-red pepper mixture, slid in the oven for a few minutes and served piping hot. It's customary to top it with a handful of parsley and a squirt of lemon juice, then roll it into a wrap and enjoy with a glass of cold ayran (a mixture of yogurt and water).



KURU FASULYE WHITE BEANS

Kuru fasulye and pilav (rice) is a common dish cooked and loved all around Türkiye but cheap and nutritious. The dish comes with a cayenne in the middle and accompanies by rice, salad and pickles. It is meat free so can also be tried by vegetarians. The best kuru fasulye in Istanbul is at Suleymaniye, a small and old neighborhood of Old City.



THE PHENOMENAL IMPERIAL CUISINE OF ISTANBUL

Ottoman kitchen and cuisine had an enormous effect on Istanbul's current cuisine culture. It is world-famous for its rich recipes and definitely a combination of the cuisines of Türkiye, Greece, the Balkans, and parts of the Caucasus and the Middle East. Ottoman cuisine has an important role in culinary history since it also influenced Europe's recipes and cuisine starting from the early 16th-century. Ottoman palace cuisine was amalgamated and honed in the Imperial Palace's kitchens by chefs brought from certain parts of the empire to create and experiment with different ingredients. Topkapı Palace could host up to 4000 people at once and according to historical documents dated 18th century, at least 1000 chefs were required to prepare a meal of pilaf, soup and zerde for almost 10.000 attendants. Here are some of the most famous and popular imperial dishes which you can try in traditional Ottoman cuisine focused restaurants in Istanbul.





HÜNKAR BEĞENDİ THE SULTAN'S DELIGHT

Hünkar Beğendi is a beef stew dish with pureed eggplant and it is one of the most known and popular Ottoman dishes. The dish is also cooked in homes of Istanbul residents and definitely one of the favorites of Istanbulites. It is made from smoked and spiced eggplant, which is grilled, then pureed, and stirred with milk, melted butter and roasted flour. Finally, the mixture is topped with sautéed lamb.



AN ABSOLUTE MUST "PILAF"

Pilaf, or pilav in Turkish, is one of those foods in Turkish cuisine possessed of a ritual quality. It had an important place in Ottoman ceremonial meals and it is still very essential everyday cooking of Istanbulites. In the Ottoman culinary culture pilaf, with its many different varieties, had a ceremonial quality. A meal consisting of soups, meat and vegetable dishes, dolma, fruit and sweets was finished off with pilaf. The same tradition is to be encountered in some regions of modern Türkiye. The large platter full of pilaf brought to the table at the end of the meal is called "sözkesen" (interruption) and indicates that meal has finished.



SARMA

Sarma is a Turkish word meaning "wrapped". A grapevine leaf roll is a dish consisting of cooked grape-vine leaves wrapped around a variety of fillings. Commonly marketed as stuffed grape leaves, sarma is a type of dolma, a stuffed dish of the cuisines of the Ottoman Empire from the Middle East to Southeastern Europe, comprising grapevine, cabbage, monk's rhubarb, kale or chard leaves rolled around a filling of grains (like bulgur or rice), minced meat, or both.



THE MOST TRADITIONAL: HALVA

The basic ingredients of halvas are flour or semolina, fat, sugar, milk and cream. The Ottomans used to prepare one of the halva varieties and distribute it to relatives, acquaintances and neighbors when a birth or death occurred in the house, a male went off for military duty, someone returned from pilgrimage, and so on. Halva is still one of the delicacies of Turkish cuisine and prepared for traditional events in daily lives of Istanbulites.



CULINARY EXCELLENCE OF THE CITY

**THERE ARE 53 ISTANBUL RESTAURANTS IN THE LATEST
2023 EDITION OF THE MICHELIN GUIDE!**

Michelin Stars 10 Bib Gourmand

TURK Fatih Tutak

Michelin Stars

Araka
Mikla
Neolokal
Nicole

Michelin

Green Stars
Neolokal

10 Bib Gourmand

Pandeli
Karaköy Lokantası Alaf
Aheste Tershane Giritli Calipso
Cuma
SADE Beş Denizler Mutfağı
Aman da Bravo

**38 recommended
restaurants**



WHAT EVER YOU NEED

The city of two continents, Istanbul, is one of the beloved shopping and fashion destinations of the world.

Istanbul has always been a global hub of trade and an important stop for international merchants. The story of Istanbul's trade history dates back to thousands of years and to the world-famous Silk Road and Spice Road. Spice Road refers to the trade between historical civilizations in Asia, Northeast Africa and Europe. The Silk Road was a network of trade routes which connected the East and West, and was central to the economic, cultural, political, and religious interactions between these regions from the 2nd century BCE to the 18th century. Istanbul was one of the economically and geographically important stops for both roads. Today, the city still continues to be one of the most important trade and business hubs of the world. It provides a lot of options for shopping & fashion and easily combines "old and new" while blending traditional and modern concepts.

YOU WILL FIND IT HERE



DID YOU KNOW?

Byzantine Greek historian Procopius stated that two Nestorian Christian monks eventually uncovered the way silk was made. From this revelation, monks were sent by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian (ruled 527–565) as spies on the Silk Road from Constantinople to China and back to steal the silkworm eggs, resulting in silk production in the Mediterranean.





Exclusive Shopping *Malls Of The City*



AKASYA

Akasya is located in Acıbadem at the Üsküdar district on the Asian side of the city. Akasya offers visitors a unique architectural design with 30 m high freeform skylights to provide maximum daylight with a ground floor height of 8 m for shop displays to experience street shopping offering visitors close to 257 stores.

ISTANBUL CEVAHİR

As one of the largest shopping malls in the city center, İstanbul Cevahir offers its visitors world class shopping 365 days of the year. Considered one of İstanbul's symbolic venues, Cevahir is a shopping and leisure destination for tourists as well as locals. İstanbul Cevahir houses over 200 stores spreading across 6 floors, consisting of a diverse range of shopping categories and a full range of brands.



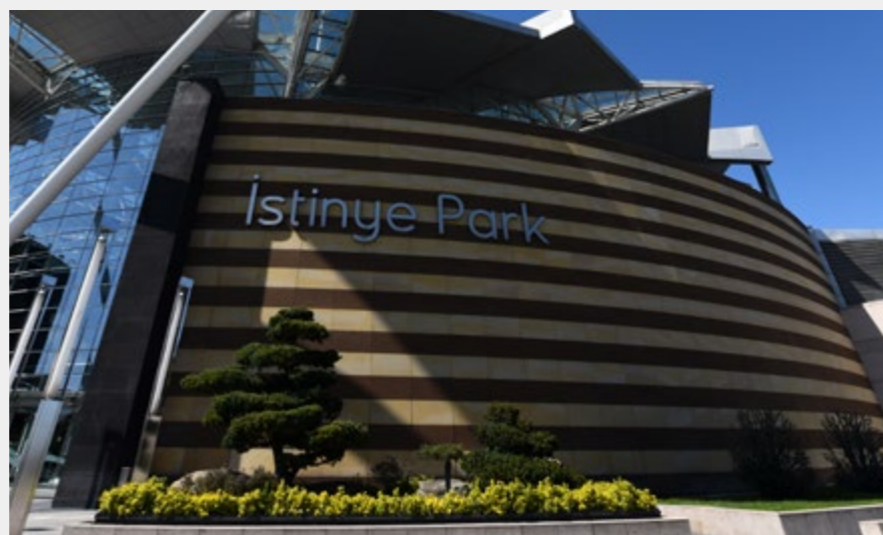
EMAAR SQUARE MALL

Emaar Square Mall has been designed as a destination for shopping, entertainment and gastronomy, and offers an extraordinary experience to its visitors from Türkiye and all around the world. Emaar Square Mall hosts luxury brands and stores which are available for the first time in our country, while presenting an approach that responds to each and every need of the modern urban life; from eating and drinking to entertainment.



KANYON

Kanyon Mall is a contemporary and award-winning shopping center with 160 stores situated in the vibrant neighborhood of Levent, Istanbul. With its innovative canyon-inspired design, the mall boasts a wide array of high-end retail stores, international fashion brands, and trendy boutiques. Visitors can indulge in a state-of-the-art cinema experience and savor a diverse selection of dining options amidst a uniquely designed open-air space flooded with natural light. Kanyon has swiftly become a favorite destination for both locals and tourists seeking the perfect blend of luxury and modernity in the bustling city of Istanbul.



İSTİNYE PARK

İstinye Park is a shopping mall with 291 stores located at the İstinye district. The center features both enclosed and open-air sections. The open-air section has a green central park and offers street-side shopping. The center includes an authentic Turkish food bazaar traditional market place, inspired by Turkish architecture and history.



ZORLU CENTER

Creating an unequalled living space at the heart of Istanbul, Zorlu Center is now the "meeting venue in the city". Zorlu Shopping Mall is built on a land of totally 105.000 m² comprising a main court of 10.000 m² and a second court of 12.000 m² in addition to a leasable area of 73.000 m² which is home to approximately 205 stores.

OLD & NEW SHOPPING *District Of The City*





BAĞDAT AVENUE

Bağdat Avenue is a notable street located on the Anatolian side of Istanbul. The street runs up proximately 14 km (8.7 miles) from east to west in the Maltepe and Kadıköy districts, almost parallel to the coastline of the Marmara Sea. It is a main street in an upper-scale residential area. The one-way avenue with old plane trees is flanked with shopping malls, department stores, fashion garment stores, elegant shops offering world famous brands, restaurants of international and local cuisine, pubs and cafes, luxury car dealers and bank agencies. Bağdat Avenue can also be considered as a large open-air shopping mall. Most of the retail stores are open on all days of the week, including Sunday afternoon.



THE ICONIC HUB OF FASHION NİŞANTAŞI

Nişantaşı is a residential neighborhood located at the Şişli district. When an Istanbulite thinks of Nişantaşı, the first thing that comes to mind is fashion and designer boutiques. It is one of the most unique neighborhoods of Istanbul because it is the only place you can find exquisite pieces of clothing. The area includes fashion shops, department stores, cafés, pubs, restaurants and night clubs. Abdi İpekçi Street, Türkiye's most expensive shopping street in terms of lease prices, stretches from the neighborhoods of Maçka and Teşvikiye to the center of Nişantaşı.



MAHMUT PAŞA

Mahmutpasha Bazaar is a shopping street in Istanbul. It is located in the area between Grand Bazaar and Eminönü in the Mahmutpaşa neighbourhood of Fatih district. This market area, with copious small shops on both sides of the main street, is a symbol of cheap shopping in Istanbul. The bazaar hosts 256 shops. This is the place where you can find anything and everything.

TAKE A MYSTICAL TRIP TO SPICE BAZAAR

The Spice Bazaar is one of the largest bazaars in the city. Located in the Eminönü quarter of the Fatih district, it is the most famous covered shopping complex after the Grand Bazaar. It is sometimes called "Egyptian Bazaar" as well because it was built with the revenues from the Ottoman eyalet of Egypt in 1660. The bazaar was (and still is) the center for spice trade in Istanbul. Spice Bazaar has a total of 85 shops selling spices, Turkish delight and other sweets, jewellery, souvenirs, and dried fruits and nuts.



MUST-BUY SOUVENIRS FROM ISTANBUL

*Have you ever wondered what to take home as a souvenir from Istanbul?
Here's a list of souvenir choices from Istanbul to bring back home.*

HANDICRAFT OF ANATOLIA TURKISH CARPETS

Your first choice can be a historical Turkish carpet which is filled with traditional Turkish ornaments. Anatolian women knit these carpets very carefully and carry this tradition on to the new generations. You can find the best carpets of Istanbul at the Grand Bazaar which has customers from all around the world. You can have your name written on miniature carpets and take a unique piece home.



NAZAR

Nazar, a word deriving from Arabic and meaning sight, surveillance, and attention, is an eye-shaped amulet believed to protect against the evil eye. In Türkiye, it is known by the name nazar boncuğu (nazar bead) and almost every single house in Türkiye has one. Nazar is often hung in homes, offices, cars, children's clothing, or incorporated in jewelry and ornaments. They are a popular choice of souvenir among tourists.



A CLASSIC: MAGNETS

Magnets are a very classic souvenir to get from any kind of destination. Istanbul's magnets have a lot of scenery options like the Bosphorus, Golden Horn, the Blue Mosque, Galata Tower and more.

TURKISH COFFEE

Turkish coffee refers to a method of brewing very finely ground coffee. Turkish coffee is made by bringing the powdered coffee with water and usually sugar to the boil in a special pot called 'cezve' in Türkiye. The coffee is traditionally served in a special type of small porcelain cups. You can find Turkish coffee and its cups in almost any neighborhood of Istanbul.



MOTHER OF PEARL BOX

Mother of pearl boxes are one of the most unique and ancient souvenirs to get from Istanbul and Türkiye. The mother of pearl parts of the box are designed with utmost craftsmanship. The tradition of using mother of pearl for various objects in the Ottoman culture started around 15th century. The other parts of the boxes are mostly made out of walnut trees or hornbeams.



ISTANBULITES AT HEART

We spoke with Istanbulites at heart who weren't born and raised in Istanbul, but either have been living here for many years or visited Istanbul and developed a loving relationship with the city.

Istanbul is one of the most culturally rich and vibrant cities of the world. Many national and global companies' headquarters are located within the city and there are a lot of foreigners living in the city for various purposes. Some moved here for a short term stay, but some fell in love with the city, decided to stay and became real Istanbulites. Some only visited and fell in love with the magic and became Istanbulites at heart.



LACE

Lace is a delicate fabric made of yarn or thread in an open weblike pattern made by hand in Turkish culture. There are various different kinds of original lace designs in traditional shops of Istanbul.

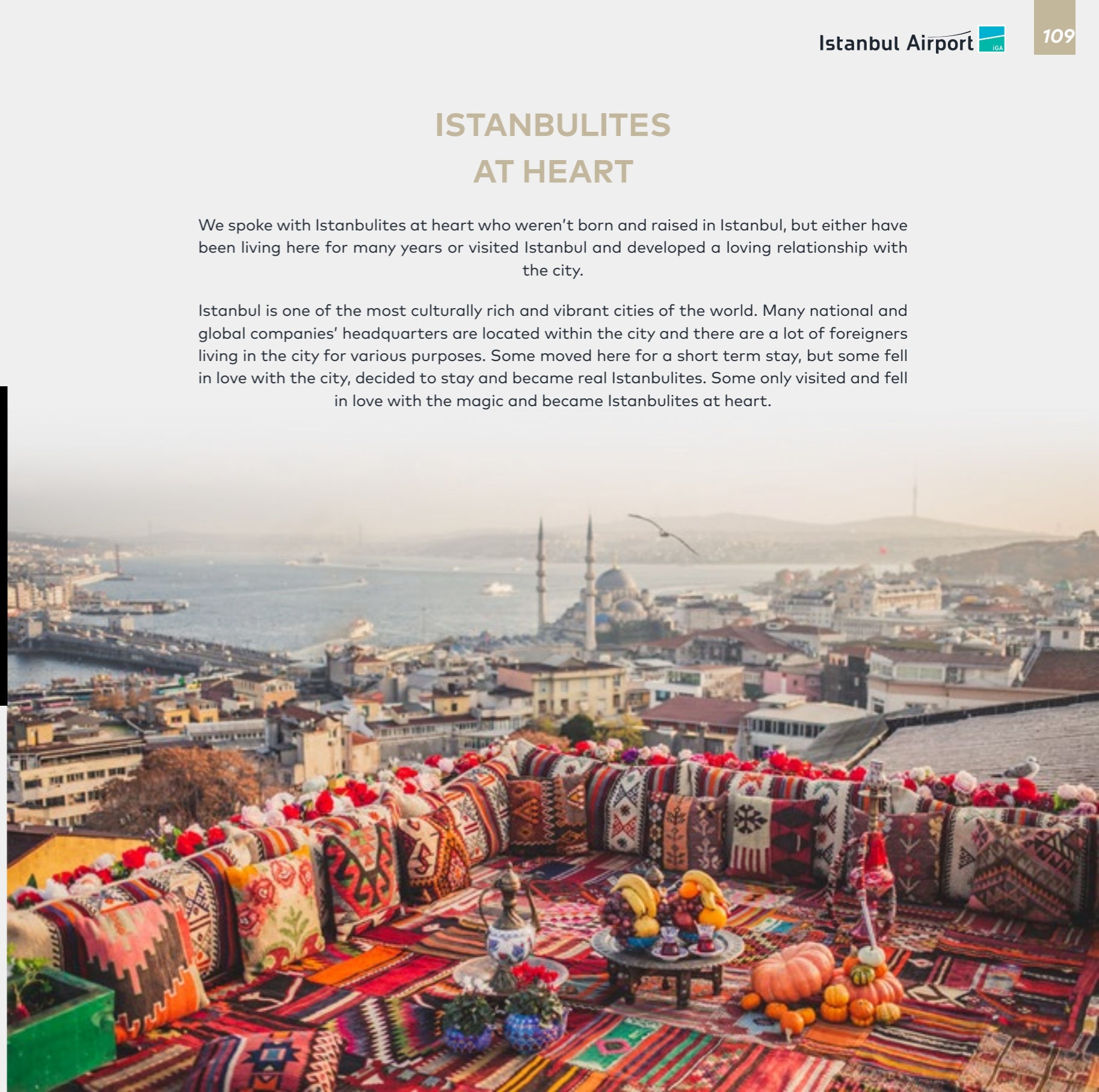


WOODEN & SILVER CLOGS

Clogs are a type of footwear made in part or completely from wood. There are still traditional clog masters in Türkiye, making the footwear by hand. In Turkish culture, it is believed that clogs are healthier for your feet.

BEADS

Beads are mostly used as religious objects or as common accessories of men in Türkiye. Beads are made of different kind of stones here but the most popular bead type is the ones which are made with jets. Jet is a type of lignite, a precursor to coal, and is a gemstone. It is mostly found in the eastern city of Erzurum.



& THE ARTISTIC CITY

Istanbul has its own culture but the city is filled with different kinds of art forms and events. Get ready to be lost in Istanbul's art world's charm.

Culture and arts are the foundations of a modern city. Istanbul has a thousand-year-long history, and the city is filled with traditional art pieces. However, Istanbul is also the center of modern arts. Like many cities of the world, Istanbul also transformed into becoming a hub of art city in the 90s. The city has different kinds of art-focused events all year long. The city aims to become a global culture and art destination. We listed the museums, galleries and the best art events of the city for you. Voilà!

CITY



Istanbul Boasts A Total Of 91 Museums, Including 35 Private Museums, **19 Museums Operating Under The Culture And Tourism Ministry And 3 Belonging To The Turkish Military.**



DID YOU KNOW?

Turkish film director, photographer, screenwriter and actor Nuri Bilge Ceylan won the Palme d'Or, the highest prize at the Cannes Film Festival, for his movie Winter Sleep in 2014.



What's Happening In The City?



THE ISTANBUL BIENNIAL

Considered as one of the most prestigious biennials alongside Venice, São Paulo and Sydney, the Istanbul Biennial prefers an exhibition model which enables a dialogue between artists and the audience through the work of the artists in stead of a national representation model. The curator, appointed by an international advisory board, develops a conceptual frame work according to which a variety of artists and projects are invited to the exhibition.



CONTEMPORARY ISTANBUL

Contemporary Istanbul is the leading annual art fair in Türkiye, situated at the meeting point of Europe and Asia in one of the greatest cities of the world. Contemporary Istanbul takes place each September and offers a platform for the city's thriving art scene, growing art market and collector base, as well as an access point to the best contemporary art from the wider region. CI is also conducting activities throughout the year to develop contemporary art and culture and to increase awareness in the field and to promote them both inside and outside Türkiye as well as to strengthen relations in the region by organizing international events and programs.



THE ISTANBUL FILM FESTIVAL

The Istanbul Film Festival began as a film week in 1982 during the International Istanbul Festival, awarding its first Golden Tulip to Michael Radford for his film "1984." In 1989, it gained FIAPF accreditation and was renamed the Istanbul Film Festival. The festival aims to celebrate innovative cinema and includes an international competition, showcases Turkish film productions, and features retrospectives and curated sections with nearly 200 titles, making it Turkey's most comprehensive film festival. In 2019, it drew 110,000 participants, establishing itself as the largest film festival in the country.





THE ISTANBUL MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Istanbul Music Festival is considered as the most prestigious and established classical music event in Türkiye. Throughout its history of more than 40 years, it has played a major role in building up an appreciation for classical music in in the country. For 43 years, the Istanbul Music Festival hosted the most prestigious orchestras and ensembles such as Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, New York Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic Vienna Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris and more. A distinguished line-up of international soloists such as Elizabeth Swarzkopf, Kiri Te Kanawa, Kathleen Battle, Cecilia Bartoli, Montserrat Caballé, Renée Fleming, Itzhak Perlman and Anne Sophie Mutter. Being the oldest of the Istanbul Festivals, which became landmarks of cultural life in Türkiye, the Istanbul Music Festival has also earned a reputation for its major role in encouraging research in musicology and in launching special projects on shared cultural values through its productions.



ISTANBUL JAZZ FESTIVAL

Istanbul Jazz Festival is organised every year in July since 1994 by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSİV). İKSİV chose to build this festival around jazz music because it believes jazz is one of the most innovative musical genres – open to new ideas, inclusive and accessible. Accordingly, İKSİV organizes a broad-spectrum event that not only brings together music lovers and musicians, but also supports the work of jazz musicians in Türkiye and encourages new productions. Istanbul Jazz Festival features classical and modern jazz, Latin and Nordic jazz, works combining electronic music and jazz, and other music categories, such as rock, pop, reggae, funk and world music. Each year, the festival attracts thousands of people to more than 30 concerts held at various historical venues of Istanbul, such as Hagia Eirene Museum, Istanbul Archaeological Museums, Esmâ Sultan Mansion, as well as extra-ordinary outdoor venues and courtyards of landmark buildings around the city.



THE ISTANBUL THEATRE FESTIVAL

An international event bringing together theatre companies and dance groups from Türkiye and abroad with the audience, The Istanbul Theatre Festival was first held in 1989. Organised biennially since 2002, Istanbul Theatre Festival returned to an annual cycle in 2017 after 15 years. Once every year, the festival hosts carefully selected companies and artists that open up new horizons for both the audience and the art world by bringing national and international, classical and contemporary renditions to the stage through its unique lens. The Istanbul Theatre Festival, together with the Avignon Festival, the Athens & Epidaurus Festival, the Grec Festival, has formed the European Network of Mediterranean Festivals entitled Kadmos.

BEYOĞLU CULTURAL ROAD

After the opening of the newly constructed Atatürk Cultural Center (AKM) and Istanbul's new cruise port & hub Galataport, Ministry of Culture and Tourism named the district including all important historical & cultural spots "Beyoğlu Cultural Road" and started hosting a Festival. Istanbul's lively Beyoğlu district hosted the "Beyoğlu Culture Road Festival" in October.

The two-week festival will be held twice every year across various venues, including Galataport, the historic Tophane-i Amire building, the Galata Tower, various cultural centers, museums and the AKM on a nearly 3.5-kilometer (2-mile) route. More than 1,000 artists, 64 venues, 40 exhibitions and special projects, 75 concerts, 45 workshops and 25 artistic and literary talks took place within the scope of the first festival. A special mobile application was developed for the festival, on which users can receive information on upcoming events, find the ones closest to them, get information on the venues, directions, the latest news on the festival and social media updates.



Museums

ISTANBUL ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUMS

The Istanbul Archaeology Museums consists of three museums: Archaeological Museum (in the main building), Museum of the Ancient Orient and Museum of Islamic Art (in the Tiled Kiosk). It houses over one million objects that represent almost all of the eras and civilizations in world.

Cankurtaran, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul
www.istanbularkeoloji.gov.tr

RAHMI M. KOÇ MUSEUM

The Rahmi M. Koç Müzesi, part of the Rahmi M. Koç Museology and Culture Foundation, is a private non-profit institution edicated to the collecting, housing, researching, preserving and exhibiting of industrial and engineering objects and their documentation from all countries and periods up to the present day. The Museum uses its collections and resources to inform, inspire and delight the general public, to attract more visitors to museums as well as cultural activities in Türkiye, and to support research into industrial history.

Rahmi M. Koç Museum
Piri Paşa, Hasköy Cd. No:5 D:No:5, 34445 Beyoğlu/İstanbul
www.rmk-museum.org.tr

SAKIP SABANCI MUSEUM

Sabancı University's Sakıp Sabancı Museum is located in Emirgan. In 1925, Prince Mehmed Ali Hasan of the Hidiv family of Egypt commissioned the Italian architect Edoardo De Nari to build the villa, now the museum's main building, and it was used as a summer house for many years by various members of the Hidiv family. Sakıp Sabancı Museum presents a versatile museological environment with its rich permanent collection, the comprehensive temporary exhibitions that it hosts, its conservation units, model educational programs and the various concerts, conferences and seminars held there.

Emirgan, Sakıp Sabancı Cd. No:42, 34467 Sarıyer/İstanbul
sakipsabancimuzesi.org/tr



ISTANBUL MODERN

Istanbul Modern was founded in 2004 as Türkiye's first museum of modern and contemporary art. Committed to sharing Türkiye's artistic creativity and cultural identity with the local and international art worlds, the museum hosts a broad array of interdisciplinary activities. Istanbul Modern embraces a global vision to collect, preserve, document and exhibit works of modern and contemporary art and make them accessible to the public at large. The museum offers a variety of cultural activities in its permanent and temporary exhibition halls, photography gallery, spaces for educational and social programs, library, cinema, café, and store.

Kılıçali Paşa, Tophane İskele Cd. No:1/1, 34433 Beyoğlu/İstanbul
www.istanbulmodern.org

NAVAL MUSEUM

In 1897, Naval Museum was established under the name of "The Museum and Library Administration Office" in a small building in the Imperial Dockyard. The museum consists of the annex exhibition building, the gallery of historical caiques, the cultural center and the open exhibition area.

Sinanpaşa, Beşiktaş Cd. 6/1, 34353 Beşiktaş/İstanbul
www.denizmuzesi.dzkk.tsk.tr

THE POET OF ISTANBUL: ORHAN VELİ

Orhan Veli (1914 –1950) was a prominent and innovative Turkish poet. He is one of the founders of the Garip Movement in Turkish poetry together with Oktay Rifat and Melih Cevdet. Aiming to fundamentally transform the traditional form of Turkish poetry, he introduced colloquialisms into the poetic language. His first poems were published in journals when he was only a high school student. In 1941, he published a poem book entitled *Garip/ The Stranger* with his high school friends, the poets Oktay Rifat and Melih Cevdet Anday. Besides his poetry Orhan Veli crammed an impressive volume of works including essays, articles and translations into 36 short years. He wrote one of the best Istanbul poems of all time which is called **"I am listening to Istanbul"**.

ANLATAMIYORUM (I CAN'T EXPLAIN)

(Moro Romantico)

If I cried, could you hear
My voice in my poems, Could you touch my tears
With your hands? Before I fell prey to this grief,
I never knew songs were so enchanting
And words so mild. I know there's a place
Where you can talk about everything;
I feel I'm close to that place,
Yet I can't explain

***Translated by Talat Sait Halman**



Street Musicians *Of Istanbul*

Istanbul's streets, subways, ferries and most crowded avenues are always filled with vibrant and talented musicians. The most popular spot of street musicians is Taksim's Istiklal Street and the second best spot is Kadıköy. The musicians play all kinds of music from traditional to classical tunes. It would be impossible to imagine Istanbul without its street musicians.

Feel free to dance with them, tip them or just relax and get lost in the music!

WHERE GREEN MEETS BLUE

According to the warning of United Nations (UN), we have 9 years left to prevent irreversible damages due to the effects of the changing climate. Istanbul is trying to take preventive precautions on this issue with its eco-friendly technologies, zero waste projects and green buildings.

As a metropolis with a population of 15 million, Istanbul has 25 natural parks. These parks include bicycle roads, picnic areas, trekking areas, hand-line fishing areas and wildlife scenery areas. While nine of them are on the Asian side, 16 of them are located on the European side of the city. The city is trying to develop eco-friendly technologies, create a natural environment, reduce energy usage and use minimal non-renewable resources. Istanbul is focusing on the protection of the global climate for present and future generations.

According To The "Top 10 Countries And Regions For Leed Green Building" **List Of U.s. Green Building Council (Usgbc), Türkiye Is In The 6th Place.**



DID YOU KNOW?

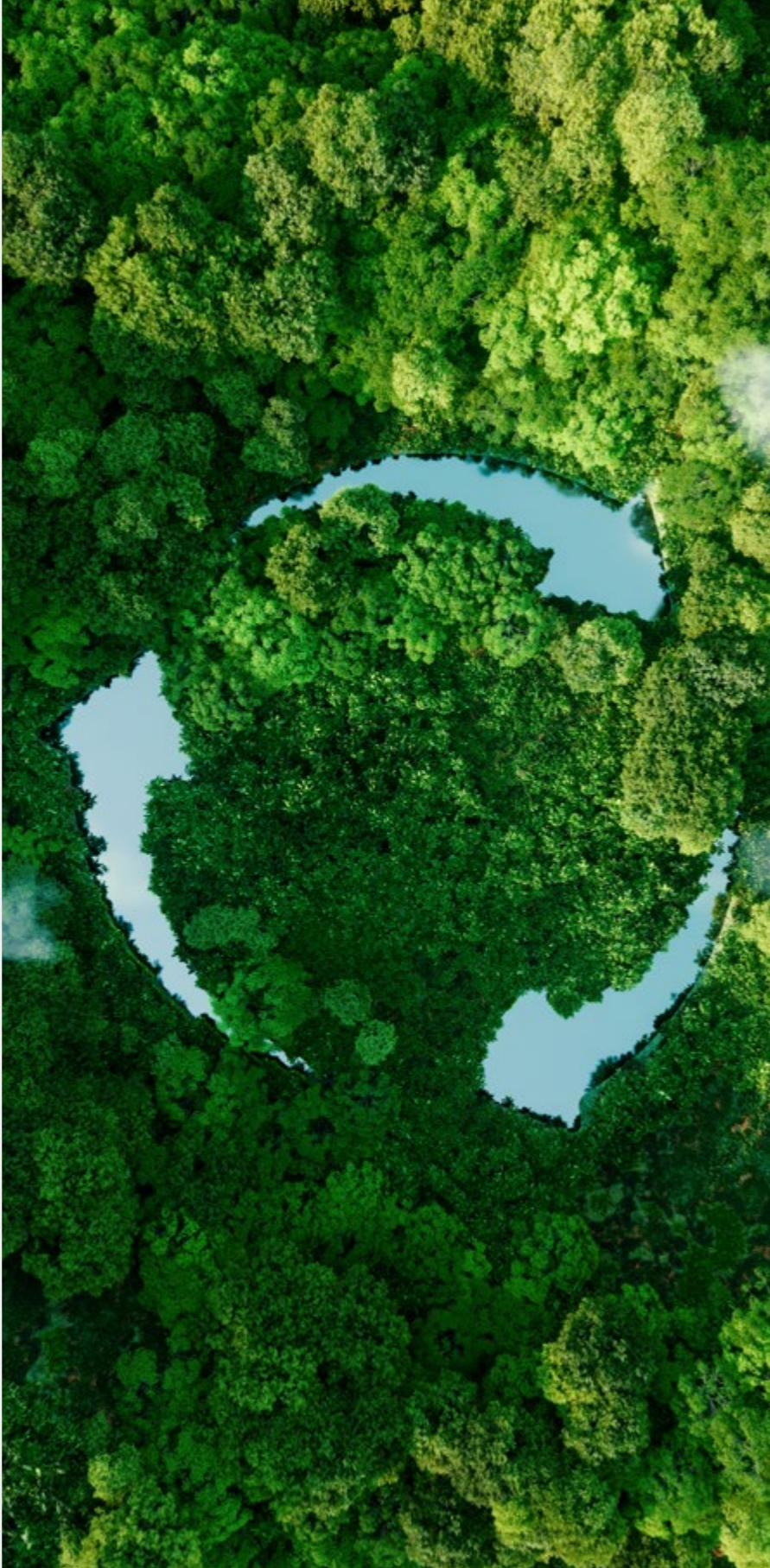
As a result of its location, Istanbul has a complex climate that both carries the properties of Mediterranean climate and interacts with the surrounding climate zones.

LEAN ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

Istanbul built drinking water network lines, purification plants and barrages for the city in order to remove the water problem of the city. Melen Dam, which is still being constructed, will be completed in a few years and the city won't be having any drought problems for a very long time. Almost 99 pct of the waste water in Istanbul are purified in 81 different biological purification facilities.

ZERO WASTE

Istanbul is the largest city in Türkiye and its population continues to grow constantly. Waste management is one of the most important issues in Istanbul and the city is actively working to keep it clean. The zero waste project of Türkiye, which emerged as a waste management philosophy, envisages the most efficient use of resources by preventing waste or minimizing the amount of waste when it is generated. The project aims to reduce the volume of non-recyclable waste. The project is also listed in the Environmental Performance Review of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The recycling rate is 46% in the European Union countries compared with 13% in Türkiye. The project aims to increase that ratio to 35% in Türkiye by 2023.



GREEN BUILDINGS

U. S. Green Building Council (USGBC) created the LEED green building rating system in 1998 and the certificates have been provided to buildings ever since. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. Available for virtually all building, community and home project types, LEED provides a framework to create healthy, highly efficient and cost-saving green buildings. LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement. Every year, USGBC shares the "Top 10 Countries and Regions for LEED Green Building" list and last year, Türkiye ranked sixth place.. There's a LEED for every type of building project and Istanbul's buildings are getting greener each and every day.

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

The European Green Deal is a set of policy initiatives by the European Commission with the overarching aim of making the European Union (EU) climate neutral in 2050. An impact assessed plan will also be presented to increase the EU's greenhouse gas emission reductions target for 2030 to at least 50% and towards 55% compared with 1990 levels. The Green Deal Action Plan prepared by the Trade Ministry and approved with the Presidential Circular as an "Action Plan". This action plan aims harmonization with the regulations and principles adopted under the European Green Deal, in order to contribute to Türkiye's transition to a more sustainable, resource-efficient and green economy, in a way that will preserve and carry forward the existing integration of Türkiye.



ECO-FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGIES

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality hosts the World Cities Congress event in Istanbul every year. The event focuses on smart city technologies of the future and sustainability goals. On last year's event, The Istanbul Electric Tram and Tunnel Company (IETT) introduced its innovative shuttle, the city's first self-driving eco-friendly electric vehicle. This year, the municipality announced a new recycling project. Residents of Istanbul are receiving free credit on their passenger cards in exchange of empty bottles and cans. The municipality's automated "smart containers" are able to collect 0.33-, 0.50-, 1 and 1.5-liter beverage cans and bottles.



SUSTAINABILITY

The Net Zero Carbon Events Initiative Is Global Events Industry's Campaign To
Address Climate Change And To Achieve Net Zero Carbon By 2050 At The Latest.

NET ZERO CARBON EVENT INITIATIVE

Event industry shareholders gathered and set out a common framework in order to address climate change and achieve “net zero carbon” goal by 2050 at the latest. The initiative was launched in August 2021 and announced the “Route to Net Zero” roadmap in November 2022. It has more than 400 supporting organizations from 55 countries, including 275 event operators. 225 of those operators signed the Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge.

Event industry is committed to play its role within the goals of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Guidelines (UNSDGs). 5 Action Areas of the initiative show where collaborative effort is needed to decarbonize. The main titles of the areas are Energy, Production & Waste, Food & Food Waste, Freight & Logistics and Travel. According to the initiative, the Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge signatories commit to the four actions stated below:

1-Before the end of 2023, publishing the organization's pathway to achieve Net Zero by 2050 at the latest, with an interim target in line with the Paris Agreement's requirement to reduce global GHG emissions by 50% by 2030.

2-Collaborating with partners, suppliers and customers to drive change across the value chain.

3-Measure and track its Scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG emissions according to industry best practice.

4-Report on progress at least every two years.



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

When evaluated in terms of the water hinterland and water footprint effects, Istanbul Airport plays a significant role as a stakeholder in the city of Istanbul. This means that every drop of water we use has an implication on regional water resources, extending far beyond the limits of our airport. Due to the negative effects of climate change, water resources are increasingly at risk with every passing day. We are aware that water is a vital and scarce resource. With this awareness, we conduct ISO 14046 Water Footprint Standard studies throughout iGA Istanbul Airport, with the aim of understanding and evaluating the extent and significance of the potential environmental impacts caused by our activities. We anticipate that the inability to feed water sources will be considered even more vital due to increased consumption and pollution, and that the Water Footprint Standard will evolve into the Zero Water Footprint concept in the near future.

As a first step in reducing our water footprint, we measure our water footprint, quantify water-related inputs and outputs, and use this as the basis for setting our targets. In order to reduce our water footprint, we conduct projects that consume less water, revise and renew our equipment and processes, investigate alternative water sources that are not currently in use, and recycle used water.

All the wastewater produced at iGA Istanbul Airport is recycled at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. All landscape areas at the airport are watered using treated water only. The water footprint of all the iGA Istanbul Airport landscaping operations is zero. We are working hard to implement similar practices in our other operations.



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

Sustainable development has recently become the main focus of all countries throughout the globe. In that context, touristic destinations have also been shaping their future plans accordingly. Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA) has a "Sustainability Tourism Program" focused on improving the national sustainable tourism standards in cooperation with all domestic and international stakeholders of the country. That being the case, Türkiye Sustainable Tourism Industry Criteria (TR-I) have been built to ensure sustainable growth of the Turkish tourism industry and to develop a common understanding about Turkish tourism with the participation of all tourism stakeholders. TR-I was developed to be implemented by accommodation facilities and tour operators. In this respect, TR-I includes both criteria that comply with the social and cultural structure of Türkiye and globally recognized sustainable tourism criteria. TR-I has four main themes: sustainable management, socio-economic impacts, cultural impacts and environmental impacts. TR-I standard includes mandatory principles and practices of the country's Culture and Tourism Ministry to be adopted by the Turkish tourism industry.





EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Medical emergency

Ambulance: 112

Fire: 110

Police: 155

Forest fires: 177

Women's helpline: 183



ATMS

ATMs can be found all around the country.

All of them offer foreign language options and pay out Turkish liras. Cash withdrawal limits vary from bank to bank and are around 500\$/€ to 1.000\$/€ TL.



WEIGHT AND MEASURES

Metric System



PHARMACIES

Pharmacies are open Monday to Saturday from 09:00 to 19:30. Most are closed on Sundays, but there is always one pharmacy in an area open 24 hours.



CHANGING MONEY

Foreign Exchange offices, which are known as "döviz bürosu" can be found throughout the country. Operating hours are mostly Monday to Friday, from 09:00 to 17:00. In the arrivals section of Istanbul Airport and Sabiha Gökçen Airport, there are 24 hour Exchange offices. Also the Exchange offices located in shopping malls and touristic areas are open later and on Saturdays. US Dollars and Euros are accepted in highly touristic districts like Sultanahmet and Taksim but rates are often better.



ELECTRICITY

220 volt, 50 cycle. Most hotels have a receptacle with 110 volts. Socket type is standart European two-pin.



BUSINESS AND BANKING HOURS

Offices and banks are generally open from 9:00 to 17:00 Mondays to Fridays, and close for lunch 12.00 to 13.30.



LANGUAGE

Turkish



CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards are widely used and accepted. Visitors can use their Visa, Mastercards, Amex and Diner's.



DEMORGRAPHICS

Istanbul is the largest populated city of Türkiye with its population reaching a whopping 14.7 million.



LOCAL TIME

UTC / GMT + 2 hours



OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS

April 23rd: National Sovereignty and Children's Day

May 19th: The Commemoration of Atatürk Youth and Sports Day.

August 30th: Victory Day.

October 29th: Republic Day.

1st of May: Worker's Day.

Ramadan: 21 – 23 April (only for 2023)

Eid Al-Adha: 29 June – 2 July (only for 2023)



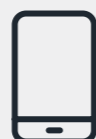
NATURE & CLIMATE

İstanbul is a city where four seasons can be experienced. Spring and autumn are two unpredictable seasons with a range from chilly to warm. The average winter weather is between 5 °C and 9 °C . During the summers average temperature is between 18 °C and 28 °C . The hottest months are July and August while the coldest months are January and February.



VISAS

To enter into Türkiye visas are required for most of the countries. However, visas can be purchased easily at Türkiye's airports or border gates. Please contact the visa information for foreigners on Turkish Foreign Ministry website www.mfa.gov.tr for more information. Türkiye's e-visa application system also offers a comfortable and practical way to obtain visa. Visit www.evisa.gov.tr for more information.



TELEPHONE

İstanbul's telephone service has two area codes, one for the Anatolian side and one for the European. If the land line you need to call is on the other side you must also include its area code (0216 for the Anatolian side and 0212 for the European side). Türkiye's country code is +90.



PRACTICAL TURKISH

Hello	Merhaba (mehr hah bah)
How are you?	Nasılsın? (na suhl suhn)
Fine, thank you	İyiyim, teşekkürler (ee yee yeem teh shek ür lerr)
What is your name?	Adın ne? (ad uhn ne)
My name is	Adım (Ad uhm)
Nice to meet you	Memnun oldum (mem noon oll doom)
Please	Lütfen (Luet fen)
Thank you	Teşekkür ederim (teh shek uer eh der emm)
You're welcome	Bir şey değil (bir shey de yeel)
Yes	Evet (eh vet)
No	Hayır (hah yuhr)
Excuse me?	Bakar mısınız? (bah kar muh suh nuhz)

Excuse me? (begging pardon)	Afedersiniz (af air dair sin niz)
I'm sorry	Özür dilerim (ö zuer dil air rim)
Goodbye	Hoşçakalın (hsh cha kaluhn)
Goodbye	Güle güle (guele guele)
Good morning	Günaydın (guen eye duhn)
Good afternoon	Tünaydın (tuen eye duhn)
Good day	İyi günler (e yee guen ler)
Good evening	İyi akşamlar (e yee ak aham lar)
Good night	İyi geceler (e yee ge jay ler)
Good night (to sleep)	İyi uykular (e yee yoo ku lar)
Welcome	Hoşgeldin (hosh gel din)
I don't understand	Anlamıyorum (an la muh yor uhm)



Istanbul Airport 



ROUTES
WORLD