

# Beyoğlu

GALATA | TOPHANE | KARAKÖY | İSTIKLAL | ÇUKURCUMA | CİHANGİR

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Visiting cultural centres such as **İstanbul Modern** (p119), **SALT Beyoğlu** (p126), **ARTER** (p125) and **SALT Galata** (p120) to see why international artists, collectors and critics think that İstanbul has one of the world's most-exciting visual-art scenes.
- 2 Seeing dervishes whirl in a 15th-century *semahane* (whirling-dervish hall) at the **Galata Mevlevi Museum** (p124).
- 3 Admiring Orhan Pamuk's ambitious and thought-provoking conceptual art project, the **Museum of Innocence** (p125).
- 4 Investigating the cafe and bar scenes in **Karaköy**, **Cihangir** and **Asmalimescit** (p134).
- 5 Sampling the sights, smells and flavours in the historic **Balık Pazarı** (p129).



For more detail of this area see Map p244 and p248 →

## Explore: Beyoğlu

If you have the time, it makes sense to spread your exploration of this neighbourhood over two days. The first day could be spent in Tophane, Karaköy, Galata and Tünel, visiting sights such as the İstanbul Modern and wandering around the fascinating streets. The second day could be spent walking from Taksim Meydanı (Taksim Square) along İstiklal Caddesi, veering off into the districts of Cihangir, Çukurcuma, Asmalımescit and Tepebaşı.

If you only have one day, start in Taksim Meydanı and work your way down İstiklal Caddesi, exploring the Balık Pazarı, heading into Tepebaşı to visit the Pera Museum, then making your way through Galata down to Karaköy.

Even if you are staying in another neighbourhood, it makes sense to follow the lead of locals and head here every night for dinner, bar-hopping and clubbing.

## Local Life

➔ **Streetside Cafes** Take a break and enjoy tea at old-fashioned outdoor cafes such as Hazzo Pulo Çay Bahçesi (p135) off İstiklal Caddesi, Kardeşler Cafe in Cihangir and Cafe Gündoğdu in the square below Galata Tower.

➔ **Football & Nargile** If you're in town when a Süper Lig or UEFA match is being played, head to one of the Tophane nargile cafes (p134) to drink tea, smoke a nargile (water pipe) and join the fans in making your team allegiances clear.

➔ **Tea by the Bosphorus** To enjoy a million-dollar view with a cheap glass of tea, try the ramshackle *çay bahçesis* (tea gardens) at the edge of the Bosphorus opposite the Fındıklı tram stop. There's even a kids' playground nearby to make toddlers happy.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Tram** A tram runs from Cevizlibağ and Bağcılar in the city's west to Kabataş near Taksim Meydanı in Beyoğlu, stopping at Sultanahmet, Eminönü and Karaköy en route.

➔ **Funicular** It's a steep uphill walk from all tram stops to İstiklal, so most commuters use the funiculars that link Karaköy with Tünel Meydanı and Kabataş with Taksim Meydanı.

➔ **Metro** Trains travel between Yenikapı on the Sea of Marmara and Taksim Meydanı, stopping at Vezneciler in the Old City, on a bridge over the Golden Horn and in Şişhane (near Tünel Meydanı) en route. From Taksim, another train heads to Nişantaşı and the ritzy residential and commercial suburbs to its north.

➔ **Bus** Buses to every part of the city leave from the bus interchanges underneath Taksim Meydanı and near the tram stop at Kabataş.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The neighbourhoods within Beyoğlu all have distinct and fascinating characters. Be sure to veer off İstiklal Caddesi and explore districts such as Cihangir, Çukurcuma, Asmalımescit and Galata.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Antiochia (p130)
- ➔ Karaköy Güllüoğlu (p128)
- ➔ Klemuri (p130)
- ➔ Meze by Lemon Tree (p132)
- ➔ Zübeyir Ocakbaşı (p131)

For reviews, see p128. ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Dem (p134)
- ➔ Karabatak (p134)
- ➔ Mikla (p135)
- ➔ Tophane Nargile Cafes (p134)
- ➔ 360 (p135)
- ➔ Unter (p134)

For reviews, see p134. ➔

## Best Places to Party

- ➔ Babylon (p137)
- ➔ MiniMüzikHol (p136)
- ➔ Indigo (p135)

For reviews, see p134. ➔