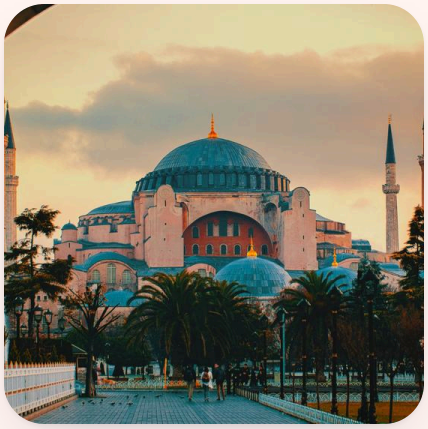
free

Istanbul Guide

Ready-made itineraries, guide articles, practical tips and how to reach all 127 places with İstePass.



Save this guide to your phone or print it. Every place in the itineraries and the list has its own page on our site.

How İstePass works

1. Choose your pass

Pick a pass for the number of days you're staying and send your order on WhatsApp. Your QR codes arrive on WhatsApp once you've paid.

2. Book if needed

Pick a time slot for guided tours and cruises. Walk straight in everywhere else.

3. Show your QR code

Scan the code on your phone at the entrance. Your pass starts on the first scan.

4. Get refunds on unused passes

Passes that were never activated can be refunded within 1 year of purchase.

Ready-made itineraries



1 day · 3 places

Sultanahmet in a day

All year. Start early in summer; winter has the shortest queues.

1. **Hagia Sophia guided tour** · Sultanahmet · 1.5 h · T1 Sultanahmet
2. **Blue Mosque guided tour** · Sultanahmet · 1 h · T1 Sultanahmet
3. **Topkapi Palace (excl. Harem)** · Sultanahmet · 2.5 h · T1 Gülhane

Separate tickets €72 · İstePass Classic · 1 day: €69 · save €3



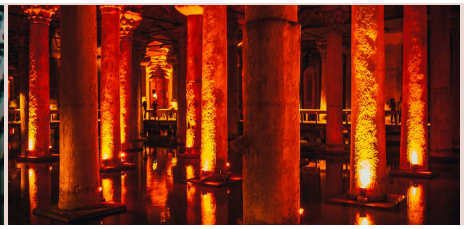
3 days · 8 places

Palaces and the Bosphorus

Best: Spring, Summer, Autumn. April–October is best for the boat part.

1. **Hagia Sophia guided tour** · Sultanahmet · 1.5 h · T1 Sultanahmet
2. **Blue Mosque guided tour** · Sultanahmet · 1 h · T1 Sultanahmet
3. **Basilica Cistern** · Sultanahmet · 1 h · T1 Sultanahmet
4. **Topkapi Palace (excl. Harem)** · Sultanahmet · 2.5 h · T1 Gülhane
5. **Grand Bazaar guided tour** · Fatih · 1.5 h · T1 Beyazıt-Kapalıçarşı
6. **Dolmabahce Palace (incl. Harem)** · Beşiktaş · 2 h · T1 Kabataş
7. **Galata Tower** · Beyoğlu · 1 h · M2 Şişhane
8. **Bosphorus hop-on hop-off cruise** · Eminönü · 2 h · T1 Eminönü

Separate tickets €202 · İstePass Plus · 3 days: €179 · save €23

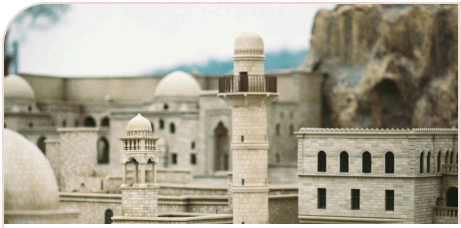
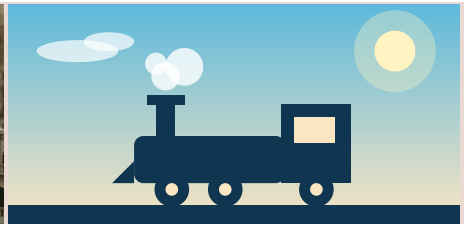
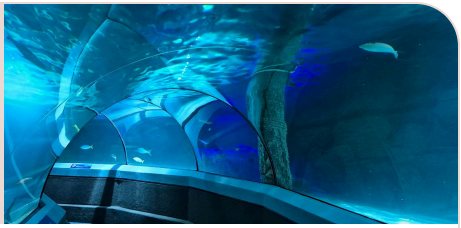

4 days · 10 places

The best of two continents

Best: Spring, Autumn. Mild weather and fewer crowds; Bosphorus crossings at their best.

1. **Hagia Sophia guided tour** · Sultanahmet · 1.5 h · T1 Sultanahmet
2. **Basilica Cistern** · Sultanahmet · 1 h · T1 Sultanahmet
3. **Topkapi Palace (excl. Harem)** · Sultanahmet · 2.5 h · T1 Gülhane
4. **Grand Bazaar guided tour** · Fatih · 1.5 h · T1 Beyazıt-Kapalıçarşı
5. **Dolmabahce Palace (incl. Harem)** · Beşiktaş · 2 h · T1 Kabataş
6. **Galata Tower** · Beyoğlu · 1 h · M2 Şişhane
7. **Bosphorus dinner cruise with show** · Kabataş · 3.5 h · T1 Kabataş
8. **Kadıköy market & breakfast walk** · Kadıköy · 3 h · Kadıköy ferry
9. **Maiden's Tower (boat incl.)** · Üsküdar · 1.5 h · Marmaray, Üsküdar
10. **Beylerbeyi Palace** · Üsküdar · 1.5 h · Bus, Beylerbeyi Sarayı stop

Separate tickets €292 · İstePass Plus · 4 days: €205 · save €87

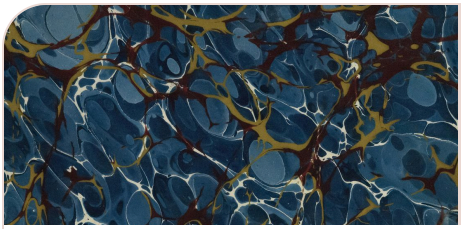
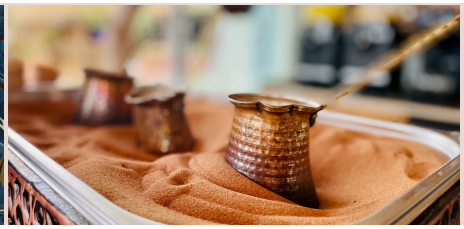
2 days · 6 places

Istanbul with kids

Best: Spring, Summer. May–September is best for the islands and the boat.

1. **Miniaturk** · Beyoğlu · 2 h · Golden Horn ferry, Sütlüce pier
2. **Rahmi M. Koc Museum** · Hasköy · 2 h · Golden Horn ferry, Hasköy pier
3. **Sea life aquarium** · Bayrampaşa · 1.5 h · M1 Kocatepe
4. **Camlica Tower observation deck** · Üsküdar · 1 h · M5 Kısıklı
5. **Bosphorus hop-on hop-off cruise** · Eminönü · 2 h · T1 Eminönü
6. **Princes' Islands tour with lunch** · Adalar · 7 h · Kabataş pier

Separate tickets €132 · İstePass Classic · 2 days: €99 · save €33

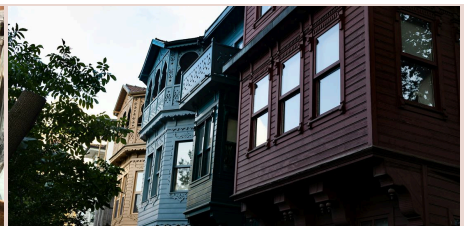

3 days · 7 places

Hands-on: workshops and food

All year. Mostly indoors, ideal for rainy or cold days.

1. **Ebru water marbling workshop** · Sultanahmet · 1.5 h · T1 Sultanahmet
2. **Turkish coffee on hot sand** · Fatih · 1 h · T1 Beyazıt-Kapalıçarşı
3. **Turkish cooking class** · Kadıköy · 3 h · M4 Kadıköy
4. **Pottery & ceramics workshop** · Beyoğlu · 2 h · M2 Şişhane
5. **Chora (Kariye) Mosque** · Fatih · 1 h · T4 Edirnekapı
6. **Fener & Balat walking tour** · Balat · 2.5 h · T5 Balat
7. **Evening street food tour** · Eminönü · 3 h · T1 Eminönü

Separate tickets €245 · İstePass Flex · 7 places: €149 · save €96

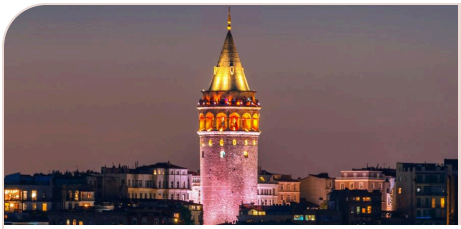

2 days · 6 places

The Asian side and the Bosphorus

Best: Spring, Summer, Autumn. April–October for the boat and the Çamlıca sunset.

1. **Kadıköy market & breakfast walk** · Kadıköy · 3 h · Kadıköy ferry
2. **Üsküdar and Kuzguncuk walk** · Üsküdar · 2 h · Marmaray, Üsküdar
3. **Beylerbeyi Palace** · Üsküdar · 1.5 h · Bus, Beylerbeyi Sarayı stop
4. **Camlica Tower observation deck** · Üsküdar · 1 h · M5 Kısıklı
5. **Bosphorus hop-on hop-off cruise** · Eminönü · 2 h · T1 Eminönü
6. **Bosphorus sunset cruise** · Eminönü · 2 h · T1 Eminönü

Separate tickets €140 · İstePass Classic · 2 days: €99 · save €41





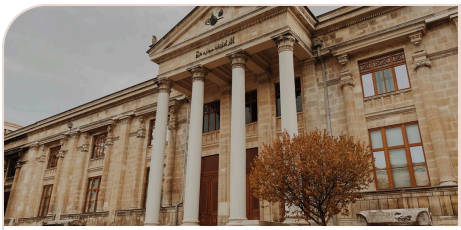
2 days · 5 places

Istanbul evenings

All year. Summer evenings are longer.

1. **Galata Tower** · Beyoğlu · 1 h · M2 Şişhane
2. **Evening street food tour** · Eminönü · 3 h · T1 Eminönü
3. **Whirling Dervishes ceremony** · Sirkeci · 1 h · T1 Sirkeci
4. **Bosphorus dinner cruise with show** · Kabataş · 3.5 h · T1 Kabataş
5. **Legends of Istanbul live show** · İstanbul · 1.5 h

Separate tickets €190 · İstePass Flex · 5 places: €115 · save €75





3 days · 9 places

For museum lovers

All year. Indoors; winter has the shortest queues.

1. **Istanbul Archaeology Museums** · Sultanahmet · 2 h · T1 Gülhane
2. **Topkapi Palace (excl. Harem)** · Sultanahmet · 2.5 h · T1 Gülhane
3. **Great Palace Mosaic Museum** · Sultanahmet · 45 min · T1 Sultanahmet
4. **Museum of Turkish & Islamic Arts** · Sultanahmet · 1.5 h · T1 Sultanahmet
5. **Şerefiye (Theodosius) Cistern** · Sultanahmet · 30 min · T1 Sultanahmet
6. **Chora (Kariye) Mosque** · Fatih · 1 h · T4 Edirnekapı
7. **Pera Museum** · Beyoğlu · 1 h · M2 Şişhane
8. **Yildiz Palace** · Beşiktaş · 1.5 h · Beşiktaş pier (~20 min walk)
9. **Beylerbeyi Palace** · Üsküdar · 1.5 h · Bus, Beylerbeyi Sarayı stop

Separate tickets €141 · İstePass Classic · 3 days: €119 · save €22

Guide articles

first-timers

Your first day in Sultanahmet

Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, the Basilica Cistern and Topkapi Palace are a few minutes' walk from each other. Start early at Hagia Sophia before the crowds and keep the afternoon for Topkapi. Topkapi is closed on Tuesdays.

Cover shoulders and knees in mosques; women cover their hair. Mosques close to visitors briefly during prayer times.

Places in this article: Hagia Sophia guided tour, Blue Mosque guided tour, Basilica Cistern, Topkapi Palace (excl. Harem), Istanbul Archaeology Museums

Asian side

A day on the Asian side

Ferries from Eminönü or Karaköy reach Kadıköy in about 20 minutes, with tea in hand and the Old City skyline behind you.

Have breakfast in Kadıköy market and walk the Moda seafront. In the afternoon head to Üsküdar for the Maiden's Tower and Beylerbeyi Palace, and end the day at sunset on Çamlıca Tower.

Places in this article: Kadıköy market & breakfast walk, Maiden's Tower (boat incl.), Beylerbeyi Palace, Camlica Tower observation deck, Turkish cooking class

Bosphorus

Ways to experience the Bosphorus

The all-day hop-on hop-off boat lets you get off at Ortaköy, Bebek and Rumeli Hisarı. The dinner cruise passes under the lit bridges.

For a longer escape, head to the Princes' Islands. Büyükada has very little motor traffic, so you explore on foot or by bike.

Places in this article: Bosphorus hop-on hop-off cruise, Bosphorus dinner cruise with show, Rumeli Fortress, Princes' Islands tour with lunch, Şile & Ağva day trip

UNESCO

Istanbul's UNESCO World Heritage areas

The Historic Areas of Istanbul joined the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985. The listing covers four zones: the Sultanahmet Archaeological Park, the Süleymaniye Mosque and its surroundings, Zeyrek, and the Land Walls.

Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, the Great Palace Mosaics and the Chora by the walls all sit within these zones.

Places in this article: Hagia Sophia guided tour, Blue Mosque guided tour, Topkapi Palace (excl. Harem), Suleymaniye Mosque guided tour, Great Palace Mosaic Museum, Chora (Kariye) Mosque

workshops

Istanbul, hands-on

Ebru, the art of marbling paper on water, joined UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2014. Turkish coffee culture and tradition was added in 2013.

A marbling or pottery workshop, a cooking class or an evening street food tour adds memories beyond the museums.

Places in this article: Ebru water marbling workshop, Turkish coffee on hot sand, Turkish cooking class, Pottery & ceramics workshop, Evening street food tour

Practical tips

- Trams, metro, ferries and buses in Istanbul all take the same contactless transit card. The preloaded transit card in İstePass is for exactly this.
- Topkapi Palace is closed on Tuesdays and Dolmabahce Palace on Mondays. Plan your days around them.
- In mosques cover shoulders and knees; women cover their hair. Mosques close to visitors briefly during prayer times.
- The nicest way between the European and Asian sides is the ferry: Eminönü or Karaköy to Kadıköy takes about 20 minutes.
- Book guided tours, cruises and shows on WhatsApp at least 24 hours ahead.
- In an emergency anywhere in Türkiye, call 112.

List of places

Museums & palaces

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Adam Mickiewicz Museum	Beyoğlu	30 min	M2 Taksim	Free with pass
Beşiktaş JK Museum	Beşiktaş	1 h	T1 Kabataş	Free with pass
Beykoz Glass and Crystal Museum	Beykoz	45 min	Bus, Beykoz stop	Free with pass
Beykoz Mecidiye Pavilion	Beykoz	45 min	Bus, Beykoz stop	Free with pass
Beylerbeyi Palace	Üsküdar	1.5 h	Bus, Beylerbeyi Sarayı stop	Free with pass
Chora (Kariye) Mosque	Fatih	1 h	T4 Edirnekapı	Free with pass
Dolmabahce Palace (incl. Harem)	Beşiktaş	2 h	T1 Kabataş	Free with pass
Galata Mevlevi Lodge Museum	Beyoğlu	45 min	M2 Şişhane	Free with pass
Great Palace Mosaic Museum	Sultanahmet	45 min	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Hagia Irene	Sultanahmet	45 min	T1 Gülhane	Free with pass
Hagia Sophia History and Experience Museum	Sultanahmet	1 h	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Ihlamur Pavilions	Beşiktaş	45 min	Bus, Ihlamur stop	Free with pass
Istanbul Archaeology Museums	Sultanahmet	2 h	T1 Gülhane	Free with pass

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Istanbul Modern	Karaköy	1.5 h	T1 Tophane	Free with pass
Küçüksu Pavilion	Beykoz	45 min	Bus, Küçüksu stop	Free with pass
Military Museum and Mehter Concert	Harbiye	1.5 h	M2 Osmanbey	Free with pass
Museum of Innocence	Çukurcuma	1 h	T1 Tophane	Free with pass
Museum of the History of Science and Technology in Islam	Sultanahmet	1 h	T1 Gülhane	Free with pass
Museum of Turkish & Islamic Arts	Sultanahmet	1.5 h	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
National Palaces Painting Museum	Beşiktaş	1 h	T1 Kabataş	Free with pass
Naval Museum	Beşiktaş	1.5 h	Beşiktaş pier	Free with pass
New Mosque Royal Pavilion	Eminönü	30 min	T1 Eminönü	Free with pass
Palace Collections Museum	Beşiktaş	1.5 h	T1 Kabataş	Free with pass
Panorama 1453 History Museum	Topkapı	1 h	T1 Topkapı	Free with pass
Pera Museum	Beyoğlu	1 h	M2 Şişhane	Free with pass
Sakıp Sabancı Museum	Emirgan	1.5 h	Bus, Emirgan stop	Free with pass
Şerefiye (Theodosius) Cistern	Sultanahmet	30 min	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Topkapi Palace (excl. Harem)	Sultanahmet	2.5 h	T1 Gülhane	Free with pass

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Toy Museum (Balat)	Balat	1 h	T5 Balat	Free with pass
Yedikule Fortress	Fatih	1 h	Marmaray, Kazlıçeşme	Free with pass
Yildiz Palace	Beşiktaş	1.5 h	Beşiktaş pier (~20 min walk)	Free with pass

Historic sites

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Basilica Cistern	Sultanahmet	1 h	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Blue Mosque guided tour	Sultanahmet	1 h	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Çamlıca Mosque	Üsküdar	1 h	M5 Kısıklı	Free with pass
Dolmabahçe Mosque	Beşiktaş	30 min	T1 Kabataş	Free with pass
Eyüp Sultan Mosque	Eyüp	1 h	Golden Horn ferry, Eyüp pier	Free with pass
Hagia Sophia guided tour	Sultanahmet	1.5 h	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Hippodrome (Sultanahmet Square)	Sultanahmet	45 min	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Little Hagia Sophia Mosque	Sultanahmet	30 min	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
New Mosque	Eminönü	30 min	T1 Eminönü	Free with pass
Ortaköy Mosque	Ortaköy	30 min	Bus, Ortaköy stop	Free with pass

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Rumeli Fortress	Sarıyer	1 h	Bus, Rumelihisarı stop	Free with pass
Rüstem Pasha Mosque	Eminönü	30 min	T1 Eminönü	Free with pass
Suleymaniye Mosque guided tour	Fatih	1 h	M2 Vezneciler	Free with pass

Guided tours

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Evening street food tour	Eminönü	3 h	T1 Eminönü	Free with pass
Fener & Balat walking tour	Balat	2.5 h	T5 Balat	Free with pass
Galata, İstiklal and Karaköy walk	Beyoğlu	2.5 h	M2 Şişhane	Free with pass
Grand Bazaar guided tour	Fatih	1.5 h	T1 Beyazıt-Kapalıçarşı	Free with pass
Hop-on hop-off bus tour	Sultanahmet	2 h	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Kadıköy market & breakfast walk	Kadıköy	3 h	Kadıköy ferry	Free with pass
Old City first-day walk	Sultanahmet	2.5 h	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Old City Segway tour	Sultanahmet	1.5 h	T1 Sultanahmet	€38 (15% off)
Pub crawl (18+)	Beyoğlu	4 h	M2 Şişhane	€16 (20% off)
Spice Bazaar walk	Eminönü	1 h	T1 Eminönü	Free with pass
Taksim and İstiklal audio walk	Beyoğlu	1.5 h	M2 Taksim	Free with pass
Theodosian Walls walk	Fatih	2 h	T1 Topkapı	Free with pass
Üsküdar and Kuzguncuk walk	Üsküdar	2 h	Marmaray, Üsküdar	Free with pass
Whirling Dervishes ceremony	Sirkeci	1 h	T1 Sirkeci	Free with pass

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Yıldız Park walk	Beşiktaş	1.5 h	Bus, Çırağan stop	Free with pass

Experiences

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Baklava workshop	Beyoğlu	2 h	–	Free with pass
Ebru water marbling workshop	Sultanahmet	1.5 h	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Flying dress photo shoot in Galata	Beyoğlu	1.5 h	M2 Şişhane	€123 (15% off)
Food tasting under Galata Bridge	Eminönü	1 h	T1 Eminönü	Free with pass
Mosaic lamp workshop	Sultanahmet	1.5 h	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Ottoman costume photo shoot	Sultanahmet	45 min	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Pottery & ceramics workshop	Beyoğlu	2 h	M2 Şişhane	Free with pass
Tasting cinema	İstanbul	1 h	–	Free with pass
Tile painting workshop	Sultanahmet	2 h	T1 Sultanahmet	Free with pass
Turkish coffee on hot sand	Fatih	1 h	T1 Beyazıt-Kapalıçarşı	Free with pass
Turkish cooking class	Kadıköy	3 h	M4 Kadıköy	Free with pass
Turkish delight and herbal tea tasting	Eminönü	45 min	T1 Eminönü	Free with pass

Bosphorus & islands

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Bosphorus breakfast cruise	Kabataş	2.5 h	T1 Kabataş	€32 (20% off)
Bosphorus dinner cruise with show	Kabataş	3.5 h	T1 Kabataş	Free with pass
Bosphorus hop-on hop-off cruise	Eminönü	2 h	T1 Eminönü	Free with pass
Bosphorus sunset cruise	Eminönü	2 h	T1 Eminönü	Free with pass
Burgazada walk	Adalar	3 h	Kabataş pier	Free with pass
Büyükada round-trip ferry	Adalar	6 h	Kabataş pier	Free with pass
Golden Horn and Bosphorus cruise	Eminönü	2 h	T1 Eminönü	Free with pass
Heybeliada round-trip ferry	Adalar	5 h	Kabataş pier	Free with pass
Kınalıada walk	Adalar	3 h	Kabataş pier	Free with pass
Luxury yacht sunset cruise	Beşiktaş	2 h	–	Free with pass
Maiden's Tower (boat incl.)	Üsküdar	1.5 h	Marmaray, Üsküdar	Free with pass
Princes' Islands tour with lunch	Adalar	7 h	Kabataş pier	Free with pass
Private Bosphorus boat tour (10+ people)	İstanbul	2 h	–	€100 / person
Private Bosphorus yacht	Beşiktaş	2 h	–	€213 (15% off)

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Şile & Ağva day trip	Şile	9 h	–	Free with pass

Viewpoints

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Camlica Tower observation deck	Üsküdar	1 h	M5 Kısıklı	Free with pass
Emaar Skyview and Skywalk	Üsküdar	1 h	–	€21 (20% off)
Galata Tower	Beyoğlu	1 h	M2 Şişhane	Free with pass
Pierre Loti Hill and cable car	Eyüp	1.5 h	Golden Horn ferry, Eyüp pier	Free with pass
Skyscraper observation deck	Levent	1 h	M2 4. Levent	Free with pass

Family

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Digital Experience Museum	İstanbul	1 h	–	Free with pass
Emaar Aquarium and Underwater Zoo	Üsküdar	1.5 h	–	Free with pass
Flyzone trampoline park	İstanbul	1 h	–	Free with pass
Horror house	İstanbul	45 min	–	€31 (20% off)
Isfanbul theme park (formerly Vialand)	Eyüp	6 h	–	Free with pass

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Istanbul Aquarium (Florya)	Florya	2 h	Marmaray, Florya Akvaryum	Free with pass
Miniaturk	Beyoğlu	2 h	Golden Horn ferry, Sütlüce pier	Free with pass
Museum of Illusions	Beyoğlu	1 h	–	Free with pass
Nakkaştepe zipline	Üsküdar	30 min	–	€24 (20% off)
Nickelodeon Play Tersane	Beyoğlu	2 h	–	Free with pass
Rahmi M. Koc Museum	Hasköy	2 h	Golden Horn ferry, Hasköy pier	Free with pass
Robot Museum	İstanbul	1 h	–	Free with pass
Sea life aquarium	Bayrampaşa	1.5 h	M1 Kocatepe	Free with pass
Şile Lighthouse zipline	Şile	30 min	–	€19 (20% off)
ViaSea Aquarium	Tuzla	1.5 h	–	Free with pass
Wax museum	Beyoğlu	1 h	M2 Taksim	Free with pass

Shows

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Aerial acrobatics show	İstanbul	1.25 h	–	Free with pass
Candlelit illusion and acrobatics show	İstanbul	1.25 h	–	Free with pass

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Historical TV series studio tour	Riva (Beykoz)	4 h	–	€64 (15% off)
Legends of Istanbul live show	İstanbul	1.5 h	–	Free with pass
The Little Prince: An Adventure in Istanbul	İstanbul	1.25 h	–	Free with pass
Turkish dance show	İstanbul	1.5 h	–	Free with pass

Day trips

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Bursa day trip	Bursa	11 h	–	Free with pass
Cappadocia day trip by plane	Kapadokya	14 h	–	€261 (10% off)
Ephesus and the House of the Virgin Mary by plane	İzmir	14 h	–	€270 (10% off)
Pamukkale day trip by plane	Denizli	14 h	–	€297 (10% off)
Sapanca and Maşukiye day trip	Sapanca	10 h	–	Free with pass

Services

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Car with driver (full day)	İstanbul	8 h	–	€170 (15% off)
Çemberlitaş Hammam	Fatih	1.5 h	T1 Çemberlitaş	€60 (20% off)
Dry cleaning and laundry	İstanbul	Flexible	–	€25 / bag (up to 6 kg)
Free airport transfer	Havalimanı	1 h	–	Free with pass

PLACE	AREA	DURATION	GETTING THERE	WITH THE PASS
Historic Turkish bath	Sultanahmet	1.5 h	T1 Sultanahmet	€56 (20% off)
Hürrem Sultan Hammam	Sultanahmet	1.5 h	T1 Sultanahmet	€89 (15% off)
Private guide (full day)	İstanbul	8 h	–	€170 (15% off)
Tourist eSIM (10 GB)	Online	Instant	–	€15 (25% off)
Transit card (preloaded)	Online	Instant	–	Free with pass

About us

İstePass is a family company. We founded it on our family's more than 50 years of experience welcoming and guiding visitors in Istanbul. Thanks to our local network, we aim to give our visitors and valued guests the best service possible.

Questions?

Someone from our team always answers you; we don't use chatbots or AI voices. Our staff are at all of the pass's key locations throughout the day.

Message us on WhatsApp at +90 531 022 15 30, 24/7. wa.me/905310221530 · info@lalepass.com

Prices and hours are sample information; check the latest details before you visit.