



Look for this sign or flag in all of our preferred shops.

Beware of "similar" signs at store fronts.

If the store is not mentioned on this map, then the store is not part of our program!

VAT Most stores participate in the Value Added Tax program in which Non-European citizens may be entitled to reclaim a portion or all of the taxes paid (depending on the total purchase price). It is your responsibility to inquire as to whether or not the store participates in VAT refund program if the purchase qualifies for a refund.

GLOBAL BLUE Shop where you see this Global Blue - Tax Free Shopping sign and ask for your tax refund receipt. To qualify, there are minimum amounts, per store, per day, so please ask the retailer for details. Show your purchases and Global Blue receipts to Customs officials when leaving the EU. Have your Global checks stamped and collect your cash at the Global Blue cash refund office.



PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING MAP GUARANTEE Shop with confidence as all the merchants on our Preferred Shopping Program have been carefully selected and that each offers a 60 day guarantee to our cruise line guests. This guarantee is for repairs and exchanges. Please note the following conditions apply to the guarantee: Guest negligence or buyer's regret is excluded. Price paid for merchandise or verbal claims/agreements between merchant and guests will not be grounds for returns. Only jewelry appraisals from gem laboratories or independent graduate gemologist appraisers not affiliated with jewelry retailer, or rug appraisals from certified non-commercial carpet experts will be considered for valuation claims. Watches and other brand merchandise may not be returned as they carry International brand warranties. Guests are responsible for all postage returns and appraisal fees.

Please contact us at Europeshopping@rccl.com if any queries arise after your purchase from our preferred shops on shore. We will do our best to facilitate a solution on your behalf.

NOTES

Series of horizontal lines for taking notes.

This information has been compiled for the convenience of our guests and is intended solely for that purpose. While we work to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, we cannot accept responsibility for any changes that may have taken place since printing.

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Istanbul, Turkey

PORT EXPLORER and SHOPPING GUIDE

GENERAL INFORMATION Founded six centuries before Christ as Byzantium, re-founded in 330 AD as Constantinople, and conquered by the Ottomans in 1453, Istanbul was the great eastern European imperial capital for almost 16 centuries.

Today Istanbul is Turkey's largest city, its busiest port, and the country's center for business, banking, commerce, culture and the arts. Even though Ankara is Turkey's modern capital, Istanbul holds its heart. In this old city you can tramp the streets where crusaders and janissaries once marched; admire mosques which are the most sublime architectural expressions of Islamic piety; peer into the sultan's harem; and hunt for souvenirs and bargains in the 4,000 shops of the Grand Bazaar.

Turkey is the meeting of the East and West. Istanbul is the only city on earth, which is located on two continents, both Europe and Asia. The Bosphorus, the strait that connects the Black Sea and the Seas of Marmara separates both continents. The Bosphorus Bridge is the fourth longest bridge in the world and was completed in 1973. This was the first physical link over the strait that connected Europe and Asia. Visitors entering Turkey from the mouth of the Bosphorus strait will have the unique privilege of viewing both the European and Asian shores.

Known to its ancient inhabitants as simply "The City", it remained enclosed within its mighty walls for 1,500 years. However, within the last half-century it has grown ferociously, spreading westward beyond the airport, northward almost to the Black Sea and eastward deep into Anatolia. This growth has mirrored the country's own as Turkey assumes its place as the economic powerhouse of the eastern Mediterranean.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Istanbul we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For further information, consult your Shore Excursion brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Some shops in the Grand Bazaar may be prepared to bargain.

Tipping: Some places will automatically add a service charge (servis ücreti) of 10% or 15% to your bill, but this does not absolve you from the tip, oddly enough. The service charge goes into the pocket of the owner. Turks will give around 5% to the waiter directly and perhaps the same amount to the maître d'hotel. If service is included, the bill may say servis dahil (service included). Still, a small tip is expected. Turks don't tip taxi drivers, though they often round up the metered fare to a convenient amount.

Dress: A strict dress code is enforced when visiting many of the religious sites and mosques in Istanbul. Short pants, tank tops and revealing clothing are not acceptable. Women should have their head, arms and shoulders covered.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALITIES Its worth travelling to Turkey just to eat. Turkish cuisine is the very heart and soul of eastern Medi-

terranean cooking, which demands fresh ingredients and careful preparation. The ingredients are often simple but of high quality. Fish (especially in the Aegean region), soups, rice dishes and stews feature predominantly on Turkish menus. Pistachios, almonds, dried apricots, and raisins are served as snacks throughout the day and are also common ingredients in Turkish cuisine.

Local drink: When dining, Turks like to drink raki, a strong (87% proof) anise-flavored drink. They rarely drink it straight, mixing it half-and-half with water, when it turns milky white. Most restaurants have a wide selection of wine (sarap). The most drinkable brand of wine is Kavaklidere, whose white wine is labeled Çankaya and the red Yakut. There are two brands of bottled beer, Tuborg and Efes which can occasionally be found on tap. Soft drinks include Fruko, a lemon drink, as well as Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola. They also drink ayran, a kind of liquid yogurt, which goes very well with Turkish foods. All Turkish meals end with coffee served in a small cup with varying amounts of sugar. Bottled water is recommended.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in Turkey is the new Turkish Lira (YTL).

Major currencies can be changed at the numerous banks, exchange offices, shops and hotels. Rates for cash are better than for traveler's cheques. Major foreign currencies and credit cards are widely accepted.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The main PTT (Posta Telgraf Office) Offices in Istanbul are usually open Monday to Saturday from 8:30 am – 5:30 pm. The PTT offers the following services: stamps, long distance telephones, phone cards, telegrams, facsimiles, etc. A PTT Office is located in the port terminal building.

Pay phones may require a phone card for access to the above numbers.

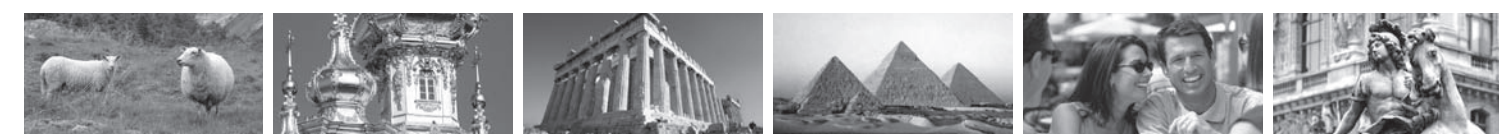
TOURIST INFORMATION The Ministry of Tourism Office is located at the Karakoy Yolcu Salonu (Karakoy International Maritime Passenger Terminal).

TRANSPORTATION There are a limited number of taxis available at the pier and most will accept U.S. Dollars. There is a bus and train system within the city that is fairly easy and modern.

It is approximately 4 km from the ship to Istanbul's historical area and Grand Bazaar.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

- Hello • Merhaba
Goodbye • Hoşçakalin
How are you? • Nasilsiniz?
Thank you • Teşekkür ederim
You're welcome • Bir şey değil
Yes • Evet
No • Hayır
How much is this? • Bu kaç lira?



The SIGHTS and SHOPPING of ISTANBUL

- 1** The **TOPKAPI PALACE** for over three centuries has served as the grand palace for the Ottoman Sultans. The palace was built on the shores of the Bosphorus. Constructed after the Conquest of Constantinople in 1453, it is now a museum. The imperial palace houses the popular Harem, where the private quarters Mehmet IV. Among the many jewels and precious stones that the Imperial Treasury holds, it is inclusive of an uncut emerald weighing approximately over 7 pounds (3.26 kg), the pearl-studded throne, and the golden Topkapi dagger.
- 2** The **BLUE MOSQUE** is known to architects as one of the great marvels of the world. It is called the Blue Mosque because its interior gleams with a magnificent paneling of blue and white tiles, which are enhanced by the reflection of the sun. It was built between 1603 – 1617 on the orders of Sultan Ahmet I. It houses a series of magnificent domes, Byzantine ivory work, beautifully decorated tiles and six distinctive minarets, which no other mosque in Istanbul possesses. The decor of this mosque is classic Ottoman style and design.
- 3** The **HIPPODROME** (an ancient Roman stadium) was built in 198 AD by the Emperor Septimius Sererus. Numerous chariot races took place here. The races were known to have political and military implications. The Hippodrome was the center of the Byzantium era for over a 1,000 years.
- 4** The **GRAND BAZAAR** is one of the most famous markets in the world. Its official name in Turkey is Kapali Carsi, and it is also known as the covered market. The Grand Bazaar was constructed shortly after the Conquest of Constantinople at the command of Faith Mehmet. Today it houses over 4,000 shops, with an enormous variety of goods.
- 5** **BASILICA CISTERN** also known as the Yerebatan Sarayi or the Underground Palace is not a basilica but a Byzantine cistern (underground reservoir). It is 70 m (230 feet) wide and 140 m (459 feet) long and the fine brick vaulting is supported by 336 columns.
- 6** The **GALATA TOWER** is believed to have been constructed in approximately 1348. Now a major tourist attraction, this ancient bastion was added as reinforcement for the defensive walls designed to protect it in the event of an enemy attack. The tower, a massive cone shaped structure was built at approximately 38 m (115 feet) above sea level, and rises to a height of 72 m (220 feet) above its base. There is an amazing view from the tower that encompasses this ancient city.
- 7** **HAGIA SOPHIA MUSEUM** (Aya Sofya in Turkish) was originally a basilica created at the command of the Emperor Justinian during 532 to 537. This basilica was known to archeologists as a Theodosian Church. After the Conquest of Constantinople in 1453, the Ottomans converted the basilica into a mosque and then in 1932, Hagia Sophia was converted into a museum. It is renown for its Byzantine Mosaic decor, the enormous wooden plaques with the sacred names of Islam inscribed, massive pillars, and at one time hosted the largest dome in the ancient world.
- 8** **BEYLERBEYI PALACE**, situated on the Asian side of the Bosphorus, was built by Sultan Abdul Aziz in the 19th century. It possesses a beautiful garden with magnolia trees. It was used as a summer residence of the Ottoman Sultans and a great house for visiting foreign dignitaries and heads of state.
- 9** **KARIYE MUSEUM** is the 11th century church of St. Saviour in Chora. The church is one of the most important Byzantine monuments in Istanbul. The walls of the church are decorated with magnificent 14th century frescoes and mosaics on a gold background. The walls illustrate scenes from the life of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary. The Chora Church represents the last golden age of Byzantine.

A MATIS - 19 Babiali Caddesi
Offers you a wonderful shopping experience. The hospitality provided by our courteous and well trained staff will make you feel right at home. Take your time and browse our outstanding selection of handmade carpets. You'll receive superb value when you choose a rug made from our top quality silk or the finest wool. Matis is also famous for being one of the world's best manufactures of handmade jewelry. Our creations include silver and fantasy jewelry as well as beautiful pieces using precious and semi-precious stones. We are located next to the Grand Bazaar, in the heart of the old city. We provide free door-to-door shipping around the world and all purchases come with an international certificate of our worldwide guarantee.

B ISTANBUL HANDICRAFT CENTER 32-54 Nuruosmaniye
For three generations the Istanbul Handicraft Center has been producing and selling the finest hand-woven carpets. The superb quality of our work has earned recognition in the United States, Europe and Japan. Visit our twenty air-conditioned showrooms and enjoy watching as our artisans demonstrate the ancient technique of creating beautiful Turkish hand-woven carpets. We provide a free shuttle services which you can use to reach us from anywhere in Istanbul. Istanbul Handicraft Center is honored to introduce you to the glamorous Tina Jewelry Collection. These exquisite pieces feature modern designs with diamonds, aquamarines, tourmalines, opals, turquoise, amethyst, lapis lazuli and a myriad of other semi-precious stones.

C GALATA CARPET & JEWELLERY - 9 Nuruosmaniye
Located in the heart of Istanbul, Galata Carpet & Jewellery is easy to find. Spread over five floors, we offer a huge selection of oriental rugs gathered from throughout Turkey. There is a perfect carpet for every taste, lifestyle and budget. You can find new, old and contemporary hand-knotted, flat-woven and embroidered floor coverings. They come in all sizes and dimensions. We also have a wonderful collection of fine diamond jewelry with a large assortment of gemstones. Choose from our beautiful 14k, 18k and 22k gold in handcrafted designs from the Ottoman period.

D ORIENT HAND MADE CARPETS Nuruosmaniye Caddesi No:68 Çağaloğlu
Orient is located in the heart of the old city, right next to the Grand Bazaar. This beautiful store has an extensive collection of magnificent Turkish handmade carpets. Orient's Jewelry Collection includes styles made from 24 kt gold, precious stones and an extensive diamond collection. Orient offers a unique experience with friendly staff of experts in a beautiful environment. They provide some of the best quality and service, where you can shop with confidence.

E KALITE CARPET AND JEWELRY 86-88 Nuruosmaniye
Located on the Main Road into Grand Bazaar, Kalite offers new and antique oriental carpets in all sizes. They also have fine quality and hand-crafted jewelry pieces which are created in their own workshop. Worldwide shipping and door to door service provide by a U.S. company. Items are fully insured with no surcharges or hidden costs. Multilingual experts are available to assist you. 100% satisfaction guaranteed. A certificate of authenticity is provided for all purchases. Open daily, this store provides competitive prices with unsurpassed quality.

F STORK'S Ragıp Gümüşpala Caddesi No:54/56 34116 Eminönü
Has been located in the Istanbul international jewelry district for the past 40 years. The store covers an area of 3,000 sq meters and exhibits nearly 15,000 items. 14k, 18k and 24k gold and precious and semi precious stones are available with a 5-year guarantee for repair or exchange. Storks is also an official agent for Swiss watch brands such as Rolex, Tag Heuer, Maurice Lacroix, Raymond Weil, Longines, Movado and Tissot. An 18% tax free discount is also available.

G NAKKAŞ - Nakilbent Sokak No:33 Sultanahmet Eminönü
Has the largest collection of antique and contemporary rugs, as well as kilims. We offer exquisite silk and wool rugs, fashionable jewelry, ceramics, İznik tiles and a wide selection of antique and modern "objets d'art".

H KUZU LEATHER - Bab-ı Ali Caddesi No:7/A Çağaloğlu
Has been producing the finest quality leather garments since 1960. KuZu's exceptional expertise has made the company an international player in the leather industry. KuZu products are now sold in over 40 countries with more than 450 points of sale. Covering about 1,000 sq meters, KuZu is the largest leather shop in Istanbul's historic Old City.

