

Bazaar District



Neighbourhood Top Five

- ❶ Enjoying getting lost in the labyrinthine laneways of the world's oldest shopping mall, the glorious **Grand Bazaar** (p88).
- ❷ Shopping in and around the seductively scented **Spice Bazaar** (p93).
- ❸ Viewing the Old City's skyline while walking across the **Galata Bridge** (p94) at sunset.
- ❹ Visiting the remarkably intact *külliye* of the **Süleymaniye Mosque** (p91), the greatest of İstanbul's Ottoman monuments.
- ❺ Lunching with the locals in and around the **Grand Bazaar** (p99).

Explore: Bazaar District

There's loads to see in this district so you'll need to plan your time to make the most of it. Ideally, you should dedicate a full day to the bazaars, starting at the Grand Bazaar in the morning, having lunch and then walking down Mahmutpaşa Yokuşu to the Spice Bazaar and Eminönü.

Another day could be spent following our walking tour (p96). On this you'll visit two important Ottoman mosques and get a taste of local life while lunching at a regional eatery in the Kadınlar Pazarı (Women's Market) near the Roman-era Aqueduct of Valens.

Nothing much is open in this district on Sundays – visit Monday to Saturday only. And try to avoid the mosques at prayer times and from late morning to early afternoon on Friday, when weekly group prayers and sermons are held.

Local Life

➔ **Tahtakale** Locals shop in the streets between the Grand and Spice Bazaars rather than in the bazaars themselves. Head to Mahmutpaşa Yokuşu and Hasırcılar Caddesi to join them.

➔ **Kadınlar Pazarı** This atmospheric square in the Zeyrek neighbourhood is full of regional eateries and produce shops.

➔ **Fish sandwiches** The city's signature fast-food treat is best enjoyed with crowds of locals at the Eminönü ferry docks.

➔ **Nargile** Follow the evocative scent of apple tobacco to discover busy nargile (water pipe) cafes underneath the Galata Bridge or along Divan Yolu Caddesi.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** To get here from Taksim Meydanı (Taksim Sq), take the Yenikapı service and alight at Vezneciler. From the exit, walk left (east) along Şehzadebaşı Caddesi until you reach Beyazıt Meydanı (Beyazıt Sq), next to the Grand Bazaar.

➔ **Tram** The neighbourhood is sliced into north and south by Ordu Caddesi, the western continuation of Divan Yolu Caddesi. The trams from Bağcılar and Cevizlibağ to Kabataş run along this major road, passing through Aksaray, past the Grand Bazaar, across Sultanahmet and then down the hill to Eminönü, where the Spice Bazaar is located.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you are walking to the Grand Bazaar from Sultanahmet, you can avoid the traffic and touts along Divan Yolu Caddesi by instead heading up Yerebatan Caddesi, left into Nuruosmaniye Caddesi, across Cağaloğlu Meydanı, along pedestrianised Nuruosmaniye Caddesi and across Vezir Han Caddesi towards the Nuruosmaniye Mosque.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Develi Baklava (p98)
- ➔ Fatih Damak Pide (p98)
- ➔ Little Urfa (p95)
- ➔ Hamdi Restaurant (p100)
- ➔ Siirt Şeref Büryan Kebap (p98)

For reviews, see p98. ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Abdulla Natural Products (p102)
- ➔ Derviş (p103)
- ➔ Mekhann (p103)
- ➔ Ümit Berksoy (p102)
- ➔ Altan Şekerleme (p103)

For reviews, see p102. ➔

Best Mosque Architecture

- ➔ Süleymaniye Mosque (p91)
- ➔ Rüstem Paşa Mosque (p95)
- ➔ Şehzade Mehmet Mosque (p97)

For reviews, see p91. ➔