

ART OF TRAVEL BY MANAL

ISTANBUL GUIDE

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO VISITING Istanbul



ISTANBUL IS NOW A TRULY GLOBAL CITY AND TRAVEL DESTINATION IN ITS OWN RIGHT, EVEN BEING LISTED AS LONELY PLANET AND TRIPADVISOR TOP PLACE TO VISIT. VISITORS TO ISTANBUL WILL BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED WITH THE VAST RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, SPORTS, HISTORY, CULTURE AND NATURE ON OFFER WITHIN THE 5,343 SQUARE KILOMETERS OF THIS UNIQUE CITY.

Manal Bilal

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Istanbul

is where continents collide

Why I Love Istanbul

Why do I love this city?

Let me count. I love the locals, who have an endless hospitality and good humor.

I love the fact that when I walk down a city street, layers of history unfold before me.

I love listening to the sound of the müezzins dueling from their minarets and praying in each mosque I enter.

I love seeing the sunset over the most beautiful skyline.

I love walking beside the Bosphorus.

I love the restaurants, and the tea gardens.

But most of all, I love the fact that, in Istanbul, I go beyond cultural exploration or discovery. I involve a transformation in my way of life.

Merhaba! (Hello!)... Before getting there:



Visas: The Electronic Visa (e-Visa) Application System was launched on 17 April 2013 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. This system allows visitors travelling to Turkey to easily obtain their e-Visas online (www.evisa.gov.tr), in approximately three minutes. but the citizens of some countries are exempted from Visa. please check this link:

[HTTP://WWW.MFA.GOV.TR/VISA-INFORMATION-FOR-FOREIGNERS.EN.MFA](http://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa)

Best Time to go is: Spring: April- May, and Autumn: September- October.



Money: The unit of Turkish money is the Turkish Lira (Türk Lirası, TL, TRY, ₺). Banknotes are in denominations of TL1 (rare), 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 liras. The lira is divided into 100 Kuruş (koo-ROOSH), with coins in denominations of Kr 1 (rare), 5, 10, 25 and 50 (Kuruş).



Getting around Istanbul

Public transport is cheap and efficient. Purchasing an İstanbulkart (transport card) is highly recommended.

Tram Run from Bağcılar, in the city's west, to Kabataş, in Beyoğlu, stopping at the Grand Bazaar, Sultanahmet, Eminönü and Karaköy en route. Connect with the metro at Zeytinburnu and Sirkeci, with ferries at Eminönü and with funiculars at Karaköy and Kabataş.

Metro The M1A connects Yenikapı with the airport; the M2 connects Yenikapı with Hacıosman via Taksim; and the Marmaray connects Kazlıçeşme, west of the Old City, with Sirkeci before crossing under the Bosphorus to Üsküdar and Ayrılık Çeşmesi.

Ferry Travel between the European and Asian shores, along the Bosphorus and Golden Horn, and to the Adalar (Princes' Islands).

Bus Along the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn and between Üsküdar and Kadıköy.

[HTTP://WWW.METRO.ISTANBUL/EN](http://www.metro.istanbul/en)

[HTTP://WWW.IETT.ISTANBUL/EN](http://www.iett.istanbul/en)

[HTTP://EN.SEHIRHATLARI.ISTANBUL/EN](http://en.sehirhatlari.istanbul/en)

DAY 1- SULTANAHMET REGION & GRAND BAZAAR

FROM ANY POINT IN ISTANBUL, THE SULTANAHMET REGION CAN BE REACHED BY TRAMWAY T1, IT'S THE FASTEST AND THE EASIEST WAY. THREE STOPS FOR THIS REGION: ÇEMBERLITAŞ, SULTANAHMET, BEYAZIT-KAPALI ÇARŞI.

- ❖ Start from the Grand Bazaar (Kapalı Çarşı), walk to Beyazıt Camii and Beyazıt square, than Süleymaniye Camii.
- ❖ Have a rest with fresh pomegranate juice (nar suyu- 5TL), or orange juice (portakal suyu- 4TL) in a shop near the Süleymaniye mosque.
- ❖ Back down to Sultanahmet square, visit the Hippodrome, Sultanahmet Camii, Arasta Bazaar near the mosque.
- ❖ Facing the mosque is Hagia Sofia, Summer Schedule: 09.00 - 19.00; Winter Schedule: 09:00- 17:00- Ticket Price: 40TL.
- ❖ Go to Topkapı Palace and Gardens, open everyday except Tuesdays; Summer Schedule: 09.00 - 19.00; Winter Schedule: 09:00- 17:00- Ticket Price: 40TL.
- ❖ Lunch Time I suggest one of two place for a wonderful scenic view:
 - Sultan Hostel Sea View Terrace (Akbiyik Caddesi No. 17)- (average cost- 80TL for 2 people)
 - Orient Hostel Terrace Cafe & Restaurant (Akbiyik Caddesi No. 9)- (average cost- 40TL for 2 people).
- ❖ Sunset Time, I suggest Setustu Tea Garden: At the end of Gülhane Park.- but it was closed on my last visit to Istanbul.
- ❖ Evening Time, where is better than Ortaköy- use Bus Line 25E from Kabataş. Ortaköy is famous with the traditional baked potato (kumpir)- (cost- 8TL-15TL).



DAY 2- BÜYÜKADA; YILDIZ PARK; & SHOPPING

THE BÜYÜKADA IS AN ISLAND, IT CAN BE REACHED BY FERRY BOAT FROM 3 PIERS: EMINÖNÜ (EUROPEAN SIDE), KADIKÖY, & BOSTANCI (ASIAN SIDE).

- ❖ Early departure from Eminönü to Büyükada, for schedule please follow this link (summer and winter Timetable):

<http://www.sehirhatlari.istanbul/tr/seferler/istanbul-ici-vapur-hatlari-351.html>

- ❖ Büyükada is famous with its beautiful houses, green places and sea views. You can enjoy the whole island with Horse Carriage, or rent a bike, or simply by foot.

- Horse carriage tour (cost- 40TL-60TL)
- Rent a bike (cost- 3TL-4TL per hour)

- ❖ Have a break, I suggest to try one of these places:

- Salep: a winter hot beverage prepared from milk at Kahve Dünyası- (cost- 10.50TL)
- Coffee: Starbucks (cost- 5.50TL-11.75TL)
- Lokma: famous sweet at Halil Usta Lokma (cost- 5TL- 15TL)
- Coffee, tradition sweet, ice cream, brunch: I suggest Mado (cost- 5TL- 15TL)

- ❖ Return from the island to Eminönü, take the Tramway to Kabataş. The bus 25E will take you to the beautiful park- yıldız Park, but pay attention the entrance is really hilly so I suggest directly by taxi to the top of park and you can enjoy it by walking down.

- ❖ Yıldız park is a huge garden with different kind of flowers, in spring, it will be full of tulips and other kind of flowers.

- ❖ Lunch Time I suggest the Malta köşkü inside the Yıldız park, it's one of the beltur restaurants chain, it's a value for money restaurant with beautiful view over the sea. (average cost- 70TL for 2 people).

- ❖ Shopping experience at Cevahir Shopping Center - Metro M2- şişli-Cevahir AVM.



DAY 3- ASIAN SIDE- KADIKÖY; ÇAMLICA HILL; & SHOPPING

KADIKÖY IS A DISTRICT IN THE ASIAN SIDE, IT CAN BE REACHED FROM THE EUROPEAN SIDE BY USING THE FERRY BOAT: EMINÖNÜ-KADIKÖY LINE. KADIKÖY IS PERHAPS ISTANBUL'S LIVELIEST NEIGHBOURHOOD AFTER ISTIKLAL AVENUE. IT WILL WELCOME YOU WITH NUMEROUS CAFES, BARS, AND SHOPS.

- ❖ Moda- Sea, tea and peace – Moda is a good way to start the day. Get there by taking the tram in front of Kadıköy IDO (ferry station) to the Moda stop. There is nothing like drinking tea with a view of the Bosphorus.
- ❖ I suggest returning back to Kadıköy by foot along Moda Avenue. Kadıköy will offer to you a good shopping experience and huge numbers of coffee shops and restaurants.
- ❖ Bağdat street (Bağdat Caddesi), it's a notable high street for shopping & cafés- any of these Buses Line 4, 16, 16B: Kadıköy-Bostancı; Stop: Suadiye.
- ❖ If you are looking for Hijab Clothes, I suggest to go to Umraniye, Ümraniye Meydan, Alemdağ Caddesi, use one of these buses Line 14B, 14ES; Stop: Umraniye Çarşı.
- ❖ Visit Çamlıca Hill (Büyük Çamlıca tepesi), it's the highest point in Istanbul. From the top, you can see the Bosphorus Bridge, Eminönü Peninsula, the Sea of Marmara and the Princes' Island. On the clearest of days, you can also see as far as Mount Uludag near Bursa. Tea gardens, restaurants and a variety of vendors are also scattered around the hill. To reach the hill take bus from Kadıköy by using any of these Buses Line 14F, 14K; Stop: Turistik Çamlıca Tesisleri.



DAY 4- ASIAN AND EUROPEAN SIDE IN ONE DAY

THE ASIAN SIDE- ÜSKÜDAR & KÜÇÜK ÇAMLICA; THE EUROPEAN SIDE- EMINÖNÜ, EYÜP, & PIERRE LOTI

- ❖ Discover Küçük çamlıca: it's a second hill of the çamlıca hills, but it's the small one, the best view over the Bosphorus, it's to go to the Küçük çamlıca Köşkü. Take the Marmaray Line from Sirkeci to Uskudar, then take a taxi for short ride to reach the Küçük çamlıca Köşkü, it's one of the beltur restaurants chain, it's a value for money restaurant with beautiful view over the sea. (average cost- 70TL for 2 people)
- ❖ Back to Üsküdar, if you want to try some shopping experience there.
- ❖ Eminönü, take the Marmaray Line from Uskudar to Sirkeci, than take the tramway to Eminonu, you will discover many monuments in this district, Galata Bridge, Yeni Camii, Mısır çarşısı (my best shopping place for Turkish Delights), Mahmutpaşa Bazaar, Rustempasa Camii.
- ❖ Lunch time, Balık ekmek! Balık ekmek! Try a fish Sandwich in Eminönü. Order a drink—the traditional accompaniment is a Southeastern Turkish weirdness called şalgam (SHAL-gahm), a blend of water, juice of salted, pickled black carrots and çelem turnips, and boiled, pulverized bulgur wheat. It's sour and salty, and you can get it with spicy pepper (acı) if you like. You can order water or a soft drink instead. (No alcohol is served). (cost- 10TL).
- ❖ Eyüp, From Eminönü use Bus 99A Gaziosmanpaşa- Eminönü; Stop: Eyüp Sultan Camii, Eyüp Telefrik.
- ❖ Sunset Time, take the cable car toward the Pierre Loti hill, and enjoy the best view in Istanbul while enjoying your tea or coffee.



Day 5- Emirgan Park, Bebek, Beyoğlu

The Emirgan Park is a historical urban park located at the Emirgan neighbourhood in the Sarıyer district of Istanbul. Bebek is a historic Istanbul neighbourhood that falls within the boundaries and administration of the Beşiktaş district.

- ❖ Discover the beauty of Emirgan Park, take the any of these buses line 22ER, 25E from Kabataş, 40, 40T, 42T from Taksim. Emirgan park is one of the largest public parks in Istanbul. Inside the park with two decorative ponds are plants of more than 120 species. Many jogging tracks and picnic tables make the Emirgan Park a very popular recreation area for the local people, especially during the weekends and holidays. If you want to enjoy a tea or coffee there, I suggest The Yellow Pavilion (sarı köşk), it's one of the beltur restaurants chain, it's a value for money restaurant with beautiful view. (Average cost for an open buffet breakfast- 70TL for 2 people).
- ❖ Return back with the same bus to Bebek, A quiet place in the heart of Istanbul, I love to sit in any seaside coffee shop to enjoy the Bosphorus view, try Starbucks coffee, it has the best view in Istanbul.
- ❖ Lunch time, I suggest to back to Taksim, Beyoğlu. There you can choose from many type of restaurant but I suggest for you three restaurants.
 - Mado (average cost- 60TL for 2 people)
 - Hatay Medeniyetler Sofrası (average cost- 190TL for 2 people)
 - Pehlivan Lokantası- (average cost- 40TL for 2 people)
- ❖ Go to Taksim and discover Çukurcuma, French Street, Çiçek Pasajı, Avrupa Pasajı, Hazzo Pulo Pasajı, Suriye Pasajı.
- ❖ Shopping Time- Enjoy the shopping experience in this vital street.
- ❖ Sunset Time- have an amazing sunset view from Galata tower- schedule- Balcony open daily 9am - 7pm; restaurant and club open 8pm - 12am but closed on Sundays- ticket price: 10TL.



Day 6- Fener, Balat, & Shopping Time

Fener and Balat Neighbourhoods. If you're the sort of tourist who likes to get off the beaten path and away from the crowds, then you can't do much better than spend a day getting lost in the fascinating streets of the historically cosmopolitan Fener and Balat neighborhoods. Here the houses are painted in a myriad of colors, washing lines are strung between buildings, kids play in the streets, and traces of Jewish, Armenian, and Orthodox communities still stand.

- ❖ Fener and Balat- From Eminönü, many buses go to Fener and Balat. Use one of these Buses Line 28E, 36CE, 44B, 48E, 99, 99A, 99Y, 399B, 399C.
- ❖ What to see in Fener & Balat:
 - Walk along the coast towards the St. Stephens of the Bulgars.
 - walk inland slightly to visit the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate.
 - Up the steep hill to the Red Brick Phanar Greek Orthodox College.
 - Head back down the hill to stop for refreshments at Café Vodina.
 - Head up to the Fethiye Museum (to see some fine Byzantine mosaics).
 - Going on the Chora Church.
 - Heading down to the Ayvansaray port to catch a boat back to Eminonu.
- ❖ Fatih region- FevziPaşa Caddesi, for whom are looking for Hijab clothes, and then have a visit to the Fatih mosque. You can take any bus that goes to Fatih from Eminonu. Buses Line 336E and 36KE, or take any bus directly from Fener to Fatih.
- ❖ Shopping Malls, I suggest one of these two malls.
 - 1-Olivium Shopping Center -use Tram Line: T1; Tram Stop: Zeytinburunu, then -use Bus Line 93C, to go to Olivium Shopping Center.
 - 2-Forum Istanbul -use Tram Line: T1; Tram Stop: Yusufpaşa- Aksaray, switch to Metro Line: M1; Metro Stop: Forum Istanbul.



Day 7- ŞİLE Day Trip

Very Early Departure to Şile, it is famous for its beaches, and other interesting things to do in Şile.

- ❖ Early departure from Sirkeci to Uskudar by Marmaray Line. Arriving to Uskudar, go to Üsküdar Marmaray Bus Station, take the Bus Line 139 (Üsküdar - Şile Merkez- last Stop), 139A(Üsküdar - Şile- Agva- Şile Merkez Stop is 52th stop) -. Arriving to Şile. (check timetable). Ticket Price: 9TL.
- ❖ What to see in Şile:
 - 1- Şile Limanı (port area)
 - 2- Şile Kalesi (Castle)
 - 3- Hüseyin Keçici Mosque
 - 4- Şile Feneri (Lighthouse).
- ❖ There's a café right below the lighthouse, Kavala Park Café, but it must be closed during autumn and winter seasons.
- ❖ Also near the lighthouse is a large park where you can capture some good photos of the area.
- ❖ Lunch Time, I suggest one of these:
 - 1- Iskandil Restaurant (located below the Iskandil Butik Otel near the lighthouse).
 - 2- Melek Abla Restaurant, located on the main street towards the Değirmen Hotel.
- ❖ Leaving Şile, arriving to Üsküdar Marmaray.
- ❖ Sunset Time, after arriving to Üsküdar, walk to Salacak, Üsküdar Harem Sahil Yolu, and enjoy the most beautiful sunset in Istanbul.



Day 8- Bosphorus Tour, Dolmabahce Palace, Sapphire Shopping Mall
The Bosphorus is always attractive, even for the inhabitants of Istanbul.

- ❖ Start your day with Short Bosphorus: It is a certainly preferable option for those coming to Istanbul for the first time in their lives and have only few days in the city. The boats go all the way to the second bridge over the Bosphorus along the European side and turn back along the Asian side. There are many companies organize this kind of short tours. Here they are:
 - Turyol, You can take a short Bosphorus tour from Eminönü every hour of everyday from 10 am until 19.00 (Winter Time 17.00). It costs 12 TL.
 - Dentur Avrasya, try a short Bosphorus tour every day from Kabataş at 10:30 to 12:45 or 14:45 to 16:45. It costs 12.50 TL.
 - Ortur/Kumsal, performs short Bosphorus tours departing from Ortaköy daily every hour starting at 14:20 until 19:20. The tours last just over an hour and are suitable for those who have little time or desire to visit this pleasant and characteristic neighborhood of Ortaköy. It Costs 10 TL.
 - Şehir Hatları, the ferry company of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, has been organizing Short Bosphorus Cruise starting from 1 April 2013. The tours depart from Eminönü every day at 14.30 with a stopover in Ortaköy at 14.50, returning to Eminönü at 16.30. In the winter time, the tour is done only on weekends. It costs 10 TL.
- ❖ Dolmabahce Palace: it's near Kabataş, visiting hours 9.00-16.00, closed on Mondays and Thursdays. Ticket price: 40TL.
- ❖ Istanbul Sapphire is a shopping mall and luxury residence mixed-use project and one of the tallest buildings in Istanbul. There are two amazing things that distinguish this mall from others. The panoramic view and the helicopter simulation which there are located at the rooftop. Ticket prices: Observation deck entrance ticket: Normal: 18TL; Observation deck + Sky Ride 4D Istanbul Simulation Combo Ticket: Normal: 28TL. the mall can be reached by metro line M2 (Green Line), 4. Levent Stop.

This is my city guide to Istanbul, I hope that will help you plan the perfect trip with information travel, restaurants and activities across the city.



Iyi Yolculuklar! Have a good journey!