



Ferry Trips from İstanbul

The Bosphorus p151

Running from the Galata Bridge all the way to the Black Sea (Karadeniz), 32km north, the mighty Bosphorus Strait is İstanbul's major thoroughfare and has been so since classical times.

The Golden Horn p159

This stretch of water to the north of the Galata Bridge offers visitors a glimpse into the suburbs and lifestyles of working-class İstanbul. Get here before it gentrifies.

Princes' Islands p162

A favourite day-trip destination for İstanbullular, the Adalar (Islands) lie in the Sea of Marmara, about 20km southeast of the city. Come here to escape the sensory overload of the big smoke.

The Bosphorus

Explore

The Bosphorus deserves at least one day of your time; two days (one for each shore) is even better.

For the European Shore take the morning cruise from Eminönü, alighting at Sarıyer and working your way back to Kabataş or Taksim by bus, stopping at the Sadberk Hanım Museum, the Sakıp Sabancı Museum, the fortress at Rumeli Hisarı and the waterside suburbs of Bebek and/or Ortaköy on the way.

Take the morning cruise from Eminönü for the Asian Shore, alight at Anadolu Kavağı and work your way back along that shore by bus, stopping to visit Hıdiv Kasrı, Küçükü Kasrı and Beylerbeyi Palace before getting off the bus at Üsküdar and catching a ferry back to Eminönü, Karaköy or Kabataş.

The Best...

- ➔ **Sight** Beylerbeyi Palace (p152)
- ➔ **Place to Eat** MüzedeChangea (p158)
- ➔ **Place to Drink** Sütüş (p159)

Top Tip

If you buy a return ticket on the Bosphorus Cruise, you'll be forced to spend three hours in the tourist-trap village of Anadolu Kavağı. It's much better to buy a one-way ticket and alight at Sarıyer or at Kanlıca and make your way back to town by bus.

Getting There & Away

Ferry Most day trippers take the Uzun Boğaz Turu (Long Bosphorus Tour) operated by Istanbul Şehir Hatları (Istanbul City Routes). The Bosphorus Excursion Ferry travels the entire length of the strait in a 90-minute one-way trip and departs from the ferry dock at Eminönü daily at 10.35am. From April to October there is usually an extra service at 1.35pm, and during summer there is an extra service at noon. A ticket costs ₺25 return (*çift*), ₺15 one way (*tek yön*). The ferry stops at Beşiktaş, Kanlıca, Sarıyer, Rumeli Kavağı and Anadolu Kavağı (the turnaround point). It is not possible to get on and off the ferry at stops along the way using the same ticket.

The ferry returns from Anadolu Kavağı at 3pm (plus 4.15pm from April to October).

From April to October, Istanbul Şehir Hatları also operates a two-hour Kısa Boğaz Turu (Short Bosphorus Tour) that leaves Eminönü daily at 2.30pm. It travels as far as the Fatih Bridge before returning to Eminönü. Tickets cost ₺10.

There are also occasional commuter ferries that cross the Bosphorus. Useful services include Kanlıca to Emirgan (1.05pm, 4.05pm, 5.20pm); Emirgan to Kanlıca and Bebek (4.15pm) and Anadolu Kavağı to Sarıyer (12 ferries a day from 7.15am to 11pm). Note that some of the services are more frequent on Sundays.

Check www.sehirhatlari.com.tr for timetable and fare updates for all services, as these often change.

Another option is to buy a ticket for a cruise on a private excursion boat. Although these only take you as far as Anadolu Hisarı and back (without stopping), the fact that the boats are smaller means that you travel closer to the shoreline and so are able to see a lot more. The entire trip takes about 90 minutes and tickets cost ₺10. Turyol boats leave from the dock on the western side of the Galata Bridge every hour from 11am to 6pm on weekdays and every 45 minutes or so from 11am to 7.15pm on weekends. Boats operated by other companies leave from near the Boğaz İskelesi.

Bus From Sarıyer, lines 25E and 40 head south to Emirgan. From Emirgan, 22, 22RE and 25E head to Kabataş and 40, 40T and 42T go to Taksim. All travel via Rumeli Hisarı, Bebek, Ortaköy, Yıldız and Beşiktaş.

If you decide to catch the ferry to Anadolu Kavağı and make your way back to town by bus, catch line 15A, which leaves from a square straight ahead from the ferry terminal en route to Kavacık Aktarma. Get off at Kanlıca to visit Hıdiv Kasrı or to transfer to lines 15, 15F or 15P, which will take you south to Üsküdar via the Küçükü Kasrı (for Küçükü Kasrı) and the Beylerbeyi Sarayı stop (for Beylerbeyi).

All bus tickets and commuter ferry trips cost ₺2 (₺1.75 with an İstanbulkart).

Need to Know

- ➔ **Area Codes** ☑212 (European shore) and ☑216 (Asian shore)
- ➔ **Duration** 90 minutes Eminönü to Anadolu Kavağı
- ➔ **Cost** ₺15 one way, ₺25 return