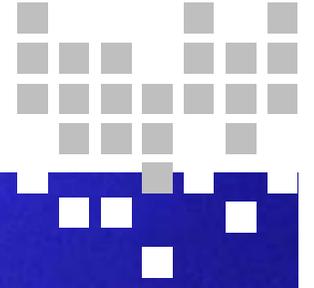


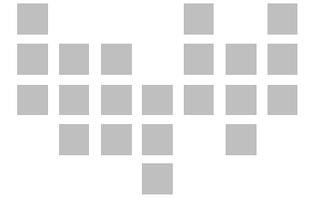
ISTANBUL - meet where the continents meet



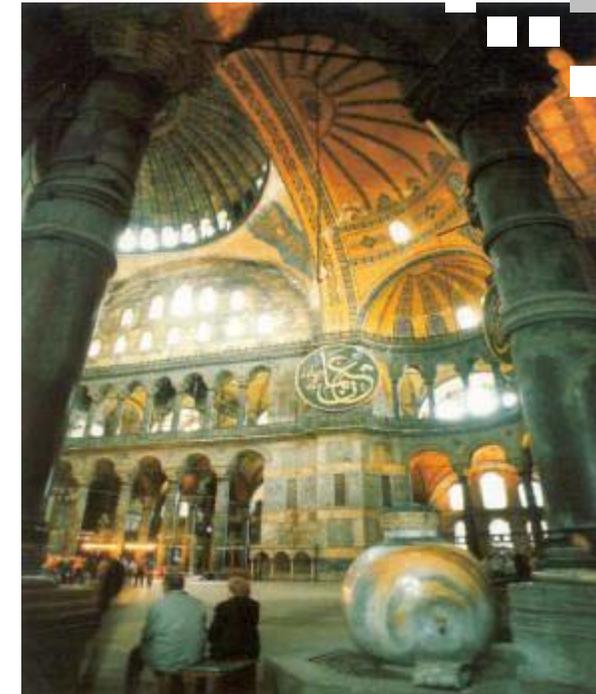
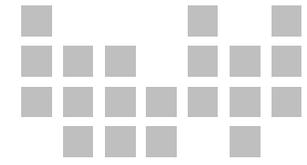
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OMAR'S DESTINATION SERVICES



SAMPLE TOURS



Master Pieces of Istanbul – Blue Mosque & St. Sophia

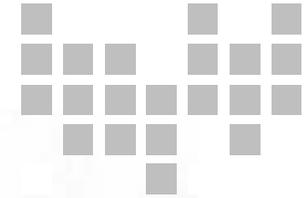


Blue Mosque, the elegant six minaret mosque of Sultan Ahmet I taking its name from the magnificent interior decoration of more than 20,000 blue Iznik tiles.

St. Sophia Church, formerly known as the Basilica of St. Sophia and unquestionably one of the greatest buildings of all time. Its immense dome rises 55 metres above the ground. It was the largest building in the world for the first thousand years of its existence.



Istanbul, City of Art – Istanbul Contemporary Art Museum



Turkish & Islamic Art Museum

The Palace of Ibrahim Pasa, the grandest private residence ever built in the Ottoman Empire was completed in 1524. Ibrahim was appointed grand Vizir and the following year he married Suleyman's sister, Hatice. Unlike many palaces of the period, it was constricted in stone. The palace was restored 1983. Considered to be one of the most important examples of Ottoman civil architecture, it is now a museum of Turkish and Islamic art, exhibiting a collection of 40.000 objects including fine oriental rugs, Seljuk and Ottoman woodcarvings, Turkish folk life clothing, rug and kilim looms, showing the weaving and dying techniques..

Istanbul Museum of Modern Art

The chief curator of Istanbul Modern is Rosa Martinez, who curated the 1997 International Istanbul Biennial and is currently curating the Venice and Moscow Biennials. Martinez draws attention to the importance of museums as centers of cultural production, stressing that they offer important opportunities for preserving and interpreting collective memory. Istanbul Modern's goal, says Martinez, is to integrate art and its audience and create a bridge between local and universal cultures.



Bosphorus Cruise & “Ortakoy” Village of Harmony



Ortakoy is a point of attraction since the Ottoman times. Survived many fires through history but never lost its charisma. Located in such a beautiful spot right under the Bosphorus Bridge, it is lively in every hour of the day... with its cafes stretching along the coast, the bars, and street bazaars.

Ortakoy is symbol of tolerance, understanding and harmony for ages. Within this small fisherman town 18th Century Mosque, Synagogue and Armenian Catholic Church stand together in peace.

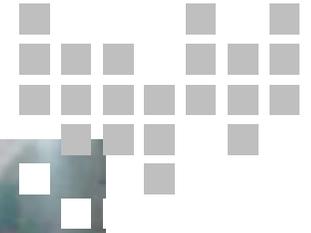
Ortaköy Mosque, officially the Büyük Mecidiye Camii (Grand Imperial Mosque of Sultan Abdülmecid) in İstanbul, is situated at the waterside of the Ortakoy pier square, one of the most popular locations on the Bosphorus.

The original Ortaköy Mosque was built in the 18th century. The current mosque, which was erected in its place, was ordered by the Ottoman sultan Abdülmecid and built between 1854 and 1856.

The Etz Ahayim Synagogue, also known as the Ortaköy Synagogue, is synagogue located in Ortaköy, The synagogue was totally destroyed by fire in 1941 with only the marble Aron Kodesh remaining intact. The synagogue was subsequently rebuilt.

The Armenian Catholic Church built between 1837-1838 and has a distinctive place among the Armenian Churches with its conical dome. Today the church is still open and welcoming Ermenian population live in Ortakoy district.

Chora Discovery & Exclusive Visit of the Patriarchate



Chora Church

The ancient church is an unsurpassed example of Byzantine frescoes and mosaics dating from the 11th and 14th centuries, that presents superb series magnificently restored and cleaned by the Byzantine Institute in America. The lives of the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ are depicted in mosaics with magnificent touches of art in the chronological order of events cited in the Bible.

Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople

The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople is the Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome in the Eastern Orthodox communion, which is seen by followers as the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. He has been historically known as the Greek Patriarch of Constantinople, as distinct from the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople. The current holder of the office is His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I. His title is not recognized by the Turkish government, who only recognize him as the spiritual leader of the Greek minority in Turkey, and refer to him only as the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of the Phanar (Turkish: Fener Rum Ortodoks Patriği).



Treasures of Istanbul – Topkapi Palace & Archeology Museum



Istanbul Archeology Museum

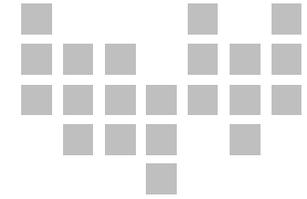
Istanbul Archeology Museums, which were established as Müze-i Humayun (Empire Museum) by the famous artist and museum director Osman Hamdi Bey at the end of the 19th century, were opened to public on June 13, 1891. Besides its importance as the “first Turkish museum”, it has an importance and specialty being one of the museum buildings that are constructed as a Museum in the World. Today, it still protects its outstanding place in the World’s biggest museums with its works more than a million belonging to various cultures. In the museum collections, there are rich and very important works of art belonging to various civilizations from the regions from Balkans to Africa, from Anatolia and Mesopotamia to Arab Peninsula and Afghanistan

Topkapi Palace

We will take you through the history of the Ottoman Empire. You will visit Topkapi Palace, the former imperial residence and the seat of government during the Ottoman period. Today, the palace is a one-of-a-kind museum with one of the largest collections in the world of Chinese and Japanese porcelain and the famous treasury of the Royal Family, which includes the Topkapi dagger, and the Spoonmaker's diamond, one of the largest diamonds in the world.



Ottoman Style Shopping – Grand Bazaar & Spice Market

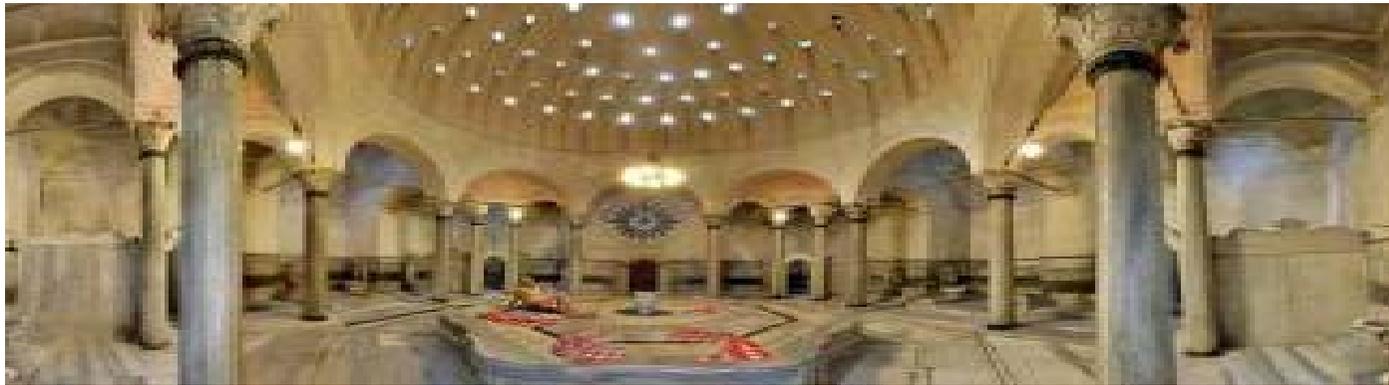
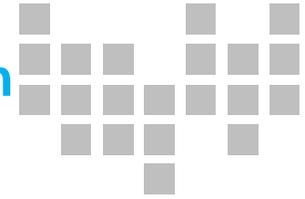


The story goes that the bazaar began as two vaulted halls built by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror (1451 -1481) to provide an income for the Hagia Sophia Mosque, and gradually turned into a commercial center as traders began to display their wares on counters around these two stone buildings. The present alleys and galleries emerged as these areas were roofed over by tiled vaults. First-time visitors to the Covered Bazaar are astounded by its splendor and size (30.7 hectares). The bazaar contains 3,000 shops, 25,000 full-time staff, 61 streets and even two mosques, and looks as much to the present as it does to the past.

One of the oldest covered bazaars in Istanbul, the Spice Bazaar in Eminönü located behind the Yeni Mosque and next to the flower market, was established by Sultan Turhan, and designed by architect Kazim Aga. It was given a new lease of life by the Municipality of Istanbul after its restoration between 1940 and 1943. Open everyday except Sundays, it sells herbs, spices, a variety of natural medicines, and plant and flower seeds. Beside these traditional commodities, one can now find a large range of dried fruits and nuts, cheeses, meats and other foods.



Relax & Revitalize Your Body at the Traditional Turkish Bath

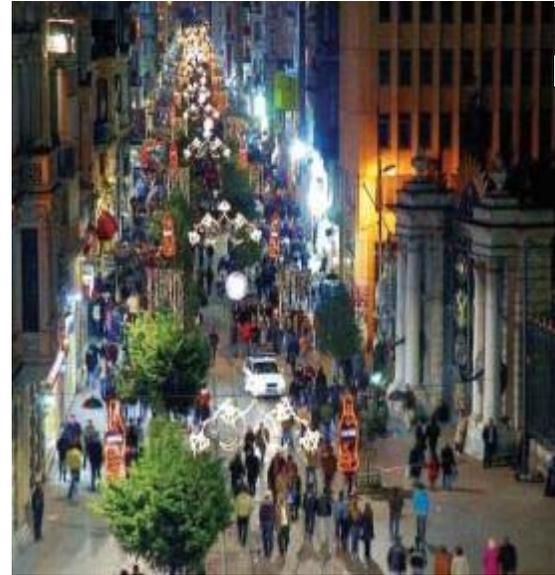
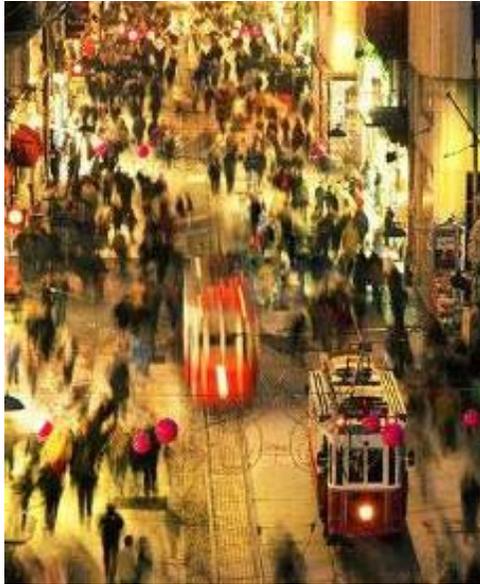


Turkish Bath or Hamam, originally purified the soul as well as the body and have always been an important part of the Turkish culture. It also used to be a social event, a gathering point among the people for years, which has to be experienced once in a lifetime.

A relaxing and rejuvenating experience, the Turkish bath begins once the guests have undressed in private changing rooms and have been given a large cloth resembling a thin towel. This is the so-called bath-wrapper (pestemal) and guests be able to take home with them. During the Turkish bath session, guests will be in a warm and humid room, where they will be doused with warm water lathered, and massaged with a kese, a especially rough bath glove.

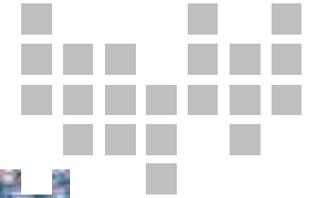


Photographic Walking Tour of Pera



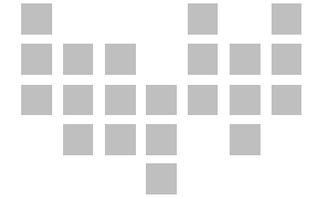
The architect of St. Anthony Church, is Guilio Mongeri. The construction of the church that lasted six years, was completed in 1912. St. Anthony is not only one of the biggest churches in Istanbul, but also has the largest Catholic community. The church, in a large court, is a good example of Italian neo-Gothic architecture in red brick. After a short walk towards Istiklal street we will arrive Pera district. Pera, meaning 'opposite shore' generally referred to the shore opposite the harbor of the Golden Horn, that of Galata in Byzantine times. During Ottoman times, it came to refer to the section of Taksim between the Square and Tunel with all its residing foreigners. The fortified enclave of lower Galata's Jewish, Italian and French were to become the later inhabitants of Pera. The district has many fine and impressive buildings in an international style from the early 20th century. Galata Tower, which was built by the Genoese during the time of the Byzantines for defense purposes, after a time became integrated to the communication system of Byzantines. After the conquer of Istanbul by Fatih Sultan Mehmet, he made sure that no harm came to the Galata Tower as well as churches, synagogues and other religious buildings. The Ottomans, who were the new owners of the city, did not regard the Galata Tower as odd, and after a fire, they restored the tower, incorporating their own architectural style. Due to its altitude, it is possible to view almost half of old Istanbul from the Galata Tower, and it also provides us with the chance to see the Asian side of Istanbul.

Cruise on Golden horn with Sultan's Caique

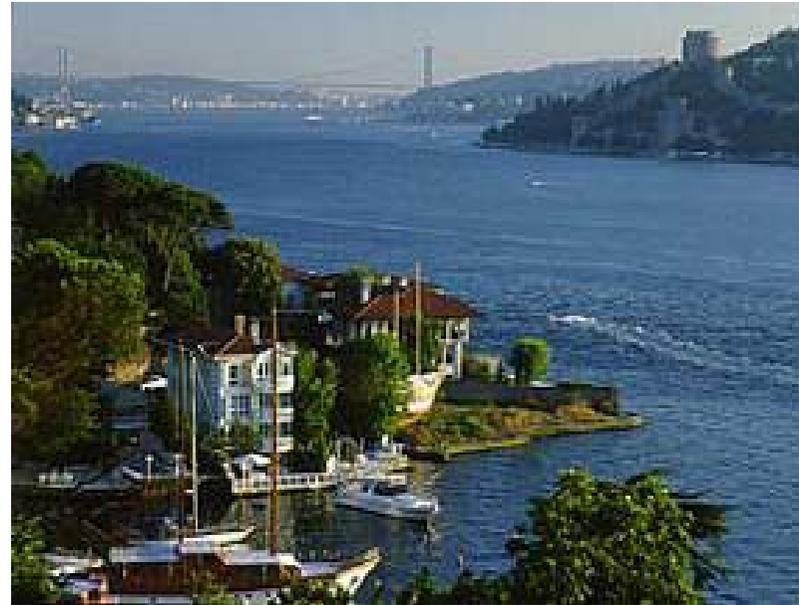


Sultan's Boat (Caique) –During the Ottoman Empire days, Sultans favourite personal pleasure was to cruise over the Bosphorus with the special wooden boats called "Kayik". These had a gondola like design, made from special kind of wood, inside covered by velvet, full with silk cushions, moved by special trained shovel men. Recently these Kayiks have been returned to our century, just like they used to be, only for very special occasions.





Sunset Cruise on the Bosphorus by Private Yacht/Boat



The Bosphorus which connects Marmara Sea and Black Sea, is one of the most exquisite places in the world. The buildings embroidering the shores of free-flowing waters, being embraced by a green background as a whole offer a view of unceasing delight.

The private boat will cruise around 1 hour along the Asian and European sides of the Bosphorus. The guests will have a chance to view old marble Palaces, fortresses and Ottoman villas on the waters.



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