

Istanbul

Coveted by empires across the centuries, straddling both Europe and Asia, Istanbul is one of the world's great metropolises. Istanbul is a city that wears its cultures and history well, blending them into an exciting city that has much to offer travelers from around the world. Founded during Neolithic times, Istanbul today is a modern city that remains true to its historic heritage through its mosques, basilicas and cathedrals, and ancient bazaars. Standing between the East and the West, Turkey's largest city offers an aura of intrigue and charm that will appeal to all visitors. Touring Istanbul's ornate houses of worship and palaces could keep history buffs and culture hounds busy for weeks. Most attractions are clustered in the Fatih area, though districts like Beyoglu (where Taksim Square resides) and Besiktas (which features Ortaköy and Dolmabahçe Palace) are no less exciting. The Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sophia Museum are essential, but simply exploring the street traffic and observing daily life here are equally fascinating. Food is a central part of the culture, so menus should be studied just as seriously as a map (which is also a must). And you should check out the many bazaars around town when looking for souvenirs, but if you only have time for one, be sure to visit the largest and most famous: the Grand Bazaar.

Although many tourist attractions are located in, or near, the old city district of Sultanahmet, there is a dazzling array of other things to do throughout the further reaches of the city.

Welcome and enjoy your stay In Istanbul!



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Lecturers

Andrey Makarychev - Visiting Professor at Johan Skytte
Institute of Political Science, University of Tartu
(Estonia)

Alexandra Yatsky - Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Russian
Studies at Uppsala University (Sweden)

Alexei Kibalnik - Head of Criminal Law and Procees
Chair at the North Caucasus Federal University
(Russia)

Bilgen Sütçüoğlu - Assistant Professor, Head of the Political Science
and International Relations Department at Yeditepe University
(Turkey)

Cengiz Erişen - Associate Professor in the Department of
Political Science and International Relations at Yeditepe University
(Turkey)

David Darchiashvili - Professor at Ilia State University in Tbilisi
(Georgia)

Elmar Mustafayev - Lecturer and Coordinator in International
Relations and Political Science Department of Khazar University
(Azerbaijan)

Heidi Erbsen -DESCnet Communications Coordinator, Johan Skytte
Institute of Political Science, University of Tartu (Estonia)

Mukhtar Hajizada - Fulbright Fellow, Davis Center at Harvard
University (USA)

Selin Türkeş Kılıç- Assistant Professor at Political Science and
International Relations Department of Yeditepe University (Turkey)

Volkan İpek - Assistant Professor at Political Science and
International Relations Department of Yeditepe University (Turkey)

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