

# OLD İSTANBUL €35

## GUIDED WALKING TOUR



### HALF DAY MORNING TOUR

(The cost is 20€ per person)

Pick up from your hotel about 08.30 am  
You will visit

- Topkapı Palace
- Sultan's Harrem
- Blue Mosque
- Roman Hippodrome



### FREE TIME FOR LUNCH

### HALF DAY AFTERNOON TOUR

(The cost is 20€ per person)

Pick up from your hotel about 13.00  
You will visit

- Hagia Sophia Museum
- Basilica Cistern  
(Underground Water Palace)
- Historic Ottoman Cemetery
- Çemberlitaş (Burnt Column)
- Grand Bazaar



### FULL DAY DISCOUNTED PRICE

\*\*\*\*\*35 € PP\*\*\*\*\*

*Turkey* Recommended by  
**TURKEY TRAVEL PLANNER**  
Tom Bronaban

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Backpackers Travel offers excellent value-for-money half- and full-day small-group guided walking tours of Istanbul's major historical sights. It may just be the most efficient way to see all the main sights in a single day (including even the Grand Bazaar). The full-day tour is actually two half-day tours. You can choose to take the morning tour, the afternoon tour, or both tours for a full day of sightseeing. The morning tour starts with pick up about 08:30 am from your hotel and visits Topkapı Palace, the Sultanahmet (Blue) Mosque, and the Hippodrome. You're picked up from your hotel around 13:00 (1 pm) for the afternoon tour, which begins with a visit to Ayasofya (Hagia Sophia), followed by visits to the Milion stone, the Basilica (Sunken Palace) Cistern (Yerebatan Saray Sarıncı), Ottoman imperial tombs on Divan Yolu, Burnt Column (Çemberlitas) and the Grand Bazaar (Kapalı Çarşı). The tour ends around 16:30 (4:30 pm) in the Grand Bazaar, allowing you time to wander and/or shop on your own. Compare that list of sights to any other walking tour, and you'll see the Backpackers Travel difference—and the value. Now here's the kicker: the full-day tour fee is only €35 (35 euros) per person. If you want to participate for only half a day (morning or afternoon), you pay only €20. How do they do it? Well, first of all, the tour fee pays for the licensed guide's guidance and commentary—and that's all. Admission fees and lunch are not included. You get to choose which admissions you wish to pay, and where you wish to have lunch. Here are estimates: Topkapı Palace: TL20 (+TL15 for the Harem, if you wish) Hagia Sophia & Gallery: TL20 Basilica Cistern: TL10 Sultanahmet (Blue) Mosque: no charge, donations accepted (There is no admission fee for the Milion, imperial tombs, Burnt Column or Grand Bazaar.) If TL2.20 = €1.00 (check exchange rates here), that means admission fees add about €25 per person to your sightseeing bill if you choose to visit them all. For lunch, it's free time, you choose whatever you'd like for lunch, or you can bring your own picnic and have it while sitting on a bench in the Hippodrome—your choice. Let me emphasize this: it's not just that you pay less with Backpackers than on many other guided tours, it's that you see more: more sights and more time to see them. For example, many tours don't allow time for you to explore the Harem at Topkapı Palace; and some—especially those that take you to the Grand Bazaar—schedule tour stops at particular shops. The entire tour group goes into the shop, sits for an hour or so, inspects the goods, and the tour operator is paid a commission on purchases made by tour participants. Nothing wrong with this, except that prices may be higher and...you're sitting in a shop rather than seeing the sights! Why pay a tour company a fee for shopping? You can go shopping on your own. You don't need to pay a tour company to park you in a shop for an hour. More... Your Backpackers guide will make suggestions if you ask, and can introduce you to good shops if you like, but you won't be parked in a shop for an hour when you should be out seeing the sights. Backpackers Travel's Old Istanbul Guided Walking Tour operates every day, though you must keep in mind that Hagia Sophia is closed on Monday, and Topkapı Palace is closed on Tuesday.



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