

Choosing a Hotel

The hotels in this guide have been selected across a wide range for their good value, facilities and location. These listings highlight some of the factors that may influence your choice. Hotels are listed by area, beginning with Seraglio Point. All the entries are alphabetical within each price category.

PRICE CATEGORIES

For a standard double room per night, inclusive of breakfast, service charges and any additional taxes.

- Ⓢ under US\$100
- ⓈⓈ US\$100–\$150
- ⓈⓈⓈ US\$150–\$200
- ⓈⓈⓈⓈ US\$200–\$300
- ⓈⓈⓈⓈⓈ Over US\$300

SERAGLIO POINT

Ayasofya Konakları



Soğukçeşme Sokak, Sultanahmet, 34122 **Tel** (0212) 513 36 60 **Fax** (0212) 513 43 93 **Rooms** 64 **Map** 3 E4 (5 F3)

Nine restored wooden houses comprise this charming accommodation on the cobbled street behind Hagia Sophia. They have beautiful names such as Jasmine, Honeysuckle and Rose and are painted in pastel colours. The rooms are elegant and decorated with antiques. Booking is essential. www.ayasofyapensions.com

Kybele Hotel



Yeribatan Caddesi 35, 34410 **Tel** (0212) 511 77 66 **Fax** (0212) 513 43 93 **Rooms** 16 **Map** 3 E4 (5 E3)

This tiny, multi-storied hotel is located in the heart of the tourist area. The antiques and craft items of every description create a homely and friendly atmosphere. A wonderful breakfast is served in the garden in summer and in one of the ornate rooms in winter. The Kybele is a firm favourite with many visitors. www.kybelehotel.com

SULTANAHMET

Antea



Piyerloti Caddesi 21, Çemberlitaş, 34400 **Tel** (0212) 638 11 21 **Fax** (0212) 517 79 49 **Rooms** 42 **Map** 3 D4 (4 C4)

The Antea is a peaceful hotel on a side street off the main tourist area of Sultanahmet. Like its neighbours, this is a restored building. Rooms are modern and attractively furnished. The restaurant serves Turkish and international dishes. A perfect place to relax after a day of sightseeing and shopping. www.anteahotel.com

Apricot



Amiraltafdil Sok 18, Sultanahmet, 34122 **Tel** (0212) 638 16 58 **Fax** (0212) 458 35 74 **Rooms** 6 **Map** 3 E5 (5 E5)

This is such a pretty little hotel and it has been restored to a far better state than the original Ottoman building. It boasts comfortable beds, well-furnished rooms and polished hard-wood floors. Internet access and many other amenities are also available. Meals (except breakfast) are served by arrangement. www.apricothotel.com

Hotel Mina



Piyerloti Caddesi, Dostluk Urdu Sokak 6, Sultanahmet, 34122 **Tel** (0212) 458 28 00 **Rooms** 46 **Map** 3 D4 (4 C4)

Hotel Mina is tucked away in the backstreets protected from the hustle of the main tourist area. The owners are very welcoming and friendly. Rooms are comfortable and well furnished, although they are not too ornate or fussy. This is a comfortable base within walking distance of all the main attractions of Sultanahmet. www.minahotel.com.tr

Hotel Sultanahmet



Divanyolu Cad 20, Sultanahmet, 34122 **Tel** (0212) 527 02 39 **Fax** (0212) 512 11 33 **Rooms** 20 **Map** 3 D4 (5 D5)

A well-located budget hotel close to all the sights. It has few frills but is clean and neat, and adequately furnished. There is a pretty terrace with a decent view and evening meals and snacks are served here. The hotel is well run and staff are always hospitable. www.hotelsultanahmet.com

Orient Hostel



Akbiyak Caddesi 13, Sultanahmet, 34400 **Tel** (0212) 517 94 93 **Fax** (0212) 518 38 94 **Rooms** 15 **Map** 3 E5 (5 E5)

This is the cheapest and most cheerful place to stay in Sultanahmet making it the proverbial backpackers' paradise. Rooms are sparse and many resemble a dormitory with three or four beds. Forget about chandeliers and en suite bathrooms, but there is always hot water and other weary, friendly wanderers. www.orienthostel.com

Şebnem



Adliye Sokak 1, Sultanahmet, 34122 **Tel** (0212) 517 66 23 **Fax** (0212) 638 10 56 **Rooms** 15 **Map** 3 E4 (5 F4)

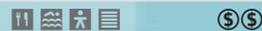
This small but welcoming guesthouse, is more like a doll's house. It has pretty, colourful rooms and serviceable wooden furniture. There is a panoramic roof terrace where you can look out at the main buildings of Sultanahmet and across the Bosphorus and Sea of Marmara. www.sebnemhotel.net

Sidera*Kadirga Meydanı, Dönüş Sok 14, Sultanahmet* **Tel** (0212) 638 34 60 **Fax** (0212) 518 72 62 **Rooms** 18 **Map** 2 C5 (4 B5)

A converted 19th-century wooden house, the Sidera is painted a distinctive green and is more like a family home. Although small, it offers adequate facilities. Rooms can be a bit dark but the location, on a narrow street lined with other Ottoman-style wooden houses, is part of its nostalgic charm. www.hotelsiderapalace.com

Ararat*Torun Sokak 3, Sultanahmet, 34122* **Tel** (0212) 458 20 31 **Fax** (0212) 518 52 41 **Rooms** 12 **Map** 3 E5 (5 E5)

An unusual and highly individualistic family-run hotel. Each room has its own theme with one-of-a-kind decor. The owner is always available to offer advice and to attend to details. The hotel is close to the Blue Mosque and has splendid views across the Sea of Marmara from the top floor terrace. www.ararathotel.com

Aziyade*Piyerloti Caddesi 62, Çemberlitaş, 34490* **Tel** (0212) 638 22 00 **Fax** (0212) 518 50 65 **Rooms** 105 **Map** 3 D4 (4 B4)

Aziyade has some lovely features that one might expect to find at a more luxurious level. The small swimming pool on the roof is unique in the area. Rooms are elegant and tastefully decorated. The café is reminiscent of the Fruit Room in the Harem at Topkapı Palace (see p58). www.aziyadehotel.com

Dersaadet*Küçük Ayasofya Caddesi, Kapıaçısı Sokak 5, 34122* **Tel** (0212) 458 07 60/61 **Rooms** 17 **Map** 3 E5 (5 D5)

This impeccable hotel is a local pioneer in renovation. It has been authentically designed and furnished by traditional artisans. Small details abound and the owner is always around to ensure your stay is memorable. The sumptuous Sultan's Penthouse suite has wonderful views from the balcony. www.hoteldersaadet.com

Empress Zoe*Akbıyık Cad, Adliye Sokak 10, 34122* **Tel** (0212) 518 25 04 **Fax** (0212) 518 56 99 **Rooms** 25 **Map** 3 E4 (5 F4)

It is claimed that Empress Zoe actually lived here. The two buildings have been restored to an exceptionally high standard of taste and design with an abundance of spacious suites. The garden is idyllic and contains the remains of a bath house built in 1483. www.emzoe.com

Historia*Amiral Tafdil Sokak 23, 34122* **Tel** (0212) 517 74 72 **Fax** (0212) 516 81 69 **Rooms** 27 **Map** 3 E5 (5 F5)

This attractive wooden hotel has wonderful sea views from the rooftop terrace. Most rooms tend to be quite basic, but they are well decorated and comfortable. Several also have balconies that overlook the back garden. The breakfast patio is secluded and shaded. www.historiahotel.com

Hotel Nena*Binbirdirek Mahallesi, Klodfarer Caddesi 8–10, 34122* **Tel** (0212) 516 52 64 **Rooms** 29 **Map** 3 D4 (5 D4)

Hotel Nena has a Byzantine atmosphere and is richly decorated and very comfortable. Some rooms have balconies with classic sea and mosque vistas. The beautiful conservatory basks in sun and has wrought-iron and glass furniture as well as flourishing tropical greenery. www.istanbulhotelnena.com

Nomade*Ticaretane Sokak 15, Çağaloğlu, 34122* **Tel** (0212) 513 81 72 **Fax** (0212) 513 24 04 **Rooms** 16 **Map** 3 E4 (5 D3)

One of the oldest houses in this area, the Nomade has undergone a wonderful and extensive renovation. The owners have added appealing designer touches to the individually designed bedrooms and bathrooms. Meals and afternoon drinks are served on the rooftop terrace. www.hotelnomade.com

Sarı Konak*Mimar Mehmet Ağa Caddesi 42–46, Sultanahmet, 34122* **Tel** (0212) 638 62 58 **Rooms** 17 **Map** 3 E5 (5 E5)

Sarı means "yellow" in Turkish and this delightful wooden house is easily identifiable by its distinctive hue. It has a charming patio, marble fountain and latticed balconies. Rooms are tastefully decorated and the suites have high-speed Internet access. www.istanbulhotelsarikonak.com

Sarınc*Küçük Ayasofya Caddesi 26, 34122* **Tel** (0212) 518 23 23 **Fax** (0212) 518 24 14 **Rooms** 21 **Map** 3 D5 (5 D5)

Sarınc is a clean and tidy place with a homely feel. It is painted a soft pink colour and the building is surrounded by others of the same history and heritage. It has well decorated rooms and a rooftop restaurant and bar area. Useful extras include a laundry service, baby-sitting and valet parking. www.sarnichotel.com

Spectra Hotel*Şehit Mehmetpaşa Yok 2, Sultanahmet, 34122* **Tel** (0212) 516 35 46 **Rooms** 19 **Map** 3 D5 (5 D5)

One of the assets of this hotel is the owner, a retired archaeologist, who is a source of wisdom on many aspects of local life. The rooms are comfortable and well-appointed. Breakfast is served on the terrace with grand views of the Blue Mosque. Guests have free Internet access. The Spectra is handy to all central sights. www.hotelspectra.com

Alzer*At Meydanı 72, Sultanahmet, 34122* **Tel** (0212) 516 62 62/63 **Fax** (0212) 516 00 00 **Rooms** 22 **Map** 3 D4 (5 D4)

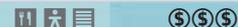
This renovated town house with beautifully appointed and furnished rooms has plenty of definitive touches. In the summer tables are available at street level, but the greatest attraction is the roof restaurant. A cheerful bijou hotel with attentive service. www.alzerhotel.com

Avicenna

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Amiral Taftil Sokak 31-33, 34122 Tel (0212) 517 05 50-54 Fax (0212) 516 65 55 Rooms 50 Map 3 E5 (5 E5)

Occupying two handsomely renovated Ottoman buildings, this conveniently located mid-range hotel has luxurious interior furnishings, including rich textiles, carpets and traditional wooden floors. Try to reserve rooms on the attic floors for panoramic sea views. www.avicennahotel.com

Citadel

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Kennedy Caddesi, Sahil Yolu 32, Ahirkapi, 34122 Tel (0212) 516 23 13 Rooms 31 Map 3 E5 (5 F5)

Now under the umbrella of the Best Western Group, the dusty pink Citadel Hotel occupies a large stone building under the city walls. Rooms are small but pleasantly furnished with all the essentials. Some rooms look directly onto the sea. www.citadelhotel.com

Hotel Alp Guest House

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Akbıyık Caddesi, Adliye Sokak 4, Sultanahmet, 34122 Tel (0212) 517 70 67 Rooms 14 Map 3 E4 (5 F4)

There are wonderful views from the roof terrace of this hotel hidden away behind the Blue Mosque. It is known as a friendly place to stay with excellent service. The hotel has been extensively renovated to a high standard, with traditional furnishings in the bedrooms. www.alpguesthouse.com

İbrahim Paşa

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Terzihane Sokak 5, Sultanahmet, 34122 Tel (0212) 518 03 94 Fax (0212) 518 44 57 Rooms 16 Map 3 D4 (5 D4)

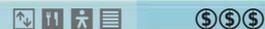
This charming stone-built hotel is located opposite the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts (see p77). Rooms are individually furnished and, along with the rooftop terrace, are stylish and unique. The decor successfully blends Art Deco with traditional Turkish influences. www.ibrahimpasha.com

Mavi Ev

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Dalbastı Sokak 14, Sultanahmet, 34122 Tel (0212) 638 90 10 Fax (0212) 638 90 17 Rooms 27 Map 3 E5 (5 E5)

Under the same polished management as the Pudding Shop, this is a distinctive Wedgwood blue *konak* (wooden mansion) restored in period style in the heart of Sultanahmet. It is peaceful and has a leafy garden and acclaimed rooftop restaurant. The views over the Sea of Marmara are magnificent. www.bluehouse.com.tr

Pierre Loti

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Piyerloti Caddesi 5, Çemberlitaş, 34122 Tel (0212) 518 57 00 Fax (0212) 516 18 86 Rooms 38 Map 3 D4 (4 C4)

Named after a Romantic novelist who lived in Istanbul, this was one of the first hotels in the area to be renovated to a high standard. It is in the thick of things on the main road but the summer garden and glassed-in café give you a fine view of the world going by. Rooms are small but wonderfully comfortable. www.pierrelotihotel.com

Side Hotel and Pension

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Utangaç Sokak 20, Sultanahmet, 34122 Tel (0212) 517 66 23 Fax (0212) 638 10 56 Rooms 36 Map 3 E4

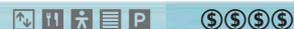
This family run establishment combines a pension for budget-conscious guests and also a ritzier hotel. Pension prices are cheaper and facilities are fewer, with no air conditioning in rooms. The hotel is comfortable and some rooms have private Jacuzzis available as an extra. www.sidehotel.com

Valide Sultan Konağı

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Kutlugün Sokak 1, Sultanahmet, 34122 Tel (0212) 638 06 00 Fax (0212) 638 07 05 Rooms 17 Map 3 E4 (5 F4)

A long-term favourite with visitors to Istanbul, the Valide Sultan's proximity to the Topkapı Palace is an advantage. It has kept up appearances, like its palatial neighbour. The rooms have been individually decorated and, although small, are comfortable. There is a glorious summer terrace with good views. www.hotelvalidesultan.com

Armada

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Ahır Kapı Sokak 24, Sultanahmet, 34122 Tel (0212) 455 44 55 Fax (0212) 455 44 99 Rooms 110 Map 3 E5 (5 F5)

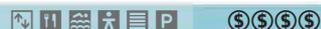
Possibly one of Istanbul's best kept secrets, this hotel is dignified and yet immensely friendly. The rooms are elegantly decorated in soothing colours and the restaurant is highly recommended. There is great live music and regular tango evenings are held here. www.armadahotel.com.tr

Hotel Sultanahmet Palace

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Torun Sokak 19, Sultanahmet, 34122 Tel (0212) 458 04 60 Fax (0212) 518 62 24 Rooms 36 Map 3 E5 (5 E5)

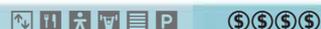
This is the ideal place to spoil yourself. Less authentically refurbished than some other establishments, it is, nevertheless, a refined hotel that deserves its palace title. The domes of the Blue Mosque rise right beside you. The garden is perfect and the service is subtle and polished. www.sultanahmetpalace.com

Kalyon

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Sahil Yolu, Cankurtaran, 34122 Tel (0212) 517 44 00 Fax (0212) 638 11 11 Rooms 112 Map 3 E5 (5 F5)

The Kalyon is not just a tourist hotel; locals use it and it is a first-rate business hotel. Its position away from the centre of Sultanahmet means that it is quiet and it faces directly onto the Sea of Marmara. Rooms are beautifully furnished to a superb standard. The restaurant is one of the most underrated in the city. www.kalyon.com

Seven Hills

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Tevkifhane Sokak 8/A, Sultanahmet, 34122 Tel (0212) 516 94 97 Fax (0212) 517 10 85 Rooms 20 Map 3 E5 (5 D5)

This is a hotel that goes out of its way to ensure your stay exceeds expectations. Rooms are beautifully decorated and suites are spacious with private Jacuzzis and fitness facilities in each room. Incredible views along with a first-class restaurant (see p198) are found on the terrace. www.hotelsevenhills.com

Yeşil Ev

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Kabasakal Sokak 5, Sultanahmet, 34122 **Tel** (0212) 517 67 85 **Fax** (0212) 517 67 80 **Rooms** 19 **Map** 3 E4 (5 E4)

Yeşil Ev (Green House) is a local landmark that typifies the spirit of Ottoman luxury. Rooms are furnished with antiques, one even has its own Turkish bath, and the service is impeccable. There is a secluded garden and an outstanding restaurant. www.yesilev.com.tr

Eresin Crown

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Küçük Ayasofya Caddesi 40, Sultanahmet, 34122 **Tel** (0212) 639 44 28 **Rooms** 60 **Map** 3 D5 (5 D5)

This highly rated, luxury hotel stands on the site of what was once the Great Palace (see p82). Some of the extraordinary Byzantine treasures and heritage mosaics unearthed here are on display in the hotel's own museum. There are several bars and dining options. The Eresin Crown is in a class of its own. www.eresincrown.com.tr

Four Seasons

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Tevkifhane Sokak 1, Sultanahmet, 34110 **Tel** (0212) 638 82 00 **Fax** (0212) 638 82 10 **Rooms** 65 **Map** 3 E4 (5 F4)

Built as a prison for dissident writers in 1917, the Four Seasons has been restored to a Neo-Classical haven of luxury. Every room has a theme that blends Turkish traditions with contemporary comfort. It is ideally situated a short distance from the main Sultanahmet sights. www.fourseasons.com/istanbul

THE BAZAAR QUARTER**Antik Hotel**

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Ordu Cad, Darphane Sok 10, Beyazit, 34130 **Tel** (0212) 638 58 58 **Fax** (0212) 638 58 65 **Rooms** 96 **Map** 2 C4 (4 A3)

This comfortable hotel built around a 1,500-year-old water cistern, has fine views over the Sea of Marmara. It also has an acclaimed pub, wine bar and unusual restaurant. The cistern itself has been converted into a subterranean night club. The Antik is a swinging and lively hotel that makes all ages feel at home. www.antikhotel.com

Bulvar Palas

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Atatürk Bul 152, Saraçhane, 34470 **Tel** (0212) 528 58 81 **Fax** (0212) 528 60 81 **Rooms** 70 **Map** 2 A3

A makeover has given this cheerful hotel a pleasant atmosphere. The beauty treatment and fitness centre complement the hairdressing salon and Turkish bath. The decor is traditional, but it is an excellent hotel at a fair price. The large restaurant serves some good Turkish dishes. www.hotelbulvarpalas.com

President

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Tiyatro Caddesi 25, Beyazit, 34126 **Tel** (0212) 516 69 80 **Fax** (0212) 516 69 98 **Rooms** 204 **Map** 2 C4 (4 A4)

Part of the Best Western chain, the President has an excellent reputation. It is located in the heart of the city with well appointed rooms and good service. Wireless Internet is available in the the reception area and in many rooms. The Turkish nights and belly-dancing evenings are legendary. www.thepresidenthotel.com

BEYOĞLU**Galata Residence Camondo Apart Hotel**

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Felek Sokak 2, Beyoğlu, 34420 **Tel** (0212) 292 48 41 **Fax** (0212) 244 23 23 **Rooms** 15 **Map** 7 D5

Set in a 19th-century mansion that was once owned by the famous Camondo banking family, these fully equipped apartments are large and comfortable, if a bit dated. They are centrally located, but off the main tourist trail. There is a Greek restaurant upstairs and an onsite bar too. www.galataresidence.com

Hotel the Pera Hill

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Meşrutiyet Caddesi 95, Beyoğlu, 34430 **Tel** (0212) 245 66 06 **Fax** (0212) 245 66 42 **Rooms** 35 **Map** 7 D4

In the cultural heart of Beyoğlu and housed in a solid stone building this hotel was once the Libyan consulate. It is a modest but hugely comfortable establishment and well known as an ideally situated budget hotel. Rooms are plain but are kept meticulously clean. www.hoteltheperahill.com

La Casa di Maria Pia

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Yeni Çarşı Caddesi 37, Galatasaray, 34425 **Tel** (0541) 624 54 62 **Rooms** 6 **Map** 7 D4

Tucked away on a quiet side street behind a colourful doorway adorned with hanging plants, these comfortable furnished apartments allow up to five people per unit to live like locals in the old bohemian area of Pera. There are plenty of local grocery shops and restaurants nearby. The friendly owner is on hand in the downstairs apartment.

Galata Antique Hotel

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Meşrutiyet Caddesi 119, Tünel, 34430 **Tel** (0212) 245 59 44 **Fax** (0212) 245 59 47 **Rooms** 23 **Map** 7 D5

This small, family-run boutique hotel is located in an Ottoman-French mansion designed by the famous architect Alexandre Vallauray. It has a lot of character and is in an excellent location for exploring Beyoğlu, although some rooms can be noisy. Helpful staff can arrange day trips and tours. www.galataantiquehotel.com

Hotel La Villa
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Topçu Caddesi 12, Taksim, 80090 **Tel** (0212) 256 56 26/27 **Fax** (0212) 297 53 28 **Rooms** 28 **Map** 7 E3

La Villa is a small, low-cost but attractive hotel in the shadow of many prestigious neighbours. It has all the things one would expect from a modern hotel, including Internet access and 24-hour room service. The hotel arranges day trips and Turkish evenings for guests. www.boutiquehotellavilla.com

Hotel Villa Zurich
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Akarsu Yokuşu 44/6, Cihangir, 34437 **Tel** (0212) 293 06 04 **Fax** (0212) 249 02 32 **Rooms** 42 **Map** 7 E5

In the heart of the popular Cihangir neighbourhood, an area filled with cafés, galleries, restaurants and antique shops, Villa Zurich offers spacious, well-furnished rooms with free Internet access. Breakfast is served with a Bosphorus view on the terrace, which becomes a lively bar at night. www.hotelvillazurich.com

House Hotel Galatasaray
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Bostanbasi Caddesi 19, Çukurcuma, 34440 **Tel** (0212) 244 34 00 **Fax** (0212) 245 23 07 **Rooms** 20 **Map** 7 E4

Set amid the picturesque, winding streets of Çukurcuma, one of Istanbul's top districts for antique shops, this hotel offers stylish, luxurious rooms at reasonable prices. The 1890s building has been lovingly restored by the people behind the popular House Café restaurants (see p205). www.thehouse-hotels.com

Santa Ottoman Boutique Hotel
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Zambak Sokak 1, Taksim, 34500 **Tel** (0212) 252 28 78 **Fax** (0212) 252 28 89 **Rooms** 18 **Map** 7 E3

Comfortable, refurbished rooms and friendly, eager-to-please staff make this boutique hotel a welcoming oasis in the middle of the Taksim Square action (some rooms can be noisy at night on weekends). Its La Boheme Cafe serves French, Turkish and other dishes in a brasserie-inspired atmosphere. www.santaottomanboutiquehotel.com

Seminal
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Şehit Muhtar Caddesi 25, Taksim, 80090 **Tel** (0212) 297 34 34 **Fax** (0212) 297 28 18 **Rooms** 88 **Map** 7 E3

This is an agreeable place to stay with friendly staff, and sights and shops nearby. There is a small fitness room, a room for disabled guests and also a fine swimming pool. The ten rooms all have sea views. This is an established hotel with a good reputation. www.seminalotel.com

Suite Home Cihangir
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Pürtelaş Sokak 12, Taksim, 34433 **Tel** (0212) 243 31 01 **Fax** (0212) 243 29 05 **Rooms** 13 **Map** 7 E4

With two Taksim locations, one of which is right on bustling İstiklâl Caddesi, these spacious condo units make a suitable home away from home. Rooms have wireless Internet and guests staying in either building can use the sauna and fitness facilities at Suite Home Cihangir. Parking is available for an extra fee. www.istanbulsuite.com

Taksim Hill
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Sıraselviler Caddesi 5, Taksim, 80090 **Tel** (0212) 334 85 00 **Fax** (0212) 334 85 98 **Rooms** 58 **Map** 7 E4

A distinctive landmark on the corner of Taksim's main square, the Hill is a great place to stay with excellent business facilities, Jacuzzis and a well-equipped health club. Rooms are attractively decorated and comfortable, and some have a view over the Bosphorus. www.taximhill.com.tr

Lamartine
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Lamartin Caddesi 25, Taksim, 80090 **Tel** (0212) 254 62 70 **Fax** (0212) 256 27 76 **Rooms** 67 **Map** 7 E5

Named after the French poet who once visited Istanbul, Lamartine is close to all the sights in Taksim, shopping outlets and a short walk to the lively cultural district of Beyoğlu. The hotel offers a consistently reliable standard of comfort at an affordable price. www.lamartinehotel.com

Tomtom Suites
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Tomtom Kaptan Sokak 18, Beyoğlu, 34413 **Tel** (0212) 292 49 49 **Fax** (0212) 292 42 30 **Rooms** 20 **Map** 7 D5

Set inside a beautiful historical building on a quiet street, this hidden gem draws high marks for the excellent service given by helpful staff, its modern, well-appointed rooms and the wonderful terrace views. Some rooms have Jacuzzi tubs and balconies. There's a top-notch restaurant and a terrace bar. www.tomtomsuites.com

Central Palace
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Lamartin Caddesi 18, Taksim, 34437 **Tel** (0212) 313 40 40 **Fax** (0212) 313 40 39 **Rooms** 54 **Map** 7 E3

Late Ottoman style is combined with modern luxuries at this eminent hotel. The rooms are luxurious and supremely comfortable, and there is an excellent healthfood restaurant. No alcohol is sold or served but you can bring your own to rooms. The Central Palace is highly recommended. www.thecentralpalace.com

Germir Palas
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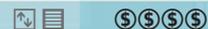
Cumhuriyet Caddesi 7, Taksim, 34437 **Tel** (0212) 361 11 10 **Fax** (0212) 361 10 70 **Rooms** 49 **Map** 7 E3

It is easy to miss the entrance to this mid-town gem on the main street. The lobby and bars are plush, and the rooms are well decorated with interesting textiles. The terrace restaurant is great in summer, with fine views over the Bosphorus. The street-level Vanilla Café is very stylish. www.germirpalas.com

Marmara Pera
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Meşrutiyet Caddesi, Tepebaşı, 34437 **Tel** (0212) 251 46 46 **Fax** (0212) 249 80 33 **Rooms** 200 **Map** 7 D5

This luxury hotel provides every service you could ever need and 360-degree views of the city. Excellent for business travellers, with wireless Internet access available in every room. There is an interesting mural in the lobby, along with plenty of seating. www.themarmarahotels.com

Witt Istanbul Suites

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Defterdar Yokuşu 26, Cihangir, 34433 **Tel** (0212) 393 79 00 **Fax** (0212) 310 24 94 **Rooms** 15 **Map** 7 E5

The luxury suites here are large, well-appointed and equipped with kitchenettes. Some have terraces and sea views. The location is quiet but close to Tophane tram stop, which offers easy access to the sights of Sultanahmet. The heart of the Cihangir neighbourhood is a short walk away. Free parking nearby. www.wittistanbul.com

Ceylan Intercontinental

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Asker Ocağı Caddesi 1, Taksim, 34435 **Tel** (0212) 368 44 44 **Fax** (0212) 368 44 99 **Rooms** 390 **Map** 7 F3

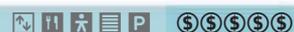
This is one of the top hotels in Istanbul with first-class facilities for groups, visitors and business travellers. High-profile guests welcome the security barriers at the exit and entrance. The tea lounge is an afternoon tradition and harp music is played here. The lively City Lights bar is innovative. www.interconti.com.tr

Marmara Taksim

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Taksim Meydanı, Taksim, 34437 **Tel** (212) 251 46 96 **Fax** (0212) 244 05 09 **Rooms** 458 **Map** 7 E4

The rooms here are extremely comfortable and beautifully decorated. The staff are always helpful and happy. The Panorama restaurant on the roof is a prestigious eating spot, while the trendy Kitchenette café on the ground floor is one of Istanbul's favourite meeting places. www.themarmarahotels.com

Pera Palas

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Meşrutiyet Caddesi 52, Tepebaşı, 34430 **Tel** (0212) 222 80 90 **Fax** (0212) 222 81 79 **Rooms** 145 **Map** 7 D5

A legendary Istanbul landmark (see p104), this hotel caters to the famous. Agatha Christie stayed here and her room has been maintained exactly as it was. Luxury can be found elsewhere but if mystery and history appeal, you will love the atmosphere and original trappings. www.perapalace.com

GREATER ISTANBUL**Hush Hostel**

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Miralay Nazım Sokak 20, Kadıköy, 34710 **Tel** (0216) 330 91 88 **Rooms** 13

This trendy hostel in a renovated Ottoman house offers a fun place to stay on a small budget. There's a choice of dormitory or private rooms, and guests can make use of the relaxing garden, kitchen and lounge with TV, DVD player and musical instruments. There is an onsite art gallery and plenty to do nearby. www.hushhostelistanbul.com

Büyük Ada Princess

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23 Nisan Caddesi, Büyük Ada **Tel** (0216) 382 16 28 **Fax** (0216) 382 19 49 **Rooms** 24

Established in 1895, the Princess is an elegant Neo-Classical stone building in the town square on the largest of the Princes' Islands. Rooms are comfortable and some have balconies overlooking the sea. There is an outdoor swimming pool and children's playground. The atmosphere is relaxing and appealing. www.buyukadaprincess.com

Polka Country Hotel

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Cumhuriyet Yolu 20, Polonezköy, 81650 **Tel** (0216) 432 32 20 **Fax** (0216) 432 32 21 **Rooms** 15

This stone and timber lodge is brimming with atmosphere. The town and surrounding area are untouched by development. Settled by Polish migrants in the 19th century, the area gets extremely busy on the weekends but guests can walk, bike, picnic, hike, or just sit and play chess. www.polkahotel.com

Taşhan

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Taşhan Caddesi 57, Bakırköy, 34142 **Tel** (0212) 543 65 75 **Fax** (0212) 561 09 88 **Rooms** 40

Once a mediocre hotel snuggled in a leafy residential area, the Taşhan is now a Best Western hotel. Refreshingly remote from city lights, it is a short walk from Ataköy Marina, the Galleria shopping centre (see p220), and a ten-minute journey to the airport. This is a friendly, efficient hotel. www.tashanhotel.com.tr

Güneş

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Nadide Caddesi, Günay Sokak 1, Merter, 34173 **Tel** (0212) 483 30 30 **Fax** (0212) 483 30 45 **Rooms** 130

This hotel is situated in a quiet residential suburb, but it is only 10 km (6 miles) from the airport and is an established and popular executive hotel. The tramway to the central sights is a five-minute walk away. Book online for discounted prices. www.guneshotel.com.tr

Kariye

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Kariye Camii Sokak 6, Edirnekapi, 34240 **Tel** (0212) 635 79 97 **Fax** (0212) 521 66 31 **Rooms** 27 **Map** 1 B1

Situated in the shadow of the Church of St Saviour in Chora (see pp118–19), the Kariye is a wooden *konak* (mansion) renovated in the style of the early 1900s. The rooms feature polished wooden floors and latticed windows. The Asitane restaurant (see p204) is famous for its rare Ottoman recipes. www.kariyeotel.com

Splendid Palace

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23 Nisan Caddesi 53, Büyük Ada, 81330 **Tel** (0216) 382 69 50 **Fax** (0216) 382 67 75 **Rooms** 70

The Splendid Palace was opened in 1908. Though influenced somewhat by Art Nouveau, it clearly displays a fusion of East and West architectural designs with a bright inner courtyard encircled with rooms, and pillars around the courtyard. The silver domes and red shutters add a festive touch to the hotel.

Village Park Country Resort

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Ayazma Mahallesi 19, Ishaklı Köyü, Beykoz, Asian side, 81680 **Tel** (0216) 434 59 31 **Fax** (0216) 434 54 15 **Rooms** 20

This is a haven of peace and tranquility for those who do not want to be in the city. Weekend packages are available as well as country pursuits such as horse riding. Dogs are welcome and kennels are provided. A restaurant, several bars and a popular picnic area make this a sought-after retreat. www.villagepark.com.tr

Barceló Eresin Topkapı

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Millet Caddesi 186, Topkapı, 34093 **Tel** (0212) 631 12 12 **Fax** (0212) 631 37 02 **Rooms** 231

Not related to or near Topkapı Palace, the Barceló was once the Eresin Hotel. It is a huge stone edifice situated away from the main hotel quarter. It is run by a Spanish conglomerate and is efficiently grand, with an excellent restaurant. Public transport is convenient and most sights are a short distance away. www.barcelo.com

Bentley Hotel

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Halaskargazi Caddesi 75, Harbiye, 34367 **Tel** (0212) 291 77 30 **Fax** (0212) 291 77 40 **Rooms** 50 **Map** 7 F1

The Bentley is a reliable provider of luxury and style in the heart of the city. Many beautifully furnished suites are available and the guest list of the glamorous and famous is impressive. The fusion cuisine restaurant and stylish bar have won accolades. www.bentley-hotel.com

Çınar

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Şevketiye Mahallesi, Fener Mevkii, Yeşilköy 34149 **Tel** (0212) 663 29 00 **Fax** (0212) 663 29 21 **Rooms** 220

The Çınar borders the Sea of Marmara, so try to get a room facing the sea. It has wonderful restaurants and bars, and the outdoor pool area and terrace are great in summer. Guests can jog along the sea shore path with the locals. It is only five minutes from the airport. www.cinarhotel.com.tr

Hilton

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Cumhuriyet Caddesi, Harbiye, 34367 **Tel** (0212) 315 60 00 **Fax** (0212) 240 41 65 **Rooms** 499 **Map** 7 F2

One of Turkey's first luxury hotels, the Hilton provides superb service and comfort. It has lovely rooms, restaurants, bars and tennis courts. Outside there is a peaceful, attractive garden, which has a pool and jogging track. It also has a world-class conference centre. www.hilton.com

Istanbul International Airport Hotel

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Atatürk Airport International Terminal, Yeşilköy, 34831 **Tel** (0212) 465 40 30 **Fax** (0212) 465 47 30 **Rooms** 131

This is the first hotel within Atatürk Airport and is accessible by foot from the baggage claim area. It has everything you are likely to want, but at a cost. Nevertheless, the bars, food and excellent service exceed anything available elsewhere in the airport. www.airporthotelistanbul.com

Swissotel The Bosphorus

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Bayıldım Caddesi 2, Maçka, 34104 **Tel** (0212) 326 11 00 **Fax** (0212) 326 11 22 **Rooms** 600 **Map** 8 A4

Run by the Raffles Group, Swissotel is the choice of many globetrotters when in Istanbul. Set within 65 acres (26 ha) of grounds and with Bosphorus vistas, it also has ten restaurants and bars, a spa and wellness centre and tennis courts. The glamorous shopping arcade will entice serious shoppers. www.swissotel.com

W Hotel

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Suleyman Seba Caddesi 22, Akaretler, 34357 **Tel** (0212) 381 21 21 **Fax** (0212) 381 21 81 **Rooms** 160 **Map** 8 B4

With a great location close to Nisantasi, Istanbul's trendiest shopping district, the W is housed in the historical Row Houses, erected in 1875 as accommodation for the high officers of the Ottoman Empire. Rooms are luxurious, with all mod cons and a few extra treats, such as 350 thread-count cotton blend sheets. www.whotel.com/istanbul

THE BOSPHORUS**Bebek**

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Cevdetpaşa Caddesi 34, Bebek, European side, 34342 **Tel** (0212) 358 20 00 **Fax** (0212) 263 26 36 **Rooms** 21

This is the ultimate in sea breezes and sumptuous living, as well as dining and clubbing. The bar at Bebek has been a legend for several decades and the renovated hotel has roomy, designer rooms. The restaurant is first rate and the setting, overlooking a bay, is particularly fine. www.bebekhotel.com.tr

A'jia Hotel

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Ahmet Rasim Paşa Yalısı, Çubuklu Caddesi 27, Kanlıca, Asian side **Tel** (0216) 413 93 00 **Rooms** 16

This luxury boutique hotel redefines simplicity and minimalist design. Gone are authentic Ottoman interiors or pasha's rooms; it boasts cool, calm, subdued and restful elegance. It is remote from the crowds in a district with no other hotels. Seclusion and anonymity are assured. www.ajiahotel.com

Sumahan on the Water

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Kuleli Caddesi 51, Çengelköy, Asian side, 34684 **Tel** (0212) 422 80 00 **Rooms** 20

The Sumahan sits in a stunning Bosphorus-side location on Istanbul's Asian side and provides a pampering service. This small luxury hotel has its own luxurious hamam and offers a range of spa treatments within a romantic and intimate atmosphere. A water-taxi service takes guests to central parts of the city. www.sumahan.com

BEYOND ISTANBUL

Anzac



Saat Kulesi Meydanı 8, Çanakkale **Tel** (0286) 217 77 77 **Fax** (0286) 217 20 18 **Rooms** 27

The Anzac has become almost as legendary as its namesake (see p170). Neat, clean rooms are decorated with Gallipoli themes. There is a popular roof terrace with reasonably priced snacks. It gets very crowded during the period around 25 April, ANZAC Day. www.anzachel.com

Çamlık Motel



Sahil Yolu, İznik, 16860 **Tel** (0224) 757 13 62 **Fax** (0224) 757 16 31 **Rooms** 26

The clean rooms here may offer no frills, but the lakeside setting of this motel in peaceful İznik cannot be beaten. Some rooms have balconies overlooking the lake. The hotel's restaurant, one of the few fish restaurants in town that is open out of season, serves well-prepared, reasonably priced meals. www.iznik-camlikomtel.com

Geçim Pansiyon



Türkeli, Avşa Ada **Tel** (0266) 896 14 93 **Fax** (0266) 896 23 45 **Rooms** 15

This is a popular family hotel and one of the better places to stay in Türkeli. Located in a peaceful neighbourhood and set back from the beach, it offers shared self-catering facilities and some well-equipped apartments. This is an excellent base from which to enjoy the delights of Avşa.

Hotel Maşukiye



Soğuksu Mahallesi, Sarmaşık Sokak 18, Maşukiye, Kartepe, Kocaeli, 41295 **Tel** (262) 354 21 74 **Rooms** 10

Maşukiye means "village of lovers" and this snug hotel inspires romance. Nestling amongst forests, lakes and mountains, this rural inn delights in every way. There are plenty of winter and summer outdoor pursuits, unique local history and splendid food and vintage wines. www.hotelmashukiye.com

Rüstempaşa Kervansaray



İkikapalhan Caddesi 57, Eski Camii Yanı, Edirne, 22100 **Tel** (0284) 212 61 19 **Fax** (0284) 214 85 22 **Rooms** 75

This historic *caravanserai* (travel lodge) dating from the 16th century was a creation of the prolific imperial architect Sinan (see p155). It is Edirne's most venerable hostel and has thick stone walls, rows of rooms and creature comforts. In the past traders could overnight here under the sultan's protection. www.edirnekervansarayhotel.com

Safran



Ortapazarı Caddesi, Arka Sokak 4, Bursa, 16040 **Tel** (0224) 224 72 16 **Fax** (0224) 224 72 19 **Rooms** 10

Easily recognized by its saffron colour, this charming hotel is over 100 years old and is situated in the centre of Bursa. Its rooms are small but thoughtfully furnished. The restaurant is renowned for producing well-cooked meals and mezes and, on some evenings, there is live music. www.safranotel.com

İznik Çini Vakfı



Sahil Yolu Vakıf Sokak 13, İznik, 16860 **Tel & Fax** (0224) 757 60 25 **Rooms** 9

This remote guesthouse is run by the foundation that restores the traditional İznik tile-making traditions. Do not expect five-star trappings but it is peacefully artistic, reasonably comfortable and guests can always meet interesting scholarly, cultural types. It is well recommended for independent adventures.

Sığınak (The Retreat)



İbrice Limanı Yolu, Mecidiye, Keşan, 22800 **Tel** (0284) 783 43 10 **Fax** (0284) 783 43 86 **Rooms** 8

Opposite the Gallipoli Peninsula on the Gulf of Saroz is an unspoilt, largely uninhabited region of Turkey. The Retreat is remote and some minutes away from a deserted beach and coastline. Accommodation is homely with a few ethnic decorations. Guests can enjoy fresh air, splendid food and wine here. www.siginak.com

Acqua Verde



Kurfalı, Şile, 81740 **Tel** (0216) 721 71 43 **Fax** (0216) 721 72 33 **Rooms** 25

This tranquil, leafy backwater is located on the Ağva River at Şile. Wildlife, trees and a wilderness atmosphere make this spot enormously popular. There are bungalows and picnic areas, and their own restaurant is excellent. At weekends, city dwellers arrive in numbers. Visit mid-week if you prefer solitude. www.acquaverde.com.tr

Almira Hotel



Ulubatlı Hasan Bulvarı 5, Bursa, 16200 **Tel** (0224) 250 20 20 **Fax** (0224) 250 20 38 **Rooms** 235

The Almira Hotel has more than a hint of Regency, but with so many restorations to be found, this is a comforting hotel that does not shout about heritage. The rooms are large and well furnished and the lounge areas are spacious and atmospheric. There is an excellent restaurant and bars. www.almira.com.tr

Çırağan Palace Kempinski



Çırağan Caddesi 32, Beşiktaş, European side, 34349 **Tel** (0212) 326 46 46 **Fax** (0212) 259 66 87 **Rooms** 315

Designed to make guests feel like a sultan, the Çırağan is one of the city's leading hotels. A restored residence of the last Ottoman sultans, it retains its glory and brims with five-star opulence. It has a glorious summer terrace with the Bosphorus lapping below. www.kempinski.com/istanbul