

Beşiktaş, Nişantaşı & Ortaköy

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Dolmabahçe Palace (p149) Getting a glimpse into the public and private lives of the last Ottoman sultans in their supremely ornate pad.

2 Ortaköy (p51) Wandering the streets surrounding the waterside *meydan* (square) of this former fishing village and admiring

its spectacular view of the Bosphorus Bridge.

3 İstanbul Naval Museum (p150) Admiring the fleet of 19th-century imperial *caïques* (ornately decorated wooden row-boats) in the copper-clad exhibition hall.

4 Palace Collections Museum (p150) Gaining

an insight into life in the royal palaces and pavilions through this collection of some 5000 items in the former Dolmabahçe Palace kitchens.

5 National Palaces Painting Museum (p150) Viewing 19th-century Ottoman paintings in a crown prince's residence.



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 you get automatic entrance.

Best Museums

- Istanbul Naval Museum (p150)
- Palace Collections Museum (p150)
- National Palaces Painting Museum (p150)
- Askeri Müze (p151)

For reviews, see p150. ➔

Best Places to Eat

- Kantın (p152)
- Hünkar (p152)
- Alancha (p152)
- Banyan (p152)
- Vogue (p153)
- Pare Baklava Bar (p152)

For reviews, see p152. ➔

Best Places to Party

- Babylon Bomonti (p154)
- Klein (p153)
- Love Dance Point (p153)
- Reina (p153)

For reviews, see p154. ➔

Explore Beşiktaş, Nişantaşı & Ortaköy

This part of town has the largest concentration of Ottoman palaces and pavilions in İstanbul. Start by walking to Dolmabahçe Palace from the tram stop at Kabataş, and then walk or bus your way down to the Palace Collections Museum, İstanbul Naval Museum and Yıldız Park. At present, constant traffic jams along the main coast road, which is variously called Dolmabahçe, Beşiktaş, Çırağan, Muallim Naci and Kuruçeşme Caddesi, make car and bus trips slow. Aim to stop for lunch and perhaps a spot of shopping in the upmarket suburb of Nişantaşı, which is located approximately 2km north of Dolmabahçe Palace. It's a steep walk to get here, so consider hailing a taxi for the short trip. Most of its cafes, restaurants and shops are found on Teşvikiye Caddesi, Abdi İpekçi Caddesi and Akkavak Sokak. In the evening, consider a sundowner in Ortaköy, where restaurants on the waterside main square near the pretty baroque mosque are popular. 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 barbecue or furniture to enjoy an alfresco lunch in popular Yıldız Park (p151); although many locals do.
- **İskele idling** Watch the ferries head in and out of dock while lingering in cafes and bars on pedestrianised promenade İskele Yolu, behind Bahçeşehir University and next to the Beşiktaş İskelesi (Beşiktaş Ferry Dock).
- **Kümpir** Join the crowds tucking into *kümpir* (stuffed baked potato) and sweet waffles from the stands (Map p250; Mecidiye Köprüsü Sokak, Ortaköy; ☀11am-10pm; *kümpir* or waffles ₺15; 🏫Kabataş Lisesi) behind the Ortaköy Mosque.

Getting There & Away

- **Bus** Lines including 22 and 25E travel along the coast road to/from Kabataş tram and funicular terminals. There are also numerous buses including 40, 40T and 42T to/from Taksim.
- **Ferry** Regular services connect Beşiktaş with Kadıköy and Üsküdar on the Asian shore. There are also commuter services between Eminönü and Beşiktaş and Eminönü and Ortaköy, leaving Beşiktaş and Ortaköy in the morning and Eminönü in the late afternoon.
- **Metro** Osmanbey, one stop north of Taksim, is convenient for Nişantaşı. A new metro line linking Kabataş and Mahmutbey is scheduled to open in 2017 and will include a stop in Beşiktaş.