

Beyoğlu

GALATA, TOPHANE & KARAKÖY | İSTİKLAL & AROUND | ÇUKURCUMA & CİHANGİR

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 ARTER (p129) Visiting cultural institutions such as this art gallery to see why İstanbul is now acknowledged as having one of the world's most exciting visual-art scenes.

2 Galata Mevlevi Museum (p143) Seeing dervishes whirl in a

15th-century *semahane* (whirling-dervish hall).

3 Museum of Innocence (p131) Admiring Orhan Pamuk's ambitious and thought-provoking conceptual art project.

4 Kılıç Ali Paşa Hamamı (p146) Indulging in a traditional hamam treat-

ment in this magnificently restored 16th-century Turkish bath.

5 Balık Pazarı (p128) Sampling the sights, smells and flavours in this historic market.



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

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, Tophane, Asmalımescit and Galata.



Best Places to Eat

- Antiochia (p134)
- Cuma (p140)
- Eleos (p135)
- Hayvore (p134)
- Karaköy Lokantası (p133)
- Neolokal (p133)

For reviews, see p131. ➡



Best Cafes

- Dem (p140)
- Federal Coffee Company (p137)
- Fil (p137)
- Karabatak (p137)
- Kronotrop (p137)

For reviews, see p137. ➡



Best Bars & Clubs

- 360 (p141)
- CUE İstiklal (p142)
- Geyik (p137)
- Indigo (p141)
- Kloster (p142)
- Unter (p140)

For reviews, see p140. ➡

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 Sq) 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 and then making your way through Galata and down to Karaköy. Even if you're 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 a glass of tea at old-fashioned outdoor cafes such as Cafe Grand Boulevard (p141) off İstiklal Caddesi, Kardeşler Cafe in Cihangir and Cafe Gündoğdu in the square below Galata Tower.

➤ **Sugar hits** During the afternoon, recharge with a sweet treat at local institutions İnci Pastanesi (p134) and Karaköy Güllüoğlu (p131).

➤ **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 either Cevizlibağ or Bağcılar in the city's west to Kabataş, near Taksim Meydanı in Beyoğlu, stopping at Sultanahmet, Eminönü, Karaköy and Tophane 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, the metro continues 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.