

# Beşiktaş, Ortaköy & Kuruçeşme

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Getting a glimpse into the public and private lives of the last Ottoman sultans at **Dolmabahçe Palace** (p143).
- 2 Viewing 19th-century Ottoman painting in a Crown Prince's residence at the **National Palaces Painting Museum** (p144).
- 3 Admiring the ornately decorated 19th-century imperial *caïques* (ornately decorated wooden rowboats) at the recently renovated **Istanbul Naval Museum** (p144).
- 4 Tiptoeing through the tulips and visiting a royal hideaway in **Yıldız Park** (p144).
- 5 Wandering the streets surrounding the waterside *meydanı* (main square) in the former fishing village of **Ortaköy** (p145).



For more detail of this area see Map p250 ➔

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

It can be difficult to get past the door staff at the super-clubs on the Golden Mile if you're not a celebrity or socialite. If you're keen to party with the glitterati, consider making a booking at one of the club restaurants, which should ensure that you get automatic entrance.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Vogue (p145)
- ➔ Zuma (p145)

For reviews, see p145. ➔

### Best Ottoman Palaces

- ➔ Dolmabahçe Palace (p143)
- ➔ Yıldız Şale (p144)
- ➔ Çırağan Palace (p144)

For reviews, see p143. ➔

### Best Museums

- ➔ İstanbul Naval Museum (p144)
- ➔ National Palaces Painting Museum (p144)

For reviews, see p144. ➔

## Explore: Beşiktaş to Kuruçeşme

This part of town has the largest concentration of Ottoman palaces and pavilions in İstanbul, so history and architecture buffs will find it satisfying to spend a day or two exploring. Start by walking to Dolmabahçe Palace from the tram stop at Kabataş, and then walk or bus your way down to Yıldız Park and Çırağan Palace. Be warned, though, that getting back to Kabataş or Taksim by bus or taxi is usually a slow process due to constant traffic jams along Çırağan, Muallim Naci and Kuruçeşme Caddesi.

The waterside suburb of Ortaköy has considerable charm, particularly on warm summer nights when its main square is crowded with locals dining at its waterside restaurants or enjoying an after-dinner coffee and ice cream by the water. It's a good place to kick off an evening of clubbing at the venues along the Golden Mile.

## Local Life

➔ **Picnic in the Park** You don't need to organise a portable BBQ and folding furniture to enjoy an al fresco lunch in popular Yıldız Park (p144; although many locals do).

➔ **İskele Idling** Watch the ferries head in and out of dock while lingering in the **cafes and bars** (Map p250) behind Bahçeşehir University next to the Beşiktaş İskelesi (Beşiktaş Ferry Dock).

➔ **Kümpir** Join the crowds tucking into stuffed potatoes and savoury pancakes from the **stands** (Map p250) behind the Ortaköy Mosque.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Buses** Lines 22, 22RE and 25E travel from Kabataş along Çırağan, Muallim Naci and Kuruçeşme Caddesi and on to the Bosphorus suburbs. Lines 40, 40T and 42T travel from Taksim.

➔ **Ferries** Regular services run between Beşiktaş and the Asian shore. There are also commuter services from Eminönü to Beşiktaş every 10 minutes on weekdays between 5.20pm and 6.55pm, and from Eminönü to Ortaköy at 5.50pm, 6.10pm, 6.30pm and 6.40pm. Unfortunately, there are no return services to Eminönü.