



İstanbul

**“All you’ve got to do is decide to go
and the hardest part is over.**

So go!”

TONY WHEELER, COFOUNDER – LONELY PLANET

THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Virginia Maxwell

Contents

Plan Your Trip

4

Welcome to İstanbul4	If You Like18	Eating26
İstanbul's Top 106	Month by Month21	Drinking & Nightlife31
What's New13	With Kids23	Shopping34
Need to Know14	Like a Local24	Hamams & Spas38
Top Itineraries16	For Free25	

Explore İstanbul

40

Neighbourhoods at a Glance42	Western Districts102	Üsküdar146
Sultanahmet & Around44	Beyoğlu113	Ferry Trips from İstanbul150
Bazaar District83	Beşiktaş, Ortaköy & Kuruçeşme139	Sleeping165

Understand İstanbul

175

İstanbul Today176	History178	İstanbul on Page & Screen192
	Architecture186	

Survival Guide

197

Transport198	Language208
Directory A–Z203	Index219

İstanbul Maps

228



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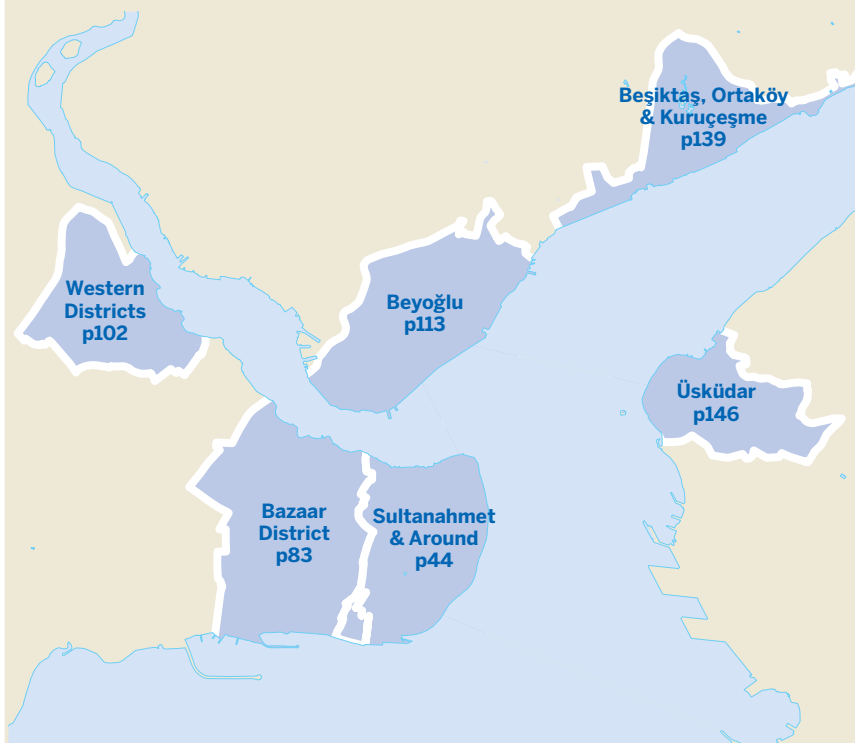
(left) **Grand Bazaar**
p85 Colourful lamps
for sale

(above) **Beyoğlu p113**
Traditional *meyhane*
(Turkish tavern)

(right) **Aya Sofya p46**
Colourful decoration
inside



GEORGE TSAFOS/GETTY IMAGES ©



Explore İstanbul

Neighbourhoods at a Glance.....42

Sultanahmet & Around.....44

Top Sights.....46

Sights.....69

Eating.....76

Drinking & Nightlife.....79

Entertainment.....80

Shopping.....80

Activities.....81

Bazaar District.....83

Top Sights.....85

Sights.....91

Eating.....94

Drinking & Nightlife.....97

Shopping.....99

Activities.....101

Western Districts...102

Top Sights.....104

Sights.....107

Eating & Drinking.....110

Beyoğlu.....113

Top Sights.....115

Sights.....117

Eating.....124

Drinking & Nightlife.....131

Entertainment.....135

Shopping.....136

Activities.....138

Beşiktaş, Ortaköy & Kuruçeşme.....139

Top Sights.....141

Sights.....142

Eating.....143

Drinking & Nightlife.....144

Entertainment.....144

Shopping.....145

Activities.....145

Üsküdar.....146

Sights.....148

Eating & Drinking.....149

Ferry Trips from İstanbul.....150

The Bosphorus.....151

The Golden Horn.....159

Princes' Islands.....162

Sleeping.....165



İSTANBUL'S TOP SIGHTS

Aya Sofya	46
Topkapı Palace	53
Blue Mosque.....	64
Istanbul Archaeology Museums	66
Basilica Cistern	68
Grand Bazaar	85
Süleymaniye Mosque.....	88
Spice Bazaar	90
Kariye Museum (Chora Church)	104
İstiklal Caddesi	115
İstanbul Modern.....	116
Dolmabahçe Palace.....	141



Istanbul Maps

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Buddhist
- Castle
- Christian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery
- Ruin
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo
- Other Sight

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Sports & Activities

- Diving/Snorkelling
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Skiing
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Sports & Activities

Information

- Post Office
- Tourist Information

Transport

- Airport
- Border Crossing
- Bus
- Cable Car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Monorail
- Parking
- S-Bahn
- Taxi
- Train/Railway
- Tram
- Tube Station
- U-Bahn
- Underground Train Station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed Road
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian Overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour Detour
- Path

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Geographic

- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Hydrography

- River/Creek
- Intermittent River
- Swamp/Mangrove
- Reef
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Glacier

Areas

- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Park/Forest
- Sportsground
- Sight (Building)
- Top Sight (Building)

MAP INDEX

- 1 Sultanahmet & Around – North (p44)
- 2 Sultanahmet & Around – South (p44)
- 3 Bazaar District (p83)
- 4 Beyoğlu – Northeast (p113)
- 5 Beyoğlu – Southwest (p113)
- 6 Beşiktaş, Ortaköy & Kuruceme (p139)
- 7 Western Districts (p102)
- 8 Üsküdar (p146)
- 9 Kariye Museum (p104)





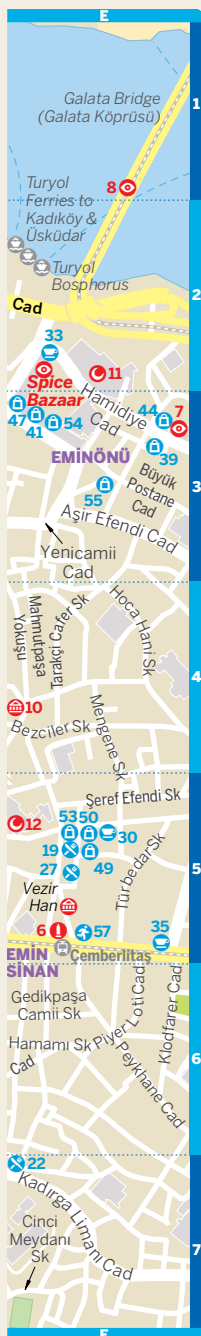
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Top Sights (p46)</p> <p>Aya Sofya B4</p> <p>Basilica Cistern B4</p> <p>Istanbul Archaeology Museums C3</p> <p>Topkapı Palace C3</p> | <p>Eating (p76)</p> <p>Caferağa Medresesi Lokanta & Çay Bahçesi (see 24)</p> <p>9 Cihannüma B4</p> <p>10 Fasuli Lokantaları A2</p> <p>Hafız Mustafa (see 10)</p> <p>11 Hocapaşa Pidecisi A2</p> <p>12 Karakol Restaurant C4</p> <p>13 Konyalı Lokantası A2</p> <p>Matbah (see 24)</p> <p>14 Paşazade B3</p> <p>15 Sefa Restaurant A4</p> | <p>Sports & Activities (p82)</p> <p>18 Aya İrini C4</p> <p>19 Cağaloğlu Hamamı A3</p> |
| <p>Sights (p69)</p> <p>1 Alay Köşkü B3</p> <p>2 Caferağa Medresesi B4</p> <p>3 Fountain of Sultan Ahmet III C4</p> <p>4 Gülhane Park B3</p> <p>5 Imperial Gate C4</p> <p>6 Istanbul Museum of the History of Science & Technology in Islam B2</p> <p>7 Soğukçeşme Sokak C4</p> <p>8 Sublime Porte B3</p> | <p>Drinking & Nightlife (p80)</p> <p>16 Kybele Cafe B4</p> <p>17 Set Üstü Çay Bahçesi... D2</p> | <p>Sleeping (p168)</p> <p>20 Agora Life Hotel A3</p> <p>And Hotel (see 9)</p> <p>21 Ayasofya Konakları C4</p> <p>22 Cheers Hostel B4</p> <p>23 Neorion Hotel B2</p> <p>24 Ottoman Hotel Imperial B4</p> <p>25 Sirkeci Konak B3</p> |
| | <p>Entertainment (p80)</p> <p>Hocapaşa Culture Centre (see 11)</p> | |

SULTANAHMET & AROUND - SOUTH *Map on p232*

	Top Sights	(p64)	31 Cocoon.....D5
	Blue Mosque	D4	32 Galeri KayseriB1
	Sights	(p69)	33 Iznik Classics & Tiles.....E4
	1 Aya Sofya Tombs	F2	34 Jennifer's Hamam.....E5
	2 Great Palace Mosaic Museum.....	E5	35 KhaftanC5
	3 Hippodrome.....	C3	36 Mehmet Çetinkaya Gallery.....D5
	4 Kaiser Wilhelm's Fountain	D2	37 TuluB4
	5 Lâle Pastanesi (Pudding Shop).....	D2	38 Yılmaz Ipekçilik.....H4
	6 Little Aya Sofya.....	A6	
	7 Marmara University Republican Museum	B4	
	8 Museum of Turkish & Islamic Arts.....	C3	Sports & Activities
	9 Nakkaş.....	C5	(p81)
	10 Obelisk of Theodosius.....	C4	39 Ambassador Spa.....D1
	11 Rough-Stone Obelisk	C4	40 Ayasofya Hürrem Sultan Hamamı.....F2
	12 Sokollu Şehit Mehmet Paşa Mosque.....	A4	41 İstanbul Walks.....C5
	13 Sphendone.....	C5	42 Les Arts Turcs.....D1
	14 Spiral Column	C4	Müzenin Kahvesi.....(see 8)
	15 Tomb of Sultan Ahmet I.....	D3	43 Urban Adventures.....D1
	Eating	(p76)	
	16 Ahırkapı Balıkçısı	F6	Sleeping
	17 Balıkçı Sabahattin	G5	(p168)
	18 Çiğdem Pastanesi	B1	44 Acra Hotel.....F5
	19 Cooking Alaturka.....	F5	45 Bahaus Hostel.....F4
	20 Hafız Mustafa.....	D2	46 Dersaadet Hotel.....D6
	21 Karadeniz Aile Pide ve Kebap Salonu	C1	47 Emine Sultan Hotel.....D6
	22 Teras Restaurant.....	H5	48 Erten Konak.....E6
	Drinking & Nightlife	(p79)	49 Grand Peninsula.....G4
	23 Cafe Meşale	E4	50 Hanedan Hotel.....G3
	24 Denizen Coffee	B4	51 Hotel Alp
	25 Derviş Aile Çay Bahçesi.....	E3	G3
	26 Hotel Nomade Terrace Bar.....	D1	52 Hotel Empress Zoe.....G3
	27 Yeni Marmara	C6	53 Hotel Ibrahim Pasha
	28 Yeşil Ev	F3	B4
	Shopping	(p80)	Hotel Nomade.....(see 26)
	29 Arasta Bazaar	E4	54 Hotel Peninsula.....G3
	30 Cankurtaran Produce Market.....	C5	55 Hotel Şebnem.....G3
			56 Hotel Uyan İstanbul.....F3
			57 Marmara Guesthouse.....G3
			58 Metropolis Hostel.....G4
			59 Motif Apartments.....G3
			60 Sarı Konak Hotel.....F5
			61 Sultans Royal Hotel.....C6
			62 Tan Hotel.....C1

The map displays the Sultanahmet district in Istanbul, Turkey, with a grid system (E-H, 1-7). Key landmarks include Aya Sofya, Sultanahmet Archaeological Park, and the Bosphorus. Numbered bus stops are marked with blue icons and numbers. The map also shows major streets like Alemdar Cad, Kabasakal Cad, and Cankurtaran Cad. The Bosphorus (Boğaziçi) is visible at the bottom right.





- Top Sights (p85)**
- Grand Bazaar D5
 - Spice Bazaar E2
 - Süleymaniye Mosque C3
- Sights (p91)**
- 1 Aqueduct of Valens A3
 - 2 Beyazıt Meydanı C5
 - 3 Beyazıt Mosque C5
 - 4 Beyazıt Tower C4
 - 5 Büyük Valide Han D4
 - 6 Çemberlitaş E5
 - 7 Fourth Vakıf Han E3
 - 8 Galata Bridge E1
 - 9 İstanbul University C3
 - 10 Mahmutpaşa Hamamı E4
 - 11 New Mosque E2
 - 12 Nuruosmaniye Mosque E5
 - 13 Rüstem Paşa Mosque D2
 - 14 Şehzade Mehmet Mosque.. A4
 - 15 Tombs of Süleyman and Roxelana C3
- Eating (p94)**
- 16 Bahar Restaurant D5
 - 17 Burç Ocakbaşı D4
 - 18 Dönerci Şahin Usta D5
 - 19 Fes Cafe E5
 - Fes Cafe (see 29)
 - 20 Hamdi Restaurant D2
 - 21 Havuzlu Restaurant D4
 - 22 İmren Lokantası E7
 - 23 Kanaat Fasulyeci C3
 - 24 Kara Mehmet D4
 - 25 Kuru Fasulyeci Erzincanlı Ali Baba C3
 - 26 Namli D2
 - Nar Lokantası (see 30)
 - 27 Onur Et Lokantası E5
- Drinking & Nightlife (p97)**
- 28 Erenler Çay Bahçesi D5
 - 29 Ethem Tezçakar Kahveci D5
 - 30 Kahve Dünyası E5
 - 31 Kahve Dünyası D2
- Shopping (p99)**
- Abdulla Natural Products (see 19)
 - 37 Abdulla Natural Products ... D5
 - 38 Ak Gümüş D5
 - 39 Ali Muhiddin Hacı Bekir E3
 - 40 Armine D3
 - 41 Arslan Baharat E3
 - Cocoon (see 37)
 - Derviş (see 29)
 - 42 Derviş D5
 - 43 Dhoku D5
 - EthniCon (see 43)
 - 44 Hafız Mustafa E3
 - 45 Koç Deri Leather D5
 - 46 Kurukahveci Mehmet Efendi D3
 - 47 Malatya Pazarı E3
 - Mehmet Kalmaz Baharat (see 54)
 - Muhlis Günbattı (see 17)
 - 48 Sahaflar Çarşısı C5
 - Serhat Geridönmez (see 37)
 - 49 Sevan Bıçakçı E5
 - 50 Silk & Cashmere E5
 - 51 Silk & Cashmere D5
 - 52 Şişko Osman D4
 - 53 Sofa E5
 - 54 Ucuzcular Baharat E3
 - 55 Vakko İndirim E3
 - 56 Yazmacı Necdet Danış D4
- Sports & Activities (p101)**
- 57 Çemberlitaş Hamamı E5
 - 58 Gedikpaşa Hamamı D6
- Sleeping (p169)**
- 59 Saruhan Hotel D7
- Other Points of Interest:**
- 32 Lale Bahçesi B3
 - 33 Pandeli E2
 - 34 Şark Kahvesi D5
 - 35 Türk Ocağı Kültür ve Sanat Merkezi İktisadi İşletmesi Çay Bahçesi E5
 - 36 Vefa Bozacısı A3





BEYOĞLU - NORTHEAST *Map on p236*

📍 Top Sights

(p115)

İstiklal Caddesi.....C5

📍 Sights

(p117)

- 1 Akbank Art Centre.....D4
- 2 ARTER.....B7
- 3 Atatürk Cultural Centre.....F4
- 4 Atatürk Library.....G2
- 5 Avrupa Pasajı.....B5
- 6 Balık Pazarı.....B5
- 7 Çiçek Pasajı.....B5
- 8 Firuz Ağa Camii.....D6
- 9 Galatasaray Lycée.....C6
- 10 Galeri Apeli.....C6
- 11 Galeri Nev.....B6
- 12 Galerist.....A6
- 13 Pera Museum.....A6
- 14 Pera Palace Hotel.....A7
- 15 SALT Beyoğlu.....B6
- 16 Taksim Meydanı.....E3

🍴 Eating

(p124)

- 17 Asmalı Canım Ciğirim.....A7
- 18 Brasserie La Brise.....A7
- 19 Changa.....E5
- 20 Çokçok.....A6
- 21 Datlı Maya.....D6
- 22 Demeti.....E7
- 23 Enstitü.....A6
- 24 Feraye.....C5
- 25 Gani Gani Şark Sofras.....D5
- 26 Hacı Abdullah.....C4
- 27 Jash.....F6
- 28 Kafe Ara.....B6
- 29 Kallavi.....D4
- 30 Kitchenette.....E4
- 31 Medi Şark Sofrası.....D5
- 32 Meze by Lemon Tree.....A7
- 33 Midpoint.....B6
- Mikla.....(see 76)
- 34 Saray Muhallebicisi.....C5
- Zencefil.....(see 35)
- 35 Zübeyir Ocakbaşı.....D4

🍷 Drinking & Nightlife

(p131)

- 360.....(see 11)
- 36 5 Kat.....E6
- 37 Araf.....C4
- 38 Bigudi Cafe.....D4
- 39 Büyük Londra Oteli Bar.....A6
- Cafe Susam.....(see 22)
- 40 Club 17.....D4

- 41 Dogzstar.....C5
- 42 Hazzo Pulo Çay Bahçesi.....B5
- 43 Indigo.....B6
- 44 Jolly Joker.....C5
- 45 Kiki.....E5
- 46 Litera.....B6
- 47 Manda Batmaz.....B6
- Mikla.....(see 76)
- 48 MiniMüzikHol.....E6
- 49 Münferit.....C6
- NuTeras.....(see 12)
- 50 Off Pera.....A6
- 51 Perla Kallâvi Nargile Cafe.....B6
- 52 Tek Yön.....E5
- 53 Urban.....C5
- 54 White Mill.....E7

🎭 Entertainment

(p135)

- 55 Garajistanbul.....B6
- 56 Munzur Cafe & Bar.....D5
- 57 Toprak.....D5

🛍 Shopping

(p136)

- 58 A La Turca.....D5
- 59 Ali Muhiddin Hacı Bekir.....D4
- 60 Beyoğlu Olgunlaşma Enstitüsü.....D4
- 61 Denizler Kitabevi.....B7
- 62 İstanbul Kitapçısı.....B6
- 63 La Cave Wine Shop.....D6
- 64 Leyla Eski Eşya Pazarlama.....D6
- 65 Mariposa.....E7
- 66 Mephisto.....C5
- 67 Pandora.....D4
- Paşabahçe.....(see 73)
- 68 Petek Turşuları.....B5
- 69 Reşat Balık Market.....B5
- 70 Robinson Crusoe.....B6
- 71 Sütte Şarküteri.....B5
- 72 Tarihi Beyoğlu Ekmek Fırını.....B5
- 73 Tezgah Alley.....B7
- Üç Yıldız Şekerleme.....(see 71)

🏊 Sports & Activities

(p138)

- 74 Ağa Hamamı.....D5
- Cumhuriyet Anıtı (Republic Monument).....(see 16)
- Istanbul Culinary Institute.....(see 23)

🛏 Sleeping

(p171)

- 75 Chambers of the Boheme.....D5
- 76 Marmara Pera.....A6
- Pera Palace Hotel.....(see 14)

BEYOĞLU - SOUTHWEST *Map on p240*

📍 Top Sights

İstanbul Modern..... F3

📍 Sights

- (p116)
- 1 Arab Mosque.....B4
- 2 Azapkapı Sokollu Mehmet Paşa Camii.....A4
- 3 Botter House.....C2
- 4 Christ Church.....D3
- 5 Depo.....E3
- 6 Galata Mevlevi Museum.....C2
- 7 Galata Tower.....C4
- 8 Jewish Museum of Turkey.....C5
- 9 Kasa Galeri.....C4
- 10 Museum of Innocence.....E1
- 11 Patisserie Lebon.....C2
- 12 SALT Galata.....C4
- 13 Schneidertempel Art Center.....C4

🍴 Eating

- (p124)
- 14 Antiochia.....C2
- 15 Asmalı Cavit.....C1
- Ca' d'Oro.....(see 12)
- 16 Fasuli Lokantaları.....F3
- 17 Füreyya Galata Balıkçısı.....C3
- 18 Galata House.....C4
- 19 Galata Konak Patisserie Cafe.....C4
- 20 Güney Restaurant.....C3
- 21 Helvetia Lokanta.....C2
- 22 İstanbul Modern Cafe/Restaurant.....F3
- 23 Journey.....F1
- 24 Karaköy Güllüoğlu.....D5
- 25 Karaköy Lokantası.....E4
- 26 Kiva Han.....C3
- 27 Lokanta Maya.....E4
- 28 Namlı.....D5
- 29 Sofyalı 9.....C2
- 30 The House Café.....C2

🍷 Drinking & Nightlife

- (p131)
- 31 Atölye Kuledibi.....C4
- 32 Baylo.....C2

- 33 Cafe Gündoğdu.....C4
- 34 Le Fumoir.....D3
- 35 Leb-i Derya.....D2
- 36 Leb-i Derya Richmond.....D2
- 37 Mavra.....D3
- 38 Sensus Wine Bar.....C3
- 39 Smyrna.....F1
- 40 Tophane Nargile Cafes.....F3
- 41 Waterfront Çay Bahçesi.....H2
- 42 X Bar.....B2

🎭 Entertainment

- (p135)
- 43 Babylon.....C2
- Galata Mevlevi Museum.....(see 6)
- 44 Nardis Jazz Club.....C4
- Salon.....(see 42)

🛍 Shopping

- (p136)
- 45 Artrium.....C2
- 46 Arzu Kaprol.....C3
- 47 Bahar Korçan.....C3
- 48 Berrin Akyüz.....G1
- 49 Dear East.....D3
- 50 Hammam.....C4
- 51 İroni.....C4
- 52 İstanbul Modern Gift Shop.....F3
- 53 Lâl.....C4
- 54 Lale Plak.....C2
- 55 Selda Okutan.....E4
- 56 SİR.....D2

🛏 Sleeping

- (p171)
- Anemon Galata.....(see 38)
- 57 Ansen Suites.....C2
- 58 Beş Oda.....D2
- 59 Galatea Residence.....D2
- 60 Manzara İstanbul.....C3
- 61 Serdar-ı Ekrem 59.....D2
- 62 TomTom Suites.....D1
- 63 Witt İstanbul Hotel.....F2
- 64 World House Hostel.....C3

Key on p239

BEYOĞLU SOUTHWEST







Top Sights

Dolmabahçe Palace A5

Sights

- 1 Çırağan Palace D4
 2 Hatice Sultan Yalı G2
 3 Naval Museum B5
 4 Ortaköy Mosque G3
 5 Tomb of Barbarossa C4
 6 Yıldız Park D2

(p141)

Eating

- 7 Banyan F3
 House Cafe (see 7)
 8 Kitchenette F3
 9 Vogue A4
 Zuma (see 17)

(p143)

Drinking & Nightlife

- Anjelique (see 17)
 10 Çırağan Palace Kempinski Hotel D4

(p144)



BEŞİKTAŞ ORTAKÖY

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|---|----------|
| 11 Reina | G2 | Sports & Activities (p145) | |
| 12 Sortie | H1 | Bosphorus Tours | (see 4) |
| 13 Supperclub | G2 | Four Seasons Istanbul at the Bosphorus | (see 16) |
| Entertainment (p144) | | Sleeping (p173) | |
| 14 İstanbul Jazz Center | F3 | 16 Four Seasons Istanbul at the Bosphorus | D4 |
| Shopping (p145) | | House Hotel | (see 7) |
| 15 Haremliques | B4 | 17 Radisson Blu Bosphorus Hotel | F3 |

WESTERN DISTRICTS



- Top Sights** (p104)
- Kariye Museum (Chora Church) B3
- Sights** (p107)
- 1 Church of St Mary of the Mongols D4
- 2 Church of St Stephen of the Bulgars D3
- 3 Fethiye Museum C4
- 4 Mihrimah Sultan Hamamı A4
- 5 Mihrimah Sultan Mosque A4
- 6 Palace of Constantine
Porphyrogenitus B2
- 7 Patriarchal Church of St George D3
- 8 Sultan Selim Mosque D4
- Eating** (p110)
- 9 Asitane B3
- 10 Köftecisi Amavut D3
- 11 Tarihi Haliç İşkembecisi D3

ÜSKÜDAR



Sights

(p148)

- 1 Atik Valide Mosque..... D3
- 2 Ayazma Mosque..... B2
- 3 Çini Mosque..... E3
- 4 Kız Kulesi..... A3
- 5 Mithrinh Sultan Mosque..... C1
- 6 Şemsî Ahmed Paşa Mosque..... B1
- 7 Yeni Valide Mosque..... C2

Eating

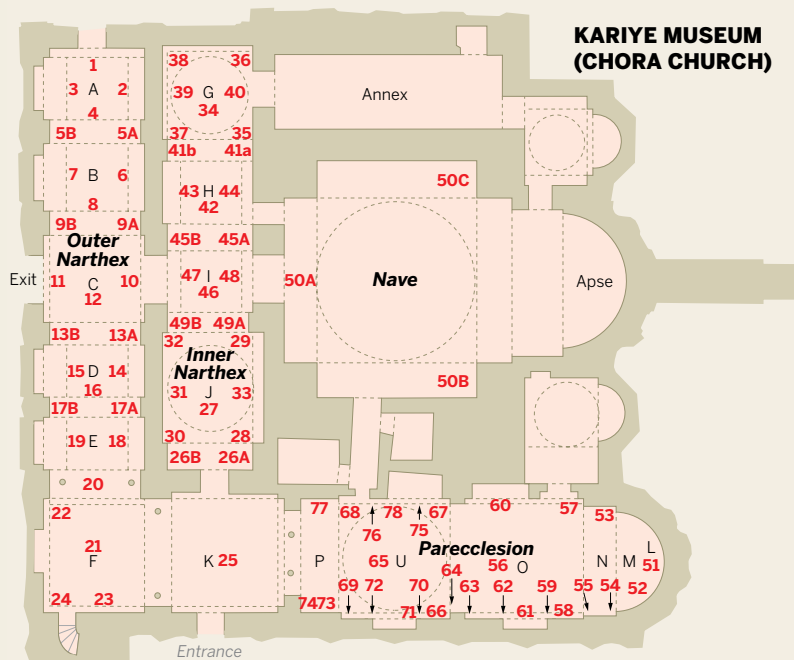
(p149)

- 8 Kanaat Lokantası..... C1

Drinking & Nightlife

(p149)

- 9 Mistanbul Hancı Cafe..... B1

KARIYE MUSEUM
(CHORA CHURCH)

🕒 Mosaics

- 1 The voyage of the Virgin to Bethlehem & the dream of Joseph
- 2 The census held for the enrolment for taxation & registration of Mary & Joseph in the presence of Cyrenius, Governor of Syria
- 3 Jesus going with Mary & Joseph to Jerusalem
- 4 Remains of mosaics – Jesus among the doctors in the temple
- 5A St Trachos
- 5B St Andronikus
- 6 The birth of Jesus
- 7 The return of the Virgin Mary with Jesus
- 8 The attempts of Satan to deceive Jesus
- 9A St Georgios
- 9B St Demetrius
- 10 Jesus & the inscription 'the dwelling-place of the living'
- 11 The prayer of the Virgin & the attendant angels
- 12 The wedding at Cana & the miracles
- 13A Depiction of the saints
- 13B Depiction of the saints
- 14 The Magi on their way to Jerusalem riding on horseback & the three Magi in audience with King Herod
- 15 Elizabeth & John the Baptist running away from a pursuing soldier
- 16 Remains of mosaics
- 17A Depiction of the saints
- 17B Depiction of the saints
- 18 The scene of King Herod's investigation & a guard standing
- 19 The mourning mothers
- 20 No mosaics left
- 21 A decorative medallion
- 22 The meeting of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well
- 23 The healing of a paralysed person by Jesus
- 24 King Herod giving the order for the massacre of the innocents & the execution thereof
- 25 Remains of mosaics
- 26A The healing by Jesus of a young man with an injured arm
- 26B The healing by Jesus of leprosy man
- 27 Twenty-four of the early ancestors of Jesus (Genealogy of Christ)
- 28 The healing by Jesus of a woman asking for the restoration of her health
- 29 The healing by Jesus of the mother-in-law of St Peter
- 30 The healing by Jesus of a deaf person

- 31 Dispersion of good health by Jesus to the people
- 32 The healing by Jesus of two blind men
- 33 The Khalke Jesus & the praying Virgin
- 34 The Virgin & the Child Jesus
- 35 Joachim in the mountains praying to have a child
- 36 No mosaics left
- 37 The breaking of the good news of the birth of Jesus to Mary – The Annunciation
- 38 The chief priest Zacchariah judging the Virgin
- 39 Mary & Joseph bidding each other farewell
- 40 The breaking of the good news of the birth of Mary to Anne
- 41A The meeting of Anne & Joachim
- 41B Joseph bringing the Virgin into his house
- 42 Mary in the arms of Anne & Joachim & the blessing by the priests
- 43 Giving of the stick with young shoots indicating Joseph as Mary's fiancé
- 44 The birth of the Virgin Mary
- 45A The first seven steps of the Virgin & below, St Peter
- 45B The prayer of the chief priest Zacchariah in front of the 12 sticks
- 46 The presentation of Mary (age three) to the temple by her parents
- 47 The Virgin taking the skeins of wool to weave the veil for the temple
- 48 Theodore Metochites presenting a small model of the church to Jesus
- 49A The feeding of the Virgin by an angel & below, St Peter
- 49B Remains of mosaics – Directives given to the Virgin at the temple
- 50A The Assumption of the Virgin
- 50B Mary & the Child Jesus
- 50C Jesus in a standing posture, holding the Bible in his hand
- 51 The Anastasis
- 52 The Church Fathers
- 53 The raising (resurrection) of the widow's son)
- 54 The healing of the daughter of Jairus
- 55 The Virgin Elousa
- 56 The Last Judgment
- 57 Abraham & the beggar Lazarus on his lap
- 58 St George
- 59 Rich man burning in Hell's fire
- 60 Those entering Heaven & the Angel Seraphim with the semi-nude good thief.
- 61 Depiction of Andronikus II & his family & the inscription & depiction above of Makarios Tornikes & his wife Eugenia
- 62 The Bearing of the Ark of the Covenant
- 63 St Demetrius
- 64 St Theodore Tiro
- 65 Mary & Child Jesus with the 12 attending angels
- 66 Four Gospel Writers (Hymnographers): St Cosmos
- 67 Four Gospel Writers (Hymnographers): St John of Damascene
- 68 Four Gospel Writers (Hymnographers): St Theophanes
- 69 Four Gospel Writers (Hymnographers): St Joseph
- 70 St Theodore Stratelates
- 71 King Solomon & the Israelites
- 72 Placement into the temple of the Ark of the Covenant
- 73 The combat of an angel with the Asurians in the outskirts of Jerusalem.
- 74 St Procopios, St Sabas Stratelates
- 75 Moses in the bushes
- 76 Jacob's ladder & the angels
- 77 Aaron & his sons carrying votive offerings, in front of the altar
- 78 St Samonas & guiras



Our Story

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

Our Writer



Virginia Maxwell

Although based in Australia, Virginia spends much of her year researching guidebooks in the Mediterranean countries. Of these, Turkey is unquestionably her favourite. As well as working on the previous three editions of this city guide, she is also the author of Lonely Planet's *Istanbul* pocket guide and the Istanbul chapter of Lonely Planet's *Turkey* guide, and she writes about the city for a host of international magazines and websites. Virginia usually travels with partner

Peter and son Max, who have grown to love Turkey as much as she does.

Read more about Virginia at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/viriniamaxell

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

7th edition – February 2013

ISBN 978 1 74179 961 3

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

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Top Itineraries

Day One

Sultanahmet & Around



Head to Aya Sofya Meydanı (Square) and work out which of the museums and mosques in the immediate area will be on your visiting list. Don't miss **Aya Sofya**, the **Blue Mosque** and the **Basilica Cistern**.



Lunch Cihannüma offers Ottoman dishes and stupendous views.

Sultanahmet & Around



Diverge from the tourist trail and visit some of Sultanahmet's hidden highlights. Source some souvenirs in the historic **Arasta Bazaar**, where you can browse in carpet, handicraft and bathwares shops.



Dinner Hamdi serves delicious kebabs and has magnificent views.

Sultanahmet & Around



After enjoying an early dinner, make your way to Sirkeci, where you can watch dervishes whirl at **Hocapaşa Cultural Centre**, a converted 15th-century hamam. Alternatively, claim a table at **Derviş Aile Çay Bahçesi** or **Cafe Meşale**, where you can enjoy tea, nargile and a free (but very touristy) whirling-dervish performance.

Day Two

Bazaar District



Get ready to explore the city's famous bazaar district. After exploring the labyrinthine lanes and hidden caravanserais of the world-famous **Grand Bazaar**, make your way to the most magnificent of all Ottoman mosques, the **Süleymaniye**.



Lunch Eateries, including Bahar and Onur, surround the Grand Bazaar.

Bazaar District



After lunch, follow the steady stream of local shoppers making their way down the hill to the **Spice Bazaar**. While there, seek out the exquisite **Rüstem Paşa Mosque**, camouflaged in the midst of a busy produce market. As the sun starts to set, walk across the **Galata Bridge** towards the eating and entertainment district of Beyoğlu.



Dinner *Meyhanes* (taverns) and restaurants aplenty in Beyoğlu.

Beyoğlu



Start with a pre-dinner drink in one of Beyoğlu's rooftop bars and then move on to dinner in a *meyhane* (tavern) or a stylish restaurant serving Modern Turkish cuisine. After dinner, kick on to a club or wind down at the **Tophane nargile cafes**.

Day Three

Sultanahmet & Around

 It's time to investigate the lifestyles of the sultans at **Topkapı Palace**. You'll need a half day to explore the palace Harem, marvel at the precious objects in the Treasury and wander through the pavilion-filled grounds.



Lunch Matbah serves Ottoman food in a pleasant garden setting.

Western Districts

 Take the Golden Horn (Haliç) ferry to Ayvansaray and then walk along the historic **land walls** to Edirnekapi so that you can admire the exquisite mosaics and frescoes that adorn almost every surface of **Kariye Museum**, a former Byzantine church. If you're keen to see more mosaics, the **Fethiye Museum** is a short walk away.



Dinner Asmalımescit, in Beyoğlu, has bars and traditional *meyhanes*.

Sultanahmet & the Bazaar District

 You've spent a full day sightseeing, so why not relax in the steamy surrounds of an Ottoman-era **hamam** (Turkish bath) after dinner? Afterwards, head back across the Galata Bridge to Beyoğlu so that you can sample more of its nightlife options.

Day Four

The Bosphorus

 Board the **Uzun Boğaz Turu** (Long Bosphorus Tour) to spend a full day exploring this culturally and architecturally rich waterway. After admiring the historic *yalis* (waterside timber mansions) along its shores, alight from the ferry at Sarıyer and make your way back to town by bus, visiting museums and monuments along the way.



Lunch MüzedeChanga – scenic terrace and Modern Turkish cuisine.

Beyoğlu

 If you decided to take a 90-minute cruise on a Bosphorus excursion boat rather than the full-day trip, you can devote the afternoon to investigating Beyoğlu's exciting contemporary-art scene. Don't miss the **İstanbul Modern** museum and the **ARTER** and **SALT** cultural centres.



Dinner Stylish Lokanta Maya showcases Modern Aegean cooking.

Beyoğlu

 Wander the streets surrounding the **Galata Tower**, admiring the building stock, browsing in boutiques and perhaps enjoying an aperitif. Then move on to Lokanta Maya, a stylish showcase of Modern Aegean cooking in Karaköy, followed by a sweet finale at İstanbul's most famous baklava shop, **Karaköy Güllüoğlu**.

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