

ISTANBUL GUIDE

*All you need to know to enjoy
Istanbul like a local!*



WELCOME TO ISTANBUL



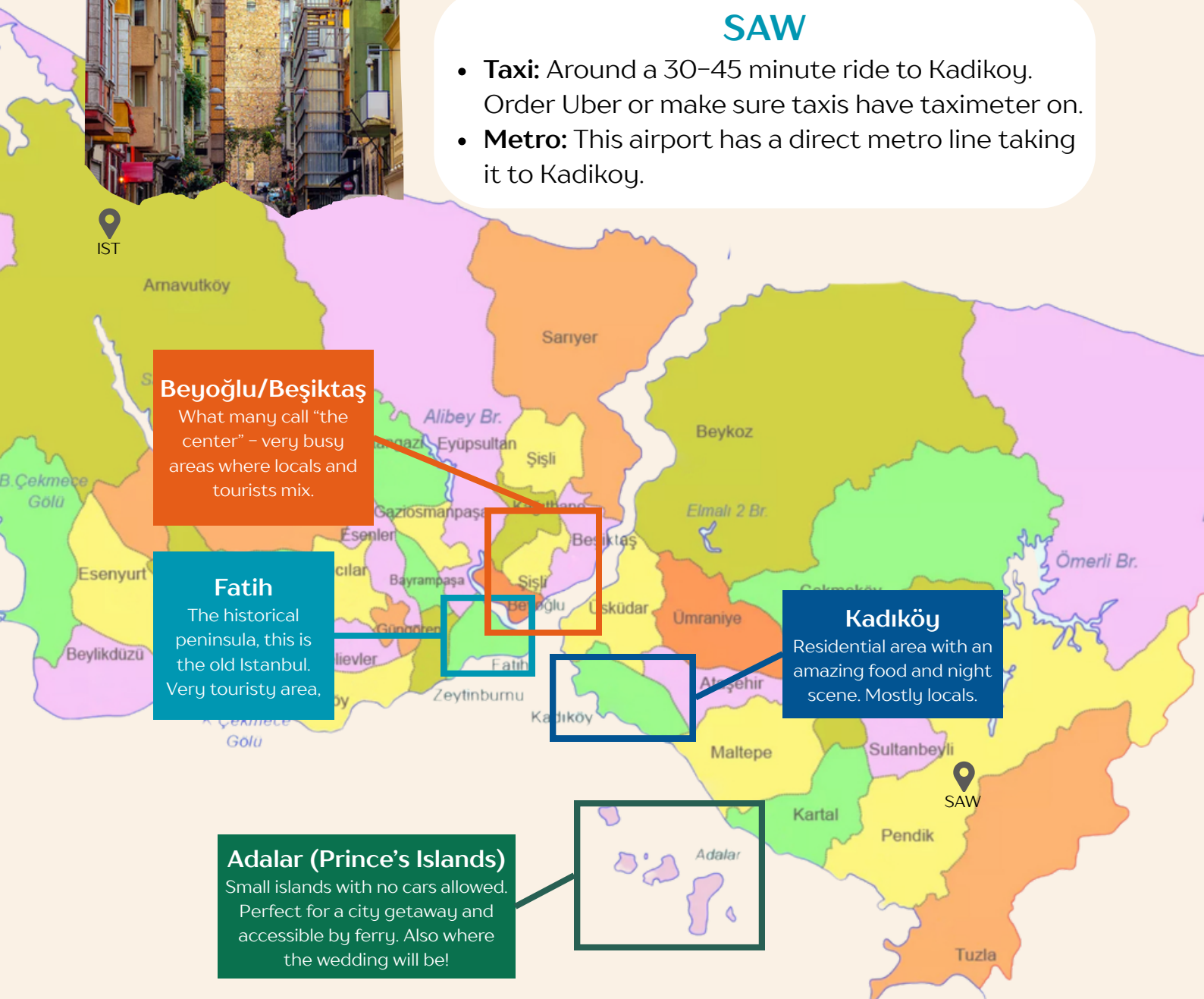
Transportation from/to airports

IST

- **Havaist Bus:** Quickest way into the city with a stop in Kadikoy. Price is around 10£. Check departure times. To find the buses: Go to Exit 6 on floor -2.
- **Arrange a private shuttle:** Uber can be expensive, arrange a private shuttle. Should be around 50£. Shuttle Port is a service we use.

SAW

- **Taxi:** Around a 30-45 minute ride to Kadikoy. Order Uber or make sure taxis have taximeter on.
- **Metro:** This airport has a direct metro line taking it to Kadikoy.



Perfect Touristy Day



Explore Topkapı Palace

Visit Sultan's home, explore many rooms of the palace including the harem. This is a huge palace and tickets are worth it.

The Mysterious Basilica Cistern

Recently gone through restoration, this underwater landmark is worth seeing.

Archeological Museum

To run away from the sun rays, visit the archeological museum of Istanbul.

Eat Local

Do not go to any restaurant in this area as many are tourist traps! Go to Fileto in Sirkeci for trying great meat dishes, also owned by a family friend. Say hi to Cem Abi!



Do not pay for the Hagia Sophia tickets – not worth it! Either go free “to pray” or visit other mosques: Blue Mosque, Süleymaniye Mosque or Kariye Mosque.

Explore Grand Bazaar

Get lost in the streets

To have the full experience get lost in the streets of Grand Bazaar! For unique jewelry options go to the shop Ali Güleç in the antiques section.

Eat with the artisans

A lot of locals work around this area, have lunch in these places to eat with locals: Aslan Restaurant and Gül Ebru Kantin.

Shop for jewelry and leather good

Never buy food in the grand bazaar, to get spices look for “aktar” (local spice shop) and for lokum (turkish delights) try Ali Muhiddin Hacı Bekir or Divan.

Hamam & Chill

Book your hamam session

A hamam session is the perfect relaxation! Get ready to feel cleanest you've ever felt. This is a girls-only or boys-only activity. My favourite is Kılıç Ali Paşa. Book in advance.

Explore Karaköy & Galata

Small streets full of cool cafes and restaurants. Stop here for lunch and explore the area. Pelin's favourite restaurant: Karaköy Gümrük.

Museum Stop

Istanbul Modern has a great location and it is the most wonderfully curated museum of Turkey!



Transportation

Istanbul is known for its traffic... and scamming taxis.

To get around use:

- **Marmaray/Metro:** Very efficient and safe, takes you from Europe to Asia (and vice versa) in 10 minutes. Avoid at rush hours.
- **Vapur (Ferry):** Best way to cross the Bosphorus.
- **(At night) Uber:** If you call one, you will get a taxi but at least you see the price before hand.

For public transport get an **Istanbul Card** – you can get these in vapur or metro stations in Istanbul Card machines and you can top up here too. My tip is buy this in the city rather than airport for local prices.

Trendy Areas

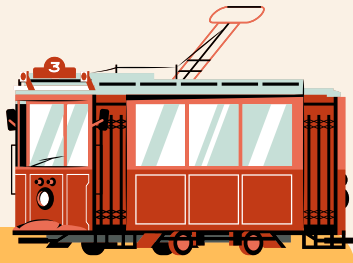
Local Cafes

Explore streets of Cihangir, an area known for its artistic flare. Great cocktails at Emily's Garden.

Dinner with a View

Due to its hilly location, around Taksim you can find many rooftop bars and restaurants. For drinks go to Upperist and for dinner book a table at Demeti – a beautiful Armenian taverna.





Stay Local

Kadıköy & Moda

Very popular port district full of cafes, restaurants, bars and vintage shops. Some favs:

- Icecream at [Ali Usta](#)
- Home cooked meals at [Çiya](#)
- Breakfast at [Nadide](#)
- Quick eat at [Ekspres İnegöl Köfte](#)
- Kebap at [Çinili Taş Fırın](#)
- Bar & music at [Arkaoda](#)

Walk along the seaside

Walk from Suadiye all the way to Kalamış on the seaside, you will find many cafes on the way. For sundowners go to [Divan](#).

Shopping at Cadde

Bağdat Caddesi (Baghdad Avenue) is a local favourite for shopping, food and drinks. Some great Turkish brands: Mudo, Mavi, Chakra.



Getaway from the City

Going to the Islands

Going to Adalar (Prince's Islands) is easy: Take a ferry from Kadıköy or Bostancı. There are a few islands – the biggest one is Büyük Ada. You can rent a bike, go to the beach and explore the center. You can also explore smaller islands.

Must try treats

These islands have been populated by minorities historically and they have some great treats for foodies. Try [Büyükkada Pastanesi](#) for various börek options such as eggplant or sweet one with cream.

Beaches

Büyükkada has several beach clubs. [Ank'Ada](#) was a great one, once you book they pick you up from the pier with a boat. Book in advance.



For more tips check out this map:
[Pelin's Istanbul Recs](#)

For information regarding wedding venue and schedule visit our website:
[Pelin & Lorenzo Wedding](#)

Must Try Turkish Foods

Kebap

Repeat after me: Kebap is not a fast food! Kebap stands for a genre of food and there are various versions to try. Some favourites: [İskender Kebabı](#), [Beyti Kebabı](#), [Ali Nazik](#). Technically not a kebab but [Lahmacun](#) is another must try!

Sütlü Tatlılar

We have many milk based dessert that is the favourite of many. Try: [Sütlüç](#) and [Kazandibi](#).

Meze Selection

We love having small plates in the middle and these are called meze. These are not dips, they are sides. Try [Haydari](#), [Girit Ezmesi](#), [Köpoğlu](#), [Muhammara](#).

Baklava

A classic you must experience in Istanbul. Best location is [Karaköy Güllüoğlu](#). Try others such as [Kadayıf](#).

Other Favs

Turks love carbs. Try different pastries such as [Poğaç](#), [Simit](#) and [Börek](#). Pelin's favourite food ever is [Manti](#)!



Drink çay and pet cats!

