

30 Best Things to Do in Istanbul, Turkey



Istanbul is a remarkable city, with rich history, stunning architecture, delicious food, and a vibrant cultural scene. There is so much to do and see in this beautiful city, that it is very easy to get lost. To make sure you will be able to see everything that is a must, these 30 best things to do in Istanbul, will help you to easily navigate this wonderful city. It will assist you to explore some of the most iconic places in the city, such as the Hagia Sophia, a former cathedral that has stood for over 1500 years and now serves as a museum, the Topkapi Palace, which was the primary residence of the Ottoman Sultans for nearly 400 years and now serves as a museum, and the Blue Mosque, famous for its intricate tile work and six minarets. It will exhibit to you superb hotspots in the city, such as the historic Sultanahmet neighborhood and the bustling streets of the Grand Bazaar, where you can find everything from traditional Turkish textiles to hand-crafted jewelry.

Don't forget to try some of the delicious local cuisines, from savory kebabs to sweet baklava!

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Day 1

① **Hagia Sophia, Istanbul**

Sultan Ahmet, Ayasofya Meydanı No:1, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

Hagia Sophia (or Ayasofya) is a remarkable historic landmark in Istanbul. It was originally built as a cathedral in 537 AD and later converted into a mosque in 1453. It is now a museum and a must-see destination in Istanbul.



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② **Topkapi Palace Museum, Istanbul**

Cankurtaran, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

Topkapi Palace is the primary residence of the Ottoman sultans for almost 400 years. It was built in the 15th century and it is now a museum. Visitors can explore the palace's many courtyards, gardens, and buildings, which are full of treasures, including jewelry, ceramics, and manuscripts.



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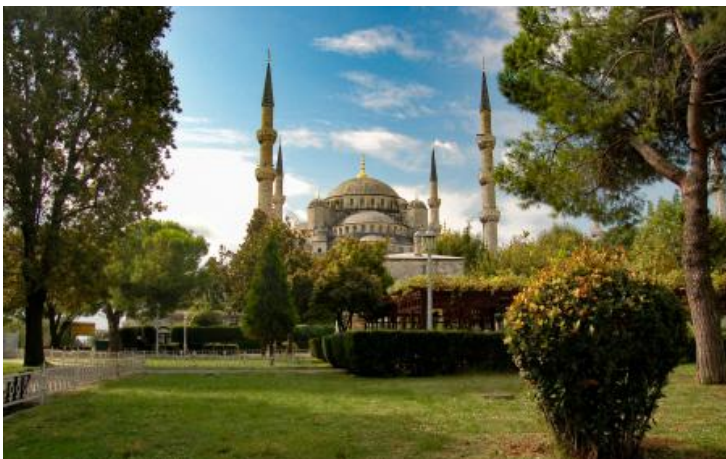
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③ **The Blue Mosque, Istanbul**

Binbirdirek, At Meydanı Cd No:10, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

The historic Blue Mosque is known for its blue tilework and six minarets. It was built in the early 17th century and is one of the most famous landmarks in Istanbul.



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④ Dolmabahçe Palace, Istanbul

Vişnezade, Dolmabahçe Cd., 34357 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye

Dolmabahçe Palace is a grand palace that was built in the 19th century by the Ottoman sultan Abdülmecid. It is located on the European side of Istanbul, on the Bosphorus Strait, and it is known for its marvelous architecture and impressive decoration. Visitors can explore the palace's many rooms, including the ornate throne room and the opulent harem.



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⑤ Egyptian Bazaar, Istanbul

Rüstem Paşa, 34116 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

Egyptian Bazaar is an ancient market that is located in the heart of Istanbul. It is also known as the Spice Bazaar, and it is one of the oldest and most famous markets in Istanbul. Visitors can find a wide variety of items, including spices, herbs, teas, sweets, and souvenirs.



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⑥ Grand Bazaar, Istanbul

Beyazıt, 34126 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

The Grand Bazaar is one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world. It is a great place to shop for Turkish souvenirs and also to experience the local culture.



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7 Galata Tower, Istanbul

Bereketzade Mahallesi Büyük Hendek Caddesi, Numara: 2,
Bereketzade, 34421 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

Galata Tower is a medieval tower that offers a wonderful panoramic view of the city. It was built in 1348 and is one of the most iconic landmarks in Istanbul.



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8 Galata Bridge, Istanbul

Kemankeş Karamustafa Paşa, Galata Köprüsü, 34425
Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

Galata Bridge is a historic bridge that spans the Golden Horn, a narrow waterway that separates the old city of Istanbul from the new city. It is a great place to take a walk and enjoy the views of the city, and it is surrounded by several shops and restaurants. Visitors can also take a boat tour to see the views of the bridge from the water.



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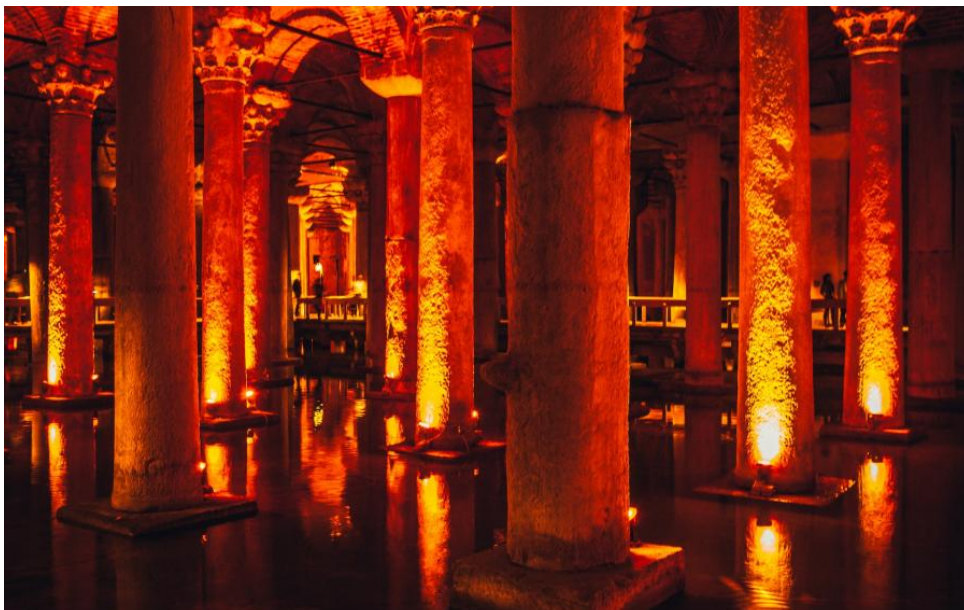
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⑨ **Basilica Cistern, Istanbul**

Alemdar, Yerebatan Cd. 1/3, 34110 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

Basilica Cistern is an underground cistern that was built in the 6th century. It is a unique place to visit and offers a glimpse into the engineering skills of the ancient Romans.



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⑩ Suleymaniye Mosque, Istanbul

Süleymaniye, Prof. Sıddık Sami Onar Cd. No:1, 34116
Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

Suleymaniye Mosque is a historic mosque that was built in the 16th century by the famous Ottoman architect Sinan.



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⑪ Sultanahmet Square, Istanbul

Binbirdirek, Sultan Ahmet Parkı No:2, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul,
Türkiye

Sultanahmet Square is a historic square that is located in the heart of Istanbul's Old City. It is home to several famous landmarks, including the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia. The square is a great place to relax and people-watch, and it is surrounded by several shops and restaurants.



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⑫ **Istanbul Archaeological Museums, Istanbul**

Cankurtaran, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

Istanbul Archaeological Museums is a complex of museums that houses a large collection of artifacts from the ancient world, including the famous Alexander Sarcophagus.



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⑬ **Eyüp Sultan Mosque, Istanbul**

Eyüp Merkez, 34050 Eyüpsultan/İstanbul, Türkiye

Eyüp Sultan Mosque is a historic mosque that is located in the Eyüp district of Istanbul. It is considered the holiest mosque in Istanbul, and it is known for its wonderful architecture and marvelous decoration. Visitors can explore the mosque's many

rooms, including the ornate prayer hall and the impressive dome.



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14 **Grand Mecidiye Mosque (Ortaköy Mosque), Istanbul**

Mecidiye, Mecidiye Köprüsü Sk. No:1 D:1, 34347

Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye

Grand Mecidiye Mosque (also known as Ortaköy Mosque) is a grand mosque that was built in the 19th century by the Ottoman sultan Abdülmecid. It is located on the Asian side of Istanbul, and it is known for its remarkable architecture and impressive decoration. Visitors can explore the mosque's many rooms, including the ornate prayer hall and the impressive dome.



15 **Emirgan Park, Istanbul**

Reşitpaşa, Emirgan Sk., 34467 Sarıyer/İstanbul, Türkiye

Emirgan Park is a charming large park that is located on the European side of Istanbul. It is a wonderful place to relax and enjoy the outdoors. Visitors can take a stroll through the park and enjoy the views of the Bosphorus Strait, and also visit the historic Emirgan Palace. During the spring, the park is known for its magnificent tulip festival.



16 **Gülhane Park, Istanbul**

Cankurtaran, Kennedy Cd., 34122 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

Gülhane Park is a splendid park that is located just outside the Topkapi Palace Museum. It is a great place to relax and enjoy the outdoors. Visitors can take a stroll through the park and enjoy

the views of the Bosphorus Strait.



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⑰ **Beylerbeyi Palace, Istanbul**

Beylerbeyi, Beylerbeyi Kavşağı, 34676 Üsküdar/İstanbul, Türkiye

Beylerbeyi Palace is a grand palace that was built in the 19th century by the Ottoman sultan Abdülaziz. It is located on the Asian side of Istanbul, on the Bosphorus Strait, and it is known for its impressive architecture and magnificent decoration. Visitors can explore the palace's many rooms, including the ornate throne room and the opulent harem.



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18 Maiden's Tower, Istanbul

Salacak, 34668 Üsküdar/İstanbul, Türkiye

Maiden's Tower, also known as Leander's Tower, is a historic tower that is located on a small island in the Bosphorus Strait. The tower dates back to the Byzantine period and it is known for its unique location and incredible views of the city. Visitors can take a boat tour of the tower, and also enjoy a meal at the tower's restaurant.

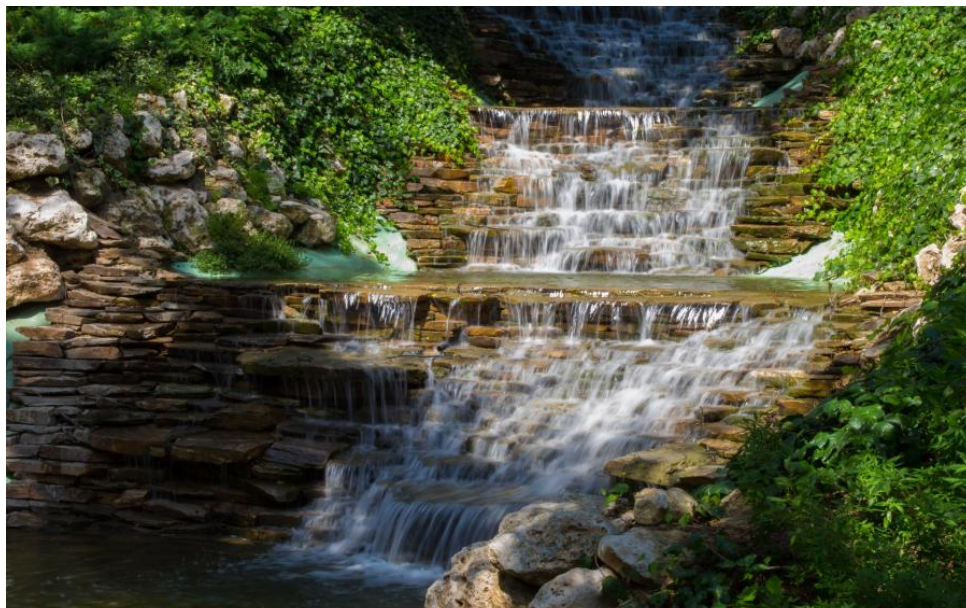
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19 Yıldız Park, Istanbul

Yıldız, 34349 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye

Yıldız Park is a charming park that is located on the European side of Istanbul. It is a fantastic spot to relax and enjoy the outdoors. Visitors can take a stroll through the park and enjoy

the views of the Bosphorus Strait, and also visit the historic Yıldız Palace.



[Google Maps](#)

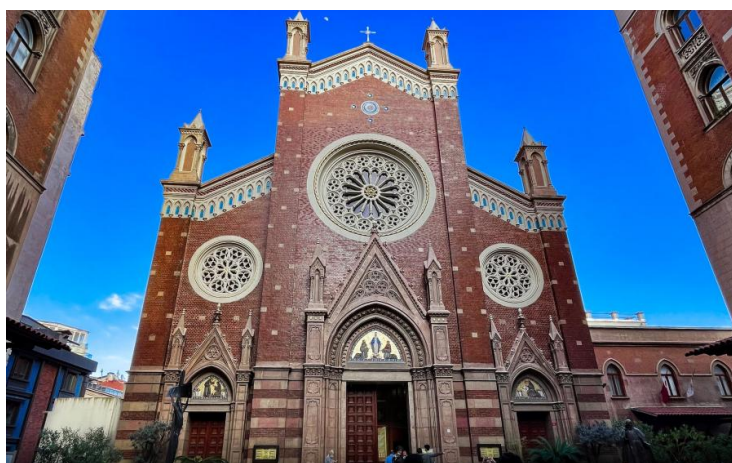
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20 **Sent Antuan Kilisesi, Istanbul**

Tomtom, İstiklal Cd. No:171, 34433 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

Saint Anthony of Padua Church is a historic Catholic church located in Istanbul. It was built in the 19th century and it is known for its magnificent architecture and decoration. The church is open to visitors and it is also used for mass.



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21 Çiçek Pasajı, İstanbul

Hüseyinağa Mah. İstiklal Cad. Saitpaşa Geçidi No:176,
Hüseyinağa, 34435 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

Çiçek Pasajı is a historic arcade that is located in the heart of Istanbul's Old City. It is known for its lovely architecture and decoration, and it is a great place to relax and enjoy a cup of coffee or a meal. Visitors can also find a wide variety of shops and restaurants in the arcade.

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22 Sultanahmet, Istanbul

Sultanahmet, Alemdar, 34110 Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

Sultanahmet is a historic neighborhood that is located in the heart of Istanbul's Old City. It is home to several famous landmarks, including the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia. Visitors can take a stroll through the neighborhood and enjoy the views of the city and the Bosphorus Strait.



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23 İstiklal Caddesi, Istanbul

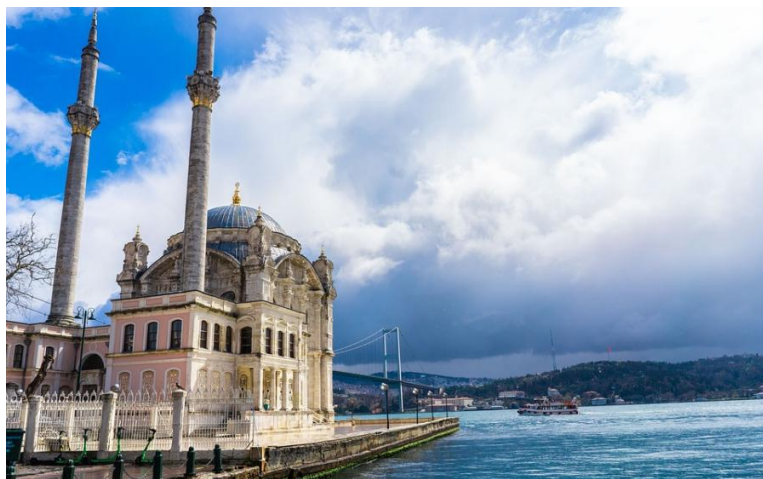
İstiklal Caddesi is a famous street that is located in the heart of Istanbul. It is known for its lively atmosphere and it is a great place to take a stroll, do some shopping, and enjoy a meal. Visitors can also find a wide variety of shops and restaurants on the street.



24 Ortaköy, Istanbul

Ortaköy, 34347 Beşiktaş/Istanbul, Türkiye

Ortaköy is a lively neighborhood located on the European side of Istanbul, situated on the banks of the Bosphorus Strait. It is known for its picturesque streets lined with trendy cafes, restaurants, and shops. Visitors can also find a variety of art galleries and historic buildings in the area, including the Ortaköy Mosque and the Ortaköy Square. It is also a popular place for locals and tourists to gather and watch the sunsets over the Bosphorus.



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25 **Bosphorus Bridge, Istanbul**

Ortaköy, 34347 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye

The Bosphorus Bridge is a suspension bridge that connects the European and Asian sides of Istanbul. It spans the Bosphorus Strait and offers stunning views of the city, the water, and the surrounding landscape. The bridge is a major transportation link in Istanbul, and it is also a popular spot for tourists to take photos and admire the views.

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26 Beyoğlu, Istanbul

Beyoğlu, Çukur, 34435 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

Beyoğlu is a district located on the European side of Istanbul, known for its bustling streets and vibrant nightlife. The area is home to some of the city's most famous landmarks, including Taksim Square and Istiklal Avenue, which are lined with shops, restaurants, and cafes. Visitors can also find a variety of historical buildings and cultural attractions in the area, including the Galata Tower and the Pera Museum.



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27 Taksim Square, Istanbul

Gümüşsuyu, Tak-ı Zafer Cd., 34435 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

Taksim is a modern square that is considered the heart of the city. It is a lovely place to relax and people-watch.



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28 Kariye Mosque (Chora Church), Istanbul

Dervişali, Kariye Cami Sk. No:18, 34087 Fatih/Istanbul, Türkiye

Kariye Mosque or Chora Church is a Byzantine church that was converted into a mosque in the 15th century and later into a museum. It is known for its beautiful mosaics and frescoes.



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29 Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Istanbul

Kılıçalı Paşa, Tophane İskele Cd. No:1/1, 34433 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

Istanbul Modern Art Museum is an excellent museum that features contemporary art from Turkey and around the world.



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30 Miniaturk, Istanbul

Örnektepe, İmrahor Cd. No:7, 34445 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye

Miniaturk is a miniature park where visitors can see the scale models of the most famous and important landmarks of Turkey. The park covers an area of 15,000 square meters and includes around 120 models.



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