

Welcome to Istanbul

TOP-20

What to do?

- Take a boat trip on the Bosphorus and feed the seagulls
- Ride the red tram along Istiklal Street
- Cover the classic route: Galata Tower – the city's symbol – and the Galata Bridge with its ever-present fishermen
- Visit significant mosques: the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, or Süleymaniye Mosque
- Descend into the cisterns: the famous Basilica Cistern (Yerebatan Sarayı) or the Nakkaş Cistern
- See the largest new mosque – Çamlıca Mosque
- Go shopping at the Grand Bazaar
- Tour the palaces, such as Topkapi and Dolmabahce
- Stroll through Gülhane Park, especially beautiful in spring during the Tulip Festival!
- See more than a hundred replicas of famous landmarks at Miniaturk Park
- Visit historic coffee houses – Mandabatmaz near Istiklal or Ethem Tezçakar Kahveci at the Grand Bazaar
- Watch the sunset from a viewpoint, such as Çamlıca Hill
- Have a photoshoot in historical costumes with seagulls and a Bosphorus view from one of the rooftops
- Escape for a day or two to the Princes' Islands
- Indulge in relaxation at a hammam
- Walk along the promenades, such as Salacak and Üsküdar
- Explore modern art spaces, like SALT Galata
- Step away into the heart of local neighborhoods to dine at a hidden "lokanta," where authentic dishes are prepared just for the locals
- Explore not only the city center but also other districts – Fener, Balat, Kadıköy, or Kuzguncuk
- Check out the local street art, especially in the Kadıköy district



What to bring back?

- Oriental sweets from Hafız Mustafa stores
- Turkish tea
- A silk kese mitt for exfoliation
- Textiles, like towels
- Nazar boncuk (evil eye) amulet



What to try?

- A traditional Turkish breakfast
- Turkish sweets at Hafız Mustafa, Turkish delight at Baylan, or other treats at KOSKA
- Simit – sesame bagel
- Balık ekmek – fried fish sandwich
- Dondurma – stretchy Turkish ice cream

