

INSIGHT GUIDES

EXPLORE ISTANBUL



THE **BEST** ROUTES AROUND THE CITY



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How To Use This E-Book

This **Explore Guide** has been produced by the editors of Insight Guides, whose books have set the standard for visual travel guides since 1970. With top-quality photography and authoritative recommendations, these guidebooks bring you the very best routes and itineraries in the world's most exciting destinations.

Best Routes

The routes in this book provide something to suit all budgets, tastes and trip lengths. As well as covering the destination's many classic attractions, the itineraries track lesser-known sights, and there are also excursions for those who want to extend their visit outside the city. The routes embrace a range of interests, so whether you are an art fan, a gourmet, a history buff or have kids to entertain, you will find an option to suit.

We recommend reading the whole of a route before setting out. This should help you to familiarise yourself with it and enable you to plan where to stop for refreshments – options are shown in the 'Food and Drink' box at the end of each tour.

Introduction

The routes are set in context by this introductory section, giving an overview of the destination to set the scene, plus background information on food and drink, shopping and more, while a succinct history timeline highlights the key events over the centuries.

Directory

Also supporting the routes is a Directory chapter, with a clearly organised A–Z of practical information, our pick of where to stay while you are there and select restaurant listings; these eateries complement the more low-key cafés and restaurants that feature within the routes and are intended to offer a wider choice for evening dining. Also included here are some nightlife listings, plus a handy language guide and our recommendations for books and films about the destination.

Getting around the e-book

In the Table of Contents and throughout this e-book you will see hyperlinked references. Just tap a hyperlink once to skip to the section you would like to read. Practical information and listings are also hyperlinked, so as long as you have an external connection to the internet, you can tap a link to go directly to the website for more information.

Maps

All key attractions and sights mentioned in the text are numbered and cross-referenced to high-quality maps. Wherever you see the reference [map] just tap this to go straight to the related map. You can also double-tap any map for a zoom view.

Images

You'll find hundreds of beautiful high-resolution images that capture the essence of the destination.

Simply double-tap on an image to see it full-screen.

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The new travel website from Insight

Legend

-  Start of tour
-  Tour and route direction

-  Recommended sight
-  Recommended restaurant or café

City Maps

-  Place of interest
-  Tourist information
-  Statue / monument
-  Main post office
-  Bus station
-  Theatre
-  Cathedral or church
-  Main library
-  Beach
-  Ferry route
-  City wall
-  Urban area
-  Notable building
-  Hotel
-  Pedestrian area
-  Shop / market
-  Park
-  Transport hub

Regional Maps

-  Place of interest
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-  Airport
-  Lighthouse
-  Monastery
-  Viewpoint
-  Ancient site
-  Peak
-  Crater
-  Cave
-  Cable car
-  Railway
-  Funicular railway
-  Urban area
-  Marsh
-  National park
-  International boundary
-  State / Province boundary

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ANCIENT REMAINS

Explore the city's Roman and Byzantine heritage at the Museum of Archaeology ([route 3](#)), followed by the awe-inspiring Hagia Sophia ([route 1](#)), the Theodosian Walls and the Kariye Museum ([route 11](#)).

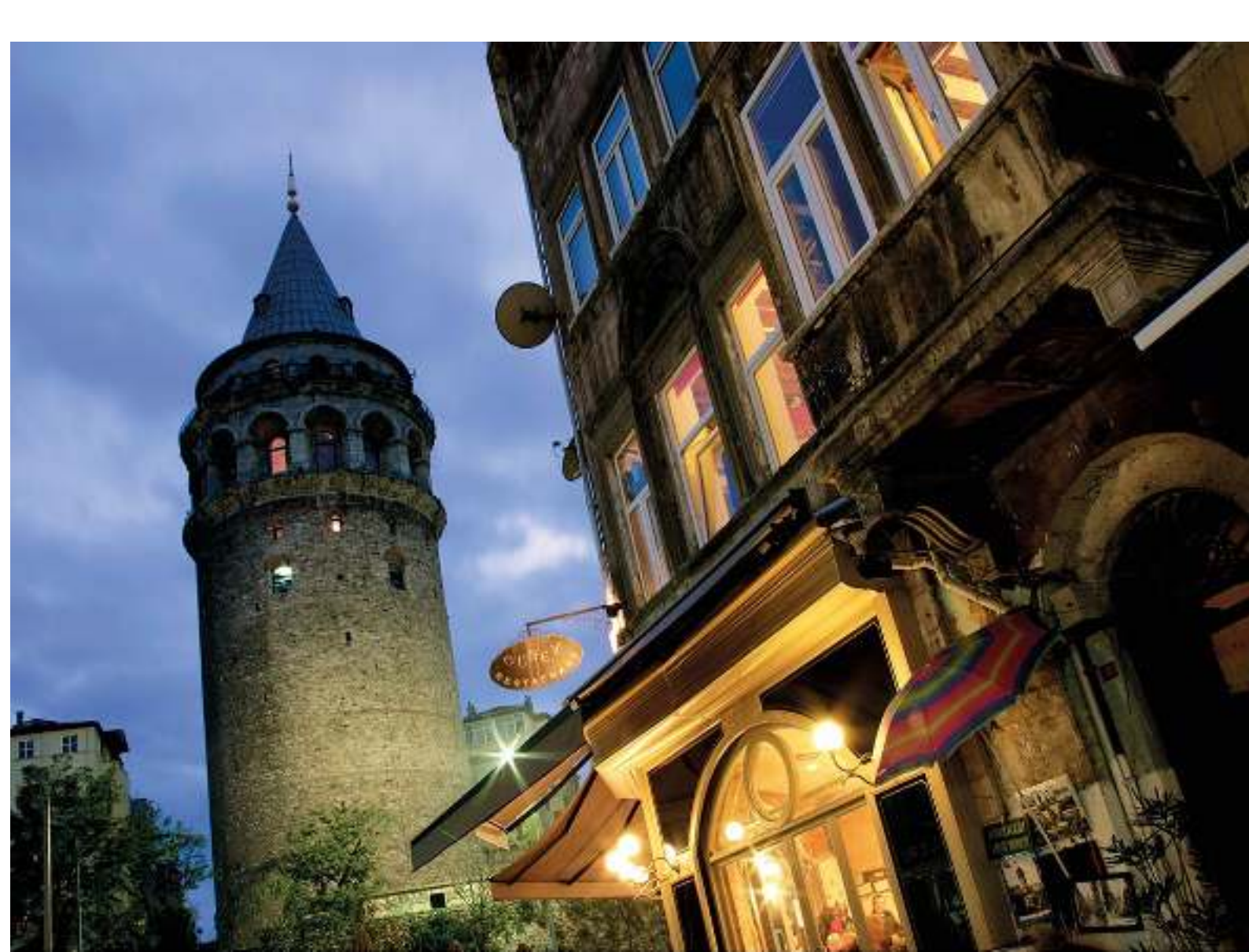
Rebecca Erol/Apa Publications



ESCAPING THE CROWDS

Take time out at the Pierre Loti Teahouse in Eyüp ([route 13](#)), stroll the peaceful streets of Fener and Balat ([route 12](#)) or potter around the mosques of Üsküdar ([route 14](#)).

Rebecca Erol/Apa Publications



NIGHT OWLS

For good times after dark, head for the bohemian bars of Tünel ([route 6](#)), or step up the pace at the high-octane clubs near Taksim Square ([route 7](#)) or by the Bosphorus ([route 8](#)).

Rebecca Erol/Apa Publications



OTTOMAN ATMOSPHERE

Admire the masterpieces of Sinan, the greatest Ottoman architect, such as the Süleymaniye Mosque (route 10) and the Rüstem Paşa Mosque in Eminönü (route 5). Be sure to stop by the Topkapı Palace too (route 3).

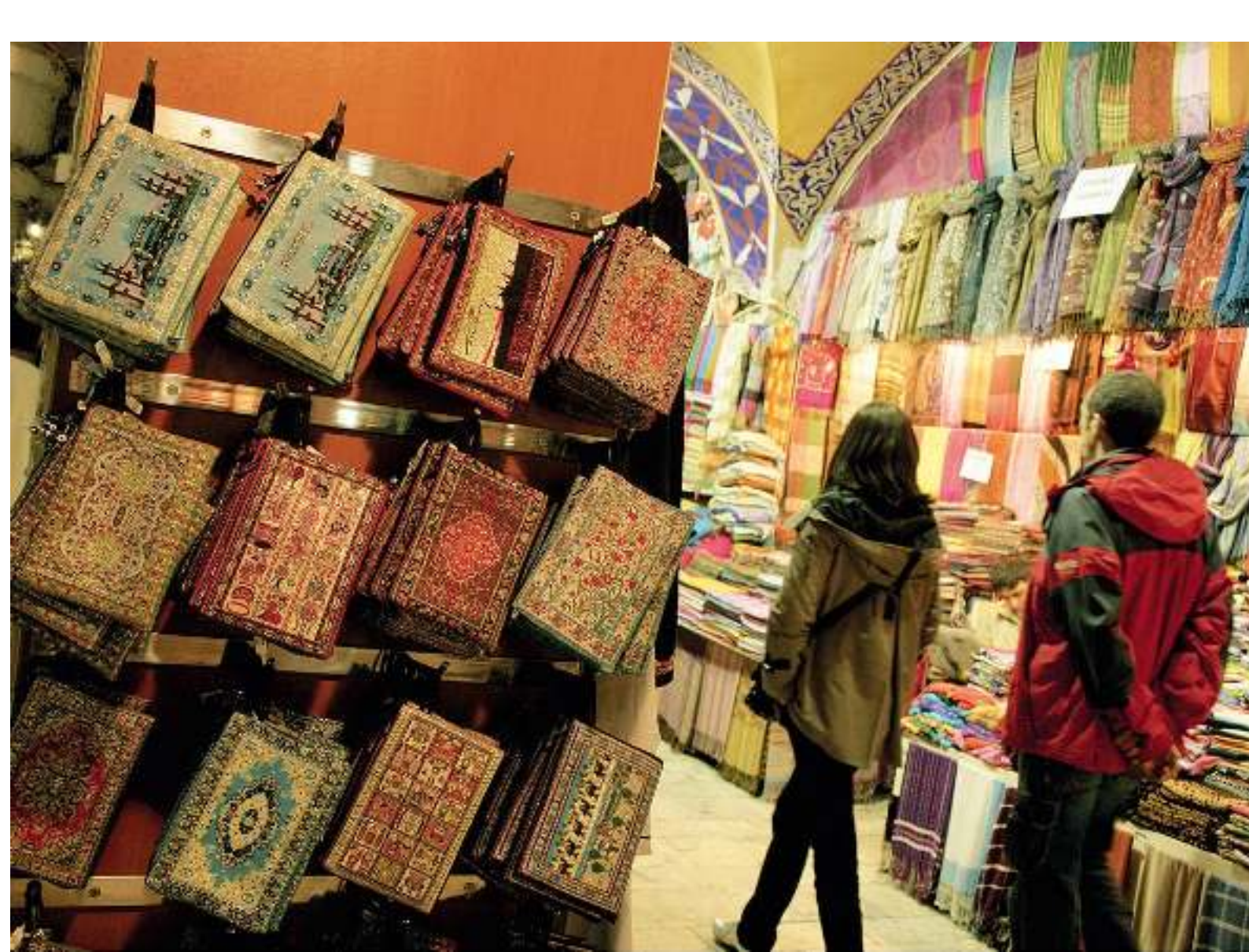
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PAMPERING

Relax after a busy day of sightseeing with a long hot soak, a brisk rub down and an oil massage at Çemberlitaş Hamam ([route 1](#)).

Rebecca Erol/Apa Publications



SHOPAHOLICS

Haggle your heart out in the Grand Bazaar ([route 4](#)) or quietly browse the Arasta and Egyptian bazaars ([route 2](#) and [route 5](#)). Check out İstiklal Caddesi for high-street fashions or Çukurcuma for antiques (both [route 7](#)).

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SPIRITUAL SUSTENANCE

Watch the Sufi mystics whirl away at the Galata Dervish Lodge ([route 6](#)), take refuge in the quiet Şehzade Mosque ([route 10](#)) or join the devout at the Muslim pilgrimage site of Eyüp ([route 13](#)).

Rebecca Erol/Apa Publications



VILLAGE LIFE

Experience another side of İstanbul life in the tranquil Bosphorus villages of Ortaköy ([route 8](#)), Arnavutköy and Rumeli Hisarı ([route 9](#)), or float past them on a boat trip along the Bosphorus ([route 15](#)).

Rebecca Erol/Apa Publications

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