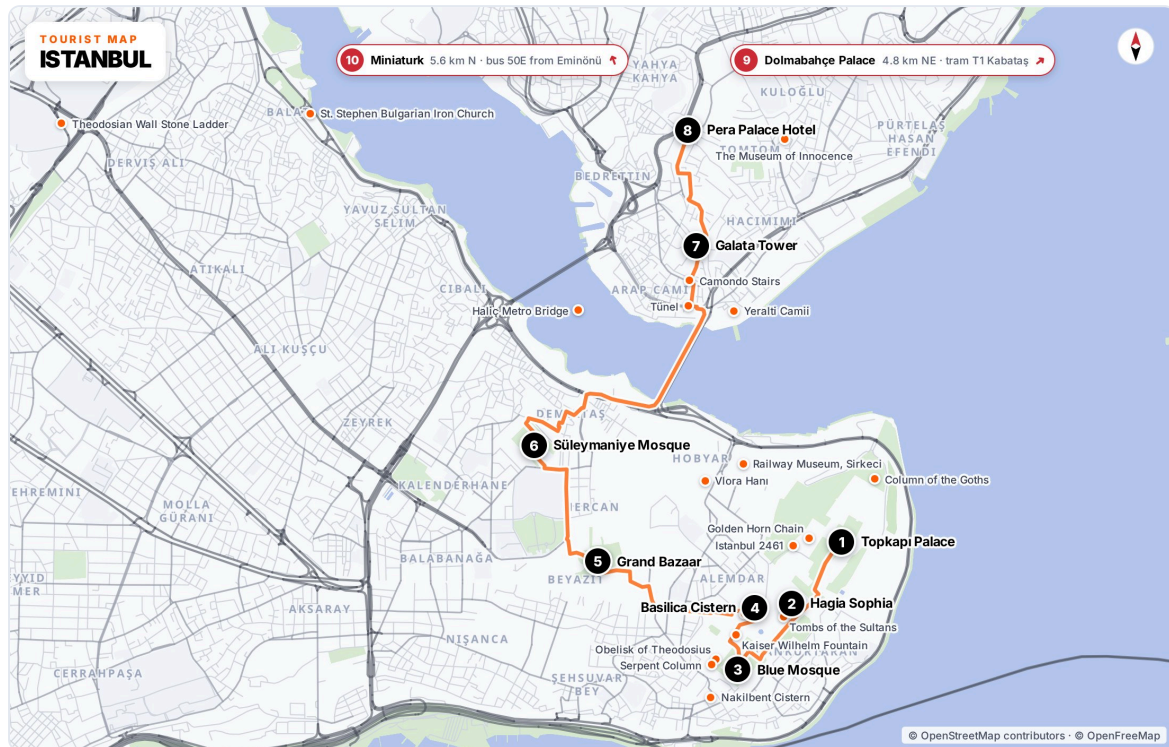


TOURIST MAP

Istanbul Tourist Map

10 top sights, hidden gems and a walking route through the centre. Numbers follow the walking order. Red numbers are worth a separate trip.



● Top sight on the route ● Worth the trip ● Hidden gem — Walking route 6.4 km · 1 h 20

1 Topkapı Palace	Sultanahmet	6 Süleymaniye Mosque	Süleymaniye and Eminönü
2 Hagia Sophia	Sultanahmet	7 Galata Tower	Galata and Karaköy
3 Blue Mosque	Sultanahmet	8 Pera Palace Hotel	Pera
4 Basilica Cistern	Sultanahmet	9 Dolmabahçe Palace	tram T1 Kabataş
5 Grand Bazaar	Beyazıt and the Grand Bazaar	10 Miniaturk	bus 50E from Eminönü

Getting around

- The centre is walkable: the route on the map links Topkapı Palace, Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque and the Basilica Cistern in Sultanahmet, follows Divanyolu to the Grand Bazaar and the Süleymaniye Mosque, then crosses the Galata Bridge on foot to the Galata Tower and the Pera Palace Hotel.
- Tram T1 follows the route: Sultanahmet for Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque and the Basilica Cistern, Gülhane for Topkapı Palace, Beyazıt-Kapalıçarşı for the Grand Bazaar and Eminönü for the ferries, then over the Galata Bridge to Karaköy. For Galata and Pera, take metro M2 to Şişhane or the Tünel funicular from Karaköy up to Beyoğlu.
- Off the route: Dolmabahçe Palace by tram T1 to its terminus at Kabataş, also the lower station of the F1 funicular from Taksim, then about 600 m on foot; Miniaturk by IETT bus 50E from Eminönü or 50N from Taksim to the Miniaturk stop.
- İstanbulkart, the rechargeable transport card, is sold and topped up at the Biletmatik machines in metro and tram stations.
- Paper maps and timetables: the official information points are listed on <https://touristoffice.org/istanbul-tourist-office/>

About this map

The sights, photos and descriptions come from touristoffice.org/istanbul/, where each sight has opening details, tickets and a longer guide. Addresses come from OpenStreetMap. The walking route was computed with the Valhalla pedestrian profile; its time excludes the visits. Hours and access change, check before you go. Edition: October 2026.

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The 10 top sights

In walking order, with the full address of each one. Red numbers are worth a separate trip: they sit outside the centre, so the line below each one gives the transport to use.



1 Topkapi Palace Sultanahmet

The Ottoman sultans ruled from this hillside complex above the Bosphorus for close to four centuries after Mehmed II built it between 1460 and 1478. Four courtyards open one into the next, from the Gate of Salutation to the Imperial Treasury, the tiled rooms of the Harem and the terraces over the water. The kitchens hold the imperial porcelain, and the Privy Chamber keeps the Holy Relics brought to the palace after 1517.

Address Babühümayun Caddesi No 1, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Ticketed, closed on Tuesdays, on 1 January and on the first day of the Ramadan feast · Tickets and tours istanbultickets.org/topkapi-palace/



2 Hagia Sophia Sultanahmet

Justinian's domed basilica was finished in 537 and had the largest interior in the Christian world for centuries. It became a mosque after the Ottoman conquest of 1453, served as a museum for most of the 20th century and returned to use as a mosque in 2020. Byzantine gold mosaics survive in the upper galleries and around the apse, with the great calligraphic roundels of the Ottoman centuries hanging below the dome.

Address Ayasofya Meydanı No 1, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Ticketed visitor route on the upper gallery, while the hall below stays in use for worship and modest dress is expected · Tickets and tours istanbultickets.org/hagia-sophia/



3 Blue Mosque Sultanahmet

Sultan Ahmed I raised his mosque facing Hagia Sophia between 1609 and 1616, and the more than 20,000 Iznik tiles lining the upper walls gave it the name visitors use today. Six minarets, a courtyard as wide as the prayer hall and a cascade of half domes make it the most recognisable silhouette on the historic peninsula.

Address Atmeydanı Caddesi No 7, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Free, and closed to visitors around each of the five daily prayers; shoulders and knees covered, hair covered for women, shoes left at the door · Tickets and tours istanbultickets.org/blue-mosque/

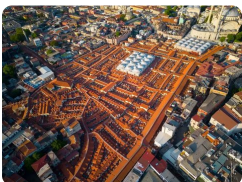


4 Basilica Cistern Sultanahmet

Justinian's engineers roofed an underground reservoir here in the 6th century, and 336 columns taken from older buildings still hold up its brick vaults. Water covers the floor, and two Medusa heads reused as column bases sit in the far corner, one on its side and one upside down. Raised walkways and low lighting now lead through the chambers.

Address Yerebatan Caddesi No 1/3, 34110 Fatih/İstanbul

Ticketed, open daily · Tickets and tours istanbultickets.org/basilica-cistern/

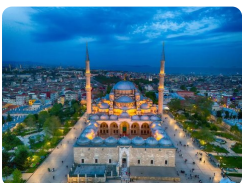


5 Grand Bazaar Beyazit and the Grand Bazaar

Mehmed II founded the covered market in the 1450s around the stone Cevahir Bedesten, and it grew into a walled quarter of some 60 streets under one roof. Jewellers, carpet dealers, lamp sellers and leather shops still keep to their own lanes, a layout inherited from the guilds. Repeated fires and the earthquake of 1894 led to rebuildings that shaped much of what stands today.

Address Beyazit, 34126 Fatih/İstanbul

Free to walk in, closed on Sundays



6 Süleymaniye Mosque Süleymaniye and Eminönü

Mimar Sinan built this mosque for Suleiman the Magnificent on the third hill of the old city, and it is his best-known work in Istanbul. The dome rises over a square prayer hall washed in light from tiers of windows, and the complex around it once held a hospital, a caravanserai, a soup kitchen and four colleges. Suleiman and Roxelana (Hürrem Sultan) lie in tombs in the walled cemetery behind the prayer hall.

Address Prof. Dr. Siddik Sami Onar Caddesi No 1, 34116 Fatih/İstanbul

Free, and closed to visitors around prayer times; modest dress applies



7 Galata Tower Galata and Karaköy

Genoese settlers finished this stone watchtower in 1348 at the top of their walled colony across the Golden Horn, and its conical cap, rebuilt in the 1960s, still crowns the skyline of Galata. The tower has served as a prison and a fire lookout over the centuries. A balcony under the roof runs right around the shaft, with the historic peninsula, the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn laid out below.

Address Büyükhendek Caddesi No 2, 34421 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Ticketed, open daily



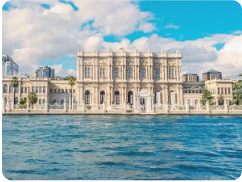
8 Pera Palace Hotel Pera

Begun in 1892 and opened in 1895, this hotel was built so that passengers of the Orient Express would find something in the city to match the train. The lift, the domed Kubbeli tea lounge and the Orient Bar survive from that era, and the guest list runs from Agatha Christie to Greta Garbo. Room 101, where Mustafa Kemal Atatürk stayed, became a museum room holding his belongings, books and gifts.

Address Meşrutiyet Caddesi No 52, 34430 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Photo: "Pera Palace Hotel Jumeirah" by qwes yqwes commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pera_Palace_Hotel_Jumeirah_-_panoramio.jpg (CC BY 3.0 creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/).

Working hotel; Room 101 is kept as a museum to Atatürk

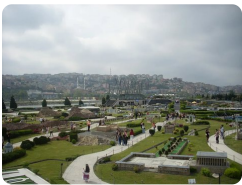


9 Dolmabahçe Palace Beşiktaş and the Bosphorus

Sultan Abdülmecid replaced the old wooden waterfront palace with this marble front on the Bosphorus and the court moved in from 1856. The Balyan architects worked in Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassical registers across 285 rooms and 44 halls, filled with Hereke carpets, Sèvres porcelain and Baccarat crystal, including a staircase with crystal balusters and a chandelier weighing over four tonnes. Atatürk died here in 1938.

Address Dolmabahçe Caddesi No 2, 34357 Beşiktaş/İstanbul

Worth a separate trip · 4.8 km NE of the centre · tram T1 Kabataş · Ticketed, closed on Mondays, on 1 January and on the first day of the Ramadan and Sacrifice feasts · Tickets and tours istanbultickets.org/dolmabahce-palace/



10 Miniaturk The upper Golden Horn

This park on the Golden Horn shore lays out the country in miniature, with scale models of monuments from Turkey and the former Ottoman lands set along walkways over a site of 60,000 square metres. Opened in 2003, it gathers in one afternoon pieces that are otherwise days apart, from the Galata Tower to the Celsus Library of Ephesus and the Sümela Monastery. Pools, a play area and a small train suit families.

Address İmrahor Caddesi No 7, 34445 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Photo: "Miniatürk genel görünüm" by VikiPicture commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Miniatürk_genel_görünüm.JPG (CC BY-SA 3.0 creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/).

Worth a separate trip · 5.6 km N of the centre · bus 50E from Eminönü · Ticketed, open every day except Mondays

30 hidden gems

Smaller places from the same guide, each with its address. Those outside the map frame show their distance from the centre.

Basilica Cisterns of Istanbul

A Frenchman visiting Constantinople (now Istanbul) in the 1500s heard strange stories of locals drawing up fresh water and even...

Yerebatan Caddesi No 1/3, 34110 Fatih/İstanbul

Obelisk of Theodosius

Originally built at the Temple of Karnak, the Obelisk of Theodosius travelled all over the ancient world before ending up in its...

Sultanahmet Meydanı, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Camondo Stairs

A prominent Sephardic Jewish family, the House of Camondo (or Kamondo), established themselves in the Galata district of Istanbul...

Kamondo Merdivenleri, Bankalar Caddesi, 34421 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Nakilbent Cistern

In Istanbul, a carpet store filled with beautiful goods sits atop a hidden gem.

Nakilbent Sokak No 13, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Tünel

This short railway has served Istanbul's residents and visitors since the late 19th century.

Karaköy station, Tersane Caddesi No 9, 34421 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Vlora Hanı

Gorgeous Art Nouveau details hide beneath the layers of grime coating this seemingly unloved building.

Büyük Postane Caddesi, corner of Muhzırbaşı Sokağı, 34112 Fatih/İstanbul

Serpent Column

Part of a snake-headed bronze tripod set up in 478 BCE at the shrine of Apollo in Delphi, Greece, to commemorate the victory of...

Sultanahmet Meydanı, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Tombs of the Sultans

Thanks to the Ottomans' incredible sense of aesthetic, the tombs of Mehmed III, Selim II, Murad III, İbrahim I and Mustafa I more...

Hagia Sophia, Ayasofya Meydanı No 1, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Ottoman Bird Palaces

Look up while roaming the streets of Istanbul, and you may see little palaces carved into the sides of its mosques and schools.

Yeni Valide Camii, Hakimiyeti Milliye Caddesi, 34672 Üsküdar/İstanbul · 4.9 km E of the centre, outside the map

Tombili

In a city crawling with cats, it takes a fabulous feline to truly stand out.

Güleç Çıkmaşı, Ziverbey, 34724 Kadıköy/İstanbul · 7.2 km E of the centre, outside the map

Minyatür's Nautical Instruments

The Grand Bazaar, or Covered Bazaar (Kapalıçarşı) in Istanbul is a magical city within a city.

Grand Bazaar, Cevahir Bedesteni Sokağı, 34126 Fatih/İstanbul

Pudding Shop (Lale Restaurant)

Opened by brothers İdris and Namık Çolpan in 1957, the Pudding Shop originally started under the name of the "Lale Restaurant..."

Divanyolu Caddesi No 6, 34110 Fatih/İstanbul

Kaiser Wilhelm Fountain

The Kaiser Wilhelm Fountain commemorates the German emperor's visit to Istanbul in 1898, but it is a symbol of much more...

Sultanahmet Meydanı, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

St. Stephen Bulgarian Iron Church

Istanbul has no shortage of houses of worship, and the Bulgarian Church of St. Stephen set along the shore of the Golden Horn...

Mürsel Paşa Caddesi No 85, Balat, 34087 Fatih/İstanbul

Panorama 1453 Museum

This 360 degree painting depicts the conquest of Constantinople (Istanbul) by the Ottoman armies in 1453.

Topkapı Kültür Parkı, Merkez Efendi Mahallesi, 34015 Zeytinburnu/İstanbul · 3.5 km W of the centre, outside the map

Column of the Goths

Standing in Gülhane Park, once the outer gardens of Topkapı Palace, near Sarayburnu, is the Gotlar Sütunu: the Column of the...

Gülhane Parkı, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

The Spoonmaker's Diamond

Weighing in at 86 carats on its own, set in silver and surrounded by a dazzling array of 49 old-mine cut diamonds, the...

Topkapı Palace, Babıhümayun Caddesi No 1, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Istanbul 2461

At the Istanbul Museum of the Ancient Orient, part of the Istanbul Archaeology Museums, there is an ancient Sumerian cuneiform...

Istanbul Archaeology Museums, Osman Hamdi Bey Yokuşu, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Prinkipo Orphanage

Thousands of orphans have called the Prinkipo Orphanage home over the years, but the building has now stood abandoned for more...

Çarkıfelek Caddesi, Büyükdada, 34970 Adalar/İstanbul · 21.5 km SE of the centre, outside the map

Vedat Tek House

While strolling through the streets of Istanbul, you'd be hard-pressed to miss this gorgeous house.

Vali Konağı Caddesi No 41, 34371 Şişli/İstanbul · 5.1 km NE of the centre, outside the map

Theodosian Wall Stone Ladder

When the walls of Emperor Theodosius II rose in the early fifth century, they made Constantinople a fortress, and after a hasty...

Edirnekapi Rami Caddesi, 34055 Eyüpsultan/İstanbul

Yeralti Camii (Underground Mosque)

Hidden among the alleyways of the Karaköy harbour there is an amazing Ottoman mosque that, in stark contrast to the great height...

Kemankeş Caddesi, Karaköy, 34425 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Neighbourhoods

Sultanahmet

Hagia Sophia (2) and the Blue Mosque (3) face each other across Sultanahmet Square, laid out over the Byzantine Hippodrome, where the Obelisk of Theodosius and the Serpent Column still stand. The Basilica Cistern (4) lies under the street opposite, and Topkapı Palace (1) fills the tip of the peninsula behind Hagia Sophia.

Süleymaniye and Eminönü

The Süleymaniye Mosque (6) crowns the third hill above the Golden Horn. The streets below run down past the Spice Bazaar to Eminönü, its ferry piers and the Galata Bridge.

Pera

Pera, today's Beyoğlu, grew in the 19th century as the European quarter along İstiklal Avenue, between Tünel and Taksim Square. The Pera Palace Hotel (8) stands on Meşrutiyet Caddesi, a short walk from the tower.

The upper Golden Horn

Upstream, Fener and Balat line the old city shore, with the iron Bulgarian church of St. Stephen. Opposite, on the Beyoğlu shore at Sötlüce, Miniaturk (10) sets out the country's landmarks in miniature.

Rumeli Hisari

The fortress of Rumeli Hisarı may not be Istanbul's most popular tourist attraction, but the role it played in the city's history...

Yahya Kemal Caddesi No 42, 34470 Sarıyer/İstanbul · 11.6 km NE of the centre, outside the map

The Museum of Innocence

In the backstreets of Çukurcuma, sloping towards the Bosphorus from İstiklal Caddesi, the main pedestrian commercial thoroughfare...

Dalgıç Çıkmazı No 2, Çukurcuma, 34425 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Pierre Loti Hill

Pierre Loti Hill is a lovely tea garden with a spectacular view over the Golden Horn that happens to be located inside one of...

İdris Köşkü Caddesi, 34050 Eyüpsultan/İstanbul · 5.4 km NW of the centre, outside the map

Istanbul Railway Museum at Sirkeci Terminal

The wondrous endpoint of the famed Orient Express is Sirkeci Station in the middle of Istanbul, whose historic halls and railway...

Sirkeci Station, Sirkeci İstasyon Caddesi No 2, 34110 Fatih/İstanbul

Beylerbeyi Palace

As with many centuries-old palaces, much of Beylerbeyi's best stories have undoubtedly been lost in the mists of antiquity, but...

Abdullah Ağa Caddesi No 12, 34676 Üsküdar/İstanbul · 7.6 km NE of the centre, outside the map

Golden Horn Chain

In the Middle Ages, the city of Constantinople, the prized capital of the Byzantine Empire, was nearly impregnable.

Istanbul Archaeology Museums, Osman Hamdi Bey Yokuşu, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Museum of Energy

Though it no longer helps power the city, this old station still generates a fair amount of buzz.

santralistanbul, Kazım Karabekir Caddesi No 1, 34060 Eyüpsultan/İstanbul · 6.4 km N of the centre, outside the map

Haliç Metro Bridge

The Haliç Metro Bridge carries metro line M2 across the Golden Horn between the historic Fatih area and the Beyoğlu hill.

Haliç metro station, between Unkapı, Fatih and Azapkapı, Beyoğlu, İstanbul

Beyazıt and the Grand Bazaar

Divanyolu, the old imperial avenue, runs west from Sultanahmet to the Grand Bazaar (5), whose western gates open towards Beyazıt Square and Istanbul University. The old inns around the bazaar still house workshops and wholesalers.

Galata and Karaköy

Across the Galata Bridge, Karaköy climbs the hill of the old Genoese colony to the Galata Tower (7). The Camondo Stairs and the Tünel, an underground funicular of 1875, link the waterfront with the upper town.

Beşiktaş and the Bosphorus

East of Karaköy, the Bosphorus shore leads past Tophane to Kabataş and Dolmabahçe Palace (9), the waterfront residence of the last sultans, at the edge of Beşiktaş.