

One Day Visit



If you have only one day to spend in İstanbul, the best way to get the most out of the city is to indulge in the sights, sounds, and scents of the famous Sultanahmet area. Here, you can get a feel of the rich Byzantine heritage, the glory of the Imperial Capital and the welcoming city of today. From glittering mosaics to aspiring minarets, from royal magnificence to the buzzing rhythm of everyday life, Sultanahmet will offer you the ultimate İstanbul experience in a nutshell.

09:00 VISIT HAGIA SOPHIA

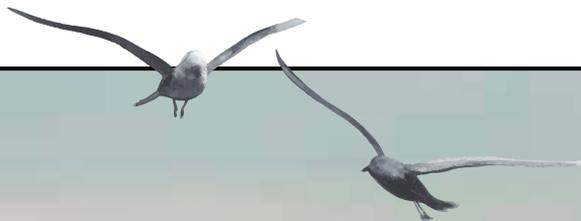
One of the signature landmarks of the city that remains impressively intact, Hagia Sophia is almost an embodiment of the İstanbul's history. You can see the original structure dating back to the 5th century and the additions, amendments, changes made in the following centuries to reflect the characteristic style of the period. As much as its admirable hybridity on the outside, Hagia Sophia spectacularly blends centuries old Christian icons with imposing Islamic calligraphy. Take your time to explore every little corner of this edifice and make sure to spend some time in its garden, where you can familiarise yourself with the archaeological findings unearthed from the site.



11:00 VISIT THE BLUE MOSQUE

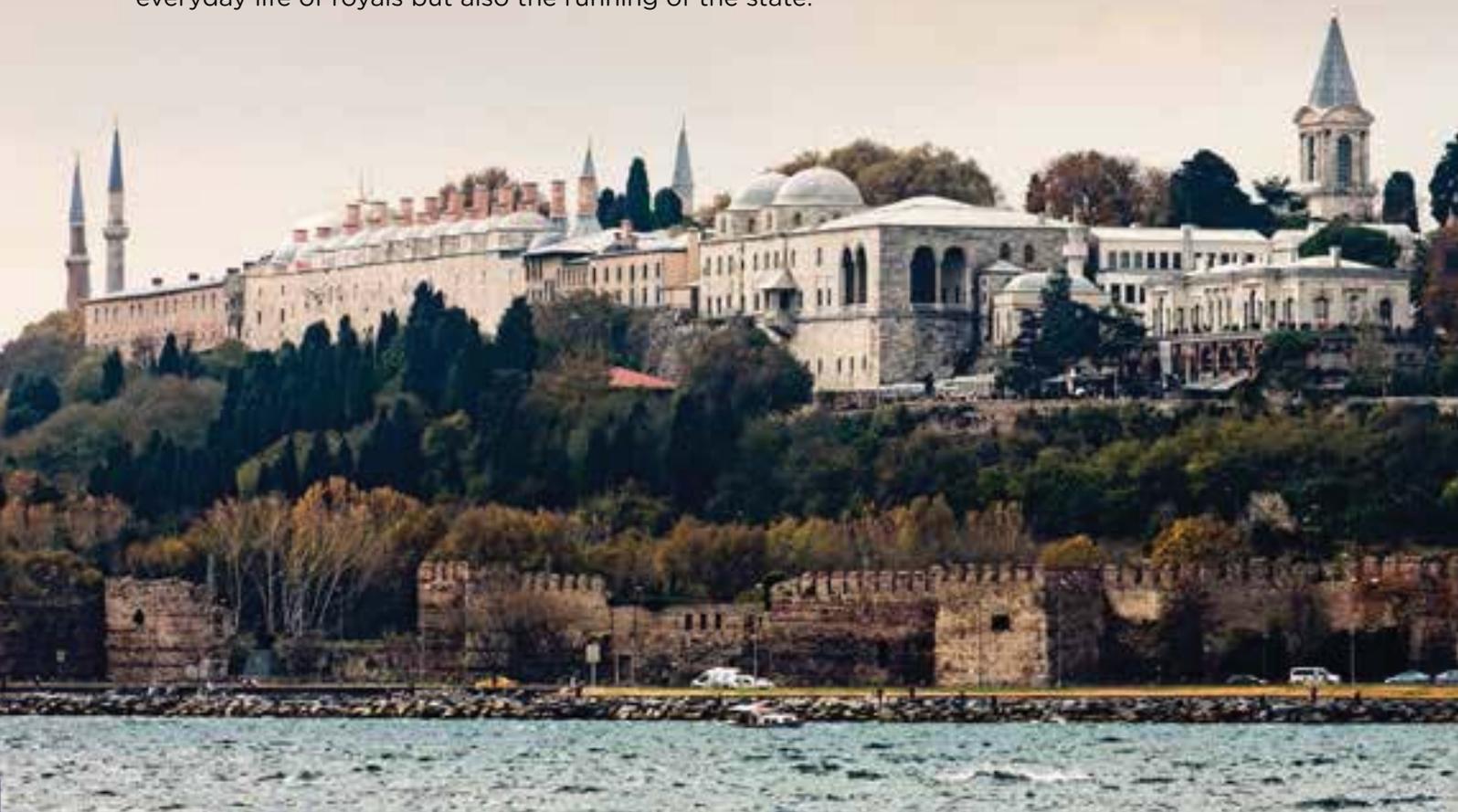
Two prominent monuments of İstanbul stand face to face in Sultanahmet. Once you step out from Hagia Sophia, just walk straight and you will be approaching the magnificent Blue Mosque. This elegant mosque was built in the 17th century to celebrate the Ottoman power at the site of the Hippodrome and the Byzantine Palace; hence, its symbolic power. What makes the mosque so distinctive is its synthesis of Christian architectural elements with traditional Islamic architecture to reach a culmination of styles up to its day. Make sure you spend some time in silence inside the mosque to admire its prayerful candle-lit atmosphere and elegant blue tiles.





12:00 VISIT THE TOPKAPI PALACE

We suggest you to have a quick bite before entering the Palace, because even a quick visit takes a few hours. Served as the royal residence for Ottoman sultans for nearly 400 years, Topkapı Palace is actually a large complex consisting of four main courtyards and many smaller buildings including mosques, harem, a hospital, bakeries, and mansions. The site not only provides an insight into the everyday life of royals but also the running of the state.



16:00 WALK THROUGH AND SHOP AT GRAND BAZAAR

One of the oldest and largest covered markets in the world, the Grand Bazaar dates from the 15th century. This is the perfect place to end your visit by shopping for some souvenirs for beloved ones back home. A walk through the Bazaar is a journey amidst enchanting scents of spices, dazzling colours, beautiful handicrafts, and, of course, the tempting smell of Turkish coffee. Make sure to stop by one of the traditional cafes to have a sip of strong Turkish coffee before leaving for the airport.

