

AREA GA Istanbul – Partner Programme (22 May 2025)

Discover the Heart of Istanbul: A Guided Walking Tour of Beyoğlu (Pera), Istiklal Avenue



Discover the vibrant heart of Istanbul with a guided walking tour through Beyoğlu's most iconic neighborhoods. “**Beyoğlu Tour**” isn't just a tour; it's an immersive adventure designed for curious minds who crave a deeper connection with this magical city.

From the iconic **Taksim Square to the Tünel Square**, you'll discover a fascinating blend of history and modernity.

Beginning in Taksim Square and proceeding down the famous **Istiklal Street**, a dazzling pedestrian avenue that stretches for 1.4 kilometers, lined with an eclectic mix of shops, restaurants, cafes, and architectural gems from the 19th and 20th centuries. Picture yourself discovering hidden gems tucked away in charming passages, marveling at architectural wonders that whisper tales of a bygone era, and soaking up the authentic atmosphere of a place where East meets West.

Beyoğlu, once known as Pera, has been a melting pot of cultures for centuries, attracting artists, intellectuals, and traders from across the globe. This legacy is beautifully preserved in the grand Ottoman-era buildings, elegant Art Nouveau apartments, and charming side streets that whisper tales of a bygone era. Istiklal Street, the district's bustling artery, pulsates with life as locals and visitors alike mingle amidst a kaleidoscope of sights and sounds.

Highlights of the Tour

- ⇒ *Taksim Square* (The symbolic heart of modern Istanbul. Learn about its role in history)
- ⇒ *Hagia Triada Eastern Orthodox Church* (Meaning “Holy Trinity”, the largest Greek Orthodox Church in Istanbul)
- ⇒ *French Consulate* (Built-in 1868 by French architect M. Carre. This elegant building once served as the French Plague Hospital)
- ⇒ *Ragıp Pasha Apartment* (An Art Nouveau masterpiece from 1900, showcasing the city's diverse architectural heritage)
- ⇒ *Rumeli Han* (A beautifully preserved 19th-century building, once a bustling caravanserai)
- ⇒ *Ağa Camii /Mosque* (Constructed in 1868, it's the only mosque found along the entire length of Istiklal Street)

- ⇒ *Greek Consulate* (The building dates back to the late 19th century)
- ⇒ *Atlas Passage* (With several stores)
- ⇒ *Galatasaray High School* (The oldest high school in the Ottoman Empire, founded in 1481)
- ⇒ *Çiçek Pasajı* (Flower Passage / The most iconic arcades filled with restaurants in Istanbul, once a flower market run by Russian immigrants the early 20th century)
- ⇒ *Egypt Apartment* (Mısır Apartmanı. A stunning example of Art Nouveau architecture, built between 1905 and 1910)
- ⇒ *Church of Saint Antoine* (Basilica di Sant'Antonio di Padova. Largest Roman Catholic church in Istanbul St. Antoine Church.
- ⇒ *Netherlands Palace* (Which houses the Dutch Consulate. The current building was built in 1859 by Italian architect Giovanni Battista Barberini as the Dutch Embassy)
- ⇒ *Santa Maria Draperis Church* (A beautiful example of Italian Gothic architecture)
- ⇒ *Russian Consulate* (A historic building reflecting Russia's long-standing presence in Istanbul)
- ⇒ *Casa Botter*: Admire this stunning Art Nouveau building commissioned in 1901 by Jean Botter, the Dutch personal tailor to Sultan Abdülhamid II, and now a public art gallery.
- ⇒ *Swedish Palace* (Built in 1870, this elegant building served as the Swedish Embassy)
- ⇒ *Narmanlı Han* (A historic building that once housed the Russian Embassy and later a Russian prison)
- ⇒ *Tunel Passage Office Building* (A beautiful arcade lined with restaurants, dating back to the 19th century.)
- ⇒ *Tunel* (Subway in Tunel was built in 1875 as the world's second subway line (after London's Underground) to carry the people of Pera up and down from the port of Galata and the nearby business and banking district of Karaköy, where the Bankalar Caddesi (Banks Street), the financial center of the Ottoman Empire, is located.
- ⇒ **Local Treasures:** Discover the unique character of Istiklal Street with its charming shops and boutiques showcasing the best of Turkish craftsmanship. Find authentic souvenirs, traditional textiles, and handcrafted jewelry to take home as a reminder of your Istanbul adventure.

Tour Details:

- *Duration:* 5 hrs (10:00 AM – 3.00 PM)
- *Meeting Point:* Hotel lobby at 9:45 AM
- *Transport Mode:* Walking tour – No transportation is included
- *Lunch Break:* Midway through the tour, we'll take a relaxing one-hour lunch break. Your guide will be happy to recommend a restaurant where you can savor delicious Turkish cuisine. Please note that lunch expenses are not included in the tour price, giving you the freedom to choose your preferred dining experience.

What's Included:

- *Expert Guidance:* Benefit from the expertise of a licensed English-speaking tour guide, Ms Özge Ozan, with extensive knowledge of Beyoğlu's history, architecture, and cultural significance.
- Head-Set system

- Donations to churches
- Refreshment Break: Enjoy a complimentary tea or coffee at a charming local café during a short break on the tour.
- Seamless Tour Management: To ensure a smooth and enjoyable tour, an additional assistant may be present, especially for larger groups, to handle logistics and provide support.

Not Included

- Extra Food and Drinks.
- Entrance fees: Istiklal Street is a living museum, showcasing a fascinating blend of architectural styles and historical landmarks. We will admire their facades and delve into their stories, stepping inside historic churches and mosques along the way. However, some buildings, like former embassies or private residences, are not open to the public, so we will appreciate their beauty and historical significance from the outside. Important **Note: All the landmarks listed in our itinerary that are open to the public are free to enter; however**, should you wish to explore any museums or galleries along the way, please note that their entrance fees are not included in the tour price.

PLEASE NOTE

- This tour is available with a minimum of 10 participants.
- Please confirm the exact number of participants at least 3 days in advance to arrange the headset system.
- Comfortable attire: Wear walking shoes as this is a full-day walking tour.
- Weather preparedness: Bring sunscreen, a hat, or an umbrella depending on the forecast.
- Fitness level: This tour is suitable for most fitness levels but does involve continuous walking.
- Dress Code: There is no strict dress code for Türkiye, but please dress respectfully when visiting religious sites. Women may wish to bring a scarf to cover their heads when entering mosques.

Tour Fee:

The tour fee is 40 Euro per person. This price is exclusive of VAT. If you require an invoice for your organization, please note that the applicable VAT rate in Turkey is 20%. Therefore, the total fee with VAT would be 48 Euro per person.

Contact Information:

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