



Galata Tower and Sultanahmet (Blue) Mosque - İSTANBUL



# İSTANBUL

Istanbul embraces two continents with one arm reaching out to Asia and the other to Europe.

Through the city's heart, the Bosphorus, course the waters of the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara and the Golden Horn.

The former capital of three successive empires, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman, Istanbul today honors and preserves the legacy of its past while looking forward to a modern future.

It is Istanbul's endless variety that fascinates its visitors. The museums, churches, palaces, grand mosques, bazaars and sights of natural beauty seem innumerable.



Reclining on the western shore of the Bosphorus at sunset contemplating the red evening light reflected in the windows of the opposite shore you may suddenly and profoundly understand why so many centuries ago settlers chose to build on this remarkable site. At such times you can see why Istanbul is truly one of the most glorious cities in the world.



# PALACES

On a finger of land at the confluence of the Bosphorus, the Golden Horn and the Sea of Marmara stands the **Topkapı Palace**, that maze of buildings that was the focal point of the Ottoman Empire between the 15th and 19th centuries. In these opulent surroundings the sultans and their court lived and governed. A magnificent wooded garden fills the outer, or first, court. In the second court, on the right, shaded by cypress and plane trees, stand the palace kitchens, which now serve as galleries exhibiting the imperial collections of crystal, silver and Chinese porcelain. To the left is the Harem, the secluded quarters of the wives, concubines, and children of the sultan, charming visitors with echoes of centuries of intrigue. Today the third court holds the Hall of Audience, the Library of Ahmet III, an exhibition of imperial costumes worn by the sultans and their families, the famous jewels of the treasury and a priceless collection of miniatures from medieval manuscripts. In the center of this innermost sanctuary, the Pavilion of the Holy Mantle enshrines the relics of the Prophet Muhammed brought to Istanbul when the Ottomans assumed the caliphate of Islam. (Open every day except Tuesday).

The facade of the **Dolmabahçe Palace**, built in the mid-19th century by Sultan



**Dolmabahçe Palace**

Abdülmecit I, stretches for 600 meters along the European shore of the Bosphorus. The vast reception salon, with its 56 columns and four-and-a-half ton crystal chandelier with 750 lights, never fails to astonish visitors. At one time, birds from all over the world were kept in the Bird Pavilion for the delight of the palace's privileged residents. Atatürk, founder of the Turkish Republic, died in the palace on November 10, 1938. (Open every day except Monday and Thursday).

In the 19th century, Sultan Abdülaziz built the **Beylerbeyi Palace**, a fantasy in white marble set amid magnolia-filled gardens, on the Asian shore of the Bosphorus. Used as the Sultan's summer residence, it was offered to the most distinguished foreign dignitaries for their visits. Empress Eugenie of France was among its residents. (Open every day except Monday and Thursday).

In addition to the State Pavilions at the **Yıldız Palace** complex, the compound includes a series of pavilions and a mosque. It was completed by Abdülhamit II at the end of the 19th century.

The **Şale**, the largest and most exquisite of the buildings, reveals the luxury in which the sultans lived and entertained. Set in a huge park of flowers, shrubs and trees gathered from every part of the world, the palace grounds offer one of the most beau-



tiful panoramic views of the Bosphorus. Because of restoration work, only the Şale and park are open to the public. (Open every day except Tuesday).

The **Göksu Palace**, also known as **Küçüksu**, takes its name from the streams which empty into the Bosphorus near the tiny palace. Built by Abdülmecit I in the middle of the 19th century, it was used as a summer residence. (Open every day except Monday and Thursday).

Originally built in the 18th century and later restored by various sultans, the **Aynalı Kavak**

**Summer Pavilion** assumed its name, Mirrored Poplar, when its famed mirrors, a gift from the Venetians, were installed in 1718. This palace on the Golden Horn is one of the most beautiful examples of traditional Turkish architecture. (Open every day except Monday and Thursday).

The 19th-century **Ihlamur Pavilion** is named for the linden trees that grow in its gardens. Now in the heart of metropolitan Istanbul, when it was originally constructed, the pavilion lay in the rolling country-



**Topkapı Palace**



**Topkapı Dagger**



**Spoonmaker's Diamond**

side that surrounded the city. The **Merasim Pavilion** was used for official ceremonies while the **Maiyet Pavilion** sheltered the sultan's entourage and, on occasions, his harem on their excursions out of the palace confines. (Open every day except Monday and Thursday).

The **Maslak Pavilions** on a shady green hill were conceived by Sultan Abdülaziz as hunting lodges. These are particularly noteworthy as superb examples of the late 19th-century Ottoman decorative style. The **Malta Pavilion** is presently used as an inexpensive restaurant while both the **Maslak Pavilion** and **Limonlu Gate** are open as cafes. (Open every day).

The **Florya Atatürk Sea Pavilion** served as a summer residence for Turkish presidents, beginning with Atatürk. Built in 1935 in a T-shaped design on land jutting out over the Sea of Marmara, this building serves as a showcase for some of the loveliest examples of early 20th century furnishings. (Open weekdays except Monday and Thursday).



# MOSQUES

Across from Hagia Sophia stands the supremely elegant **Imperial Sultanahmet Mosque** with six minarets. Built between 1609 and 1616 by the architect Mehmet, the building is more familiarly known as the **Blue Mosque** because of its magnificent interior paneling of blue and white Iznik tiles. During the summer months an evening light and sound show both entertains and informs visitors.

The cascading domes and four slender minarets of the **Imperial Süleymaniye Mosque** dominate the skyline on the Golden Horn's west bank. Considered the most beautiful of all imperial mosques in Istanbul, it was built between 1550 and 1557 by Sinan, the renowned architect of the Ottoman Empire's golden age. Erected on the crest of a hill, the building is conspicuous for its great size, emphasized by the four minarets that rise from each corner of the courtyard. Inside are the mihrab (prayer niche showing the direction to Mecca) and the mimber (pulpit) made of finely carved white marble and exquisite stained-glass windows coloring the incoming streams of light. It was in the gardens of this complex that Süleyman and his wife,



Ortaköy Mosque - ISTANBUL



Obelisk - ISTANBUL

Hürrem Sultan (Roxelane), had their mausolea built, and near here also Sinan built his own tomb. The mosque complex also includes four medreses, or theological schools, a school of medicine, a caravanserai, a Turkish bath, and a kitchen and hospice for the poor.

The **Rüstem Paşa Mosque**, another skillful accomplishment of the architect Sinan, was built in 1561 by order of Rüstem Paşa, Grand Vizier and son-in-law of Süleyman the Magnificent. Exquisite Iznik tiles panel the small and superbly proportioned interior.

The **Imperial Fatih Mosque**, constructed between 1463 and 1470, bears the name of the Ottoman conqueror of Istanbul, Fatih Sultan Mehmet, and is the site of his mausoleum. Standing atop another of Istanbul's hills, its vast size and great complex of religious buildings - medreses, hospices, baths, a hospital, a caravanserai and a library - make it well worth a visit.

The great **Mosque of Eyüp** lies outside the city walls, near the Golden Horn, at the traditional site where Eyüp, the standard bear-



er of the Prophet Mohammed, died in the Islamic assault on Constantinople in A.D. 670. The first mosque built after the Ottoman conquest of the city, this greatly venerated shrine attracts many pilgrims.

Built between 1597 and 1663, the **Yeni (New) Mosque** looms over the harbor at Eminönü, greeting the incoming ferryboats and welcoming tourists to the old city. Today its graceful domes and arches shelter hundreds of pigeons who make this area their home. Marvelous Iznik tiles decorate what was once the sultan's balcony.

The 16th-century **Sokullu Mehmet Paşa Mosque** built on an awkwardly shaped plot on a steeply sloping hill near Sultanahmet, is one of the most beautiful examples of classical Turkish architecture and another masterpiece of the architect Sinan. Inside, breathtaking blues, greens, purples and reds color the elegant designs of the Iznik tiles.

Walls of glass fill the four immense arches that support the central dome at the **Mihrimah Sultan Mosque** inside the Edirne gate of the old city walls. One hundred and sixty-one windows illuminate this mosque; built in 1555 by Sinan for Mihrimah Sultan, the daughter of Süleyman the Magnificent.



Sultanahmet Mosque (Blue Mosque)





Archeology Museum - ISTANBUL



# MUSEUMS

The **Basilica of Hagia Sophia** (Holy Wisdom), now called the **Ayasofya Museum**, is unquestionably one of the finest buildings of all time. Built by Constantine the Great and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century, its immense dome rises 55 meters above the ground and its diameter spans 31 meters. Linger here to admire the building's majestic serenity as well as the fine Byzantine mosaics. (Open every day except Monday).

The **Archeological Museums** are found just inside the first court of the Topkapı Palace. Included among its treasures of antiquity are the celebrated Alexander Sarcophagus and the facade of the Temple to Athena from Assos. The **Museum of the Ancient Orient** displays artifacts from the Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian, Hatti and Hittite civilizations. (Open every day except Monday).

**Rumeli Hisarı**, or European Fortress, was built by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1452 prior to his capture of Istanbul. Completed in only four months, it is one of the most beautiful works of military architecture in



**Istanbul Archaeological Museum**



**Sadberk Hanım Museum**

the world. In the castle is the **Open-Air Museum** amphitheater that is the site for some events of the Istanbul Music Festival. (Open every day except Wednesdays).

Originally built in the 15th century as a köşk, or pavilion, by Mehmet the Conqueror, the **Çinili Köşk**, which houses the **Museum of Turkish Ceramics**, contains beautiful 16th-century specimens from Iznik and fine examples of Seljuk and Ottoman pottery and tiles. (Open every day except Monday).

Like the Ayasofya Museum, the **St. Irene Museum** was originally a church. It ranks, in fact, as the first church built in Istanbul. Constantine commissioned it in the fourth century and Justinian later had the church restored. The building reputedly stands on the site of a pre-Christian temple. (Open every day except Monday, but requires special permission for admission).

The dark stone building that houses the **Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art** was built in 1524 by the Grand Vizier to Süleyman the Magnificent, Ibrahim Paşa, as



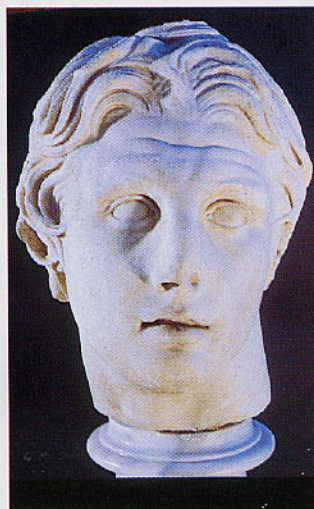
his residence. It was the grandest private residence ever built in the Ottoman Empire. Today it holds a superb collection of ceramics, metalwork, miniatures, calligraphy, textiles, and woodwork as well as some of the oldest carpets in the world. (Open every day except Monday).

Across the street from the Ibrahim Paşa residence is the **Museum of Turkish Carpets** which contains exquisite antique carpets and kilims gathered from all over Turkey. (Open every day except Sunday and Monday).

Near Hagia Sophia is the sixth-century Byzantine cistern known as the **Yerebatan Cistern**. Three hundred and thirty-six massive Corinthian columns support the immense chamber's fine brick vaulting. (Open every day).

The **Mosaic Museum** preserves *in situ* exceptionally fine fifth and sixth-century mosaic pavements from the Grand Palace of the Byzantine emperors. (Open every day except Tuesday).

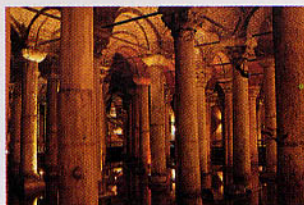
The **Kariye Museum**, the 11th-century church of "St. Savior" in the Chora complex, is, after Hagia Sophia, the most important Byzantine monument in Istanbul. Unremarkable in its architecture,



Head of Alexander the Great,  
Istanbul Archaeological  
Museum



Topkapı Palace



Yerebatan Cistern

inside, the walls are decorated with superb 14th-century mosaics. Illustrating scenes from the life of Christ and the Virgin Mary, these brilliantly colored paintings embody the vigor of Byzantine art. In restored wooden houses in the area surrounding the church you can enjoy tea and coffee in a relaxed atmosphere far removed from the city's hectic pace. (Open every day except Wednesday).

The **Aviation Museum** in Yeşilköy traces the development of flight in Turkey. (Open every day except Monday).

In the **Military Museum** the great field tents used by the Ottoman armies on campaigns are on display. Other exhibits include Ottoman weapons and the accoutrements of war. The Mehter Takımı (Ottoman military band) can be heard performing Ottoman martial music between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. (Open every day except Monday and Tuesday).

Atatürk's former residence in Şişli now serves as the **Atatürk Museum** and displays his personal effects. (Open every day except Saturday and Sunday).

The grand imperial caiques used by the sultans to cross the Bosphorus are among the many many other interesting exhibits of



Ottoman naval history that can be seen at the **Naval Museum** located in the Beşiktaş district. (Open every day except Monday and Thursday).

Also in Beşiktaş is the **Museum of Fine Arts** that houses Turkish paintings and sculptures from the end of the 19th century to the present. (Open every day except Monday and Tuesday).

The **City Museum**, located within the gardens of the Yıldız Palace, preserves and documents the history of Istanbul since the Ottoman conquest. (Open every day except Thursday). Also within the gardens are the **Yıldız Palace Theatre** and the **Museum of Historical Stage Costumes**, with its richly decorated scenery and stage, and its exquisite costumes. (Open every day except Tuesday).

The **Rahmi Koç Industry Museum**, in the suburb of Hasköy on the coast of the Golden Horn, was an Ottoman-period building, formerly called Lengerhane, for iron and steel works. Today it houses exhibits on industrial development. (Open every day except Monday).

Up the Bosphorus in the picturesque suburb of Büyükdere, the collections of the **Sadberk Hanım Museum** fill two charm-



**Ayasofya (Hagia Sophia) Museum**

ing 19th-century wooden villas. A private museum which originally displayed only Turkish decorative arts has recently been expanded for a new collection of archaeological finds. (Open every day except Wednesday).

For something different try the **Caricature and Cartoon Museum** in Fatih on Atatürk Boulevard under the Bozdoğan Aqueduct in the 16th century Gazanfer Ağa Medrese. (Open daily 9:00 a.m to 6:00 p.m.)



# HISTORICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS

The ancient **Hippodrome**, the scene of chariot races and the center of Byzantine civic life, stood in the area that is now in front of the Blue Mosque. The area is now named for the mosque, **Sultanahmet**. Of the monuments which once decorated it only three remain: the **Obelisk of Theodosius**, the bronze **Serpentine Column** and the **Column of Constantine**. Remains from the curved end of the Hippodrome wall can be seen on the southwest side of these three monuments. Today the square forms the center of Istanbul's historical, cultural and touristic pursuits. Take particular note of the surrounding wooden houses, especially the 18th century homes on **Soğukçeşme Street**. Delightfully restored, they have a new lease on life as small hotels; one houses a fascinating library of books on Istanbul.

The **Ahmet III Fountain**, built in 1729, stands at the entrance to Topkapı Palace. A generous roof shades the water spouts where the thirsty can stop for a cup of refreshing water. This highly ornate, free-standing fountain is a superb example of the late Ottoman style.

Mahmut II built the **Beyazıt Tower** (85 meters high) in 1828 as a fire tower. Today it



Galata Tower

is included in the grounds of Istanbul University.

The **Bozdoğan-Valens Aqueduct**, built in A.D. 368, supplied the Byzantine, and later the Ottoman palaces with water. Today part of the remaining 900 meters of double-tiered arches straddle the major highway that runs through the old part of town.

The **Istanbul city walls**, once an impenetrable fortification, stretch seven kilometers from the Sea of Marmara to the Golden Horn. Recently restored, as also many times before, these walls date from the fifth century and the reign of Emperor Theodosius II. UNESCO has declared the walls and the area which they enclose to be one of the cultural heritages of the world.

The **Galata Tower**, a Genoese construction of 1348, rises 62 meters above the Golden Horn. From the top there is a marvelous panorama of the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus. In the evening you can enjoy its popular restaurant, nightclub and bar.

**Rumeli Hisarı**, or European Fortress, was built by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1452 prior to his capture of Istanbul. Completed



in only four months, it is one of the most beautiful works of military architecture in the world. In the castle is the **Open-Air Museum** amphitheater that is the site for some events of the Istanbul Music Festival. (Open every day except Wednesdays).

**Kız Kulesi**, also known as Leander's Tower, is one of the most romantic symbols of Istanbul. On a tiny island at the entrance to Istanbul's harbor, the first tower was constructed in the 12th century. The present building dates from the 18th century.



**Octagonal Fountain -  
İSTANBUL**

**Leander's Tower**





Dolmabahçe Palace - ISTANBUL



# İSTANBUL BOĞAZI (THE BOSPHORUS)

A stay in Istanbul is not complete without a traditional and unforgettable boat excursion up the **Bosphorus**, that winding strait that separates Europe and Asia. Its shores offer a delightful mixture of past and present, grand splendor and simple beauty. Modern hotels stand next to *yalı* (shore-front wooden villas), marble palaces abut rustic stone fortresses, and elegant compounds neighbor small fishing villages. The best way to see the Bosphorus is to board one of the passenger boats that regularly zigzag along the shores. You embark at **Eminönü** and stop alternately on the Asian and European sides of the strait. The round-trip excursion, very reasonably priced, takes about six hours. If you wish a private voyage, there are agencies that specialize in organizing day or night mini-cruises.

During the journey you pass the magnificent **Dolmabahçe Palace**; farther along rise the green parks and imperial pavilions of the **Yıldız Palace**. On the coastal edge of the parks stands the **Çırağan Palace**, refurbished in 1874 by Sultan Abdülaziz, and now restored as a grand hotel. For 300 meters along the Bosphorus shore its



**Bosphorus Bridge-İSTANBUL**



**Trip on the Bosphorus**



**Corn vendor**

ornate marble facades reflect the swiftly moving water. At **Ortaköy**, the next stop, artists gather every Sunday to exhibit their works in a streetside gallery. The variety of people creates a lively scene. Sample a tasty morsel from one of the street vendors. In Ortaköy, there is a church, a mosque and a synagogue that have existed side by side for hundreds of years - a tribute to Turkish tolerance at the grass roots level. Overshadowing Istanbul's traditional architecture is one of the world's largest suspension bridges, the **Bosphorus Bridge**, linking Europe and Asia.

The beautiful **Beylerbeyi Palace** lies just past the bridge on the Asian side. Behind the palace rises **Çamlıca Hill**, the highest point in Istanbul. You can also drive here to admire a magnificent panorama of Istanbul as well as the beautiful landscaped gardens. On the opposite shore, the wooden Ottoman villas of **Arnavutköy** create a contrast with the luxurious modern apartments of neighboring **Bebek**. A few kilometers farther along stand the fortresses of **Rumeli Hisarı** and **Anadolu Hisarı** facing each other across the straits like sentries guarding the city. The **Göksu Palace**,



sometimes known as **Küçüksu Palace** graces the Asian shore next to the Anadolu Hisarı. The second link between the two continents, the **Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge** straddles the waterway just past these two fortresses.

From **Duatepe Hill**, on the European side, you can admire the magnificent panorama of the bridge and the Bosphorus. Below Duatepe, the beautiful **Emirgan Park** bursts with color when its tulips bloom in the spring. On the Asian shore is **Kanlıca**, a fishing village that is now a favored suburb for wealthy Istanbulites. Crowds gather in the restaurants and cafes along its



**Rumeli Hisarı and the Bosphorus**

shores to sample its famous yogurt. Shortly after Kanlıca and Çubuklu is the **Beykoz Korusu (İbrahim Paşa Woods)**, a popular retreat. In the cafes and restaurants there you can enjoy the delightful scenery and clear, fresh air. Back on the European side, at **Tarabya Bay**, yachts seem to dance at their moorings. The coastal road bustles with taverns and fish restaurants from Tarabya to the charming suburbs of **Sarıyer** and **Büyükdere**. Sarıyer has one of the largest fish markets in Istanbul and is also famous for its delicious varieties of milk puddings and *börek* (pastries). On past Sarıyer, the narrow strait widens and opens into the Black Sea.

## HALIÇ (THE GOLDEN HORN)

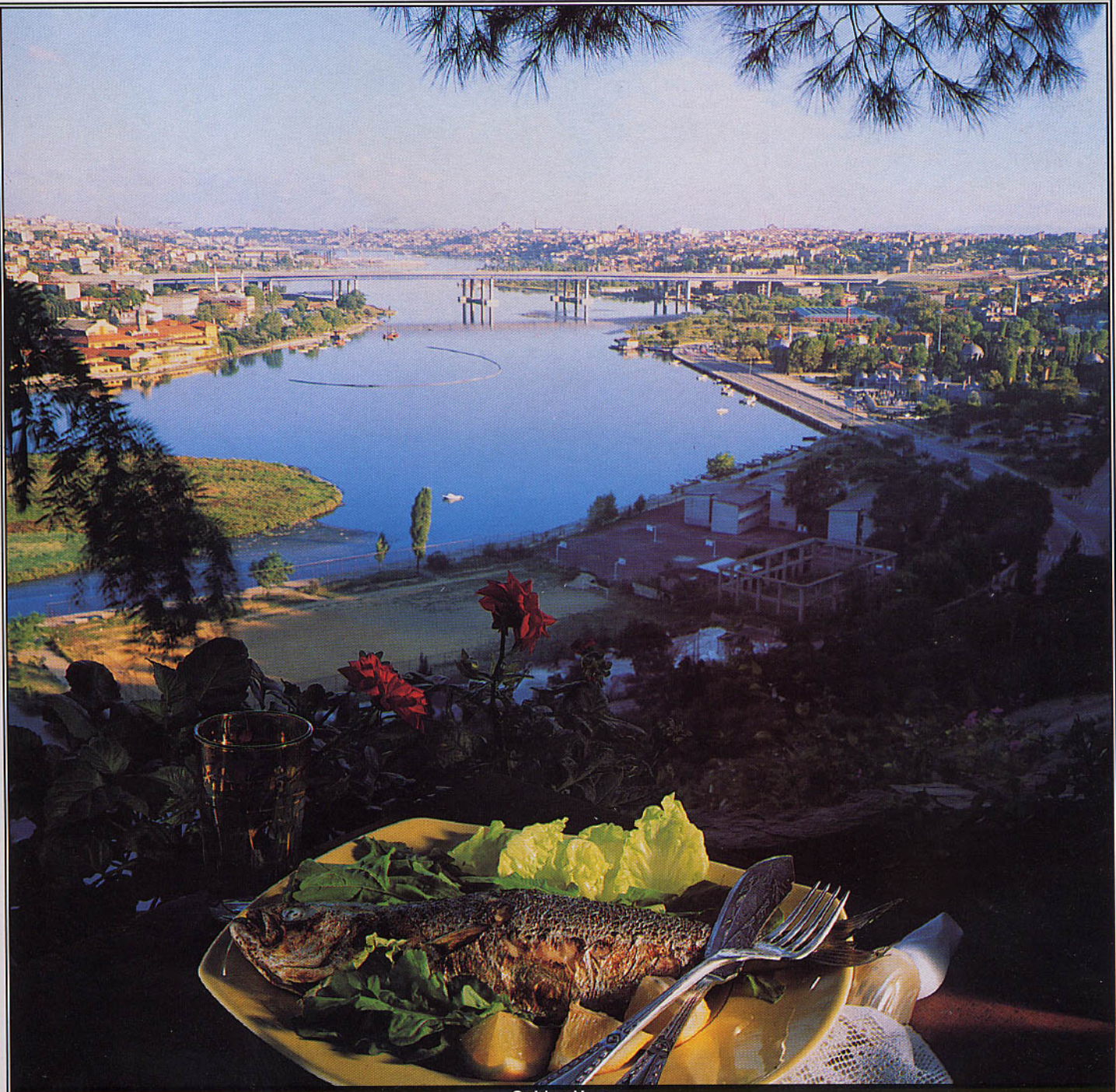
This horn-shaped estuary divides European Istanbul. One of the best natural harbors in the world, the Byzantine and Ottoman navies and commercial shipping interests were centered here. Today, lovely parks and promenades line the shores where the setting sun casts a golden hue on the water. At **Fener** and **Balat**, neighborhoods midway up the Golden Horn, whole streets full of old wooden houses, churches, and syna-



**Eyüp Sultan - İSTANBUL**

gogues date from Byzantine and Ottoman times. The Orthodox Patriarchy resides here at Fener. **Eyüp**, a little further up, reflects Ottoman architecture. Cemeteries dotted with dark cypress trees cover the hillsides. Many pilgrims come to the **Tomb of Eyüp** in the hope that their prayers will be granted. The **Pierre Loti Cafe**, atop the hill overlooking the shrine is a wonderful place to enjoy the tranquility of the view.





Golden Horn





Modern dance



# ART, CULTURE, AND ENTERTAINMENT

Istanbul is an international art and cultural center. The **International Arts and Cultural Festival** is held each year in June and July with famous artists coming from all over the world. These performances are held mostly at the **Atatürk Cultural Center**. The **Istanbul Science Center (Bilim Merkezi)**, founded by the Science Center Foundation and located on the campus of Istanbul Technical University, has hands-on experimental and theoretical opportunities for adults and children of various educational levels. In March and April you can take in the **International Film Festival**. Those who enjoy classical music can hear it at the **Cemal Reşit Rey Hall**. Operas, operettas, ballets, films, concerts, exhibitions and conferences all contribute to the cultural palette of the city.

Istanbul also has a rich program of light entertainment. Nightclubs provide splendid entertainment throughout dinner, ranging from a selection of Turkish songs to belly-dancing. Alongside these are modern discos, cabarets, and jazz clubs in the **Taksim-Harbiye** district.

In Sultanahmet, there are a number of restaurants in restored Byzantine and Ottoman buildings which offer a unique setting for an evening out.

**Kumkapı**, with its many taverns, bars and fish



Çiçek Pasajı, Beyoğlu



restaurants, is another attractive district. People have been meeting for years at **Çiçek Pasajı** in the district of **Beyoğlu** for snacks and seafood specialties. Also in the area near Çiçek Pasajı is the narrow **Nevizade** street, which is the best place in Istanbul for eating Turkish specialties and drinking rakı.

On the Bosphorus, **Ortaköy** is the best place for nightlife in Istanbul, with its nightclubs, jazz clubs, fine seafood restaurants and bars.

At **Eminönü** don't miss an opportunity to see fishermen dressed in traditional Ottoman clothes and their Ottoman-style boats which you may board to sample their delicious fried fish.

You may also want to visit **Tatilya Cumhuriyeti**, a large amusement park in **Beylikdüzü** past **Haramidere** on the road to the Atatürk International Airport.





# SHOPPING

One could visit Istanbul for the shopping alone. The **Kapalı Çarşı**, or **Covered Bazaar**, in the old city is the logical place to start. This labyrinth of streets and passages houses more than 4,000 shops. The names recall the days when each trade had its own quarter: the goldsmiths' street, the carpet sellers' street, the street of the skullcap makers. Still the commercial center of the old city, the bazaar is the original shopping mall with something to suit every taste and pocket.

Charming souvenirs and gifts can be selected from among Turkish crafts, the world-renowned carpets, brilliant handpainted ceramics, copperware, brassware, and meerschaum pipes. The gold jewelry in brilliantly lit cases dazzles passersby. Leather and suede goods of excellent quality make a relatively inexpensive purchase. In the heart of the bazaar, the **Old Bedesten** offers a curious assortment of antiques. It is worth poking through the clutter of decades in the hope of finding a treasure.

The **Mısır Çarşısı** or **Spice Bazaar**, next to the Yeni Mosque at Eminönü, transports you to fantasies from the mystical East. The

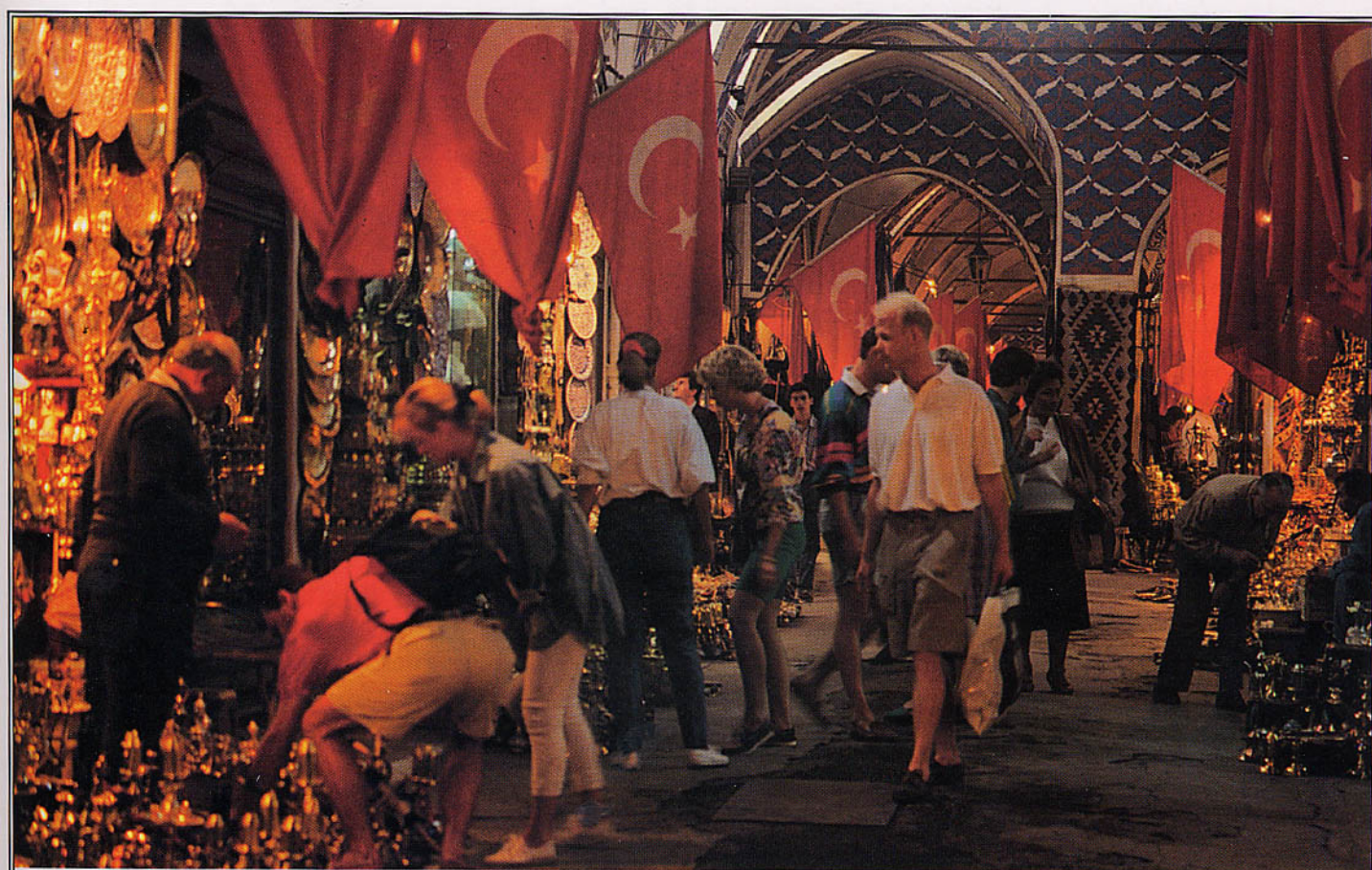


Spices

enticing aromas of cinnamon, caraway, saffron, mint, thyme and every other conceivable herb and spice fill the air. Sultanahmet has become another shopping mecca in the old city. The **İstanbul Sanatları Çarşısı** (Bazaar of Istanbul Arts) in the 18th century **Mehmet Efendi Medresesi**, and the nearby 16th-century **Caferağa Medrese**, built by Sinan, offer you the chance to see craftsmen at work and to purchase their wares. In the **Arasta** (old bazaar) of the Sultanahmet Mosque, a thriving shopping arcade makes both shopping and sightseeing very convenient.

The sophisticated shops of the **Taksim-Nişantaşı-Şişli** districts contrast with the chaos of the bazaars. On **İstiklal Avenue**, **Cumhuriyet Avenue** and **Rumeli Avenue**, you can browse peacefully in the most fashionable shops selling elegant fashions made from Turkey's high quality textiles. Exquisite jewelry as well as finely designed handbags and shoes can also be found. The **Ataköy Galleria Mall** in Ataköy and the **Akmerkez Mall** in Etiler have branches of Istanbul's most elegant shops. In **Bakırköy**, the **Carousel Mall** is worth a visit, as is the





**Kapalı Çarşı**  
(Covered Bazaar)



Atlas Passage in Beyoğlu, Bahariye Avenue, Bağdat Avenue, and Capitol Mall on the Asian side, offer the same shopping opportunities.

In Istanbul's busy flea markets you can find an astonishing assortment of goods, both old and new. Every day offers a new opportunity to poke about the Sahaflar Çarşısı and Çınaraltı in the Beyazıt district. On Sundays, in a flea market between the Sahaflar and the Covered Bazaar, vendors

uncover their wares on carts and blankets. The Horhor Çarşısı is a collection of shops that sell furniture of varying age and quality. Flea markets are open daily in the Topkapı district, on Çukurcuma Sokak in Cihangir, on Büyük Hamam Sokak in Üsküdar, in the Kadıköy Çarşı Durağı area, and between Eminönü and Tahtakale. After a Sunday drive up the Bosphorus, stop between Büyükdere and Sarıyer to wander through another lively market.



# THE ENVIRONS OF İSTANBUL

The **Princes' Islands**, an archipelago of nine islands in the Sea of Marmara, were places of exile for Byzantine princes. Today, during the summer months, wealthy Istanbulites escape to the cool sea breezes and elegant 19th century houses. **Büyükada** is the largest of the islands. Here you can enjoy a ride in a horse-drawn phaeton (carriage) among the pine trees, or relax on a beach in one of the numerous coves that ring the island. The other popular islands are **Kınalı**, **Sedef**, **Burgaz**, and **Heybeliada**. Regular ferry boats connect the islands with both the European and Asian shores. A faster sea bus service operates from **Kabataş** in the summer.

On the European side of the Black Sea coast, 25 km from the outskirts of Istanbul, the long, broad sandy beaches of **Kilyos** draw crowds of Istanbul residents in the summer. The **Belgrad Forest**, inland from the Black Sea on the European side, is the largest forest around Istanbul. On weekends, Istanbulites drive out to its spacious shade for family picnics and barbecues. Seven ancient reservoirs and a number of natural springs refresh the air. The Ottoman aqueducts, of which the 16th-century Moglova Aqueduct built by



**Büyükada**



**Büyükada, Island Port**

Sinan is the most splendid, lend a majesty to the natural surroundings. Overshadowing the entrance to Kemer Golf and Country Club is the 750-meter-long Sultan Süleyman Aqueduct, also built by Sinan. It is one of the longest in Turkey. The 500-stable Equestrian Center offers trail riding.

On the Asian side, **Polonezköy**, 25 km from Istanbul, was founded in the 19th century by Polish immigrants. Istanbul residents come to its pastoral landscape for walks, horseback riding and to enjoy the traditional Polish food served by descendants of the original settlers.

On the Black Sea, 70 km from Üsküdar, **Şile's** sandy beaches, fish restaurants and hotels make it one of the most delightful holiday places near Istanbul. Cool cotton clothing called Şile bezi is popular with tourists and is fashioned here.

The **Bayramoğlu-Darica Bird's Paradise and Botanic Park**, 38 km from Istanbul, is a unique place to relax. Many species of birds and plants from all over the world can be seen in this huge park, which also has restaurants and a promenade for pedestrians.

The charming fishing town of **Eskihisar**, southeast of Istanbul, boasts a marina where



yachtsmen can moor their boats after a day out on the Sea of Marmara. In town, the house of Osman Hamdi Bey, Turkey's great 19th-century painter, has been converted into a museum. Neighboring sites include the tomb of Hannibal between Eskihisar and Gebze, and a Byzantine castle.

Many Istanbulites have summer homes near **Silivri**, a popular vacation area about 65 km from Istanbul. A large holiday resort, it offers sports, health, and fitness facilities, that include the Klassis Country and Golf Club, and excellent dining. The conference center attracts business people who want to escape the city's fast pace for a working holiday. A regular sea bus service connects Istanbul to Silivri.

## YACHTING

Yachting is very popular in Istanbul. This is the only place in the world where you can enjoy the beauty of a mystical landscape while sailing back through history to Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman times, and view magnificent castles, palaces and mosques.

From the **North Sea** through the European interior, yachtsers can sail down the European channel system and the **Rhine** and **Danube** Rivers into the **Black Sea** harbors and to the **Istanbul Boğazi** and **Istanbul marinas** - a safe and short way to come.



Golf - İSTANBUL



Ataköy Marina - İSTANBUL



Yacht races

Sail on the Istanbul Boğazi under the enormous bridges spanning two continents and around the Princes' Islands to their beautiful bays, where you may anchor and enjoy the serenity of the area. After enjoying all of the sights return to one of the two large marinas. **Ataköy Marina** with a blue flag rating is on the European side and **Kalamış Marina** is on the Asian side. Both offer 24-hour service. International Offshore Yacht races are held in Istanbul every summer.

Moving on from Istanbul through the Sea of Marmara you come to **Çanakkale** and the famous **Dardanelles**, site of an historic World War I campaign that sealed Mustafa Kemal as a man of destiny. Continue on into the **Aegean Sea** for fine cruising and end up along the golden sands of the **Mediterranean**.

## GOLF

Istanbul offers lovely opportunities for golf enthusiasts:

The **Klassis Golf and Country Club**, 65 km from Istanbul in Silivri, is one of the area's largest golf clubs, with an 18-hole course and a 9-hole course.

The **Kemer Golf and Country Club**, 18 km from Istanbul in the Belgrad Forest near the town of Kemerburgaz, offers a formidable test of golf skill on its 9-hole course.

The **Istanbul Golf Club** in the Ayazağa district of Istanbul also has a 9-hole course.







# THE MARMARA REGION

A fast highway connects Istanbul with **Izmit**, the capital of **Kocaeli** province. An important city in Roman times known as **Nicomedeia**, it is now a prosperous industrial center. The restored Saatçi Efendi Konak, a typical 18th-century Ottoman mansion, now serves as the Ethnography Museum. **Pişmaniye**, the local sweet, consists of thousands of thin layers of drawn sugar.

**Hereke**, west of Izmit, is a major carpet center. Renowned throughout the world for their beauty and quality, these carpets fetch the highest prices in Istanbul bazaars. On the Black Sea coast, north of Izmit, particularly at **Kerpe**, **Kefken** and **Kovanağzı**, sandy beaches and comfortable guest houses attract vacationers.

East of Izmit is **Adapazarı**, the provincial capital of **Sakarya**, an important agricultural and industrial region. The **Sakarya (Sangarius) River** irrigates this fertile land which abounds in fruit trees and fields of vegetables. In the city of **Adapazarı** itself, the Atatürk and Ethnography Museum displays personal effects of the founder of the Turkish Republic as well as regional artifacts. The **Beşköprü Bridge**, built by the



Şile - İSTANBUL



Izmit Museum

Byzantine emperor Justinian in 553, stretches for 429 meters across the river. Eight arches connect the two shores.

A few kilometers away at **Lake Sapanca**, quiet restaurants, hotels, and summer residences line the lakeshore. Istanbulites escape to this retreat in the **Saman Mountain** basin throughout the year. The **Arifiye Forest** on the highlands of Lake Sapanca has nice camping and picnic areas and an excellent panoramic view of the lake below.

**Lake Akgöl** lies just inland from the Black Sea **Karasu** holiday center. Both places offer scenic surroundings. At **Taraklı** you can wander through a town that preserves many of its old buildings.

The province of **Bilecik** lies southeast of **Iznik** in the verdant and fertile **Sakarya River Valley**. In the old quarter of the city stands the mausoleum of **Şeyh Edebali**, who played an important role in the founding of the Ottoman Empire. Every September, a commemorative ceremony and cultural festival are held here in his honor. The **Orhan Gazi Mosque** is near his tomb.

Set amid the numerous willows which give **Söğüt** its name, the town is well worth a



detour. The migrating Kayı Turks first settled here, and the tomb of their leader Ertuğrul Gazi is in the town. In September, a commemorative ceremony is held in his honor. Other tourist attractions include the life-size busts of famous figures from Turkish history and the Ethnography Museum which traces the history of Turkey through its displays.

In ancient times **Yalova** was known as **Helenapolis** in memory of Emperor Constantine's mother Helena who designed the entire city. Today, Yalova is an important port city, famous for its thermal baths. **Termal**, in the southwestern part of the city is the center of the thermal district and the best place in Turkey to enjoy the curative thermal bath waters. In Termal, there's a wonderful panoramic view of the entire Termal district center from the top of a hill overlooking the city. The Atatürk Mansion, located in Yalova, is now a museum (open to the public weekdays except Monday and Thursday). Built in 1929, Atatürk's former summer residence displays original furnishings from the early 20th century. For more natural beauty take in **Karaca Arboretum**, open Sunday afternoons until 6 p.m.

Seventeen kilometers west of Yalova, the relaxing resort area of **Çınarcık** has lovely beaches and modern holiday complexes.

Formerly known as **Nicaea**, **İznik** lies at the eastern tip of Lake Iznik, to the south of



**Thermal Spa-YALOVA**

Izmit. The city was reconstructed in 316 BC by Antigonas, one of the generals of Alexander the Great, and then taken by another general, Lysimachus, who named the city "Nicaea" for his wife. Later the city fell to the Bithynian Kingdom and was bequeathed to Rome in 128 BC. After playing its role as an important Roman, and then later Byzantine city it fell to the Seljuks in 1078 and passed on to the Ottomans in 1331. The Roman theater was built by Trajan (249-251). On the shore of Lake Iznik stands the Roman Senate, where the first Council of Nicaea took place in 325. In the center of the town is the Church of St. Sophia, used by other councils. One of the more important councils was in 787 over iconoclasm, the role of icons in worship. The "Baptisterium" has a cupola over the baptistry. The Ottomans converted this church into the Orhan Mosque. Another church is the 6th-century "Komesis" Church built for the ascension of the virgin. Iznik stands along with Jerusalem, Ephesus and the Vatican in importance in the Christian world. It is still a small town which does not seem to have exceeded its original 4227 meters of Roman walls with their 114 towers. The four gates which allowed access to the city still stand. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Iznik was the center of exquisite ceramic ware production which made an important decorative



contribution to mosques and palaces throughout Turkey. A museum displays the finds of nearby excavations. Among the important Islamic buildings in town, be sure to visit the turquoise tiled Yeşil Mosque and the Nilüfer Hatun İmarethanesi. After exploring the sights, the lakeside fish restaurants provide delicious food and a relaxing atmosphere. Five kilometers from Iznik in the Elbeyli village there is a 5th century catacomb and an obelisk 15.5 m high built by Cassius Philiscus.

**Yenişehir**, 40 km. northeast of Bursa, is filled with many interesting and lovely old Turkish houses. The 18th century Şemaki Mansion, now restored as a museum, is open to visitors.

The city of **Bursa**, southeast of the Sea of Marmara, lies on the lower slopes of **Uludağ** (Mt. Olympus of Mysia, 2.543 meters). The city derives its name from its founder King Prusias, of Bithynia. Its previous antique name was Prussa ad Hypium. It subsequently came under Roman, then Byzantine rule before falling to Orhan Gazi in 1326, when it became the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. Many important Ottoman buildings remain.

Known as "Green Bursa," the city is filled with gardens and parks and overlooks a verdant plain. It is at the center of an important fruit growing region. Bursa was, and is still, famous for its peaches, silk trade, towel



**Skiing at Uludağ  
BURSA**

manufacture and thermal springs. Make a point to try the locally-created Iskender Kebab, a dish of bread, tomato sauce, strips of grilled meat, melted butter and yogurt. Candied chestnuts are another regional speciality.

A tour of the city begins in the eastern section at the Yeşil Türbe (Green Mausoleum). Set in a garden and distinguished by its exterior paneling of tiles, the mausoleum holds the tiled cenotaph of Sultan Mehmet I. Across the street, the Yeşil Mosque of 1424 reflects the new Ottoman, as opposed to Seljuk, aesthetic. A medrese nearby completes the complex and is also home to the Ethnography Museum. Before exploring this area, stop for a glass of tea in one of the traditional tea houses. Going uphill, to the east, you pass by the Emir Sultan Mosque in its delightful setting, and after walking through a district of old houses you reach the Yıldırım Beyazıt Mosque (1391).

Now make your way to Cumhuriyet Square (known locally as Heykel) and stroll along Atatürk Avenue to Koza Park where outdoor cafes are set among flowers and fountains. At the back of the park, a long building, the Koza Han (1490), houses the silk cocoon trade. From here you proceed to the covered bazaar area, with its narrow streets, caravanserais and bedesten. On the other side of Koza Park stands one of Bursa's oldest religious buildings, the Orhan Gazi



Mosque, built in 1339. Nearby is the large Ulu Mosque, constructed in the Seljuk style. A finely carved walnut mimber (speaker's platform) and impressive calligraphic panels decorate the mosque. The şadırvan (ablutionary fountain) lies uncharacteristically within the mosque itself under the ceiling of twenty domes.

Walking west from the Ulu Mosque you arrive at Hisar, an old and picturesque quarter of Bursa. In the park that overlooks the valley are the mausoleums of Osman, the founder of the Ottoman Empire, and his son Orhan Gazi, who commanded the army that conquered Bursa. The cafes of Tophane offer a good place to stop for refreshment. In nearby Ressamlar Sokak (Painters' Street), local artists work in the open air.

At the Yıldız Park Tea Gardens in the Muradiye quarter, you get a superb view of the Muradiye Complex. The compound, in a tranquil park-like setting, contains the Mosque of Sultan Murat II (1426) built in the style of the Yeşil Mosque and the tombs of Murat II, Şehzade Cem and Şehzade Mustafa. These contain some of the loveliest decoration and tile work. The nearby Ottoman House Museum is in a restored 17th century dwelling that provides an interesting glimpse into the lives of wealthy Ottomans.

Other places of interest in Bursa include the Culture Park with the Bursa Archeological

Museum, and the Atatürk Museum on the road to Çekirge.

The western suburb of **Çekirge** has been known since Roman times for its warm springs rich in minerals. Many modern hotels have thermal bath facilities or, you can also visit the old hamams. Yeni Kaplıca (New Spring) was built in 1552 by Rüstem Paşa, the Grand Vizier of Süleyman the Magnificent. The Eski Kaplıca (Old Spring), built on the site of the original Byzantine baths, is the oldest bath. The Karamustafa Paşa baths are reputed to have the best hot mineral waters in the area. Buildings of interest in Çekirge include the Mosque and Mausoleum of Murat I and the tomb of Süleyman Çelebi, a religious poet. The monument to Karagöz commemorates the character whose humorous antics are immortalized in Turkish shadow puppet theater.

Thirty-six kilometers from Bursa is **Uludağ**, the largest center for winter sports in Turkey and offers a variety of activities, accommodation and entertainment. The slopes are easily reached by car or cable car (teleferik). December to May is the best time for skiing, although the area, **Uludağ National Park**, is well worth a visit at any time of the year for the lovely views and wonderful fresh air.

A seaside resort town 25 km from Bursa, **Mudanya's** fine fish restaurants and night-



**Yeşil Türbe  
(Green Mausoleum) - BURSA**





Bursa



clubs are popular with the residents of Bursa. The Armistice Museum is also worth a visit. Just 12 km from Mudanya, **Zeytinbağı (Tirilye)** exemplifies the architecture and layout of a typical Turkish town.

The **Gulf of Gemlik**, 29 km from Bursa has wide sandy beaches, of which **Kumla** is the favorite.

The province of **Balıkesir** borders both the Marmara and Aegean regions. In the capital of Balıkesir, interesting historical sites harmoniously blend with nature. The mid-14th century Yıldırım Mosque, built by Beyazıt I, is the city's oldest mosque. The Zağnos Paşa Mosque, built in 1461 by and named for the Grand Vizier of Mehmet the Conqueror, Zağnos Paşa, was once part of a great complex. Today only the mosque and bath remain. The Saat Kulesi (Clock Tower) built in 1827 by Mehmet Paşa is a smaller version of the Genoese Galata Tower. The Karesi Bey Mausoleum of 1336 contains the cenotaphs of Karesi Bey and his five sons. Also take in artifacts from the area displayed in the newly completed Balıkesir Museum (Kuva-i Milliye)

The beautiful **Değirmen Boğazı**, an area ten kilometers from Balıkesir towards Bursa, lies between two hills. On weekends and holidays families flock to this scenic spot and its restaurants. At **Karakol** village photographers can capture on film three pic-



Flamingos



Olive oil



Manyas Kuş Cenneti  
National Park - BALIKESİR

tresque windmills. Ancient **Penderamus**, now called **Bandırma**, is today an important commercial and industrial harbor second only to Istanbul in the Sea of Marmara. You can spend a pleasant afternoon in the town's restaurants and cafes. **Belkis (Kyzikos)** lies ten kilometers west of Bandırma. In this ancient city on the isthmus of the **Kapıdağ Peninsula**, the Temple of Hadrian, a theater and aqueducts still captivate visitors. The **Kuş Cenneti National Park** near **Lake Manyas** is an ornithological site where 239 different species of birds flourish. Every year, over three million birds fly through this preserve. April and May are the best months to enjoy the wildlife. Thirteen kilometers southeast of Bandırma in **Karacabey**, horse farms breed magnificent specimens of this beloved animal.

Once known as ancient **Erteka**, **Erdek** is just 14 km northwest of Bandırma. One of the oldest and most famous resort areas on the Sea of Marmara, it offers pristine beaches and every type of accommodation.

**Marmara Island**, formerly known as **Prokonessos**, rose to prominence in the Roman period and retained its importance in the Byzantine and Ottoman periods thanks to the marble quarries, which supplied the stone for extravagant imperial building programs. Near **Saraylar** village, **Marble Beach** derives its name from the



natural marble that lies just off the water's edge. In town, an open-air museum displays artifacts which date back to Roman and Byzantine times. At the marble quarry you can witness every step of the quarrying process.

**Türkeli (Avşa)** is another holiday island that boasts of spectacular beaches and clear water as well as famous vineyards and wine cellars. In the **Manastır** district stands the Byzantine Meryem Ana Monastery.

Fifty-five kilometers southwest of Bandırma is **Gönen**, Turkey's most important thermal resort. That the springs were used even in Roman times is testified to by a fifth-century mosaic from what was originally a Roman bath. The waters come from 500 meters below the ground, emerge at approximately 82° C. Another 30 km to the northwest, **Denizkent** is a nice vacation spot with lovely beaches.

**Sındırgı** lies at the base of the **Alaçam Mountains** amid beautiful forests and meadows in a region known for the weaving of superb Turkish carpets. The rugs of **Yağcıbedir** are among the most prized in the country and grow more lovely with age. Around the **Gulf of Edremit**, also in Balıkesir province, are some of the most beautiful coastlines in the country where clear waters meet sandy beaches which are encircled by the silvery green olive groves. **Ayvalık, Burhaniye, Ören, Edremit,**



**Cunda Island  
Ayvalık - BALIKESİR**



**War Memorial, Gelibolu  
(Gallipoli)**



**Adatepe - ÇANAKKALE**

**Akçay** and **Altınoluk** are all holiday towns which attract vacationers interested in a relaxing holiday with beautiful scenery and a wealth of historical and archeological sites.

The city of **Çanakkale** lies at the narrow, 1,200 meter entrance to the Çanakkale Strait (the **Dardanelles**) that connects the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean. Passenger and car ferries run daily between Çanakkale on the Asian side and **Eceabat** and **Kilitbahir** on the European side. Yachts navigating the straits stop at the well-equipped Çanakkale Marina to allow tourists more time in the area. Hotels, restaurants and cafes along the promenade, offer a place to enjoy the traffic in the harbor, as well as a view of the Kilitbahir Fortress and the Çanakkale Archeological Museum.

In 1451, Sultan Mehmet II, later the conqueror of Istanbul, built one fortress on the European side of the Çanakkale Strait at Kilitbahir and one on the opposite shore at **Çimenlik** to control the passage of ships through the strait. Today the Çimenlik fortress serves as a military museum dedicated to the World War I Battle of Çanakkale.

**Gelibolu Peninsula Historical National Park** was established to honor the 500,000 soldiers who gave their lives on **Gelibolu**, also known as **Gallipoli**. In 1915, Mustafa





Behramkale (Assos) - ÇANAKKALE

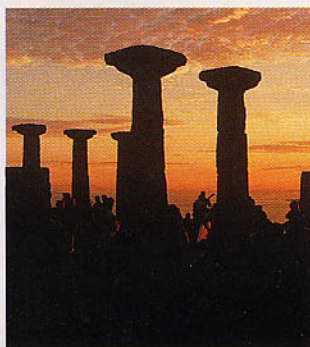


Kemal, commander of the Turkish army, led a successful campaign to drive out allied powers from the area. The park includes memorials, monuments, cemeteries, the natural beauty of the **Ariburnu Cliffs** and **Tuz Gölü** (Salt Lake). The beauty of the green hills, sandy beaches and blue waters provides an honorable resting place for the soldiers who bravely fought and died in this historic battle. You cannot help but sense the heart of the Turkish nation in the patriotic spirit of the place.

The largest of the Turkish islands, **Gökçeada** is ringed with pristine bays. Its hills, covered with the greens of pine and olive trees, are dotted with sacred springs and monasteries. Regularly scheduled ferry boats make the trip from Çanakkale and **Kabatepe**. In August, islanders and tourists gather for colorful local fairs.

As you approach **Bozcaada Island**, the Venetian castle commands your attention. Then your eyes are drawn to the glistening white houses and the restaurants and cafes which line the promenade. Wine seems as plentiful as water on this island and a tour reveals many vineyards and wine cellars. There are good sandy beaches at **Ayazma**, **Poyraz** and **İğdelik**.

Homer immortalized **Truva (Troy)** in his stories of King Priam, Hector, Paris and the beautiful Helen. Archeological excavations have revealed nine separate periods of set-



**Temple of Athena,  
Behramkale (Assos)**



**Trojan Horse - ÇANAKKALE**

tlement including ruins of city walls, house foundations, a temple and a theatre. A symbolic wooden Trojan horse commemorates the legendary war. The ancient harbor of **Alexandria-Troas** was built in the 3rd century B.C. St. Paul passed through twice, and then on his third missionary journey, he continued on to Assos.

The acropolis of **Assos (Behramkale)** is 238 meters above sea level. The Temple of Athena was constructed on this site in the 6th century B.C. This Doric temple is being restored to its former glory and role as guardian of the **Biga Peninsula** and **Gulf of Edremit**. Linger to see the moonlight scattered through the temple ruins, or rise early for the gently awakening dawn over the acropolis. From the top you can take in the magnificent vista of the Gulf of Edremit and appreciate why this heavenly location was chosen. On the terraces descending to the sea are agoras, a gymnasium and a theatre. From the northern corner of the acropolis, you can see a mosque, a bridge and a fortress, all built in the 14th century by the Ottoman Sultan Murat I. Down below lies a tiny and idyllic ancient harbor. Assos has gained the reputation of being the center of the Turkish art community with its lively, friendly and Bohemian atmosphere. This may be the holiday you will remember for years to come. In the village of **Gülpınar**, 25 km west of Behramkale, is the ancient city



ditions and customs. Every summer, where the Tunca River divides, an emerald green meadow, called the **Sarayıcı**, is the site of the **Kırkpınar** Greased Wrestling Contests. Shiny, slippery bodies grapple with each other to determine who will emerge as champion.

As you walk through the city and peer into the corners of the grocery stores, you see blocks of white feta cheese, a local specialty. Hardaliye, another of the city's delicacies, is a grape drink mixed with mustard and marzipan. Scented soaps, earthenware pots and straw baskets from Edirne make good souvenirs. You will also find it difficult to resist the beautiful embroidery work of the local women.

The Archeology and Ethnography Museum traces the history of the area from prehistoric to Byzantine times and exhibits clothing from the late Ottoman period. At the Turkish Islamic Art Museum examples of Ottoman architectural details, calligraphy, manuscripts, Korans, weapons, glass, along with an imperial tent used on military campaigns are on display.

On the way to the Saroz Gulf in the Aegean Sea, you can stop at **Uzunköprü** to see an interesting bridge built by Murat II in 1444 spanning the **Ergene River**. Its 174 arches, the highest of which is 12.28 meters, make up its 1,354-meter length. The mild climate and beautiful surroundings of the **Saroz**



**Kırkpınar grease wrestling  
EDİRNE**

**Gulf** invite holiday makers for a relaxing break. On the northern edge of the gulf are the lovely **Ibrice** and **Erikli** beaches where hotel and guest-house facilities are plentiful and reasonably priced.

**Enez (Ainos)** was an important port in ancient times but today it lies 3.5 km. inland. Its origins can be traced to the 12th century B.C. It was an important settlement during the Hellenic, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods. It was first built by the Kyme people and was known as a colony of the western Anatolian civilization. Currently, it remains an open-air museum. Enez Castle has been restored several times throughout history and is well worth a visit. There is also a church dating from the 6th century, some carved tombs and a beach with clear water. The people here are quite hospitable, making Enez an interesting stopover.

The **Yıldız (Istranca) Mountains** divide the province of **Kırklareli**. Lush mountainous landscape dotted with quaint houses transports you to a tranquil frame of mind. The oldest mosque in the city of Kırklareli is the Hızırbey Mosque, built in 1383. The mosque complex includes a bazaar. Nearby stands a hamam also built under the patronage of Hızır Bey. The 14th century Kırklar Memorial with its 18 impressive columns stands on Kırklar Hill honoring the site where 40 soldiers lost their lives





**Sokullu Mehmet Paşa Mosque, Lüleburgaz - KIRKLARELİ**

when the Ottomans conquered this area under the command of Murat I. The Archeological Museum exhibits finds from local excavations.

The Black Sea Coast of **Kırklareli** is another place to enjoy beaches and good fish restaurants. **İğneada**, 98 km east of Kırklareli, is squeezed between its sandy shores and the Yıldız Mountains. **Kıyıköy (Midye)** is another holiday resort town with good accommodation and picturesque dwellings from the Middle Ages. The town and its walls date from the Byzantine period. There is also a monastery to St. Nicholas.



**Sherbet sellers**

The Sokullu Mosque in **Lüleburgaz**, on the Edirne-Istanbul road, is an exquisite work of Sinan that dates from 1570. The neighboring town of **Babaeski** also boasts a Sinan building in the Cedi Ali Paşa Mosque.

**Vize (Byzia)**, an important Byzantine center, houses the Küçük Ayasofya church along with a castle, both dating from the Byzantine period.

If you are travelling north to Bulgaria, linger for a few hours at the peaceful and green town of **Dereköy**, the last stop before the border.



## TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

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