İstanbul

Walk through Imperial Istanbul



Tour code: IB-TR-112

Duration: 1 day

From €136.00 / person

Starting point: İstanbul

Languages: English

Overview

Discover a different side of Istanbul on an inspiring walking tour through its imperial heritage, multicultural history, and elegant neighborhoods. Explore the historic Military Museum, experience the sophisticated atmosphere of Nişantaşı, enjoy a scenic cable car ride over Maçka Park, and admire the iconic Dolmabahçe Clock Tower. Complete your journey with a visit to the Naval Museum or the Palace Collections Museum, according to your interests.

Your itinerary

Walk through Imperial Istanbul

Beyond Istanbul's famous monuments, today we explore the city's layered social, multi-faith and multi-ethnic heritage. Our day starts with an outer facade visit to Artigiana House, a hidden heritage story in Harbiye. Learn the history of the originally constructed 42 small houses, active living institution with deep roots, impoverished European workers and religious architecture. The mix of Italian founding, sultanic patronage, and European donors illustrates Ottoman-era cosmopolitanism, Levantine merchant philanthropy, and continuous multi-communal charity.

Short walk to enjoy an extensive tour of the Ottoman Imperial Military Academy, founder of the Turkish Republic, is the most illustrious alumnus. Chronicles mostly the Ottoman period when the Sultan's troops threatened to conquer eastern Europe, the entire Middle East, and North Africa. Home to the striking historical treasures such as the chain which the Byzantines stretched across the mouth of the Golden Horn to keep out the Sultan's navy in 1453 and the Sultan's sumptuous pavilion encrusted with a fortune in jewels in which he sat to receive foreign emissaries. The Military Museum is also where we will hear the Mehter, the world's oldest military band. The Ottomans were the first to bring musicians on campaign and to integrate music into the life and work of the army. The boom of kettledrums, the wail of oboes and clash of cymbals was meant to glorify the conquest and impress upon the populace that they were now part of an entirely different civilization.

Orientation tour in the main hub, Abdi Ipekci Avenue of Nisantasi with elegant architecture, flagship stores of international luxury brands, top Turkish designers and tree-lined streets feels like strolling through a fashion magazine - it's a haven for shoppers and style enthusiasts. Less touristy, more local upscale atmosphere. Then a short stop at St. Regis Brasserie to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, and exotic fruits course. Scenic Macka Panorama Gondola lift ride over the green valley with decorative pools, walking and jogging paths. We walk down the hill towards seaside and see the Clock Tower within Dolmabahce Palace Garden, and catch sight of Istanbul's best-known open-air entertainment and concert venues, Kucuk Ciftlik Park and BJK Stadium first officially-registered sport club with the most passionately supported football clubs, Go Black Eagles!.

Depending on your interest, our day ends either at the Ottoman Naval Museum, Turkey's largest maritime museum with a great variety of around 20,000 pieces present in the collections OR thematically designed Palace Collections Museum located within the historic imperial kitchen of Matbahi Amire, brings together objects from many different imperial palaces including Topkapi, Dolmabahce, Beylerbeyi and Yıldız, and majestic pavilions including Kucuksu, Ihlamur and Maslak. Some of 5000 hotchpotch objects are from the Imperial Porcelain Factory and Hereke Carpet and Weaving Factory as well.

Important: Note that photography of residents or interiors of Artigiana is inappropriate; we will stick to exterior context and the founding story.

Good to know

Enjoy a cultural walking tour with a coffee or tea break at St. Regis Brasserie. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Photography of Artigiana House residents and interiors is not permitted on this tour.

Plan your journey

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

https://istanbluetravel.com/

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