



2011 Welcome to İstanbul

41°N – İstanbul, Turkey

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## Istanbul: A brief overview

Istanbul is a city of contrasts, the spot where two worlds collide. The only country to straddle two continents, Istanbul is unique in many ways and we guarantee you won't be disappointed by the variety of experiences on offer. In 2010, Istanbul was bestowed the honor of being a European Capital of Culture, a title that it more than lived up to and now that the foundation has been built, will surely help pave the way for many more cultural events to pass through the city in the coming years. This place has so much to offer, you will certainly feel overwhelmed, but that's why we've put it all together in a guide of the best restaurants, historical hotspots and must-see attractions. Test your bargaining skills in the Grand Bazaar, check out classical and contemporary art in the many

galleries along İstiklal Caddesi, have a feast of fresh fish on the Bosphorus, marvel at the mosques and palaces in Sultanahmet or maybe you'd like to check out the trendy stores in the posh Nişantaşı district; whatever you choose to do, this city will keep you wanting more. Discover the best places to eat, drink and be seen in, and follow our guide (and your heart) to the lot of attractions off the beaten track. In the end, whatever you decide to do while in the city, you'll have to come to terms with the fact that you just won't find enough time to do it all. Then, upon your departure, the city will let you go, but send you off with a souvenir of unsettledness... and an irresistible desire to return for more.



Taxi



Metro (Subway)

## From Atatürk Airport, situated on the European Side



### Taxi

There is a taxi line outside both the International and Domestic Terminals. Taxis to Taksim Meydanı, one of the city's main squares and transportation hubs, costs from 50-60 TL (Turkish Lira).



### Havaş Shuttle Bus

Havaş runs shuttles to Kozyatağı, Taksim and Bakırköy (prices vary depending on the destination). Follow the signs; services leave hourly from the bus terminal outside the Airport.

Visit their website at [www.havas.com.tr](http://www.havas.com.tr) for schedules and pricing.



### Metro (Subway)

Between 06:00 and 00:15, the Metro (subway) will take you to both the Old Town and anywhere else on the European Side for 1.65 TL (don't forget to transfer at Zeytinburnu Station).



### Public Transportation (IETT)

Buses depart from and arrive to the Airport from various locations across the city. The fare is 1.65 TL.

Visit their website at [www.iETT.gov.tr](http://www.iETT.gov.tr) for schedules and station locations.



## From Sabiha Gökçen, situated on the Asian Side



### Taxi

There is a taxi line situated just outside the main airport terminal. Follow the signs. Taxis to Taksim Meydanı, one of the city's main squares and transportation hubs, will cost more than 70 TL.



### Havaş Shuttle Bus

Havaş runs shuttles to Kozyatağı, Taksim and Bakırköy (prices vary depending on the destination). Follow the signs; services leave hourly from the bus terminal outside the Airport.

Visit their website at [www.havas.com.tr](http://www.havas.com.tr) for schedules and pricing.



### Public Transportation (IETT)

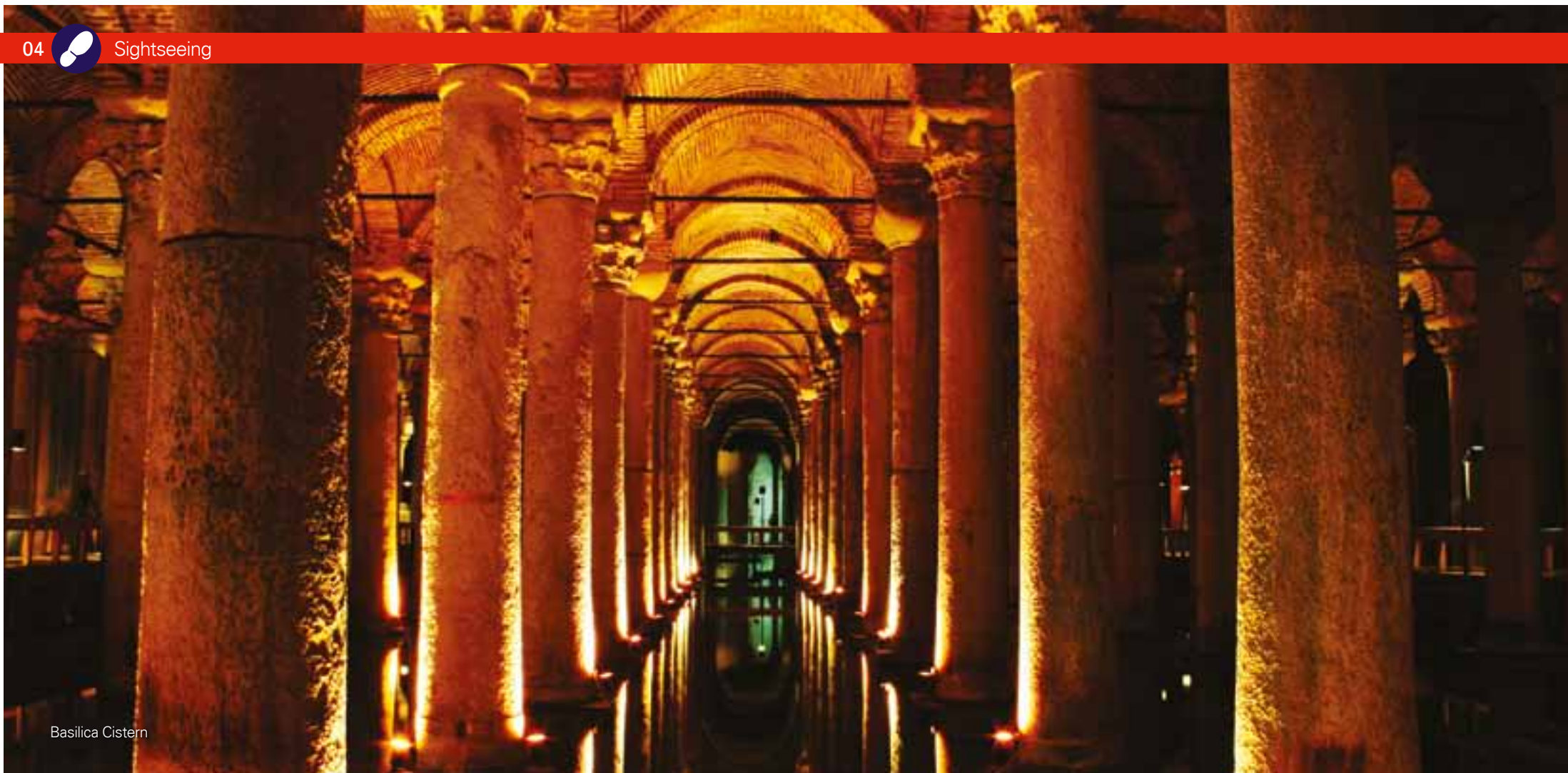
Buses depart from and arrive to the Airport from various locations across the city. The fare is 1.65 TL.

Visit their website at [www.iETT.gov.tr](http://www.iETT.gov.tr) for schedules and station locations.



### Train (TCDD)

The Haydarpaşa - Gebze Express departs from nearby Pendik Train Station. Tickets can be purchased on board for 1.65 TL. The service runs daily. Visit the website at [www.tcdd.gov.tr](http://www.tcdd.gov.tr) for schedules and station locations.



Basilica Cistern

## Sightseeing

### The Hippodrome

This sight is one of the few places in the city where the overlapping layers of İstanbul's history reveals itself to passersby who take a wander around this Roman race circuit. It is here that the Byzantine Empire collides with the Ottomans, on one end is the 17th century Ottoman **Blue Mosque** and at the other, the world-famous 56-meter dome of the **Hagia Sofia**, built in 537 as a basilica, then converted into a mosque and today, a museum. Try to find the Byzantine graffiti carved into the banister when you go up to see the mosaics on the first floor.

### Basilica Cistern

Be sure to check out the atmospheric depths of the **Basilica Cistern**, dating back to the 6th century. This eerie underground cistern has a fair claim to being the most unusual tourist attraction in the city. The peculiarly positioned Medusa's head is a highlight of this visit.

Oh yes, and scenes from *The International* and *From Russia With Love* were shot here. Well, if it's good enough for secret agents!



Topkapı Palace

### Topkapı Palace

Not a single building but rather a sprawl of pavilions and courtyards, the **Topkapı Palace** was the seat of the Ottoman Government and the residence of the famed Ottoman Sultans for 400 years. Don't miss out on the jewels of the Treasury and the legendary Harem.

### Süleymaniye Mosque

This massive religious complex was commissioned by Kanuni Sultan Süleyman, one of the Ottoman Empire's greatest sultans and built by Mimar Sinan, one of the greatest architects for the Empire; this would, in turn, make **Süleymaniye** one of Istanbul's greatest mosques, right?

### Sabancı Museum (SSM)

The **Sabancı Museum** is remarkable not only for its permanent collection, but on account of its temporary exhibitions, which display international art of a caliber found only in Turkey. The museum initially showcased Rodin and Picasso, then a highly acclaimed Istanbul exhibit (8000 Years of a Capital) showcasing over 500 pieces from museums and collections around the world, but more recently, their attention has turned east, to artifacts from the Islamic world.



Dolmabahçe Palace

### Dolmabahçe Palace

**Dolmabahçe Palace** is the largest, if not the most attractive of the late Ottoman Palaces. Its Baroque façade sprawls imposingly along the shore and shows the heavy influence of European aesthetics on the architecture of the Empire's final years.

It is, however, its most recent resident that has made it an iconic part of Turkish heritage, since this is the very place where the founder of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk spent his final days as the first president of Turkey.

### Chora Museum

Nestled up against the Byzantine city walls, which formed the city's first line of defense for over 1,000 years, is **the Church of Saint Saviour in Chora**, which boasts some of the most opulent mosaics the city has to offer.



Archeological Museum

### Rüstempaşa Mosque

For the sumptuous beauty of its İznik tiles, the tiny Rüstempaşa is hard to beat. Though small, the interior is a stunning riot of pattern and color.

### The Maiden's Tower

Hop on the boat that takes off from Salacak on the Asian side, and Kabataş on the European side, to visit this former lighthouse turned restaurant right in the middle of the Bosphorus. The restaurant & café that awaits you will treat you to 360-degree views of Istanbul.

### Archeological Museum

For a taste of the rich archaeological heritage of all of Turkey and not just Istanbul, the treasures of **The Archeological Museum's** collection span over 5000 years.



Bosphorus

## Bosphorus

Many private tour companies now run trips up and down the Bosphorus. Take a trip on one of these boats from Eminönü pier or do it the traditional way and grab a ferry. Here is what you're likely to see along the way...

If you have chosen to head over to the Asian

side, grab the **Kadıköy** ferry across. With your back to Sultanahmet, the mouth of the waters narrows as you make your way past the oldest parts of the city. Kadıköy, the first major hub on your left was traditionally the gateway to Ankara and the east. In those days, the huge turreted façade of **Haydarpaşa Train Station** was

the last sight of İstanbul grandeur before the scenery turned to plains and rugged mountains. Peer to your right and you'll swiftly be passing by a series of islands, the Princes' Islands to be precise; a popular retreat for many locals and Greek settlers.

Taking a boat heading in the direction of the Black Sea, peer up atop a hill, and the prominent Venetian **Galata Tower** marking the old European quarter of **Pera** will be smiling back down on you. People travel to its top floor for the spectacular view, if not for the rather dingy nightclub that also resides there.



Ortaköy

As you inch along the shores, the grandiose Ottoman waterfront buildings should suggest to you the areas that were originally considered “out of town” – unimaginable in this sprawling metropolis where all the fishing villages have been connected to become neighborhoods, rather than discreet centers away from İstanbul proper. **Dolmabahçe**, the opulent 19th century residence of the sultans is hard to miss as it

stretches along the shore at **Beşiktaş**, today, a bustling ferry hub. Along the lower Bosphorus hugging the European side are a number of small, forgotten palaces. Hidden by high walls on land, these buildings – now schools, restaurants and private mansions - can only be seen from the water.

In the parts almost shadowed by the Bosphorus

Bridge, there are contrasting delights on both the European and Asian shores. **Ortaköy**, marked by its Gothic mosque on the left, is a former fishing village that went through a truly remarkable transformation after catching the eye of the in-crowd. There are those who can remember when it was a run-down relation to **Kuzguncuk** and **Çengelköy** on the Asian side, but these days, you can find it buzzing with

smart restaurants and cafés that compare in quality (and price) to those in the fancy **Etiler** and **Levent** districts in the hills above. On the Asian side, however, is **Beylerbeyi Palace**, a bijou of a late Ottoman summer palace, which is the largest of such buildings on this shore and can be easily visited by land. Sipping tea in one of its shorefront bathing pavilions is still an imperial pleasure.



The Fortress of Europe

As you move away from the center of town, your motive for stopping off might be no particular landmark but rather the charming seaside restaurants that line the shore at **Arnavutköy** and **Bebek**. The real sights here are the many beautiful wooden Yalı; residences, belonging to the rich and influential elite class, which continue all the way to the upper reach.

One of the best cures for busy city and concrete jungle syndrome is to drift along their perfectly perforated façades. Right by the **Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge** (or the 'Second Bridge' as it is more commonly referred to) comes your next great İstanbul attractions: **The Fortress of Europe** and **the Fortress of Asia** staring at each other from their respective sides

marking one of the narrowest points of the whole Strait, and as such, were of defensive significance for most of the city's history. The Fortress of Europe is undoubtedly the more visually striking of the two, all the more so, considering it was built in six months. As the urban areas give way to forest, the last stop of your journey is **Anadolu Kavağı** – at the mouth

of the Black Sea - alongside the 14th century **Yoroz Castle** which defends it. You can stop off for a fish lunch before climbing up the hill to enjoy commanding views, happy with the knowledge that the 18 km trip back down to the city will be every bit as spectacular as the journey up!



Çırağan Palace

## What to do:

Take a boat ride along the Bosphorus, weather permitting. Grab a simit (sesame-seed bread) and some tea for a truly authentic experience. If you remember to grab some extra simit, you'll participate in a local pastime if you feed these

pieces of bread to the well-trained seagulls that fly alongside the boats hoping for this treat.

Walk along the Bosphorus; enjoy some Turkish ice cream from Mini Dondurma in Bebek, or a cocktail at Lucca, a trendy local bar. Stop in

Arnavutköy and enjoy fresh fish at one of many fish restaurants, like Mimi Rum Tavernası (a classic Aegean tavern) or Takanik Balık (a quaint local darling). Make your way to Ortaköy and browse the open-air stalls full of hand-made

crafts and jewellery. As you stroll back towards the Beşiktaş Pier, glance over at the magnificent grandeur of the only remaining Ottoman Palace, Çırağan Palace that sits on the water like a jewel on the Bosphorus.



Galata Tower

## Must See

Not all of İstanbul's great sights are concentrated in the Sultanahmet Historical Peninsula or along the Bosphorus. There's just as much waiting to be explored further off the beaten track.

### Beyoğlu district

With its hip bars, delicious restaurants and music venues, as well as fish and kebab restaurants, this is a must-see area. Ghetto (on Kemer Hatun Caddesi) and Jolly Joker Balans (on Balo Sokak) are two bars that are always packed on weekends due to their attractive clientele and good music. On Şehbender Sokak, nothing beats Babylon; not only does it host regular themed nights, it brings the hottest international talent and the newest musical acts to audiences. For good meze appetizer dishes and fish, try Münferit. For good non-Turkish dining, try 11 Leblon, or Çok Çok Thai for the best Thai in the city.

### Galata district

This area spans all the way from the sky-high Galata Tower, built by the Genoese, all the way to the Eminönü pier. This district carries large historical importance for İstanbul with its quaint, age-old fish restaurants and nargile bars lined side-by-side. Watch how the skilful fishermen make their Catch of the Day over the Galata Bridge, and then dine on their trophies at the foot of the bridge while enjoying some raki. This is definitely an experience worth your while.

### The Rahmi Koç Museum

Housed in a former anchor foundry, this hands-on science and technology museum is a trove of machines and other eccentric exhibits. Among the vintage cars, trains and submarines are entertaining and informative interactive displays.



Istanbul Modern Museum

### Istanbul Modern Museum

Istanbul culture isn't all ancient history, and the Istanbul Modern Art Gallery can certainly confirm that. Situated in an old shipping warehouse on the shore of the Bosphorus, it houses a permanent collection that reflects the best in Turkish contemporary art and also has many temporary exhibitions. Their café is considered one of the best eateries in town, but check in to see if a large view-obstructing cruise ship is docked in front before you make reservations.

### santralistanbul

This Bilgi University campus is a sight to see. Nestled between trees and greenery in Eyüp, the santralistanbul campus includes a museum that showcases student artwork as well as different exhibits. After you've browsed the museum, drop by Otto for some fresh homemade thin-crust pizza and a cocktail. Otto has also hosted many live concerts in the evenings; past performers include Parovoz, Stelar, Armand van Helden and De Phazz.



The Grand Bazaar

# Shopping

You're in the city where even shopping can be considered a cultural activity, so why not take advantage? Strolling through the maze of a neighborhood bazaar or the Grand Bazaar is as much a sightseeing experience as a chance to offload your lira. However, if something more modern strikes your fancy, Istanbul is also brimming with more shopping malls with different concepts than you'll know what to do with.

## Shopping Districts

When it comes to shopping in the Old Town, haggling is very much a part of the process, but if you can't take the heat, shops with price tags will give you some respite in the more modern parts of town. On the European side, the boutiques around Nişantaşı are where the fashionistas go to spend and spend, whereas Bağdat Caddesi has the corresponding cachet for residents on the Asian side. Both harbor a sea of chain stores as well as being home to international and local designers that are a cut above. Once considered the Champs Élysées of its time, Beyoğlu's main pedestrian

thoroughfare, İstiklal Caddesi has left its glitzy glamour behind and embraced a different kind of consumerism. Lined with tiny boutiques, consulates, banks, major shopping chains and street vendors, the area is always buzzing with excitement and entertainment. Passersby drop in for cheap clothes, which lie in mounds in the stalls that fill the Atlas Arcade, just one of many such flogging factory seconds at bargain-basement prices. Along the main drag, cinemas and cafés abound, and Beyoğlu's true charm is its myriad of restaurants, bars and music venues that come alive at night.



### Kanyon Shopping Center

Kanyon is one of the more stylish of the bunch and is home to İstanbul's first Harvey Nichols. Kanyon features the familiar chains such as Mango, but is also a favorite because of its luxurious cinema and wide variety of restaurants, including Italian cuisine at Gina on the top floor, Asian cuisine at Wagamama, centuries-old fine Turkish cuisine at Konyalı, modern fare at Gourmet Burger Kitchen and café cuisine at The House Café.

### Akmerkez Shopping Center

Akmerkez is one of the central and longest-standing examples of a modern shopping complex. Akmerkez features a mixture of international and local fashion names such as Beymen - the most exclusive of the latter category - as well as brands like Mavi Jeans which have international following but are in fact, Turkish in origin. Keep in mind that Akmerkez is not the most visually stimulating on the inside, so if you like a bit of ambiance with your shopping, you might want to head to İstinye Park instead. Papermoon, with its stylish décor, located right beside the mall, serves up delicious salad, pasta and pizza dishes.

### The Modern Shopping Experience

Glass and Steel are the language of shopping emporiums in today's İstanbul, with a forest of malls grazing the sky in all the new parts of town.



Akaretler

### Istinye Park

Istinye Park is the largest shopping center close to the downtown core and features both outdoor and indoor shopping. It would be a disservice to call this place a mall; it's practically a shopping experience! Istinye Park is gigantic (almost 300 stores strong) and includes everything from home stores to jewellery shops and everything in between. You could shop for hours and still not have made your way through every store. The most striking aspect of this mall is the outdoor shopping area that features high-end brands such as **Chloe**, **Moschino** and **Dolce & Gabbana**.

### Akaretler District

Istanbul locals will say that this place has never looked so good. With the opening of the **W Hotel**, and **Konyalı 1897** not to mention the beautiful apartments (with the rent-prices to match), as well as brand new beautiful apartments, Akaretler is has quickly become another trendy district. What really stands out, however, is the row of shops that line the boulevard, including local high-end designer boutiques like Gen by **Figen Özdenak**, **Sevan Bıçakçı** and **Haremlique**. A member of Istanbul's newest wine bar fad is the stylish yet cozy **Corvus Wine&Bite** where you can sample local wines and enjoy an amuse bouche or two.



City's

### Nişantaşı district

Another great shopping area, Nişantaşı is full of boutiques as well as familiar chains like **Zara** and **Topshop**. But what sets Nişantaşı apart from the rest on this list are the Turkish designer boutiques like **Arzu Kaprol**, **Bahar Korcan**, **Cengiz Abazoğlu**, **Dilek Hanif** and **Hakan Yıldırım**. From casual daywear to more formal nightwear, these Turkish designers cover the gamut. If you're feeling a bit peckish, this might be the perfect time to sit down and grab a bite at Limonata, the colorfully decorated terrace restaurant of the **Nişantaşı City's Shopping Mall** that serves up some scrumptious selections from international cuisine.

### Grand Bazaar

In the Old Town, The Grand Bazaar could occupy you for weeks if you let it. Among its endless labyrinthine streets, there are 16,000 jewelers alone, but you can find pretty much anything under the sun if you go on a hunt. **Karizma** is one of the best leather stores and features quality designs, including silk leather, inspired by the latest trends. The **İç Bedesten** in the heart of the bazaar is home to traders in antique silver and other such wares, while carpets and rugs are best sought out at **Adnan & Hasan**. Stop by **Fes Café** in the Bazaar for delicious café-style food and delicious coffee to keep you going during your shopping journey. Further down the hill by the Eminönü pier, the aromatic **Egyptian Spice Bazaar** is a living testament to Istanbul's importance for many centuries as a conduit for spices from the east.



Feriye Lokantası

## Dining - Restaurants

### Kebabs

For most people, Turkish food means kebab, so while you're here you should at least see how they're done properly. The eponymous owner of Beyti is distinguished as one of the few people ever to have had a kebab named after him, while Hamdi affords divine views up the Bosphorus and has a pistachio kebab to match.

### Meyhane

Another quintessential Turkish dining institution is the 'Meyhane,' (tavern) where a variety of small 'meze' dishes (like Tapas) are brought to your table. Once you've shared them, the main course is usually seasonal fish. Boncuk is one of a cluster of such places in the Fish Market in Beyoğlu, while Münferit takes it up a notch with its high quality, fusion fare, this 'modern meyhane' is a local favourite as much for the atmosphere as for the food.

### Ottoman Cuisine

Of the restaurants that have rediscovered Ottoman Cuisine, its interpretation of this ancient cuisine is what keeps patrons coming to La Mouette's modern eatery with a view of the Bosphorus & Golden Horn, while Asitane and Tuğra benefit from the historic surroundings of the Chora Museum and the Ottoman Çırağan Palace respectively.



Çiçek Pasajı

### Modern Turkish Cuisine

One of İstanbul's most famous restaurants, Borsa, has been preparing delicious authentic Turkish cuisine since 1927. To cater to the fast-food generation, they opened up various locations in Beyoğlu, Eminönü and Taksim, but for a truly authentic dining experience, choose from their two shining star branches: the posh branch in İstinye Park where you are guaranteed to "be seen," or the luxurious branch by the water in Kandilli on the Asian side with views of the Bosphorus and European Palaces. Their meat options are particularly unique, as they always offer something different to traditional dishes. You can also try Muzedeçanga on the Sakıp Sabancı Museum grounds, which features lighter fare than its other location, Changa. We recommend their olive oil vegetable dishes and the stuffed cabbage rolls. Topaz is also a very good option.

### International Cuisine

When it comes to international cuisine, İstanbul has a lot to offer. There's a love affair with Italian food, the most striking example of this cuisine being served at L'Altra Risacca in Maslak, commonly seen strewn with celebrities. Another popular restaurant is 8 İstanbul, located just off İstiklal Caddesi. This Asian-fusion restaurant features many delicious Thai dishes such as Pad Thai, veggie spring rolls and beef skewers. Ondokuz is one of the hottest hangouts in city and serves the best Tapas. The newly opened Pera Palace Hotel's Agatha Restaurant serves exquisite French dishes and Café de Paris' croissants will melt in your mouth. Zuma, located in Ortaköy, is also a favorite, offering Japanese cuisine the chain has become known for. It is conveniently located right next to Anjelique, a popular nightlife destination, if you'd like to enjoy drinks afterwards.



Balıkçı Sabahattin

### On the Shore

It is being said that eating fish away from the Bosphorus shore is a bit like scoffing communion wafers in the pub. With that in mind, fish in Bebek is highly recommended, albeit a more upscale option. The setting is even more appropriate at Kıyı, located in Tarabya where fishing boats traditionally unload their catch. On the Asian Shore, the extremely posh Del Mare Ristorante will ferry you to their location by private boat, so maneuvering your way around the Asian side isn't necessary.

### The Old City

For something to sustain you as you traipse around Sultanahmet, Tarihi Sultanahmet Köftçisi is the original and best in a row of imitators that all serve nothing more than grilled delicious plates of meat patties and haricot beans. If you'd like to have some alcohol, try Balıkçı Sabahattin; a jolly old fish restaurant.



360

### Sky High

In contrast to the traditional Bosphorus panorama, a new type of vista has grown up along with the spate of high-rise developments in Istanbul. From the top-floor dining rooms of the likes of Mikla and 360, you look down onto the city, with the added advantage of not being able to see the building you're in! X Restaurant, the new restaurant at the top of the Istanbul Foundation for Culture & Arts building, should be added to the list, especially owing to its food, which is - of course - top notch.

### Last but not least...

For a tasty meal on the hoof, Istanbul's street food is not to be sniffed at. A 'simit' (sesame bread ring), grilled corn on the cob and roasted chestnuts will keep hunger at bay, while in the summer, ice cream from any of the many Mado branches is a refreshing treat. It is quite unlike western ice cream owing to the consistency that comes from the secret ingredient of mastic, and it comes in a range of flavors you might not have even heard of. If you're feeling a bit more daring, stop by a vendor to feast on mussels stuffed with seasoned rice, spicy cracked wheat wrapped in lettuce and fried dough doused in syrup.



Babylon

## Entertainment in Istanbul

### Clubbing

Babylon is undoubtedly the live music venue that competes most impressively on an international level. These are the same names that fill out concert halls back home – but this time, it's just you and them in an intimate 150-person venue. It has an ever-changing program of live bands, dance acts, film screenings and big name DJ sets to keep you occupied throughout your stay. Ghetto is also a good alternative and is located right behind a popular bar hopping area known as Nevizade. Ghetto is also a live music venue that brings a wide variety of acts ranging from Latin to reggae and electronic. But clubbing doesn't have to mean heading underground and turning your back on the city's main artery, because some of the city's best clubs actually sit on the banks of the Bosphorus. Reina, Sortie and Anjelique are three open-air venues that house lots of little concessions from the top Istanbul restaurants. A stream of limos draw the traffic along the coastal road in Ortaköy to a standstill on the weekend, so arriving from the waterfront on your own private yacht, or via private shuttle boats provided by each establishment, is considered infinitely preferable!

### Festival fantastic

One of the most glittering highlights in Istanbul's cultural crown is its program of seasonal festivals. **The Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts ([www.iksv.org](http://www.iksv.org))** organizes annual festivals of film, jazz, classical music, dance and theatre with international and national big name performers, so check the website to see what's on when you visit. The art Biennale (set for 2012), held in a mixture of venues both old and new around the city is also, by now, a veteran Istanbul fixture. In 2010, when Istanbul was deemed, Capital of Culture, a slew of new events from Oud Festivals to Ramadan Jazz crept up to cater to every single niche audience out there. Some of the new additions that will likely be on the roster for the coming years are:

**If Independent Film Festival ([www.ifistanbul.com](http://www.ifistanbul.com))**, **Efes One Love Music Festival** organized by Pozitif ([www.pozitif-ist.com](http://www.pozitif-ist.com)) and **Chill Out Festival ([www.chilloutfest.com](http://www.chilloutfest.com))**.



Eurasia Marathon



Hagia Irene

## Sport

Turkey's three big-league football (soccer) teams all hail from this fair city and attending one of the weekly matches in any one of their state-of-the-art open-air stadiums is a good way to soak up some local flavor. Beşiktaş or 'The Dark Eagles' have the most picturesque location for their stadium, which sits in the valley above Dolmabahçe Palace, while Fenerbahçe is in a residential area on the Asian side and Galatasaray is smack dab in Seyrantepe. Basketball is becoming more popular as the league teams sign international all-stars and the NBA continues to acquire Turkish talents like Hidayet Türkoğlu and Mehmet Okur. Though nowhere near the level of football or basketball, volleyball, equestrian and water-sports are becoming increasingly popular. Turkey has begun to make some serious strides within the European riding community. Additionally, because İstanbul is practically surrounded by water on all sides, wind surfing and sailing are also favored by locals.

## Only in İstanbul

It would be a shame to miss İstanbul's more unique venues. During the summer months, concerts go on inside the amphitheatre at Rumeli Hisari, the fortress from which Mehmet the Conqueror launched his capture of the city in 1453. Just when you thought there could be few more picturesque places to enjoy your music, the tiny stage underground in the Basilica Cistern is also, at times, a concert venue; the dripping water and the dance of light against the columns make an enchanting accompaniment for the performers who play there.

With the Bosphorus gleaming nearby, Turkcell Kuruçeşme Arena rocks the city with everyone from Eric Clapton to Ozzie Osbourne, while more quaint jazz and classical concerts are conducted in the garden of the Archeological Museum and Hagia Irene Museum.

## Beach Life

What do smart İstanbulites do when the humidity rises? They head to the beach, of course! Between the sewage and the treacherous currents, swimming in the Bosphorus is not recommended, but just a short hop away are sun loungers and snow cones galore. BURÇBeach up at Kilyos is a sandy strip where all manner of water sports and beach activities go on. Come the weekend, its neighbor, Non-Stop Beach becomes a 48-hour party-zone as its name suggests. During the day, Tae-bo and Pilates take over, and DJs reign by night. True Blue Beach is a great getaway that's not too far from the city with a sandy beach, a pool alternative and a restaurant/bar with live music. If you prefer a calmer beach getaway, you can try Dalia Beach Club. If you can't make the trek, there are swimming pools at all the major hotels in town. But c'mon now—that would be cheating...



Istanbul Atatürk Airport Duty Free Shop

## Shopping at the airport

### Duty Free

Whatever your destination, everyone who passes through the airport can take advantage of great tax-free prices. This means that everyone can enjoy great savings on a huge range of world-class brands! There is a great range of high quality restaurants, bars and cafés for you to choose from in the Istanbul airports. Cautious travelers who like to arrive at the airport with time to spare will be pleased to discover that Istanbul Atatürk Airport has a whole host of shopping and refreshment facilities to while away the hours until departure. If you have a long wait on your hands, you might want to grab a coffee at Divan Pub, or a bite to eat at any of the fast food diners before going through security; or even catch up on some souvenir purchases at one of the gift shops on the check-in side.



Beyond passport control, a variety of stores await travelling shoppers: Why not pick up something to read or a CD at D&R, a treat at Sweet Dreams, or a present for the folks back home at the Old Bazaar, House of Cigars, the Vintage Food Hall or the Duty Free Shop? Fans of luxurious brands such as Bulgari, Ermenegildo Zegna, Hugo Boss, I Santi, Versace and Longchamp will be thrilled by the selection of goods available at Golden Touch, and might also want to pay a visit to the Atasay, Hermès, Salvatore Ferragamo, Vakko and Empire stores. And when you're all shopped out, head upstairs for some well-deserved relaxation at the **HSBC Club Lounge**.



# Address Book

## Amazing Attractions

### Basilica Cistern Museum

(0212) 522 12 59  
Yerebatan Caddesi 13, Sultanahmet  
www.yerebatan.com

### Chora Museum

(0212) 631 92 41  
Edirnekapı, Fatih  
www.choramuseum.com

### Dolmabahçe Palace

(0212) 236 90 00  
Dolmabahçe Caddesi, Beşiktaş  
www.dolmabahcepalace.com

### İstanbul Archaeology Museum

(0212) 520 77 42  
Osman Hamdi Bey Yokuşu Gülhane,  
Eminönü  
www.istanbularkeoloji.gov.tr/main\_page

### İstanbul Museum of Modern Art

(0212) 334 73 00  
Meclis-i Mebusan Caddesi,  
Liman İşletmeleri Sahası Antrepo 4,  
Karaköy  
www.istanbulmodern.org/en/f\_index.html

### Maiden's Tower (Kız Kulesi)

(0216) 342 47 47  
Salacak, Üsküdar  
www.kizkulesi.com.tr/en/Default2.asp

### Rumeli Hisarı (Rumeli Castle)

(0212) 263 53 05  
Yahya Kemal Cad. 42, Rumelihisarı  
www.rumelihisaridernegi.com

### Rüstempaşa Mosque

Hasırcılar Çarşısı Tahtakale, Eminönü

### Sakıp Sabancı Museum

(0212) 277 22 00  
Sakıp Sabancı Cad. 42, Emirgan  
http://muze.sabanciuniv.edu

### santralistanbul

(0212) 311 78 09  
Eski Silahtarağa, Elektrik Santral,  
Kazım Karabekir Cad. 2/6, Eyüp  
www.santralistanbul.com

### Süleymaniye Mosque

Sultanahmet Square, Sultanahmet

### Topkapı Palace

(0212) 512 04 80  
Sultanahmet, Eminönü  
www.topkapisarayi.gov.tr

### Yoroz Castle

Anadolu Kavağı

## Dining

### 11 Leblon

(0212) 252 86 36  
General Yazgan Sokak, Tünel Geçidi İş  
Hanı 3/A, Asmalımescit  
www.11leblon.com

### 360

(0212) 251 10 42  
İstiklal Caddesi, Mısır Apartmanı, 311,  
Beyoğlu  
www.360istanbul.com

### Agatha Restaurant & Café de Paris

(0212) 377 40 00  
Pera Palace Hotel, Meşrutiyet Cad. 52,  
Beyoğlu  
www.perapalace.com/en-EN

### Asitane

(0212) 534 84 14  
Kariye Camii Sokak, 6, Edirnekapı  
www.asitanerestaurant.com

### Balıkçı Sabahattin

(0212) 458 18 24  
Cankurtaran Mah. Seyit Hasan Kuyu  
Sok.1, Eminönü  
www.balikcisabahattin.com

### Beyti

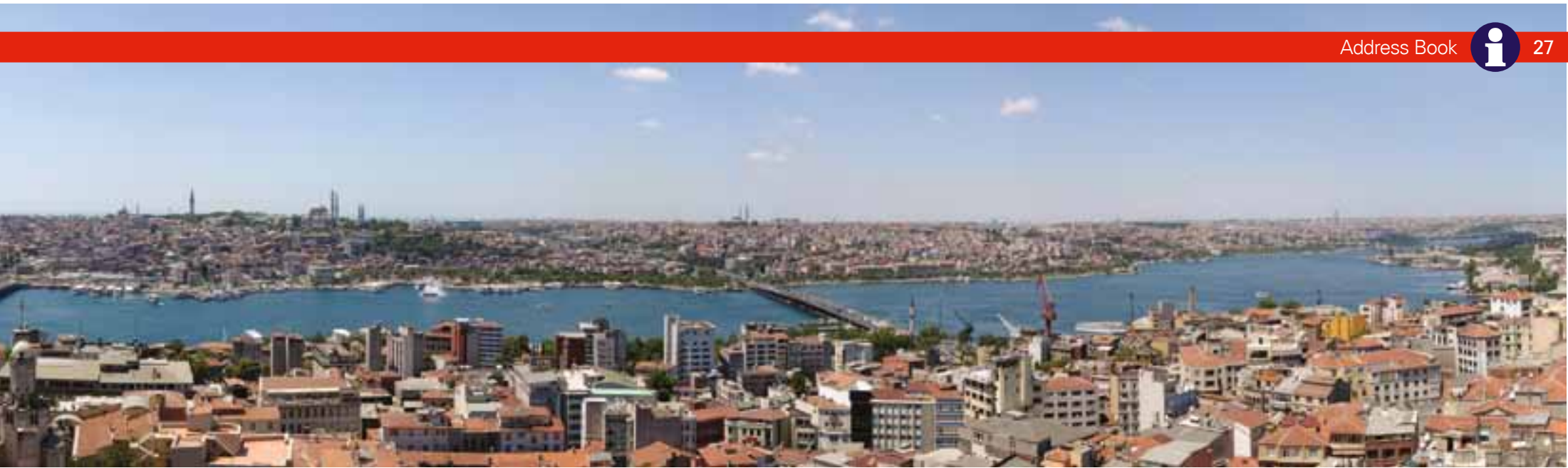
(0212) 663 29 90  
Orman Sokak 8, Florya  
www.beyti.com/en

### Boncuk

(0212) 243 12 19  
Nevizade Sokak 19, Beyoğlu

### Borsa

(0216) 332 23 33  
Adile Sultan Sarayı Kandilli, Üsküdar  
www.borsarestaurant.com/borsaen

**Changa**

(0212) 251 70 64  
Sıraselvilier Cad. 47, Taksim  
www.changa-istanbul.com

**Corvus Wine&Bite**

(0212) 260 54 70  
Şair Nedim Sok. 5, Akaretler

**Çok Çok Thai**

(0212) 292 64 96  
Tepebaşı, Meşrutiyet Cad. 51, Beyoğlu  
www.cokcok.com.tr

**Del Mare Ristorante**

(0216) 422 57 62  
Kuleli Cad. 53 / 4, Çengelköy  
www.del-mare.com/en

**Eftalya Fish Restaurant**

(0212) 287 25 20  
1. Cadde 32, Arnavutköy  
www.eftalya.net

**Feriye Lokantası**

(0212) 227 22 16  
Çırağan Cad. 40, Ortaköy  
www.feriye.com/english

**Fes Café**

(0212) 526 30 71  
Ali Baba Türbe Sokak 25-27,  
Grand Bazaar, Sultanahmet

**Fish**

(0212) 257 73 61  
Bebek Cad. Cevdetpaşa Mah. 224,  
1-5-6, Bebek  
www.fishistanbul.com/eng

**Gourmet Burger Kitchen**

(0212) 353 03 23  
Kanyon Shopping Mall, Levent. F: 1  
www.gbk.com.tr

**Groove**

(0212) 248 29 42  
Milli Reasürans Çarşısı,  
Teşvikiye Caddesi 61/49, Teşvikiye

**Hamdi**

(0212) 528 03 90  
Tahmis Caddesi Kalçın Sok. 17, Eminönü  
www.hamdi.com.tr

**The House Café**

(0212) 353 53 75  
Kanyon Shopping Mall, F: B2, Levent  
www.thehousecafe.com.tr

**Kıyı**

(0212) 262 00 02  
Kefeliköy Caddesi 126, Tarabya  
www.kiyi.com.tr/en

**Konyalı**

(0212) 353 04 50  
Kanyon Shopping Mall, F:1 Levent  
www.konyalilokantasi.com/english

**L'Altra Risacca**

(0212) 335 99 99  
Büyükdere Cad. 233, Üç Yol Mevkii,  
www.sheratonistanbulmaslak.com

**La Mouette**

(0212) 292 44 67  
TomTom Suites Hotel, Boğazkesen Cad.  
18, Galatasaray  
www.lamouetterestaurant.com

**Limonata**

(0212) 373 23 00  
Nişantaşı City's Shopping Mall, Nişantaşı

**Loft**

(0212) 219 63 84  
Lütfi Kırdar Congress & Exhibit Center,  
Rumeli Hall, Harbiye  
www.icec.org/tr/rumelimed.htm

**Lucca**

(0212) 257 12 55  
Cevdet Paşa Caddesi 51/B, Bebek  
www.luccastyle.com

**Mado**

(0212) 263 72 41  
Various locations across the city  
www.mado.com.tr

**Mikla Restaurant**

(0212) 251 46 46  
The Marmara Pera Hotel, Tepebaşı,  
Beyoğlu  
www.themarmarahotels.com/The-  
Marmara-Pera



# Address Book

## Mimi Rum Tavernası

(0212) 265 09 49  
Arnavutköy Cad. 85, Arnavutköy  
www.mimitaverna.com

## Mini Dondurma

(0212) 257 10 70  
Cevdet Paşa Cd. Bebek

## Muzedechange

(0212) 323 09 01  
SakıpSabancı Cad. 42, Emirgan  
www.changa-istanbul.com

## Münferit

Firuzâğa Mahallesi, Yeni Çarşı Cad. 19,  
Beyoğlu  
www.munferit.com.tr

## Ondokuz

Jurnal Sok. 19  
Asmalimescid, Beyoğlu  
www.ondokuz19.com

## Otto

(0212) 292 70 15  
Şeyhbender Sokak 5/1, Asmalimescit  
www.ottoistanbul.com

## Papermoon

(0212) 282 16 16  
Akmerkez Shopping Mall, Etiler  
www.papermoon.com.tr

## Takanik Balık

(0212) 263 83 46  
Birinci Cadde No. 87, Arnavutköy  
www.arnavutkoytakanik.com

## Tarihi Sultanahmet Köftecisi

(0212) 512 64 68  
Divan Yolu Caddesi 12/A, Sultanahmet  
www.sultanahmetkoftecisi.com.tr

## Tuğra Restaurant

(0212) 326 46 46  
Palace Hotel, Beşiktaş.  
www.kempinski.com/en

## Ulus 29

(0212) 358 29 29  
Adnan Saygun Caddesi Yol Sokak 11, Ulus  
www.group-29.com

## Vogue

(0212) 227 25 45  
Spor Caddesi 92 BJK Plaza, A Blok 48/13,  
Akaretler  
www.voguerestaurant.com

## Wagamama

(0212) 280 96 36  
Yeni Camlık Cad.  
Ayaz Sok. 2/1 4 Levent  
www.wagamama.com.tr

## X Restaurant & Bar

(0212) 334 08 45  
IKSV Building, Sadi Konuralp Cad.  
Deniz Palas 5, Şişhane  
www.iksv.org

## Zuma

(0212) 236 22 96  
Salhane Sok. 7, Ortaköy  
www.zumarestaurant.com

## Entertainment in İstanbul

### Anjelique

(0212) 327 28 44  
Muallim Naci Cad. Salhane Sok. 5,  
Ortaköy  
www.anjelique.com.tr

### Babylon

(0212) 292 73 68  
Şehbender Sokak 3, Asmalimescit  
www.babylon.com.tr/en/homepage

### BURC Beach

(0212) 203 02 36  
Gümüşdere, Kilyos  
www.bumed.org.tr/english

### Dalia Beach Club

(0212) 204 03 68.  
Demirciköy, Kilyos  
www.clubdalia.com/eng.htm

### Ghetto

(0212) 251 75 01  
Kamer Hatun Cad. 10, Beyoğlu  
www.ghettoist.net/en

### Jolly Joker Balans

(0212) 249 07 49  
Balo Sok. 22, Beyoğlu  
www.jollyjokerbalans.com/web

### Non-Stop Beach

(0212) 201 23 05  
Turban Yolu 4, Kilyos  
www.nonstopbeach.com

## Reina

(0212) 259 59 19  
Muallim Naci Caddesi 44, Ortaköy

## Sortie

(0212) 327 85 85  
Muallim Naci Caddesi 141, Kuruçeşme

## True Blue Beach

(0216) 550 51 95  
Fener Kalamış Caddesi  
(across from the Fenerbahçe Marina)  
www.truebluelive.com

## Turkcell Kuruçeşme Arena

(0212) 263 39 83  
Muallim Naci Cad. 60, Kuruçeşme  
www.turkcellkurucesmearena.com/en

## Must-See

### Hagia Irene Museum

Topkapı Palace, 1st Courtyard,  
Sultanahmet  
www.kultur.gov.tr/EN

### The Rahmi Koç Museum

(0212) 369 66 00  
Hasköy Caddesi 27, Hasköy

### Yıldız Palace

(0212) 258 30 80  
Yıldız, Beşiktaş

## Shopping

### Akmerkez

(0212) 282 01 70  
Nispetiye Caddesi, Ulus, Etiler  
www.akmerkez.com.tr

### Grand Bazaar

(0212) 519 1248  
Kalpakçılar Cad. Sorguçlu Han. 22 Beyazıt  
www.kapalicarsi.org.tr/eng

### İstinye Park

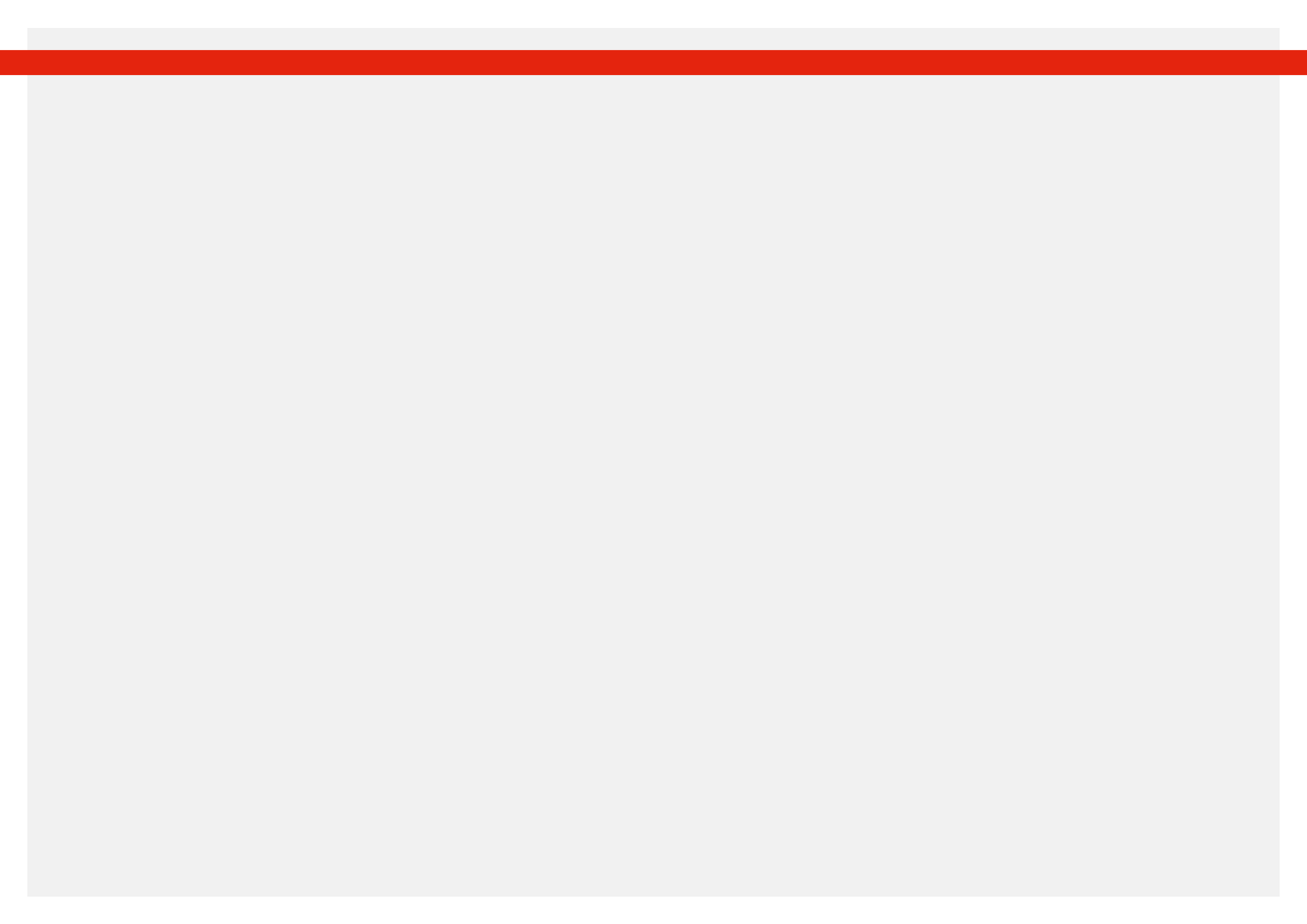
(0212) 345 55 55  
İstinye Bayırı Cad. 73 Sarıyer  
www.istinyepark.com

### Kanyon

(0212) 353 53 00  
Büyükdere Caddesi 185, Levent  
www.kanyon.com.tr

### Nişantaşı City's

(0212) 373 33 33  
Teşvikiye Cad. 162, Nişantaşı  
www.citysnisantasi.com/eng



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