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A UNIQUE MONOCLE  
GUIDE TO  
**ISTANBUL**

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Over 100 places to drink, dine, shop and stroll – it's all here as we discover the delights of Turkey's cultural heart.

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**20**

RESTAURANTS

---

**20**

SHOPPING STOPS

---

**1**

PERFECT VIEW

---

**25**

HIGHLIGHTS

---

**24**

HOURS IN THE CITY

---

**19**

NEW FLIGHT ROUTES

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## ISTANBUL: MONOCLE GUIDE 20 RESTAURANTS

Istanbul is home to perfectly prepared Turkish classics as well as unexpected treats from further afield.

### 01. Karakoy Lokantasi

A spin on a traditional restaurant run by husband and wife duo Oral Kurt and Aylin Okutan. Its crisp white tablecloths host lunching locals and an ever-increasing crowd of architects and designers setting up shop in Karakoy. [karakoylokantasi.com](http://karakoylokantasi.com)



### 03. Munferit

The low lighting and modern coffered wooden ceilings found in this popular spot are the work of local architect Autoban. The menu is down to co-owner Ferit Sarper; try his riff on baked white cheese with truffle. [munferit.com.tr](http://munferit.com.tr)

### MONOCLE TIP

Istanbul's mix high and low cuisine – you should do the same. Some of your best culinary experiences may well be crunching a fresh *simit* on a ferry or sipping orange juice as you walk the streets.

### 02. Hunkar

Founded in 1950, this upmarket *lokantasi* (tradesmen's restaurant) is run by a friendly team. Specialities include *Hunkar Begendi* (aubergine puree topped with lamb) and *kofte*. For dessert, try the candied pumpkin or a glazed pear. [hunkarlokantasi.com](http://hunkarlokantasi.com)



### 04. Mangerie

Three floors above the busy streets of Bebek, this airy bolthole hosts the city's well-heeled set. The ever-popular haunt dishes up fresh Turkish-inspired fare with the Bosphorus as a backdrop. For a light bite try the wild rice salad with artichokes and black-eyed peas, topped with prosciutto. Bebek is a popular breakfast spot at weekends so take a late-morning stroll in the park and retreat here for eggs benedict and coffee on the terrace. [mangeriebebek.com](http://mangeriebebek.com)



### 05. Nicole

Delicious French-informed Turkish cuisine. [nicole.com.tr](http://nicole.com.tr)

### 06. Kantin

Inspired food from chef Sema Denizsel. [kantin.biz](http://kantin.biz)

### 07. Yeni Lokanta

Traditional Turkish dishes with a modern twist. [lokantayeni.com](http://lokantayeni.com)

### 08. Morini

New York chef Michael White's Italian outfit. [istanbulmorini.com](http://istanbulmorini.com)

### 09. Ferah Feza

Turkish meals served on a chic terrace. [ferahfeza-ist.com](http://ferahfeza-ist.com)

### 10. Tarihi Karakoy Balikcisi

One of the best fish

restaurants in town. [tarihi-karakoy-balikcisi.com](http://tarihi-karakoy-balikcisi.com)

### 11. Antiochia

The *muhammara* – walnut paste – is a must. [antiochiaconcept.com](http://antiochiaconcept.com)

### 12. Muzedechange

Housed in the Sakip Sabanci Museum's gardens. [change-istanbul.com](http://change-istanbul.com)

### 13. Backyard

Breakfasts include *menemen* served with hot harissa. [backyardistanbul.com](http://backyardistanbul.com)

### 14. Ciya Sofrasi

Revives old Ottoman and Mesopotamian dishes. [ciya.com.tr](http://ciya.com.tr)

### 15. Gile Restaurant

Expect small portions but big flavours. [gilrestaurant.com](http://gilrestaurant.com)

### 16. Duple Meze bar

Modern meze with views of the old city. Try the grilled octopus. [dublemezebar.com](http://dublemezebar.com)

### 17. Asmalı Cavit

Delicious *meyhane* fare in the heart of busy Beyoglu. +90 212 292 4950

### 18. Meze by Lemon Tree

Try the lamb chops with red beets. [mezze.com.tr](http://mezze.com.tr)

### 19. Lokanta Maya

Chef Didem Senol brings the best of the Aegean region to her menu. [lokantamaya.com](http://lokantamaya.com)

### 20. Kalpazankaya Restaurant

Fresh fish overlooking the Sea of Marmara. [kalpazankaya.com.tr](http://kalpazankaya.com.tr)

## ISTANBUL: MONOCLE GUIDE 20 SHOPPING STOPS

Clothes, books, glassware, carpets, ornaments: just some of the impressive products awaiting visiting shoppers.

### 01. 290 Square Meters

After 13 years in Amsterdam, 290 Square Meters opened this sister space in Galata in late 2013. The shop stocks items from a mix of small designers such as The Good Flock, alongside international staples such as Porter and Grenson. [290sqm.com](http://290sqm.com)

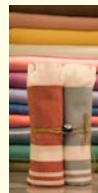


### 02. Selfestate

Store co-owner Damla Kurklu also started the city's cult read *Bone* magazine seven years ago. Kurklu felt inspired to invest in a physical space to showcase the work of the talents she has met on her travels. [selfestate.com](http://selfestate.com)

### MONOCLE TIP

From tailors' ateliers to framers and cobblers, each *mahalle* (neighbourhood) has a specialism. Designers are making use of this talent so check the provenance of your product before you buy.



### 03. Peche de Malle

Highly absorbent towels or *pestemal* were traditionally worn in the nation's steamy hamams but, as its name suggests, this colourful nook in Galatasaray has artfully updated these hand-loomed items for a contemporary audience. This space was opened in late 2012 and offers everything from blankets to bedspreads and scarves to throws (made with Turkish cotton, linen or soft bamboo). Also worthy of your attention are pieces from local designer Ozlem Kaya. [pechedemalle.com](http://pechedemalle.com)

### 04. Hic

With velvet cushions by Rifat Ozbek's venture Yastik, porcelain by the Turkish ceramicist Tulya Madra and modern pearl inlay work from Beirut, Hic is an emporium of intriguing design. Run by Emel Guntas and her well-informed staff – such as courteous photographer-designer Ahmet Gulkokan – it's the perfect place to pick up an earthenware coffee maker, a felt wall hanging or a brass paperweight. There's an interior-design service, too; the team can help you create a custom-made Ottoman to sprawl on. [hiccrafts.com](http://hiccrafts.com)



## 05. Fey

This salon-style boutique is hosted by former fashion-magazine director Fatos Yalin. Yalin's eclectic store is stocked with her own-label silk shirts (made in Istanbul ateliers) as well as a striking collection of vintage pieces. From art deco silver trays to 1930s corsages, everything is for sale. Yalin treats the shop like a fashion set, styling according to the season. There is also a selection of Turkish-made porcelain and ballerina flats crafted in town. feyistanbul.com



## 06. Ece Ajandasi

This family outfit has been hand-making diaries since 1910. eceajandasi.com

## 07. Beymen

The department store stocks a range of international labels as well as its own creations. Slick, old-fashioned service. beymen.com

## 08. Yazzma

Ikat velvet and silk prints. yazzma.com

## 09. A la Turca

A treasure trove of antique *kilims* and carpets. alaturcahouse.com

## 10. Amorfi

Everything from honey dippers to soap dishes. +90 533 269 4168

## 11. Lokum Istanbul

The perfect place to pick up some Turkish Delight. lokumistanbul.com

## 12. Shopigo

Fashion fix: delivers to any hotel within four hours. shopigo.com/the-loft

## 13. Opus 3a

A one-stop shop for anyone looking to embrace the Turkish jazz scene. opus3a.com

## 14. Machka

Ready-to-wear brand courtesy of designer duo Ayse and Ece Ege. machka.com.tr

## 15. Pasabahce Magazalari

Celebrated hand-blown glasses made in Turkey. pasabahcemagazalari.com

## 16. Robinson Crusoe 389

A haven for book-lovers on busy Istiklal Caddesi. rob389.com

## 17. Tsaldaris

The Greek printers' first Turkish outpost. tsaldaris.eu

## 18. Lightwork

Atelier-cum-shop with a savvy attitude to design. lightwork-design.com

## 19. Tru

Set up in February 2013, this little boutique is the brand's flagship store. truproject.net

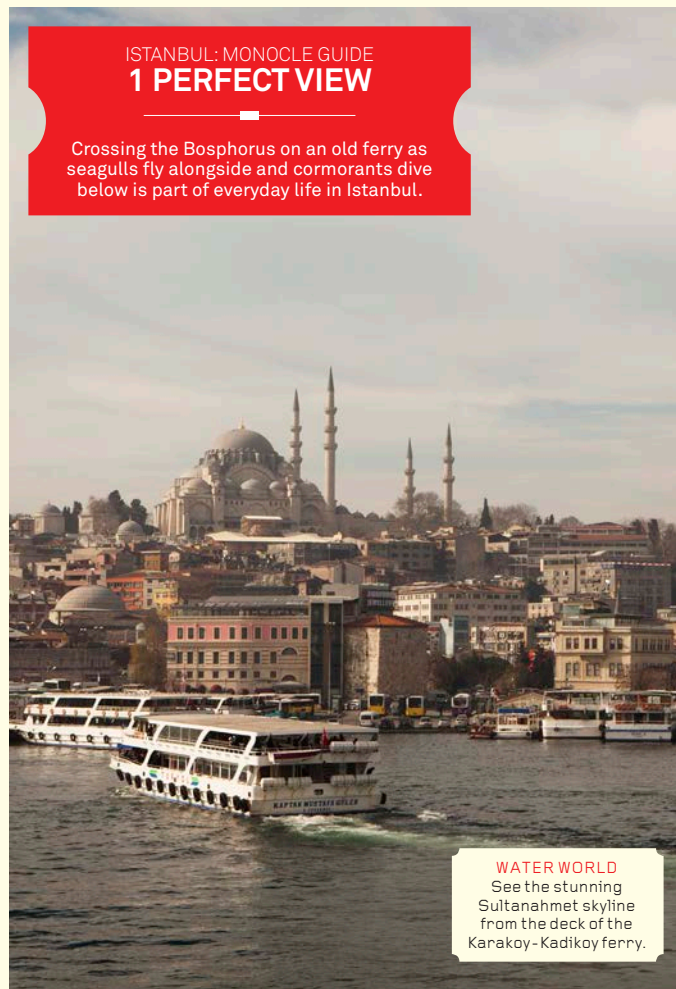
## 20. Room

Expect sophisticated, locally designed womenswear. room2shoppers.com

## ISTANBUL: MONOCLE GUIDE

# 1 PERFECT VIEW

Crossing the Bosphorus on an old ferry as seagulls fly alongside and cormorants dive below is part of everyday life in Istanbul.



**WATER WORLD**  
See the stunning Sultanahmet skyline from the deck of the Karakoy-Kadikoy ferry.

## ISTANBUL: MONOCLE GUIDE 25 HIGHLIGHTS

Narrowing down the wealth of places to visit and things to do in Istanbul was a challenge – but this is the result.

**MONOCLE TIP**  
Istanbul is set on many steep hills so pack sturdy footwear for urban hikes. Make use of the city's historic funicular – and the new tram is the best way to reach the old city from areas such as Karakoy.



**01.**

### **Drinks break**

Sip refreshing Turkish coffee on the Bosphorus at Askkahve.  
[asskkahve.com](http://asskkahve.com)

**02.**

### **Morning fix**

Treat yourself to a hearty Turkish breakfast. Good venues include Café Setup in Kabatas, Café Privato in Galata or Piraye in Kadikoy.



**03.**

### **Razor sharp**

Have a wet shave at one of Istanbul's classic barbers. We recommend Cihangir Erkek Kuaforu for the works.  
+90 212 251 1660



**04.**

### **All aboard**

Chart your own boat for an autonomous tour of the city's waterways or simply call a water taxi and bypass the infamous Istanbul traffic in style.



**05.**

### **Walk on the European side**

Take a Bosphorus-side stroll from Bebek to Arnavutkoy, passing fishermen's boats and large yachts.



**06.**

### **Drink and be merry**

Discover the fantastic architecture at Haydarpasa station as you sip your tea on the ferry from Kabatas to Kadikoy.



**07.**

### **Forest trail**

Head to the village of Polonezkoy, a Polish settlement founded in 1842. This verdant hamlet is known for its June cherry festival.



**08.**

### **Leisure options**

Take the seaplane to Bursa. Try a famous Iskender kebab and take to the thermal waters at one of the city's spas. From here you can also ski or hike in the hills surrounding Mount Uludag.

**09.**

### **Caffeine hit**

Join the long but fast-moving queue to buy freshly ground packets of Turkish coffee at Kurukahveci Mehmet Efendi, a historic coffee producer at the Egyptian Spice Bazaar.  
[mehmetefendi.com](http://mehmetefendi.com)



**10.**

### **King of the castle**

Traverse the battlements of the Anadolu Hisari fortress on the Asian side of the Bosphorus, a strategic site built in the 14th century.



**11.**

### **Shopping heaven**

Revel in the delights of the Grand Bazaar; stroll up on antique copper and Uzbek silk, and drop in on *Cuhaci Han* for beautiful diamonds.



12.

**Royal visit**

Head to Buyukada, the largest island in the Princes' Island archipelago, and have tea in the Splendid Palace hotel. [splendidhotel.net](http://splendidhotel.net)



13.

**Seafood special**

Eat a fresh Black Sea mackerel sandwich off a boat that's pulled into Eminonu pier. Elbows at the ready; there are always crowds.



14.

**Turkish coffee**

Drop into Mandabatmaz Coffee; this tiny café has been manned by brewmaster Cemil Pilik for nearly 20 years. [Olivia Gecidi 1/A, Beyoglu](http://OliviaGecidi1/A, Beyoglu)



19.

**Football furnace**

Take in the atmosphere at a local derby; Fenerbahce versus Galatasaray is a particularly heated affair.

20.

**Liquid refreshment**

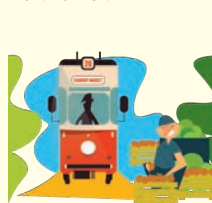
Drink a fresh pomegranate juice from one of the city's many carts. It's the perfect vitamin boost for any fading wanderer.



21.

**Roll up, roll up**

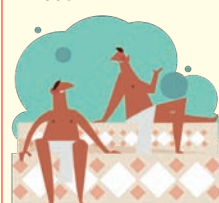
Join the throngs of Turkish housewives at one of the city's daily markets. Kadikoy's Tuesday market is well worth a visit.



22.

**Bath time**

Get steamy in a hamam. Try Cemberlitas for a really robust scrub or Ayasofya, built for the sultan's concubine in 1556.



15.

**Water works**

Head to the seaside suburb of Florya to see Ataturk's sea pavilion. [Istanbul Caddesi, Florya](http://IstanbulCaddesi, Florya)

16.

**Sand and song**

Take a swim on the Black Sea shores at Suma beach – and stay long enough to watch it turn into one of the city's finest party spots. [+90 212 203 0863](http://+90 212 203 0863)



23.

**The old ones are the best**

Marvel at the city's Byzantine past at Istanbul's archaeology museums. [istanbularkeoloji.gov.tr](http://istanbularkeoloji.gov.tr)



24.

**Music to your ears**

Get a dose of Istanbul's vibrant jazz scene at subterranean spot Nardis. [nardisjazz.com](http://nardisjazz.com)



17.

**Good afternoon**

Sail from Kabatas to Uskudar to walk the backstreets and lunch at Kanaat. [kanaatlokantasi.com.tr](http://kanaatlokantasi.com.tr)



18.

**Flower power**

Take in the city's tulip season. Visit Gulhane park's gardens around Topkapi or Emirgan Park in Sariyer.



25.

**Room with a view**

Have a drink at the Maiden Tower watching the sunset and discover its history as a lighthouse, quarantine station and watchtower. [kizkulesi.com.tr](http://kizkulesi.com.tr)





## ISTANBUL: MONOCLE GUIDE 24 HOURS IN THE CITY

Pushed for time? There's an awful lot you can cram into a visit to one of the most vibrant cities on Earth.

### 09.00

#### Early energy boost

Feast on clotted cream made with buffalo's milk in Besiktas's market café Kaymakçı Pando. You can also take a tour of the area's famous fish market, a bustling event that is held under a striking triangular-shaped concrete canopy. +90 212 258 2616

### 11.00

#### Artistic licence

Make for the Istanbul Modern to find out about Turkey's artistic canon. Catch a touring exhibit or see early modern Impressionist-inspired beach scenes by İbrahim Calli and contemporary installations of Canan Dagdelen in the permanent collection. Grab a spot

of lunch on the terrace here as it has one of the best views in the city – provided it's not interrupted by a behemoth ferry in port, of course. [istanbulmodern.org](http://istanbulmodern.org)

### 13.00

#### Get the lowdown

Go underground into the city's Byzantine Basilica Cistern. Make sure you see the mysterious upturned Medusa's head, which serves as a nod to the city's early pagan past. [yerebatan.com](http://yerebatan.com)

### 14.00

#### Must-see mosque

Head across the street to the Hagia Sophia for a

tour of one of the oldest and most incredible religious buildings to be found anywhere in the world.

[ayasofyamuzesi.gov.tr](http://ayasofyamuzesi.gov.tr)

### 15.00

#### Moment's reflection

Sit under the vines and sip coffee at Karabatak, the city's favourite meeting spot (named after Istanbul's iconic bird, the cormorant) that's found in Karakoy. [karabatak.com](http://karabatak.com)

### 16.00

#### Wash and go

Book in for a scrub and massage at the newly restored 16th-century

Kilic Ali Pasa hamam in Tophane; you'll emerge squeaky clean and refreshed. Don't forget to recover while sipping apple tea in sybaritic splendour on cushions under a monumental dome designed by the legendary architect Mimar Sinan. [kilicalipasahamami.com](http://kilicalipasahamami.com)

### 19.00

#### Pre-dinner bite

Take a seat among the chic crowds at Lucca in Bebek. As the sun goes down, crunch on crab and avocado bruschetta and take in the atmosphere at this lively corner spot. [luccastyle.com](http://luccastyle.com)

### 20.00

#### Sumptuous feast

Book a table at Mikla overlooking the Golden Horn and try the wonderful creations of Turkish-Finnish chef Mehmet Gurs. [miklarestaurant.com](http://miklarestaurant.com)

### 23.00

#### The night is young

Shake a tail feather with the late crowd at Fosil. [fosil.com.tr](http://fosil.com.tr)

### 02.00

#### Well-earned rest

Bed down at the Vault Karakoy, a former Ottoman bank just next to the Galata bridge. [thehousehotel.com](http://thehousehotel.com)



ISTANBUL: MONOCLE GUIDE  
**19 NEW FLIGHT ROUTES**

This year it will become even easier to get to Istanbul by air: here are Turkish Airlines' new flight routes for 2014.

- |                            |                      |                          |                       |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 01. Rotterdam, Netherlands | 06. Catania, Italy   | 11. Batna, Algeria       | 16. Bamako, Mali      |
| 02. Astrakhan, Russia      | 07. Varna, Bulgaria  | 12. Constantine, Algeria | 17. Stavropol, Russia |
| 03. Luanda, Angola         | 08. Montréal, Canada | 13. Tlemcen, Algeria     | 18. Gazipasa, Turkey  |
| 04. Oran, Algeria          | 09. Bordeaux, France | 14. Cotonou, Benin       | 19. Hakkari, Turkey   |
| 05. Boston, USA            | 10. Münster, Germany | 15. Asmara, Eritrea      |                       |



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