

WGSN 

CITY BY CITY

Istanbul, Turkey

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Europe: downtown hot spots Europe: high-end retail Asia

Bubbling with inspiration and energy, Istanbul has a thriving young creative scene and is a great city for interiors, pattern and textiles.



Ancient sites in Sultanahmet, the Old City

Retail on the Asian side



Cukurcuma

Cukurcuma

Istanbul's sense of frenetic energy hits you as soon as you set foot in this sprawling city. There's a sense of optimism and vitality that pulses through the city's streets. The fashion scene is as diverse and eclectic as the city itself. It also boasts an exciting **design and art scene** that has recently gained pace.

East embracing West may sound like a cliché, but it literally does here, with two bridges linking the two continents. Be sure to use the ferry for the unique experience of travelling between them.

Opening times

- Shops are generally open from 9-10am to 6-8pm; malls close at 10pm
- Some shops have summer hours and close during the weekend
- Religious holidays such as Ramadan may affect restaurant hours

Airport info

- Ataturk International Airport is on the European side and approximately 24km from the city centre. It is accessible by the new metro.
- The less hectic Sabiha Gokcen Airport is on the Asian side but is twice the distance from the city centre. easyJet flights land here.

Travel info

- Spanning two continents, Istanbul is difficult to navigate - the city is so vast even the locals ask for directions.
- Traffic is always heavy. Driving is not recommended.
- Taxis are cheap and accessible. Don't tip!
- To get to the Bosphorous villages such as Bebek and Ortakoy, take any bus from Besiktas.
- Get to Nisantasi by metro, running north from Taksim square.

Fact file

- Area codes: 212 (European side) and 216 (Asian side).
- Local currency: YTL (New Turkish Lira).



The Grand Bazaar

Why go?

- For general inspiration in terms of colour, pattern and a sense of creative energy
- For interiors - contemporary and vintage furniture and accessories
- Textiles - vintage fabrics and laces
- For streetwear, denim and womenswear

Key areas

Europe: high-end shopping, restaurants

- **Akaretler and Nisantasi:** designer, interiors, independent boutiques
- **Bebek, Ortakoy and Kurucemesne:** these Bosphorous neighbourhoods boast great restaurants and nightclubs, plus a few boutiques

Europe: independents, interiors

- **Beyoglu, Cihangir and Cukurcuma:** denim, streetwear, vintage stores, antiques, hip boutiques
- **Galata:** the city's hippest hot spot with up-and-coming boutiques
- **The Grand Bazaar:** traditional arts and crafts, textiles, interiors, antiques

Asia:

- **Bagdat Street:** Local high-street shopping, high-end brands on Bagdat Street

Malls

WGSN loves...

Shops:

- Lastik Pabuc
- Tulu
- Tabe Kiyamet
- Lazy
- Leyla Seyhanli
- Mustamel Esya Evi
- Atolye Mariposa
- Portobello
- Building
- Derishow

Cafes and restaurants:

- Mangerie
- Topaz
- Cuppa
- Acik Mutfak
- Mavra Design Store&Cafe
- Demeti
- Simdi

Addresses

Malls

Istinye Park

Istinye Bayin Cad,
Istinye Park 34460 Istinye
Tel: +90 (212) 345 55 55
www.istinyepark.com.tr

Kanyon

Buyukdere Cad. No. 185,
34394
Levent, Istanbul
Tel: +90 (212) 317 53 00
www.kanyon.com.tr

Inspiration

Artane

Sanatkarlar Caddesi Balaban
Bey Cikmazi Uzay
Apartmani No 1
Cihangir
Tel: +90 (212) 249 25 63
www.artane.org

Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair

Mete Caddesi No:10/11Taksim
Tel: +90 (212) 244 71 71
www.contemporaryistanb...

Galerist

Istiklal Caddesi Misir
Apartmani No 311/4



House Café at Istinye Park



Kanyon

- **Istinye Park:** With its glass roof design, Istinye Park has a luxurious feel, housing 300 stores with a mix of local and European retailers at both mid-market and designer levels. Don't miss high-end label Derishow for its architectural store design, while Naked offers a club-like shopping experience. The mall is roughly **20 minutes' taxi** ride from Beyoglu.
- **Kanyon:** Located in Levent, the financial district, Kanyon's unique open-air design ripples around an architectural canyon. This mixed-use project houses mid-market and designer brands along with a Harvey Nichols. Take the 10-minutes metro ride from Taksim Square.

Inspiration



Hagia Sophia



Hagia Sophia



Hagia Sophia



Topkapi Palace harem

The Old Town is great for a slice of history and timelessness. Must-see sites include **Hagia Sophia**, **The Blue Mosque**, **Soguk Cesme Street**, **Topkapi Palace** and the **Basilica Cistern**.

As the former capital of three empires - Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman -

Beyoglu
Tel: +90 (212) 244 82 30

International Istanbul Biennial

Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts
Istiklal Caddesi No:64 Beyoglu
Tel: +90 (212) 334 07 00
www.iksv.org

The Great Palace Mosaic Museum

Arasta Carsisi Sultanahmet
Tel: +90 (212) 528 45 00

Istanbul Modern Museum

Meclisi Mebusan Caddesi
Antrepo No:4 Salipazari-Karakoy
Tel: +90 (212) 334 73 00
www.istanbulmodern.org

Milk

Şahkulu Mah Balkon Çıkmaızı
No: 8/A Galata / Beyoğlu
Tel: +90 (532) 564 8766
www.whatismilk.com

Misir Apartmanı

Istiklal Caddesi No 311
Beyoglu

Pera Museum

Mesrutiyet Caddesi No:141
Tepebasi
Tel: +90 (212) 334 99 00

Platform Garanti

Contemporary Art Center

Istiklal Caddesi No 115A
Beyoglu
Tel: +90 (212) 293 63 71
www.garanti.com.tr

Rodeo

Tütün Deposu
Lüleci Hendek Caddesi No 12
Tophane 34425
Tel: +90 (212) 2935 800
www.rodeo-gallery.com

Sakip Sabancı Museum

Sakip Sabancı Caddesi No:42
Emirgan
Tel: +90 (212) 277 2200

Santralistanbul

Eski Silahtaraga Elektrik Santrali
Kazım Karabekir Cad No 2/6
Eyup 34060
www.santralistanbul.org

Where to eat and drink

the city reveals the imprint of its history. Built over the ruins of a Byzantium palace, the **Great Palace Mosaic Museum** in Sultanahmet is worth a visit. Close by, the **Istanbul Archeology Museum** houses over a million objects from various cultures.



The Blue Mosque

The **Istanbul Museum of Modern Art** displays a permanent collection of contemporary Turkish art as well as temporary exhibitions. Don't miss the museum's cafe, which offers a stunning view.

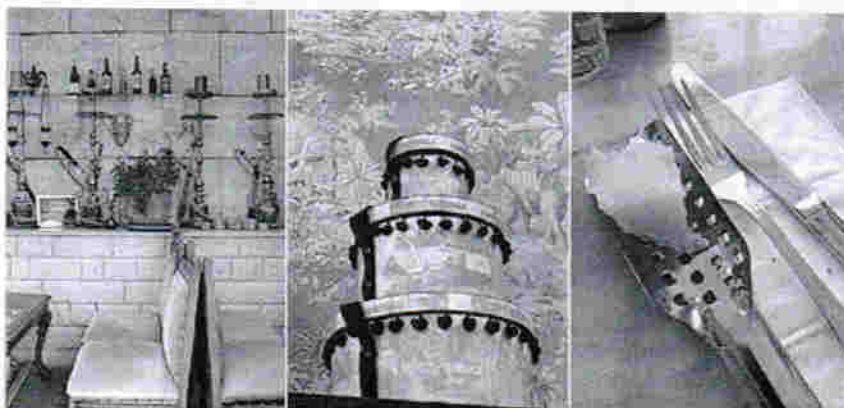
Pera Museum's perfectly restored building, built in 1893, hosts classical and modern art exhibitions. The museum's highlight is its wonderful orientalist painting collection.

Located in Emirgan, overlooking the Bosphorus, **Sakip Sabanci Museum** offers a rich collection of Ottoman calligraphy and Turkish paintings from the 19th century onward. Its **award-winning restaurant, Muzedechange**, features a Scandinavian-style interior, designed by Turkey's renowned design company, Autoban.

Throughout September, October and November, the city attracts visitors from around the world to the **International Istanbul Biennial** (www.iksv.org), while December sees another major art event, the **Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair** (www.contemporaryistanbul.com).

For a slice of the city's contemporary creative scene, head to the **Misir Apartmani**, an elegant Art Nouveau building on Istiklal Avenue. Galleries here include Gallerist, which represents Hussein Chalayan, and there is also a rooftop bar/restaurant called 360. Other contemporary galleries include converted power station **Santralistanbul**, small gallery **Rodeo**, **Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center** and **Artane**.

Where to eat and drink



Traditional café

Lokum Turkish delight

Mangerie

Abacadabra (\$\$)
Arnavutkoy Caddesi No:50/1
Arnavutkoy
Tel: +90 (212) 358 60 87
www.abacadabra-ist.com

Building (\$\$)
Serdar-1 Ekrem Caddesi
N027/a Tunal Beyoglu
Tel: +90 (212) 243 0717
www.building.com.tr

Der Die Das (\$\$)
Süleyman Seba Caddesi 34
Akaretler
Turkey
Tel: +90 (212) 227 9700

Hamdi (\$\$)
Tahmis Caddesi Kalçın Sokak
No:17
Eminönü

House Café Ortaköy (\$\$)
Salhane Sokak No: 1 Ortaköy
www.thehousecafe.com.tr

Kiki (\$)
Tel: +90 (212) 243 5373
Sıraselviler Caddesi 42
Sıraselviler

Leb-i Derya (\$\$)
Kumbaracı Yokusu
No:115/7 Tunel-Beyoglu
Tel: +90 (212) 293 4989
www.lebiderya.com

Mikla (\$\$\$)
The Marmara Pera
Mesrutiyet Caddesi
No:167/185
Beyoglu
Tel: +90 (212) 293 56 56

Otto
Asmalimescit
Şehbender Sk. No:5/1
Beyoglu
Tel: +90 (212) 292 7015
www.ottoistanbul.com

Pafuli (\$)
Kurucesme Caddesi No:116
Kurucesme
Tel: +90 (212) 263 6638

Sabahattin (\$\$)
50 Seyit Hasan Sokak
Cankurtaran Caddesi
EMİNÖNÜ
Tel: +90 (212) 458 1824

Sofyali (\$)
Asmalimescit Cad Sofyali Sok
No 9



Baklava and traditional pastries

Turkish tea

Food-lovers are spoilt for choice here, with tasty local dishes as well as a good selection of international cuisine.

• Downtown hot spots

The area around Beyoglu, which includes the bohemian enclaves of Cihangir and Galata, is crammed with restaurants and bars to choose from.

For dinner and drinks in a buzzing setting, head to the maze of streets around **Asmalimescit** in Beyoglu, which is full of restaurants and bars - we liked **Sofyali** for its good-value Turkish cuisine.

Also here is the more contemporary **Otto** bar/restaurant - offering great food and music in a stylish setting which attracts a creative crowd.

Close by in the bohemian area of Cihangir is cosy restaurant/bar **Kiki**, decked out like a home, with vintage sofas and comfy chairs as well as a cute garden at the back. Sunday brunches serve up homemade bread and a huge array of teas - a great spot to check out the area's laidback creative types.



Kiki

Building

Building, in the up-and-coming area of Galata, is a new space combining dining with shopping, in an industrial building. The "Food Lab" space features long communal tables, where diners can sample ever-changing and innovative menus.

• Restaurants with a view

There are plenty of chichi rooftop restaurants with spectacular views of the urban sprawl - expect European prices at these modern and chic venues.

For top-notch cuisine in an upmarket atmosphere, dine at **Topaz**. Located at Gumussuyu, overlooking the Bosphorus, the restaurant offers breathtaking views and excellent food and service. Fusing Mediterranean and Ottoman cuisines, the mouth-watering menu has the magical touch of the guest chefs from different Mediterranean countries.

Mikla is a sleek restaurant serving Mediterranean fare with a Scandinavian twist. The setting on a lush rooftop offers fabulous views.

Beyoglu
Tel: +90 (212) 245 0362

Sunset Istanbul (\$\$\$)
Adnan Saygun Caddesi, Yol
Sokak No:2,
Ulus Parki, Ulus
Tel: +90 (212) 287 0357/58
www.sunsetgrillbar.com

Topaz (\$\$\$)
Inonu Caddesi No:50
Gumussuyu
Tel: +90 (212) 249 10 01
www.topazistanbul.com

Vogue (\$\$\$)
Spor Caddesi No:92
BJK Plaza A Blok No:13
Akaretler
Tel: +90 (212) 227 2545
www.istanbuldoors.com

Another sleek rooftop dining option is local favourite **Leb-i Derya** in Beyoglu. Housed at the top floor of a scruffy building, the restaurant has a warm and friendly atmosphere. The menu contains Turkish dishes and seafood.



Topaz



Sunset

Book a table on the terrace at **Sunset**, which boasts stunning views over the Bosphorous thanks to its location in the hills above the city. The menu is a safe mix of Turkish and international dishes, including sushi.

Also serving sushi with a good dose of glamour to boot, **Vogue** boasts an impressive Bosphorus view. It's also a good place to see the town's glitterati.

- **Chic eating near the waterfront**



Mangerie



Mangerie



Abracadabra



House Cafe

The villagey neighbourhood of Bebek, along the Bosphorous, is a great spot for restaurants - our favourite being **Mangerie**, all whitewashed interiors, mix-and-match vintage furniture, quirky mirrors and design lighting. Food is top-notch, including innovative salads and fresh juices. Book a table on the veranda in summer. It's tucked up on the fourth floor above Lulu's Cafe on Cevdet Pasa Street.

In nearby Kurugesme, top quality restaurants include **Pafuli** - a must for

foodies, specialising in Black Sea cooking such as sardine cornbread.

WGSN loved the quirky retro vibe of **Abracadabra**, with its mismatched retro furniture and colourful tiles. As chef Dilara Erbay puts it, the place is "a creative food company" - expect Turkish flavours served in innovative ways.

No visit to Istanbul is complete without a meal at **House Café**, which has several super-stylish branches across the city. We particularly love the Bosphorous outpost in Ortakoy with its large decked terrace and quirky furniture - go for Sunday brunch and sample the refreshing mint cooler.

Der Die Das cafe is a great spot for a long lunch or drinks - its pretty courtyard is adorned with colourful mosaics, cushions and flowers.

• **Sultanahmet: traditional food in the old city**

If you're looking for somewhere to eat near the ancient sites, try **Sabahattin**. This upmarket fish restaurant has a cosy old-fashioned feel and is renowned for its food.

For what is quite possibly the best kebab in town, head to **Hamdi**, located close to the Egyptian bazaar which has a large terrace with views over the Golden Horn.



Grilled sweetcorn on the street



Hamdi



Sabahattin



Sabahattin

• **Nightlife**

Down by the water, Kurucesme's Muallim Naci Street becomes the busiest part of town during summer weekends. The most popular and notable clubs here are **Blackk**, **Sortie**, **Reina** and **Sapphire**. To soak up Istanbul's social scene, go for dinner and stay till late.

Where to stay

• **Boutique hotels**