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# **Istanbul : Ideas For Things To See And Do There**

Turkey is home to several famous cities, but the most recognized might just be Istanbul. This city is the largest in all of Turkey, but it is also one of the countrys most historic as well. One might be led to expect that these factors make Istanbul a popular tourist destination, and it is. The citys size has allowed for a growing tourism industry, and that has in turn led to increased geographic size, a cycle that has fueled Turkeys economy in recent decades. Istanbul has played witness to many significant events in the course of human history, and the remaining landmarks are wondrous depictions of these times. In Istanbul, there are many things to see and do there.

It is not only the size of the city that has increased; so has the fine arts movement. As the scene has gained momentum, Istanbul has become home to one of Europes most significant cinematic events, the Istanbul International Film Festival. Along with an increased interest in the fine arts, artifacts from the areas past have been gathered along with artistic ventures into museums and put on dazzling display. Exhibits in these museums feature works from the worlds most famous artists, and the Pera Museum is one of the most recognized. Those visitors looking for a bit more history will revel in the exhibits found in the Istanbul Archaeology Museum, as there are more than one million objects that chronicle the history of Istanbul found therein. In this particular museum is also found a collection of sarcophagi dating back to the 4th Century B.C.

Religious history is also well-represented in Istanbul, and the Ayasofya displays this in abundance. It is often referred to as its Greek name, the Hagia Sophia, and it was intended to be the most significant edifice dedicated to the name of God anywhere on planet Earth. The enormous size of the Ayasofya includes a height equivalent to the Statue of Liberty, backing up its claim. Sultan Ahmet I wished to answer the Ayasofya with a structure that would equal, if not better, the grandeur of the sizable religious monument. He therefore ordered the construction of the Blue Mosque, a building bearing his name and a superb example of Ottoman architecture, one of the finest to be found anywhere.

For visitors of Istanbul who wish to kick their feet up and relax, there are numerous Turkish baths from which to choose. Those who want to spend some cash will marvel at the historic shopping centers like Grand Bazaar and the Egyptian Bazaar. And if a little nightlife is the order of the day, there are restaurants, pubs, and clubs located near Istiklal Avenue. There are also plenty of beaches to accommodate swimmers and sunbathers who wish to take advantage of Istanbul's shores. Istanbul is certainly a city of varied experiences. It was once viewed as a scene of antiquity, and is now a tourist hotspot. Between the religious landmarks and lively nightclub environment, there is sure to be something that appeals to anyone who visits the city.

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