



# 5-Day Istanbul Itinerary



Istanbul



# Istanbul: Where East Meets West

Welcome to Istanbul, a city straddling two continents, where ancient history and modern culture blend seamlessly. This comprehensive 5-day guide will take you through the city's most iconic landmarks, vibrant bazaars, and architectural marvels.

## Historical Overview

Istanbul, formerly known as Constantinople and Byzantium, has been a crucial crossroads of civilizations for over two millennia. The city served as the capital of the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman Empires, leaving behind a rich tapestry of cultural heritage that continues to captivate visitors today.

## Iconic Landmarks

- Hagia Sophia: A masterpiece of Byzantine architecture, transformed from a church to a mosque
- Blue Mosque: Famous for its six minarets and stunning blue tile interior
- Topkapi Palace: The opulent residence of Ottoman sultans for nearly 400 years
- Basilica Cistern: An ancient underground water reservoir with mysterious Medusa heads
- Süleymaniye Mosque: The magnificent work of legendary architect Sinan

## Cultural Treasures

- Archaeological Museums: Housing ancient artifacts from various civilizations
- Grand Bazaar: One of the world's oldest and largest covered markets
- Egyptian Bazaar: Also known as the Spice Bazaar, filled with aromatic spices and Turkish delights
- Dolmabahce Palace: The lavish 19th-century palace showcasing European influence
- Galata Tower: Medieval stone tower offering panoramic views of the city

## Charming Neighborhoods

- Sultanahmet: The historical heart of Istanbul

- Eminönü District: A bustling waterfront area with local flavor
- Balat and Fener: Historic districts known for colorful houses and ethnic diversity
- Taksim: The modern center of Istanbul
- Besiktas: A lively neighborhood blending history with contemporary life

### **Istanbul Lifestyle**

- Turkish Tea Culture: Experience traditional tea gardens and cafes
- Cuisine: Savor kebabs, pide, baklava, and Turkish coffee
- Shopping: From ancient bazaars to modern malls
- Bosphorus: Experience life along the strait that divides Europe and Asia

### **Practical Travel Tips**

- Transportation: Use the extensive public transport system including trams, metros, and ferries
- Best Times to Visit: Spring (April-May) or Fall (September-November) for pleasant weather
- Language: Basic Turkish phrases are helpful; English is common in tourist areas
- Safety: Generally safe; be aware of pickpockets in crowded areas

### **5-Day Itinerary**

#### **Day 1: Historical Peninsula**

- Hagia Sophia
- Blue Mosque
- Basilica Cistern
- Sultanahmet Square
- Archaeological Museums

#### **Day 2: Modern Istanbul**

- Taksim Square

- Istiklal Street
- Galata Tower
- Galata Bridge
- Egyptian Bazaar

### **Day 3: Ottoman Heritage**

- Grand Bazaar
- Süleymaniye Mosque
- Eminönü District

### **Day 4: Palace Tour**

- Büyük Mecidiye Mosque
- Dolmabahce Palace
- Yildiz Palace
- Beylerbeyi Palace

### **Day 5: Ancient Fortifications**

- The Walls of Istanbul
- Yedikule Fortress

Istanbul is a city that rewards exploration, where each neighborhood tells its own story through architecture, cuisine, and daily life. This itinerary covers the essential highlights while allowing time to soak in the atmosphere of this magnificent city.

Let the enchanting blend of East and West captivate you as you explore Istanbul's treasures. From the call to prayer echoing across the city to the sunset views over the Bosphorus, every moment promises to be memorable.

# Itinerary Preview

5 days

## DAY 01

Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque

The Blue Mosque

Basilica Cistern

Sultanahmet Square

## DAY 02

Taksim Square

İstiklal Caddesi

Galata Tower

Galata Bridge

Egyptian Bazaar

## DAY 03

Grand Bazaar

Suleymaniye Mosque

Eminönü



**DAY**  
04

Büyük Mecidiye Mosque

Dolmabahçe Palace

Yıldız Palace

Beylerbeyi Palace

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**DAY**  
05

The Walls of Istanbul

Yedikule Fortress





# **Daily Events**



## Day 1

09:00

### **Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque**

Sultan Ahmet, Ayasofya Meydanı No:1, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul,  
Türkiye

10:45

11:30

### **The Blue Mosque**

Binbirdirek, At Meydanı Cd No:10, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

13:15

14:00

### **Basilica Cistern**

Alemdar, Yerebatan Cd. 1/3, 34110 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

15:30

16:15

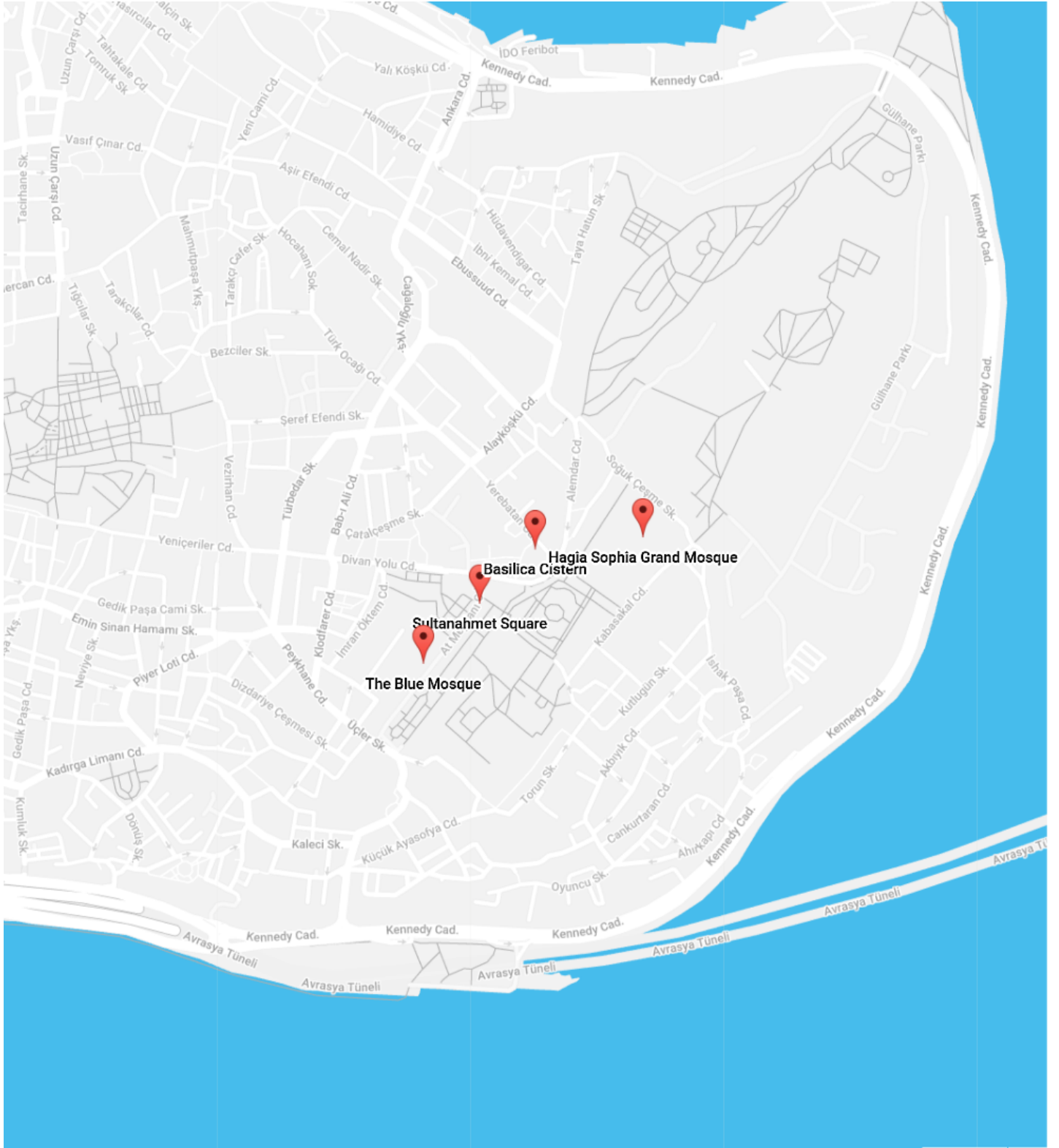
### **Sultanahmet Square**

Binbirdirek, Sultan Ahmet Parkı No:2, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul,  
Türkiye

18:00



# Map for Day 1



## Day 2

09:00

### **Taksim Square**

Taksim Square, Şehit Muhtar, 34435 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

10:30

11:15

### **İstiklal Caddesi**

İstiklal Cd., Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

12:45

13:15

### **Galata Tower**

Bereketzade, 34421 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

14:15

14:30

### **Galata Bridge**

Kemankeş Karamustafa Paşa, Galata Köprüsü, 34425 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

16:00

Day 2 (continued)

16:30

**Egyptian Bazaar**

Rüstem Paşa, 34116 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye



18:00



## Day 3

09:00

### **Grand Bazaar**

Beyazıt, 34126 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

10:30

11:15

### **Suleymaniye Mosque**

Süleymaniye, Prof. Sıddık Sami Onar Cd. No:1, 34116 Fatih/  
İstanbul, Türkiye

12:30

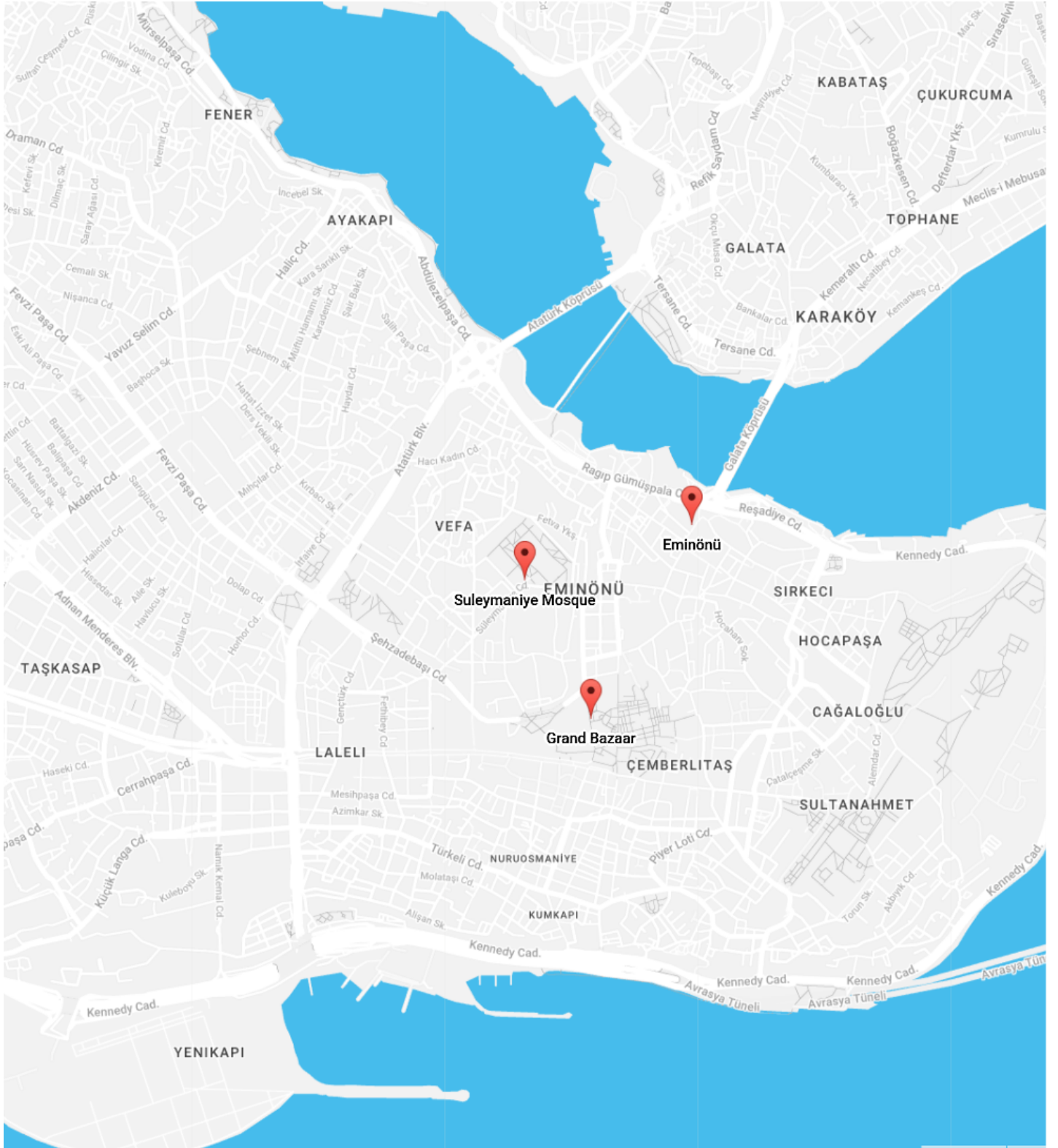
13:15

### **Eminönü**

Eminönü, Rüstem Paşa, Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

15:15

## Map for Day 3



## Day 4

08:45

### **Büyük Mecidiye Mosque**

Mecidiye, 34347 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye

10:00

10:30

### **Dolmabahçe Palace**

Vişnezade, Dolmabahçe Cd., 34357 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye

12:15

13:00

### **Yıldız Palace**

Yıldız, Yıldız Şale Köşkü, 34349 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye

14:45

15:15

### **Beylerbeyi Palace**

Beylerbeyi, Abdullağa Cd., 34676 Üsküdar/İstanbul, Türkiye

17:15



## Map for Day 4





## Day 5

09:00



### **The Walls of Istanbul**

Derviş Ali, Hoca Çakır Cd. No:1, 34087 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

10:30

11:00



### **Yedikule Fortress**

Yedikule, Yedikule Meydanı Sk. No:9, 34107 Fatih/İstanbul,  
Türkiye

12:30

# Map for Day 5





# Spots



## Eminönü

Eminönü, Rüstem Paşa, Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye



## Gülhane Park

Cankurtaran, Kennedy Cad., 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Venerable, tranquil forested park featuring gardens, paths, a creek & a science museum.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Open 24 hours  
Tuesday: Open 24 hours  
Wednesday: Open 24 hours  
Thursday: Open 24 hours  
Friday: Open 24 hours  
Saturday: Open 24 hours  
Sunday: Open 24 hours



## Beylerbeyi Palace

Beylerbeyi, Abdullağa Cd., 34676 Üsküdar/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

This 19th-century palace with gardens was once a summer residence for Ottoman sultans.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

### Phone:

(0216) 321 93 20



## İBB Emirgan Grove

Reşitpaşa, Emirgan Sk., 34467 Sarıyer/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Lush public park featuring an array of plants, 2 ponds, jogging paths & play equipment for kids.



## Pierre Loti Hill

Eyüp Merkez, İdris Köşkü Cd., 34050 Eyüpsultan/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

This peak named for French writer & former local, Pierre Loti, has a cable car, cafe & views.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 AM  
Tuesday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 AM  
Wednesday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 AM  
Thursday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 AM  
Friday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 AM  
Saturday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 AM  
Sunday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 AM

### Phone:

(0212) 497 13 13



## Eyüp Sultan Mosque

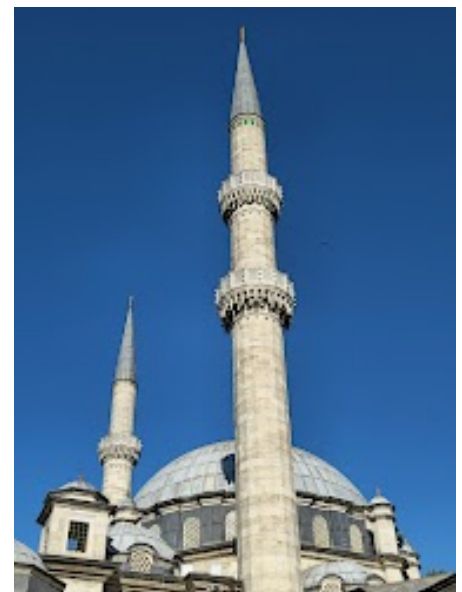
Eyüp Merkez, 34050 Eyüpsultan/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

A friend of the prophet Muhammad is thought to be buried at this 15-century mosque rebuilt in 1800.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Open 24 hours  
Tuesday: Open 24 hours  
Wednesday: Open 24 hours  
Thursday: Open 24 hours  
Friday: Open 24 hours  
Saturday: Open 24 hours  
Sunday: Open 24 hours





## Yedikule Fortress

Yedikule, Yedikule Meydanı Sk. No:9, 34107 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Summary:

7-tower fortress from 1458, known for its royal dungeon that imprisoned many well-known people.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 453 14 53



## Maiden's Tower

Salacak, 34668 Üsküdar/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Summary:

Structure linked with legend & once used as a lighthouse, housing a small museum & a restaurant.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Tuesday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Thursday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Friday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM



## Çamlıca Hill

Kısıklı, Çamlıca Tepesi y1 No:25/10, 34692 Üsküdar/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM  
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM  
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM  
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM  
Friday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM  
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM  
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM



## Galata Bridge

Kemankeş Karamustafa Paşa, Galata Köprüsü, 34425 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Summary:

Bustling bridge across the Golden Horn with pedestrian walkways & street vendors, with cafes below.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Open 24 hours  
Tuesday: Open 24 hours  
Wednesday: Open 24 hours  
Thursday: Open 24 hours  
Friday: Open 24 hours  
Saturday: Open 24 hours  
Sunday: Open 24 hours





## The Walls of Istanbul

Derviş Ali, Hoca Çakır Cd. No:1, 34087 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye



## Miniaturk

Örnektepe, İmrahor Cd. No:7, 34445 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Park with Turkish landmarks, including the Blue Mosque, depicted in miniature format.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 222 28 82



## Rumeli Fortress

Rumeli Hisarı, Yahya Kemal Cd., 34470 Sarıyer/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Summary:

Hilltop 15th-century fortress with multiple towers, walking paths & water views.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 263 53 05



## Kariye Mosque

Derviş Ali, Kariye Cami Sk. No:18, 34087 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Summary:

Museum of religious art on the site of a church that was first built here in the 6th century A.D.

### Phone:

(0212) 631 92 41



## Istanbul Archaeological Museums

Cankurtaran, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Neoclassical museum showing the country's rich archaeological heritage within landscaped gardens.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 520 77 40



## Istanbul Museum of Modern Art

Kılıçali Paşa, Tophane İskele Cd. No:1/1, 34433 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Riverside museum with Turkish & international modern & contemporary art collections, plus a cinema.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Thursday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 334 73 00



## Pera Museum

Asmalı Mescit, Meşrutiyet Cd. No:65, 34430 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Summary:

Art museum in an ornate former hotel with paintings, ceramics & rotating shows of modern masters.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Thursday: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Sunday: 12:00 - 6:00 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 334 99 00



## Yıldız Palace

Yıldız, Yıldız Şale Köşkü, 34349 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Summary:

Opulent 19th-century Ottoman palace, with grand interiors, pavilions & courtyards.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

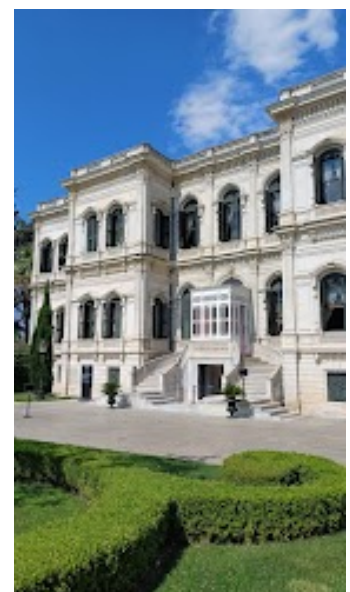
Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 236 90 00





## Galata Mevlevihanesi Müzesi

Şahkulu, Galip Dede Cd. No:15, 34420 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Summary:

This historic lodge of a religious order features culture exhibits & whirling dance ceremonies.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 245 41 41



## Taksim Square

Taksim Square, Şehit Muhtar, 34435 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

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## The Museum of Innocence

Çukurcuma Caddesi, Firuzağa, Dalgıç Çk. No:2, 34425 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

19th-century home displaying everyday objects featured in the eponymous novel by Orhan Pamuk.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Thursday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 252 97 38



## Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum

Binbirdirek, At Meydanı Cd No:12, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Palace museum of Islamic & Turkish art, opened in 1983 & displaying ceramics, carpets & glassware.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 518 18 05



## Sultanahmet Square

Binbirdirek, Sultan Ahmet Parkı No:2, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Public square with remnants of an ancient hippodrome, plus prominent & historic buildings.



## İstiklal Caddesi

İstiklal Cd., Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Bustling city thoroughfare known for its boutiques, galleries, theaters & numerous eateries.





## Basilica Cistern

Alemdar, Yerebatan Cd. 1/3, 34110 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Huge underground Roman water source held up with 336 marble columns covering 9,800 sq. meters.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM, 7:30 - 11:50 PM  
Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM, 7:30 - 11:50 PM  
Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM, 7:30 - 11:50 PM  
Thursday: 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM, 7:30 - 11:50 PM  
Friday: 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM, 7:30 - 11:50 PM  
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM, 7:30 - 11:50 PM  
Sunday: 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM, 7:30 - 11:50 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 512 15 70



## Egyptian Bazaar

Rüstem Paşa, 34116 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Covered, 17th-century market known as the Egyptian Bazaar, with spice, food & textile shops.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM  
Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM  
Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM  
Thursday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM  
Friday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM  
Saturday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM  
Sunday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 513 65 97





## Büyük Mecidiye Mosque

Mecidiye, 34347 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Summary:

Restored Baroque Revival mosque featuring windows designed to capture the Bosphorus' changing light.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 4:00 AM - 10:00 PM  
Tuesday: 4:00 AM - 10:00 PM  
Wednesday: 4:00 AM - 10:00 PM  
Thursday: 4:00 AM - 10:00 PM  
Friday: 4:00 AM - 10:00 PM  
Saturday: 4:00 AM - 10:00 PM  
Sunday: 4:00 AM - 10:00 PM



## Dolmabahçe Palace

Vişnezade, Dolmabahçe Cd., 34357 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Summary:

Grand, domed sultan's palace, now a museum, including collections of art, calligraphy and carpets.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 236 90 00



## Grand Bazaar

Beyazıt, 34126 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Historic sprawling network of indoor souks & market streets peddling leather, jewelry & gifts.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Tuesday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Wednesday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Thursday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Friday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Saturday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Sunday: Closed

### Phone:

(0212) 519 12 48



## Suleymaniye Mosque

Süleymaniye, Prof. Sıddık Sami Onar Cd. No:1, 34116 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Ornate 16th-century mosque with gardens, plus a terrace with views over the Golden Horn.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM  
Tuesday: 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM  
Wednesday: 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM  
Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM  
Friday: 8:30 AM - 1:30 AM  
Saturday: 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM  
Sunday: 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 458 00 00



## The Blue Mosque

Binbirdirek, At Meydanı Cd No:10, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Well-known site, also known as the Blue Mosque, built in 1616 & containing its founder's tomb.



## Topkapi Palace Museum

Cankurtaran, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

### Summary:

Huge, opulent 15th-century palace, occupied by sultans for 400 years, housing Ottoman treasures.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

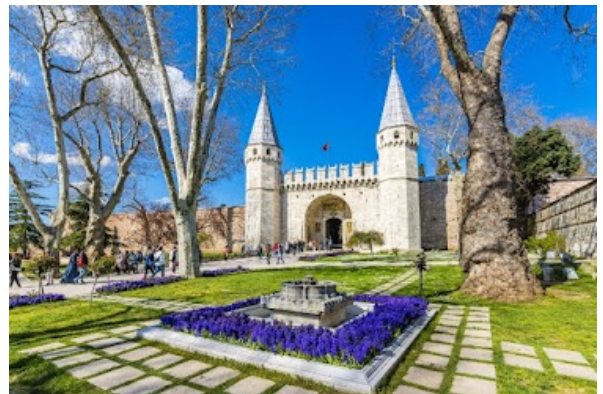
Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 512 04 80





## Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque

Sultan Ahmet, Ayasofya Meydanı No:1, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Summary:

Iconic, storied mosque set within a vast, domed former Byzantine church with stained-glass windows.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Open 24 hours  
Tuesday: Open 24 hours  
Wednesday: Open 24 hours  
Thursday: Open 24 hours  
Friday: Open 24 hours  
Saturday: Open 24 hours  
Sunday: Open 24 hours

### Phone:

(0212) 522 17 50



## Galata Tower

Bereketzade, 34421 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

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### Summary:

Restored 14th-century tower and former prison overlooking the Bosphorus with a top-floor restaurant.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 8:30 AM - 10:00 PM  
Tuesday: 8:30 AM - 10:00 PM  
Wednesday: 8:30 AM - 10:00 PM  
Thursday: 8:30 AM - 10:00 PM  
Friday: 8:30 AM - 10:00 PM  
Saturday: 8:30 AM - 10:00 PM  
Sunday: 8:30 AM - 10:00 PM

### Phone:

(0212) 249 03 44

