



Day Trips

The Bosphorus p155

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

The Golden Horn p164

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 p167

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.

To spend a day exploring the European shore, purchase a one-way ticket for the Long Bosphorus Tour ferry trip leaving from Eminönü, alight at Sarıyer and work 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.

To spend a day exploring the Asian shore, purchase a one-way ticket for the Long Bosphorus Tour ferry trip leaving from Eminönü, alight at Anadolu Kavağı and work your way back along that shore by bus, stopping to visit Hıdiv Kasrı, Küçüksu 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 (p160)
- ➔ **Place to Eat** Tapasuma (p163)
- ➔ **Place to Drink** On the ferry

Top Tip

If you buy a return ticket on the Long Bosphorus Tour, 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 there, at Sarıyer or at Kanlıca and make your way back to town by bus. Alternatively, take the Dentur Avrasya hop-on/hop-off tour from Kabataş.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Ferry** Most day-trippers take the Long Bosphorus Tour (Uzun Boğaz Turu) operated by İstanbul Şehir Hatları (İstanbul City Routes; www.sehirhatlari.com.tr). The ferry travels the entire length of the strait in a 90-minute *tek yön* (one-way) trip and departs from the *iskele* (ferry dock) at Eminönü daily at 10.35am. From April to October there is an extra service at 1.35pm. A ticket costs ₺25 return *çift* (return), ₺15 one way. The ferry stops at Beşiktaş, Kanlıca, Sarıyer, Rumeli Kavağı and Anadolu Kavağı

(the turnaround point). It's 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 March to October, İstanbul Şehir Hatları also operates a two-hour Short Bosphorus Tour (Kısa Boğaz Turu) that leaves Eminönü daily at 2.30pm, picking up passengers in Ortaköy 20 minutes later. It travels as far as the Fatih Bridge before returning to Eminönü. Tickets cost ₺12 one way. From November to February, the service is limited to Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

On Saturday evenings between early June and mid-September there is a special Moonlit Night Cruise (Mehtaplı Geceler Turu) leaving from Bostancı and picking up passengers in Eminönü at 6.25pm. After further pick-ups in Üsküdar and Beşiktaş, the ferry makes its way up the strait to Anadolu Kavağı, stops there for two hours and then returns at 10.30pm, arriving at Eminönü just past midnight. On board, Turkish musicians entertain passengers. Tickets cost ₺20 one way.

Note that if you have a Museum Pass İstanbul you will receive a 25% discount on the ticket prices of these tours.

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

A newly introduced and attractive alternative to the Long Bosphorus Tour is to take the hop-on/hop-off tour from Kabataş operated by Dentur Avrasya (☎444 6336; www.denturavrasya.com) from the *iskele* behind the petrol station at Kabataş. This costs ₺15 one way, leaves six times daily at 12.45pm, 1.45pm, 2.45pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm and 5.45pm, and allows passengers to alight at Emirgan, Küçüksu Kasrı and Beylerbeyi Sarayı and then reboard the ferry on the same ticket. It would be very rushed to try and make three stops within one afternoon (you would need to take the first service), but two stops is achievable. Just be aware that Küçüksu Kasrı and Beylerbeyi Sarayı close at 3.30pm (winter) and 4.30pm (summer).

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 are able to see a lot more. The entire trip