İstanbul

Istanbul Shopping Tour



Tour code: IB-TR-0111

Duration: 1 day

From €111.00 / person

Starting point: İstanbul

Languages: English

Overview

Discover Istanbul’s fascinating shopping culture on a personalized journey through historic bazaars, hidden courtyards, and traditional artisan workshops. Explore the colorful Arasta Bazaar, legendary Grand Bazaar, historic Booksellers’ Bazaar, and aromatic Spice Bazaar. Admire spectacular rooftop views, discover authentic Turkish carpets, ceramics, jewelry, and handicrafts, and enjoy traditional Turkish tea and coffee experiences. A perfect blend of shopping, history, culture, and local traditions.

Your itinerary

Istanbul Shopping Tour

Step into the fabulous world of exotic fashion in Istanbul! Flagship stores of international luxury brands, top Turkish designers, exotic, new, old, mundane, antique, knickknacks — shopping in Istanbul is all these things and more. The best thing? It’s 100% personalized to your style! Feels like strolling through a fashion magazine..

Go behind the scenes of your favorite soap operas as we explore the charming historic shopping avenue of Arasta Bazaar, designed by the same architect who built the Blue Mosque, Sedefkar Mehmet Aga. The word arasta means a row of shops built to generate low and fair rental income that would help fund the maintenance of the mosque and its charitable institutions. Visiting labyrinthine and chaotic, Grand Bazaar. Home to high-quality carpets and kilims, traditional textiles, ceramics, handcrafts, jewelry, and souvenirs. At its prime, the market was locked down and guarded by more than a hundred soldiers every night, like a fortified castle. A magnificent 15th-century covered marketplace covering a total area of 45000 square meters, approx. 4000 shops, 66 covered streets and alleys. and 22 entrance gates, the Grand Bazar is definitely worth a visit! Explore traditional shops and artisan workshops, and learn about 600 years of fascinating history. Skyfall, the International, Argo, Taken 2 and From Russia with Love filmed here.

Discover the Grand Bazaar and best photo spot in Istanbul to fill your feed, from a different perspective. Step away from the familiar tourist routes and uncover its hidden treasures through panoramic rooftop views, secret passageways and traditional ateliers where skilled craftsmen continue to preserve centuries-old trades. Enjoy spectacular rooftop viewpoint for a bird's-eye perspective of this historic marketplace, and complete your experience with a complimentary glass of traditional Turkish tea!

Walk through Sahaflar Bazaar (Booksellers’ Bazaar), considered one of the oldest continuously operating book markets in the world. Casual chat with a shop owner and getting practical and historical information from our tour guide, receive your complimentary miswak, natural toothbrush stick cut from the mustard tree, popular across the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of Asia. One of the greatest literary discoveries in Turkish history happened here in the early 20th century, the only known manuscript of Mahmud Al-Kashgari’s ‘Divan-ı Lugati Turk’ (the first comprehensive dictionary of Turkic languages, written in the 11th century) was was found by chance in a shop here. French Orientalist Antoine Galland (the first translator of One Thousand and One Nights into a European language) bought illuminated manuscripts here in the 17th century, some of which are now in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. In the center of the courtyard stands a bust of the man who established the first Muslim printing press in the Ottoman Empire.

Leave the busy, noisy shopping lanes of the Grand Bazaar and we enter a hidden trading courtyard where you can slow down, sit for a while and enjoy most photographed sight made famous by influencers, Zincirli Han also known as caravanserai workshop. Once encountered several stages of a commercial process in the same building: making, repairing, storing and selling - surviving part of Istanbul's commercial heritage. The brick arches give the courtyard its characteristic Ottoman commercial-building appearance. The green shutters provide a striking contrast against the warm, terracotta-coloured walls. Stepping out of Grand Bazaar through Mahmutpasa Gate and walk downhill on Longmarket Street through Tahtakale district, historical and crowded shopping neighbourhood for locals in particular. Then it's on to the Spice Bazaar, underneath the ornate vaulted ceilings - ideal for stocking up on bargain spices, herbs and traditional medicinals, dried fruits, nuts, seeds and Turkish baklava and delight here, all in one location.

Before tour’s end, short stop at Kurukahveci Mehmet Efendi on Tahmis Street, breathe in the smell of freshly roasted coffee. Recognised by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2013. The aroma drifting into the street is almost a landmark in itself. 200 meters more brings us to Beta Yeni Han, for a special tea or coffee experience. Should fortune favour us - Tea ceremony is presented four days a week at 15:54, symbolically commemorating the year 1554, when Istanbul's first coffee houses are traditionally dated. Be sure not to miss the historic coffee-roasting oven oven.

Shopping in Turkey is great, with open-air markets, covered Turkish bazaars, and chic boutiques everywhere. Turkish carpets and ceramics are world-famous but the list by no means stops there! Bargaining (or haggling) is sometimes part of the experience. Do it right, and it can be a pleasant, profitable and social experience. Don't show enthusiasm for the item you want. A poker face pays off, believe us!.

Good to know

Enjoy a personalized shopping experience with fascinating cultural discoveries, complimentary Turkish tea, and authentic local traditions. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Personal shopping expenses are not included.

Plan your journey

Contact our team for dates, availability and a personalised quote.

https://istanbluetravel.com/

This document is for information only. Prices and availability are subject to confirmation.