

## Street-by-Street: İstiklâl Caddesi



Crest on top of the Russian Consulate gate

The pedestrianized İstiklâl Caddesi is Beyoğlu's main street. Once known as the Grande Rue de Pera, it is lined by late 19th-century apartment blocks and European embassy buildings whose grandiose gates and façades belie their use as mere consulates since Ankara became the Turkish capital in 1923 (see p31). Hidden from view stand the churches which used to serve the foreign communities of Pera (as this area was formerly called), some still buzzing with worshippers, others just quiet echoes of a bygone era. The once seedy backstreets of Beyoğlu, off İstiklâl Caddesi, are now filled with trendy jazz bars, shops selling handcrafted jewellery, furniture and the like. Crowds are also drawn by the area's cinemas and numerous stylish restaurants. Be aware that the street numbers on İstiklâl Caddesi are in the process of being changed.

**St Mary Draperis** is a Franciscan church dating from 1789. This small statue of the Virgin stands above the entrance from the street. The vaulted interior of the church is colourfully decorated. An icon of the Virgin, said to perform miracles, hangs over the altar.



★ **Mevlevi Lodge**  
A peaceful garden surrounds this small museum of the Mevlevi Sufi sect (see p104). On the last Sunday of every month visitors can see dervishes perform their famous swirling dance ③

### KEY

— Suggested route

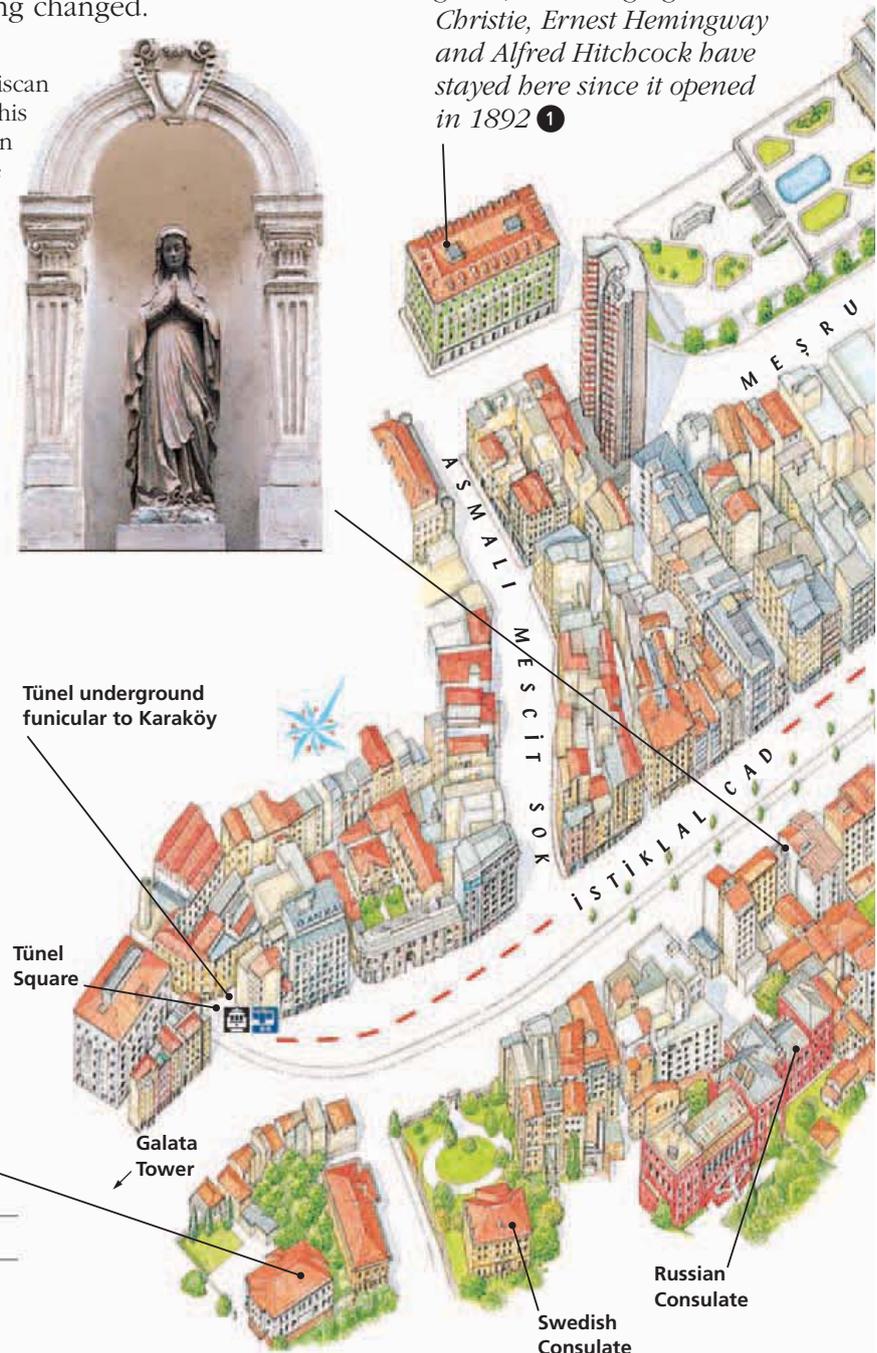
0 metres 75

0 yards 75



### ★ Pera Palas Hotel

This hotel is an atmospheric period piece. Many famous guests, including Agatha Christie, Ernest Hemingway and Alfred Hitchcock have stayed here since it opened in 1892 ①



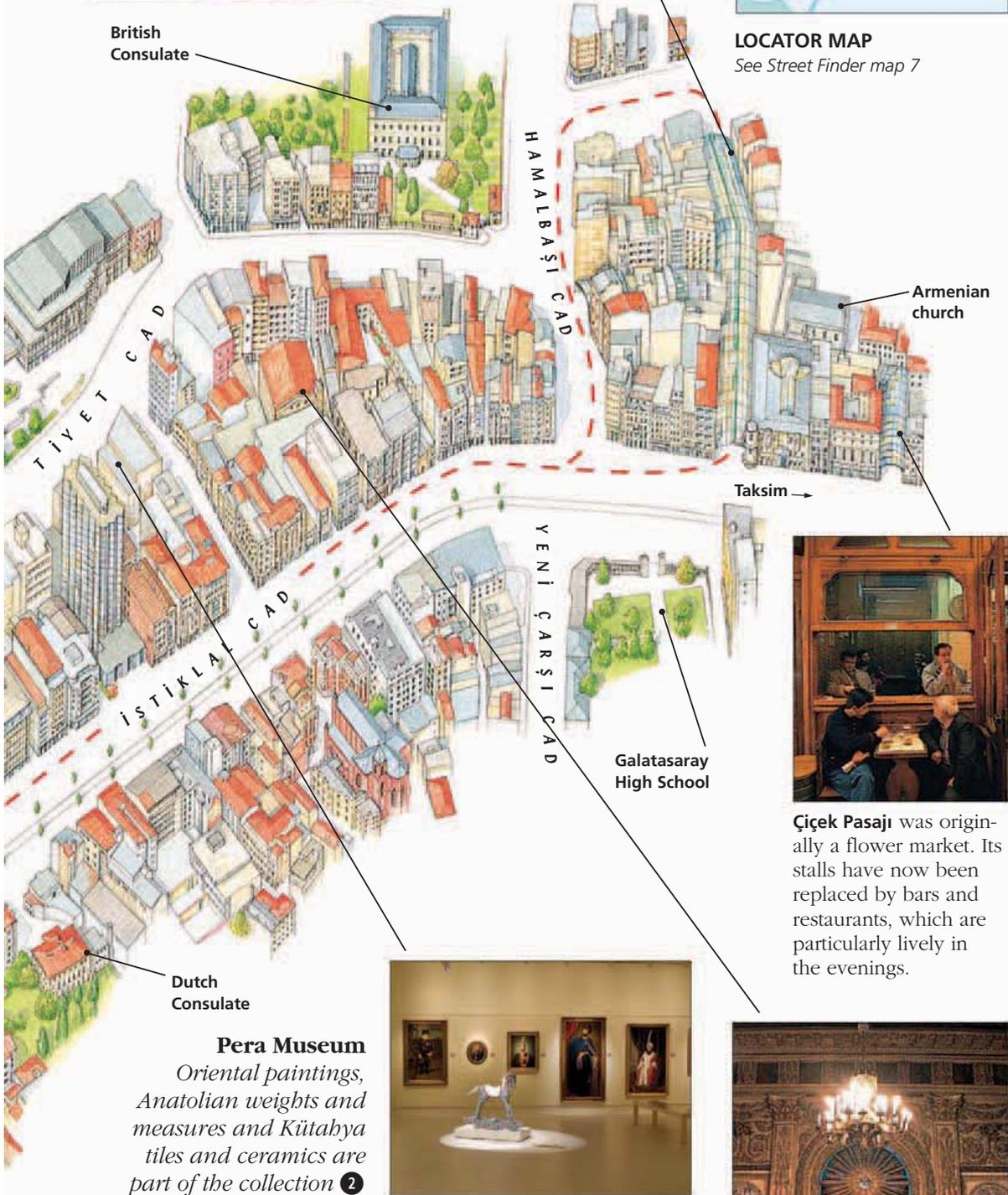


**Galatasaray Fish Market** (Balık Pazarı) mainly sells fresh fish, but inside you will also discover numerous delicatessens offering everything from meats and cheeses through to delicious sweetmeats and pickles.



**LOCATOR MAP**

See Street Finder map 7

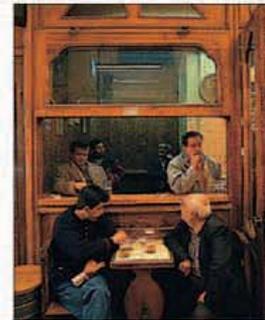


British Consulate

Armenian church

Galatasaray High School

Dutch Consulate



**Çiçek Pasajı** was originally a flower market. Its stalls have now been replaced by bars and restaurants, which are particularly lively in the evenings.

**Pera Museum**  
*Oriental paintings, Anatolian weights and measures and Kütahya tiles and ceramics are part of the collection* 2



**The Church of the Panaghia** serves the now much reduced Greek Orthodox population of Beyoğlu. Dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it contains this beautiful classical iconostasis.

**STAR SIGHTS**

- ★ Pera Palas Hotel
- ★ Mevlevi Lodge