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# Full Day Tour of Istanbul Historic Landmarks

5 hrs 30 min · Shared · from Istanbul

**Check availability & book online »**



## At a glance

| | |
|---|---|
| **Start** | 6:30 AM, 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 9:00 AM |
| **Duration** | 5 hrs 30 min |
| **Pickup** | Pickup is included from the listed pickup points — choose yours when you book. Pickup is up to 45 minutes before the start time; we confirm your exact pickup time before the tour. |
| **Cancellation** | Free cancellation up to 24 hours before the tour starts. |

## Itinerary

> **Start**
Istanbul
Starts at 6:30 AM, 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM · pickup up to 45 min earlier

1 **Sultanahmet District**
Step into the historic Hippodrome of Constantinople, once the sporting, social, and political heart of the Byzantine Empire. As you explore this remarkable open-air square, your expert guide will bring the excitement of ancient chariot races to life, sharing fascinating stories of imperial ceremonies, legendary rivalries, and the famous Nika Riots that helped shape the city's history. Along the way, admire remarkable monuments that have stood for centuries, including the Egyptian Obelisk of Theodosius, the ancient Serpentine Column from Delphi, and the Walled Obelisk, offering a captivating introduction to Istanbul's rich Byzantine heritage

2 **Blue Mosque**
Step inside one of the most iconic and breathtaking masterpieces of Ottoman architecture. Formally known as the Sultan Ahmed Mosque, better known as the Blue Mosque.Admire its magnificent interior, beautifully decorated with more than 20,000 hand-painted ?znik tiles whose striking blue hues inspired its famous nickname.As Your expert guide will lead you through its grand courtyard and majestic interior, explaining the fascinating history behind its unique six minarets, its imperial design, and its enduring role as an active place of worship and spiritual heart of Istanbul.

3 **Topkapl Palace**
Step into the opulent world of the Ottoman sultans, court concubines, and grand viziers. As you explore this sprawling imperial residence, your expert guide will lead you through magnificent courtyards, pavilions, and administrative chambers that served as the beating heart of an empire for nearly four centuries. Marvel at the stunning Treasury collections, gaze upon rare holy relics, and admire the exquisite Iznik tiling while taking in panoramic, sweeping views over the Bosphorus Strait and Golden Horn.

4 **Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque**
Prepare to step inside Hagia Sophia, one of the world's greatest architectural masterpieces and a symbol of Istanbul's rich history for nearly 1,500 years. Originally built as a magnificent Byzantine cathedral in the 6th century under Emperor Justinian I, this extraordinary monument later became an Ottoman imperial mosque and today continues to serve as a mosque. As you admire its immense dome and breathtaking interior, your expert guide will reveal the fascinating layers of history within its walls, from Byzantine golden mosaics and Christian heritage to Ottoman calligraphy and Islamic architectural elements. Discover the engineering brilliance, cultural transformations, and remarkable stories that have made Hagia Sophia one of the world's most iconic landmarks.

5

### Grand Bazaar

Dive into the vibrant, beating heart of Istanbul's trading history at the Grand Bazaar — the world's oldest continuously operating covered market, founded in 1461 by Sultan Mehmed II after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople. With over 4,000 shops spread across 61 covered streets, this mesmerizing labyrinth is a treasure trove of handcrafted Turkish carpets, glittering lanterns, intricate ceramics, fine jewelry, and exotic spices. Follow your expert guide through the painted domes and vaulted passageways, learning the historic traditions of the guilds that built this market and picking up essential local bargaining tips. Haggling over pricing is still common, and traders follow hospitality traditions passed down through centuries. Enjoy free time to explore and shop for unique souvenirs in this ultimate sensory wonderland

6

### Istanbul

After an absolutely unforgettable day, you will be comfortably brought back to your original pickup location.

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### Drop-off

Back in Istanbul
About 5 hrs 30 min in total

*For reference only – the order and timings can change on the day. Your confirmed details come with your booking.*

## What’s included

+ Expert guide
+ Bottled water
+ Comfortable transportation(if applicable)
+ Earphones for groups over 12 people
+ Traditional Turkish lunch
+ Hotel Pick up

## Not included

- Foods and drinks
- Tips & gratuities
- Hotel dropp off
- Entrance fees
- Topkapi Palace
- Hagia Sophia

## Know before you go

- Stroller / pram accessible

- Public transportation is nearby
- Infant seats available

### Custom pickup & drop-off

We can arrange a custom pickup and drop-off location. Pickup and drop-off at most downtown hotels and the cruise terminal are free. Pickup or drop-off at the airport, or outside the city limits, costs extra – contact us to arrange airport pickup and drop-off.

**Contact us for airport pickup »**

**Rated 4.6 out of 5 by 801 travelers** **Read reviews ›**

## Ready to book?

**Pick your date online: balitourists.com/tour/istanbul-historic-landmarks-tour/**

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