

## ISTANBUL ATTRACTIONS

Istanbul is the only city in the world which is located on two continents. The city has a deep history dating back to 7th century BC.



### Historic Peninsula

Strategically located on the Bosphorus peninsula between the Balkans and Anatolia, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, Istanbul was successively the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, and the Ottoman Empire and has been associated with major events in political history, religious history and art history for more than 2,000 years. The city is situated on a peninsula which is surrounded by the Golden Horn (Haliç), a natural harbor on the north, the Bosphorus on the east and the Marmara Sea on the south. The Historic Peninsula, on which the former Byzantium and Constantinople developed, was surrounded by ancient walls, built initially by Theodosius in the early fifth century.

The Outstanding Universal Value of Istanbul resides in its unique integration of architectural masterpieces that reflect the meeting of Europe and Asia over many centuries, and in its incomparable skyline formed by the creative genius of Byzantine and Ottoman architects.

The distinctive and characteristic skyline of Istanbul was built up over many centuries and encompasses the Hagia Sophia whose vast dome reflects the architectural and decorative expertise of the 6th century, the 15th century Fatih complex and Topkapi Palace - that was continually extended until the 19th century, the Süleymaniye Mosque complex and Şehzade Mosque complex, works of the chief architect Sinan, reflecting the climax of Ottoman architecture in the 16th century, the 17th century Blue Mosque and the slender minarets of the New Mosque near the port completed in 1664.

The four areas of the property are the Archaeological Park, at the tip of the Historic peninsula; the Süleymaniye quarter with Süleymaniye Mosque complex, bazaars and vernacular settlement around it; the Zeyrek area of settlement around the Zeyrek Mosque (the former church of the Pantocrator), and the area along both sides of the Theodosian land walls including remains of the former Blachernae Palace. These areas display architectural achievements of successive imperial periods also including the 17th century Blue Mosque, the Sokollu Mehmet Pasha Mosque, the 16th century Şehzade Mosque complex, the 15th century Topkapi Palace, the hippodrome of Constantine, the aqueduct of Valens, the Justinian churches of Hagia Sophia, St. Irene, Küçük Ayasofya Mosque (the former church of the Sts Sergius and Bacchus), the Pantocrator Monastery founded under John II Comnene by Empress Irene; the former Church of the Holy Saviour of Chora with its mosaics and paintings dating from the 14th and 15th centuries; and many other exceptional examples of various building types including baths, cisterns, and tombs.

( <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/356> )

## BYZANTINE İSTANBUL



## GALATA (PERA)

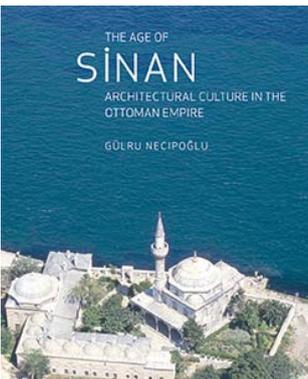


<http://www.newyearistanbul.net/files/galata-tower.2.jpg>

## OTTOMAN İSTANBUL



## ARCHITECT SİNAN'S İSTANBUL



**REPUBLICAN PERIOD**



**CONTEMPORARY İSTANBUL: İSTANBUL AS A METROPOLIS**



**BOSPHOROUS**



## MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

ST. SOPHIA  
THE TOPKAPI PALACE MUSEUM  
ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM  
THE NAVAL MUSEUM  
RAHMI KOÇ MUSEUM  
SAKIP SABANCI MUSEUM  
THE PERA MUSEUM  
THE MUSEUM OF TURKISH AND ISLAMIC ART

İstanbul hosts a wide range of contemporary art venues which display exhibits ranging from masters to multidisciplinary art. Some are listed below:

Garaj ([garajistanbul.org](http://garajistanbul.org)), Arter ([arter.org.tr](http://arter.org.tr)), İstanbul Modern ([istanbulmodern.org](http://istanbulmodern.org)), Galeri Manâ ([galerimana.com](http://galerimana.com)), Rodeo ([rodeo-gallery.com](http://rodeo-gallery.com)), Galerist ([galerist.com.tr](http://galerist.com.tr)), Galeri Nev ([galerinevistanbul.com](http://galerinevistanbul.com)), Pera Museum ([peramuzesi.org.tr](http://peramuzesi.org.tr)), Santral İstanbul ([santralistanbul.org](http://santralistanbul.org)), Yapı Kredi Kültür Merkezi ([ykykultur.com.tr](http://ykykultur.com.tr)), ArtOn İstanbul ([artonistanbul.com](http://artonistanbul.com)), C.A.M Galeri ([camgaleri.com](http://camgaleri.com)), ALAN ([alanistanbul.com](http://alanistanbul.com)), Galeri77 ([www.galeri77.com](http://www.galeri77.com)), GaleriZilberman ([www.galerizilberman.com](http://www.galerizilberman.com)), Milk Gallery ([www.whatismilk.com](http://www.whatismilk.com)). The Museum of Innocence (<http://www.masumiyetmuzesi.org>)