

MUST SEE



TOPKAPI PALACE:

A maze of buildings at the center of the Ottoman Empire between 15th and 19th centuries where the sultans lived and governed.

Closed on Tuesday



ST.SOPHIA:

The marvelous Byzantine basilica built in the 6th century. It is referred to as the 8th wonder of the world today. Closed on Monday



BLUEMOSQUE:

Built in the 17th century, it is the only imperial mosque with six minarets.

Open everyday



BASILICACISTERN:

This vast underground water cistern, a beautiful piece of Byzantine engineering, is the most unusual tourist attraction in the city. Open everyday



ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM:

The museum of the ancient orient displays antiquities from the Sumerian, Babylon, Assyrian, Hittite civilizations.

Closed on Monday

MUST SEE



SULEYMANIYEMOSQUE:

Is the largest and grandest of Istanbul's imperial mosques. Built in the 16th century by the famous architect Sinan. Open everyday



DOLMABAHCE PALACE:

Built in the 19th century by Sultan Abdulmecid. It has an impressive frontage of 600 meters on the Istanbul.

Closed on Monday-Thursday



CHURCH OF ST.SAVIOUR IN CHORA:

The most important Byzantine monument in Istanbul. The walls are decorated with superb 14th century frescoes and mosaics.

Closed on Wednesday



ISTANBUL MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Its 8000 square meter buildig, which has been transformed into a fully functional modern museum, has a permanent collection gallery, temporary exhibition gallery, photography gallery, sculpture garden.



BEYLERBEYI PALACE:

This beautiful palace is located right on the Bosphorus on the Asian side of the city. The palace has one main building and 5 pavilions.

Closed Monday and Thursday.

NIDYA HOTELS

SHOPPING



ISTINYE PARK: (recommended)

It is one of the biggest and high quality mall in Istanbul from fashionable readywear to electronic. Open everyday from World brands and fancy restaurants in.



KANYON: (recommended)

One of Istanbul's more elegant shopping mall. World brands and fancy restaurants in.



METRO CITY:

One of the best and trendy mall in Istanbul. Easy transportation from the hotel by metro. Open everyday from 10am till 10pm



CEVAH R:

It is the biggest shopping mall in Europe which you can reach by metro. 10am to 10 pm.



FORUM ISTANBUL:

It is one of the biggest shopping mall. Different type of shops available. Distance 20 min by drive

SHOPPING



NISANTASI: (recommended)

One of Istanbul's more elegant residential and shopping district. It includes the stores of world famous brands and has many popular cafés, pubs, restaurants and night clubs.



GRANDBAZAAR:

Covered bazaar in the old city is the logical place to start. This labyrinth of streets and passages, more than 3000 shops. Closed on Sunday



SPICEBAZAAR:

Next to the Yeni Mosque at Eminonu, transports you fantasies from the mystical East.

Closed on Sunday

MUST DO



BOSPHORUSCRUISE (recommended)

Through the waterway separating the two continents, Europe and Asia, with a possibility to take photographs of marble palaces, ancient wooden villas of Ottoman architecture besides modern residentials and apartments.



TURKISH BATH (recommended)

Healthful steam baths have been popular in Turkey for thousands of years, many of them surviving from Hellenic and Roman times.



TURKISH NIGHT SHOW:

In an Oriental atmosphere, enjoy the kanun, typical Turkish musical instrument, folklore and belly dancing, Mehter band and Dervish show.



SUFIMUSICCONCERT&WHIRLINGDERVISHES:

Performers of Galata Monastery 'Contemporary Lovers of Mevlana'.

FOR KIDS



istanbulOyuncakMüzesi

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ISTANBULTOYMUSEUM: (recommended)

The galleries host more than 4000 toys acquired in 20 years. It takes 1 hour to go. Closed on Monday, costs 8 TL



RAHMIKOCMUSEUM:

Collection of instruments and machines dating back to the industrial revolution, the starting point of the modern technology of today. Closed on Monday



MINIATURK

Miniaturk currently houses about 100 miniatures of Turkish monuments and historical sites. Great places to take the kids. Open everyday between 10am till 6.00pm

“BEST PICK” RESTAURANT & BARS



FERIYE: (recommended)

Located in a historical building with outdoor dining available during the summer when you are literally sitting ‘right by the Bosphorus

Dress Code:Smart/Casual Distance:10-15min.drive.



TOPAZ: (recommended)

Best sample of Turkish Ottoman cuisine with a spectacular view of Istanbul in an elegant authentic setting. Dress Code:Smart/Casual Distance:5min.drive

ULUS29: (recommended)

Trendy, popular and excellent international restaurant with an emphasis on French and Turkish cuisine.

Dress Code:Elegant Distance:20-25 min.drive



SUNSET: (recommended)

Has a large international menu overlooking the Bosphorus with a great view of the city, chic and romantic restaurant.

Dress Code:Elegant Distance:20-25 min.drive



MIKLA:

Located on a roof of Marmara Pera Hotel.Has an excellent view of Istanbul.

Dress code:Casual

Distance:5 min by taxi

“BEST PICK” RESTAURANT & BAR



VOGUE: (recommended)

Is located on the top floor of a high rise with stunning views of the city. The restaurant bar becomes quite lively after hours. Dress Code: Fashionable Distance: 5-10min.



LUCCA: (recommended)

Lucca's Mediterranean-American cuisine is best known for its modern interpretation of classic bistro dishes and its modern small bites or Tapas.

Located on the Bosphorus. Dress Code: Smart/Casual



BORSA:

Borsa restaurant first opened its door in 1927 and is known for its wonderful Turkish cuisine.

Dress Code: Smart/Casual Distance: 5min. drive



LEB-I DERYA:

One of the most popular International restaurant & bar. Has an excellent view. Dress Code: Casual

Distance: 15 min by walking

“BEST PICK” RESTAURANT & BAR



DEVELI: (recommended)

Was established in 1912.Serves the specialties from SouthEastern Anatolia.

Dress Code:Casual Distance:25-30 min.drive



HAMDI (recommended)

Hamdi restaurant has been offering to your appreciation the unique test of its southeastern kebabs together with their original characteristic since 1970.



KOSEBASI:

Is a kebab restaurant serving regional specialties from the South East of Turkey.No view

Dress Code:Casual Distance:5min.drive



SUDA KEBAP:

Is a wonderful restaurant serving a wide selection of appetizers,meat and chicken dishes.It is on a sea surface in SuAda which is an artificial island.

“BEST PICK” RESTAURANT & BAR



HACI ABDULLAH: (recommended)

With the variety of dishes it has been one of the most remarkable representative of Turkish and Ottoman cuisine. Dress Code: Casual Distance 5-10 min. by walking



HACIBABA:

With the variety of dishes it has been one of the most remarkable representative of Turkish and Ottoman cuisine. Dress Code: Casual Distance 5-10 min. by walking.



NUSR'ET:

One of the most popular steak restaurant. Dress Code: Casual Distance 15 min. drive.

“BEST PICK” RESTAURANT & BARS



PARK FORA: (recommended)

Located inside a park on the Bosphorus. This is one of the most popular seafood restaurants in the city.

Dress Code: Smart/Casual Distance: 15-20



SURBALIK

Is a very elegant seafood restaurant located on the Bosphorus with an outdoor terrace.

Dress Code: Elegance. Distance: 30 min. drive



LACIVERT:

Is a very elegant seafood restaurant located on the Asian side of the city. The restaurant offers a private boat pick up from the European side. Dress Code: Elegance.

“BEST PICK” RESTAURANT & BARS



PAPER MOON

More famous than its main restaurant In Milano or its sister establishment in New York, is still one Istanbul's top Italian restaurant. Dress Code: Fashionable



CIPRIANI:

One of the most popular Italian restaurant. Decorated in timeless, it affords a wonderful view of the Istanbul. Dress Code: Smart/Casual Distance: 5min. drive



GRISSINI:

Grissini, which pays great attention to the taste of the permanent Nisantasi and Tesvikiye customers, uses fresh food and home-made macaroni. The cheese comes from Italy since for the owner it is important that the customers find the same taste everytime they come.

CLUBS



ANJEL QUE:

Anjelique Istanbul is a place for fun, chill-out and full enjoyment with fascinating view of Bosphorus and decoration. Is a very cool place, dancing under the stars.



REINA

Reina, the choice of both foreigners and local Istanbul people on the shores of Bosphorus as a result of its quality and elegance became worldwide known thanks to



SORTIE:

An exciting place to experience Istanbul's nightlife. An excellent Bosphorus view and several restaurants inside. the choice of both foreigners and local Istanbul people on the shores of Bosphorus as a result of its quality and



BLACKK:

It is one of the popular night club. Several restaurants also inside. It is located on the Bosphorus line. Distance 15 min. drive. Dress code casual.



ALJAMALBEYROUTH:

It is a special restaurant&bar to feel your self in a badawii tent. Arabic and oriental kitchen. All the decoration is from Lebanon. Feel as a Sultans. Distance 10 min by drive.

“ FAR EAST RESTAURANTS ”



DRAGON – REINA (recommended)

Is noted for the fine quality of its food, service and ambience. The emphasis is on freshness and authenticity, creating the exotic flavours of Cantonese and Szechuan



COKCOK

The design concept of çok çok blends in elements from Thai / Turkish culture and architecture. Both traditions are reflected in the restaurant exterior as well as interior, thoughtful details can be observed at every corner. Distance: 15 minutes by walk



YUTAKA

Shiromi sakamushi, wafu steak, kutsine udon, sushi mori and the tempura moni with sake to wash it all down. The decoration has been put together by the Japanese and the service is offered by ladies. Distance:5 min.by walking



WAGAMAMA:

Wagamama Japanese fusion cuisine has a style which is somewhat close to a fast-food offers.cuisine. Their trademarked slogan is: positive eating + positive living,[5] and their philosophy is defined as "combining fresh and nutritious food in an elegant yet simple setting with helpful, friendly service and value for money".Distance:15min.dri ve

VEJETERIAN RESTAURANTS



NATURE&PEACE:

For a healthy heart,the menu

also advises regular exercise and consumption



ZENCEFIL

:Most of the dishes at Zencefil are taken regional Turkish recipes and modified to exclude the meat and include more herbs and spices. Distance:10-15min.by

TURKISH BATH(HAMAM)



What is a hamam?

The hamam is one of the most authentic Turkish experiences guests can enjoy at Kum Spa , Nidya Hotel Galataport. Light years away from traditional spa treatments, this intensely stimulating cleansing ritual of scrubbing, soaping and massaging leaves guests feeling refreshed, invigorated and uniquely deeply purified.

The hamam process

Guests are first invited to enjoy a cleansing steam bath or sauna before relaxing on a traditional plinth made from a unique marble that deliciously reflects the body warmth of guests. The body is then vigorously scrubbed from head to toe with an authentic glove known as a *kese* using 100 per cent natural soaps. This exfoliation process strips away the stresses of the day, produces huge amounts of cleansing foam and is repeated continuously until deep skin purification is achieved guests are then invited to enjoy a traditional full-body foam massage. After being cleansed with fresh water, guests are then invited to enjoy silk-soft moisturisers before relaxing in a candle-lit cool area designed to neutralise the body. Traditionally guests enjoy fine herbal tea and delicious dry fruits.

Throughout the process guests wear brightly patterned, authentic towels known as *pestemals*. All guests are treated by professional specialists who have extensive experience either as a result of family tradition or after having worked in the best hamams in Istanbul.

Benefits of a hamam

For guests visiting Istanbul for the first time, the hamam is the quintessential Turkish experience that draws on ritualistic cleansing traditions dating back to the times of the Romans.

Turkish people have always regarded the hamam as a deeply cleansing physical experience as well as a wonderful indulgence to be savoured. First time visitors to the hamam frequently comment that they feel almost 'reborn' because they have never felt so clean.

There are positive psychological benefits also associated with such vigorous cleansing. A deeply cleansed body promotes a sensation of a deeply cleansed mind. And, as the body is continuously scrubbed and exfoliated, there is a sensation of layers of stress being quickly stripped away.

THE BOSPHORUS



The Bosphorus or Bosphorus, also known as the Istanbul Strait (İstanbul Boğazı), is a strait that forms part of the boundary between Europe and Asia. It is one of the Turkish Straits, along with the Dardanelles. The world's narrowest strait used for international navigation, it connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara (which is connected by the Dardanelles to the Aegean Sea, and thereby to the Mediterranean Sea).

Bosphorus' limits are defined as the connecting line between the lighthouses Rumeli Feneri and Anadolu Feneri in the north and between the Ahırkapı Feneri and the Kadıköy Feneri in the south. The strait is between the limits 31 km long, with a width of 3,329 m at the northern entrance and 2,826 m at the southern entrance. Its maximum width is 3,420 m between Umuryeri and Büyükdere Limanı, and minimum width 704 m between Kandilli Point and Açıksalan.

As the only passage between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, the Bosphorus has always been of great commercial and strategic importance. The waters of the strait are traversed by numerous ferries. Two bridges cross the Bosphorus. The first, the Bosphorus Bridge, is 1,074 m (3,524 ft) long and was completed in 1973. The second, Fatih Sultan Mehmet (Bosphorus II) Bridge, is 1,090 m (3,576 ft) long, and was completed in 1988 about 5 km (3 mi) north of the first bridge. It forms part of the Trans-European Motorway. Another crossing, Marmaray, is a 13.7 km (8.5 mi) long undersea railway tunnel currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2012. Approximately 1,400 m (4,593 ft) of the tunnel will run under the strait, at a depth of about 55 m (180 ft).

ISTIKLAL STREET



istiklal Avenue is one of the most famous avenues in Istanbul, visited by nearly 3 million people in a single day over the course of weekends. Located in the historic Beyo lu district, it is an elegant pedestrian street, approximately three kilometers long, which houses exquisite boutiques, music stores, bookstores, art galleries, cinemas, theaters, libraries, cafés, pubs, night clubs with live music, historical patisseries, chocolateries and restaurants.

The avenue, surrounded by late Ottoman era buildings (mostly from the 19th and early 20th centuries) that were designed with the Neo-Classical, Neo-Gothic, Beaux-Arts, Art Nouveau and First Turkish National Architect styles; as well as a few Art Deco style buildings from the early years of the Turkish Republic, and a number of more recent examples of modern architecture; starts from the medieval Genoese neighbourhood around Galata Tower and ultimately leads up to Taksim Square.

In the historic Karaköy district towards the end of the avenue, it is possible to see the world's second-oldest subway station, generally known and referred to as simply Tünel (The Tunnel) which entered service in 1875. Moreover, the German High School of Istanbul is also located near Tünel.

The cosmopolitan avenue is surrounded by an array of historical and politically significant buildings, such as the Çiçek Pasajı (Flower Passage) where small, intimate restaurants and taverns are found; Balk Pazarı (The Fish Market), the Roman Catholic churches of Santa Maria and S. Antonio di Padova, the Greek Orthodox Haghia Triada, the Armenian Church (among many other churches), several synagogues, mosques, academic institutions established by various European nations such as Austria, France, Germany and Italy in the early 19th century, consulates (former embassies before 1923) of several nations including France, Greece, Russia, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

TOPKAPI PALACE



The Topkapi Palace or usually spelled "Topkapi"(in English) is a palace which was the official and primary residence in the city of the Ottoman Sultans for approximately 400 years (1465-1856) of their 624-year reign.

The palace was a setting for state occasions and royal entertainments and is a major tourist attraction today, containing the most holy relics of the Muslim world such as the Prophet Muhammed's cloak and sword. Topkapi Palace is among those monuments belonging to the "Historic Areas of Istanbul", which became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985, and is described in Criterion iv as "the best example of ensembles of palaces of the Ottoman period. Initial construction began in 1459, ordered by Sultan Mehmed II, the conqueror of Byzantine Constantinople. The palace is a complex made up of four main courtyards and many smaller buildings. At the height of its existence as a royal residence, the palace was home to as many as 4,000 people, formerly covering a larger area with a long shoreline. The complex has been expanded over the centuries, with many renovations such as after the 1509 earthquake and 1665 fire. It held mosques, a hospital, bakeries, and a mint. The name directly translates as "Cannon gate Palace", from the palace being named after a nearby, now destroyed, gate.

Topkapi Palace gradually lost its importance at the end of the 17th century, as the Sultans preferred to spend more time in their new palaces along the Bosphorus. In 1856, Sultan Abdül Mecid I decided to move the court to the newly built Dolmabahçe Palace, the first European-style palace in the city. Some functions, such as the imperial treasury, the library, mosque and mint, were retained though.

After the end of the Ottoman Empire in 1921, Topkapi Palace was transformed by government decree on April 3, 1924 into a museum of the imperial era. The palace is full of examples of Ottoman architecture and also contains large collections of porcelain, robes, weapons, shields, armor, Ottoman miniatures, Islamic calligraphic manuscripts and murals, as well as a display of Ottoman treasure and jewelry.

HAGIA SOPHIA



Hagia Sophia (Aya Sofya) is a former Orthodox patriarchal basilica, later a mosque, and now a museum in Istanbul, Turkey. From the date of its dedication in 360 until 1453, it served as the cathedral of Constantinople, except between 1204 and 1261, when it was converted to a Roman Catholic cathedral under the Latin Patriarch of Constantinople of the Western Crusader established Latin Empire. The building was a mosque from 29 May 1453 until 1934, when it was secularized. It was opened as a museum on 1 February 1935.

In 1935, the first Turkish President and founder of the Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, transformed the building into a museum. The carpets were removed and the marble floor decorations appeared for the first time in centuries, while the white plaster covering many of the mosaics was painstakingly removed by expert restorers. The museum's hours are 9.30am to 4.30pm, Tuesday through Sunday; entry fee is 20 TL,

Hagia Sophia is one of the greatest surviving examples of Byzantine architecture. Of great artistic value was its decorated interior with mosaics and marble pillars and coverings. The temple itself was so richly and artistically decorated that Justinian proclaimed.

The church was richly decorated with mosaics throughout the centuries. They either depicted the Virgin Mother, Jesus, saints, or emperors and empresses. Other parts were decorated in a purely decorative style with geometric patterns.

One of the minarets (at southwest) was built from red brick while the other three were built from white limestone and sand stone; of which the slender one at northeast was erected by Sultan Bayezit II while the two larger minarets at west were erected by Sultan Selim II and designed by the famous Ottoman architect Mimar Sinan

GRAND BAZAAR



The Grand Bazaar (Kapalıçarşı, meaning Covered Bazaar) in Istanbul is one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world, with more than 58 covered streets and over 1,200 shops which attract between 250,000 and 400,000 visitors daily.

Opened in 1461, it is well known for its jewelry, pottery, spice, and carpet shops. Many of the stalls in the bazaar are grouped by the type of goods, with special areas for leather coats, gold jewelry and the like.

The bazaar contains two bedestens (domed masonry structures built for storage and safe keeping), the first of which was constructed between 1455 and 1461 by the order of Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror.

The bazaar was vastly enlarged in the 16th century, during the reign of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, and in 1894 underwent a major restoration following an earthquake. The grand bazaar consists of 12 major buildings and has 22 doors.

BLUE MOSQUE



The Sultan Ahmed Mosque (Sultanahmet Camii) is a historical mosque in Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey and the capital of the Ottoman Empire (from 1453 to 1923). The mosque is popularly known as the Blue Mosque for the blue tiles adorning the walls of its interior. It was built between 1609 and 1616, during the rule of Ahmed I. Like many other mosques, it also comprises a tomb of the founder, a madrasah and a hospice. While still used as a mosque, the Sultan Ahmed Mosque has also become a popular tourist attraction.

The design of the Sultan Ahmed Mosque is the culmination of two centuries of both Ottoman mosque and Byzantine church development. It incorporates some Byzantine elements of the neighboring Hagia Sophia with traditional Islamic architecture and is considered to be the last great mosque of the classical period. The architect has ably synthesized the ideas of his master Sinan, aiming for overwhelming size, majesty and splendour.

At its lower levels and at every pier, the interior of the mosque is lined with more than 20,000 handmade ceramic tiles, made at Iznik in more than fifty different tulip designs. More than 200 stained glass windows with intricate designs admit natural light, today assisted by chandeliers. The decorations include verses from the Qur'an, many of them made by Seyyid Kasim Gubari, regarded as the greatest calligrapher of his time. The floors are covered with carpets.

The most important element in the interior of the mosque is the mihrab, which is made of finely carved and sculptured marble, with a stalactite niche and a double inscriptive panel above it. The adjacent walls are sheathed in ceramic tiles. The many lamps inside the mosque were once covered with gold and gems. The Sultan Ahmed Mosque is one of the two mosques in Turkey that has six minarets. The other one is the Sabancı Mosque in Adana.

EGYPTIAN BAZAAR



There are several documents suggesting the name of the bazaar was first "New Bazaar". However, due to the fact that many spices were imported via Egypt in the Ottoman period, the name "Mısır Çar ısı" was favoured by the public. The word mısır has a double meaning in Turkish: "Egypt" and "maize". This is why sometimes the name is wrongly translated as "Corn Bazaar". The bazaar was (and still is) the center for spice trade in Istanbul.

The building itself is part of the külliye of Yeni Mosque, and rents from the shops within was intended to help pay for the upkeep of the mosque. The structure was designed by the chief court architect Koca Kasım A a, but completed by architect Mustafa in 1660

BASILICA CISTERN



The Basilica Cistern (Yerebatan Sarayı or Yerebatan Sarnıcı) is the largest of several hundred ancient cisterns that lie beneath the city of Istanbul (formerly Constantinople), Turkey. The cistern, located 500 feet (150 m) southwest of the Hagia Sophia on the historical peninsula of Sarayburnu, was built in the 6th century during the reign of Byzantine Emperor Justinian.

This cathedral-sized cistern is an underground chamber approximately 138 metres (453 ft) by 64.6 metres, about 9,800 square metres in area - capable of holding 80,000 cubic meter of water. 52 stone steps descend into the entrance of the cistern.

The cistern has the capacity to store 100,000 tons of water, despite being virtually empty today with only a few feet of water lining the bottom.

The weight of the cistern lies on the columns by mean of the cross-shaped vaults and round arches of its roof.

DOLMABAĞÇE PALACE



The Dolmabahçe Palace (Turkish: Dolmabahçe Sarayı) is a palace in Istanbul, Turkey, located at the European side of the Bosphorus. The palace served as the main administrative center of the Ottoman Empire from 1853 to 1922, apart from a ten-year period (1889-1909) in which the Yıldız Palace was used. History

Dolmabahçe Palace was the first European-style palace in Istanbul and was built by Sultan Abdülmejid between 1842 and 1853, at a cost of five million Ottoman gold pounds, the equivalent of 35 tons of gold.

14 tons of gold was used only to adorn the interior ceiling of the palace. The world's largest Bohemian crystal chandelier, a gift from Queen Victoria, is at the center hall. The chandelier has 750 lamps and weighs 4.5 tons. Dolmabahçe has the largest collection of Bohemian and Baccarat crystal chandeliers in the world, and even the staircases are made of Baccarat crystal.

Dolmabahçe was originally a bay in the Bosphorus which was filled gradually during the 18th century to become an imperial garden, much appreciated by the Ottoman sultans (and from here comes the name, dolma meaning 'filled' and bahçe 'garden'). Various summer palaces were built here during the 18th and 19th centuries. The palace that stands here today was built between 1842 and 1853 during the reign of Sultan Abdülmejid, on the site of the old coastal palace of Be iktâ by the Armenian-Turkish architects Garabet Amira Balyan and his son Nigo ayos Balyan. The Sultans moved here since the old Topkapı Palace lacked the modern luxuries that the Dolmabahçe could provide. The palace is composed of three parts; the Mabeyn-i Hümayûn (or Selamlık; the quarters reserved for the men), Muayede Salonu (the ceremonial halls) and the Harem-i Hümayûn (the Harem; i.e. the apartments of the family of the Sultan). The palace has an area of 45,000 m² (11.2 acres), and contains 285 rooms, 46 halls, 6 baths (hamam) and 68 toilets. The famous Crystal Staircase has the shape of a double horseshoe and is built of Baccarat crystal, brass and mahogany. The palace includes a large number of Hereke palace carpets made by Hereke Imperial Factory. Also featured are 150-year-old bearskin rugs originally presented to the Sultan as a gift by the Tsar of Russia. The palace is managed by Milli Saraylar Daire Başkanlığı (Directorate of National Palaces) bound to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. Dolmabahçe Palace Museum is open to public on weekdays from 9:00 to 15:00, except Mondays and Thursdays.

Atatürk's room

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder and first president of Turkey, spent his last years in the palace as his health deteriorated. Atatürk died at 9:05 a.m. on November 10, 1938, in a room that is now part of

the museum.

BEYLERBEYI PALACE



Beylerbeyi Palace by the Bosphorus Bridge

*The **Beylerbeyi Palace** (**Turkish: Beylerbeyi Sarayı**) is a palace located in Beylerbeyi neighbourhood of Istanbul, Turkey at the Asian side of the Bosphorus, situated just north of the Bosphorus Bridge today.*

*Designed in the baroque style by Sarkis Balyan, Beylerbeyi Palace seems fairly restrained compared to the excesses of the earlier Dolmabahçe or Küçüksu palaces. It was commissioned by **Sultan Abdülaziz (1830-1876)** and built between 1861 and 1865 as a summer residence and a place to entertain visiting heads of state. Empress Eugénie of France visited Beylerbeyi on her way to the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 and had her face slapped by the sultan's mother for daring to enter the palace on the arm of Abdül Aziz. Other regal visitors to the palace included the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.*

The palace looks its most attractive from the Bosphorus, from where its two bathing pavilions, one for the harem (women's only) and the other for the selamlık (men's only), can best be seen.

One of the most attractive rooms is the reception hall, which has a pool and fountain. Running water was popular in Ottoman houses for its pleasant sound and cooling effect in the heat.

Egyptian straw matting is used on the floor as a form of insulation. The crystal chandeliers are mostly Bohemian and the carpets are from Hereke. Despite her initial reception, Empress Eugénie of France was so delighted by the elegance of the palace that she had a copy of the window in the guest room made for her bedroom in Tuileries Palace, in Paris, France.