

# EXCURSIONS

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If you can bear to tear yourself away from the manifold delights of the city, there are a number of alluring options for day and overnight excursions, including the ubiquitous (but no less fabulous) ferry trip along the Bosphorus; a ferry trip to the summer playground of the Princes' Islands; or an overnight trip to the Dardanelles to discover the historically significant sites of Gallipoli and Troy.

## A DAY ON THE BOSPHORUS

A trip along the Bosphorus offers treats galore. See how many times you can make your way to Asia from Europe and back! Highlights include **Beylerbeyi Palace** (p215), **Rumeli Hisarı** (p217), the **Sakıp Sabancı Müzesi** (p218) and **Hıdiv Kasrı** (p218) and the **Sadberk Hanım Müzesi** (p218).

We suggest two itineraries to make the most out of your day on the water.

Catch the 10.35am Bosphorus excursions ferry to **Anadolu Kavağı** (p219). After admiring the view from the ruined castle on the hill, take the No 15A bus down to **Kanlıca** (p216). Wander around the main square and walk up to Hıdiv Kasrı, where you can admire the fabulous Art Deco building and the gorgeous gardens. You can either have lunch here or choose to walk down to the waterfront and dine in style at **Körfez** (p219), before taking the 2.50pm ferry to **Bebek** (p216). Alternatively, take the 1.20pm ferry to Bebek after visiting Hıdiv Kasrı and have lunch at the glamorous **Poseidon, Mangerie**, or **Il Porto** (see p220). After lunch, catch a bus or taxi to **Rumeli Hisarı** (p217). After clamouring over the ramparts, take a bus from outside the nearby restaurants back to town, perhaps stopping at Ortaköy for an early dinner (p169).

Another possibility is to take the 10.35am ferry as far as Sarıyer, wander around the town and visit the **Sadberk Hanım Müzesi** (p219). After this, catch the No 25E, 40 or 40B bus outside the museum to **Emirgan** (p218), where you can visit the **Sakıp Sabancı Müzesi** (p218) and have lunch at the fabulous **Müzedechanga** (p220). Next, catch a bus towards Taksim, stopping along the way first at **Rumeli Hisarı** (p217) to see the castle and then at the **Çırağan Palace Hotel Kempinski** (p177) for a late-afternoon drink on the terrace.

## ISLAND ESCAPE

There are few more idyllic escapes than jumping on a ferry and escaping to the tranquil **Princes' Islands** (p220). Most day-trippers stay on

the ferry until Heybeliada, stop there for an hour or so and then hop on another ferry to **Büyükdada**, where they catch a *fayton* (horse-drawn carriage) to the **Monastery of St George** (p222), have lunch at **Yücepete Kır Gazinosu** (p223) and spend the rest of the afternoon admiring the island's many mansions and gardens while walking back to the ferry terminal.

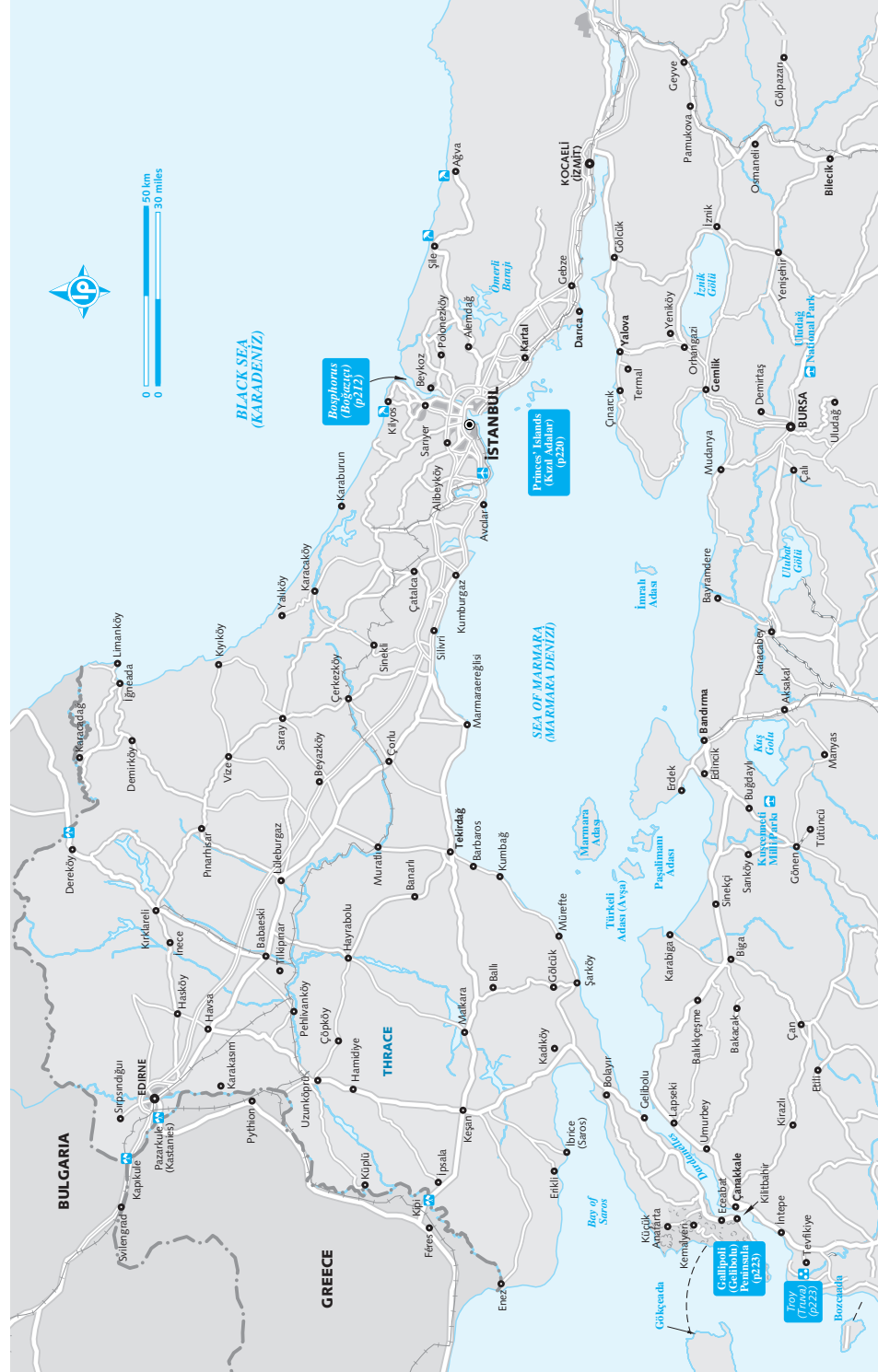
## BATTLEFIELDS

The sites of monumental battles over three millennia apart – **Troy** (p228) and **Gallipoli** (p225) – make a fascinating overnight trip. If you're keen to sign up for organised tours of both battlefields, you'll need to arrive in the small university town of Çanakkale the night before your day of touring and be ready to see Troy first thing in the morning; the Gallipoli tours start around noon and include lunch. Then you can bus back to İstanbul on the same night.

An alternative is to arrive from İstanbul in the late morning, visit Troy under your own steam that afternoon and then organise a private guide and car to take you to Gallipoli the next morning, before returning to İstanbul in the afternoon. Either way, you'll pack a lot into two days!

## BOSPHORUS TOUR

Divan Yolu and İstiklal Caddesi are always awash with people, but neither is the major thoroughfare in İstanbul. That honour goes to the mighty Bosphorus Strait, which runs from the Sea of Marmara (Marmara Denizi) at the Galata Bridge (Galata Köprüsü) all the way to the Black Sea (Karadeniz), 32km north. Over the centuries the Bosphorus has been crossed by conquering armies, intrepid merchants and many an adventurous spirit. These days, thousands of İstanbullular commute daily along its length, fishing vessels try their luck in its waters and tourists ride its ferries from Eminönü to Anadolu Kavağı and back.



The strait's name is taken from ancient mythology. Bosphorus roughly translates from the ancient Greek as the 'place where the cow crossed'. The cow was Io, a beautiful lady with whom Zeus, king of the gods, had an affair. When his wife Hera discovered his infidelity, Zeus tried to atone by turning his erstwhile lover into a cow. Hera, for good measure, provided a horsefly to sting Io on the rump and drive her across the strait. Proving that there was no justice in Olympus, Zeus managed to get off scot-free.

In modern Turkish, the strait is the Boğaziçi or İstanbul Boğazı (from *boğaz*, throat or strait). On one side is Asia, on the other Europe. Both shores are densely populated and have attractions galore for the day visitor.

The Bosphorus has certainly figured in history. According to myth, both Jason of

the Argonauts and Ulysses sailed up the Bosphorus, followed by Byzas, legendary founder of Byzantium. Two millennia later, Mehmet the Conqueror built two mighty fortresses at the strait's narrowest point to close it off to allies of the Byzantines. After İstanbul fell to the Turks, enormous Ottoman armies would take several days to cross the Bosphorus each spring on their way to campaigns in Asia. At the end of WWI, the defeated Ottoman capital cowered under the guns of Allied frigates moored here; and when the republic was proclaimed, the last Ottoman sultan walked down to the Bosphorus and sailed into exile.

For millennia, crossing the strait meant a boat trip – the only exceptions were the few occasions when it froze. Late in 1973, the Bosphorus Bridge, the fourth-longest suspension bridge in the world, was opened. For the

### ANZAC BATTLEFIELDS

Approximate Scale 0 0.5 miles / 0 1 km

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	Page	Code
57 Alay (57th Regiment)	1	B2
Anzac Commemorative Site (Anzak Tören Alanı)	2	A2
Anzac Memorial (Kabatepe Anırmu Sahil Anıtı)	3	A2
Anırmu Cemetery	4	A2
Baby 700 Cemetery	5	C2
Beach (Hell Spit) Cemetery	6	A3
Bloody Angle (Yüzbaşı Mehmet Şehitliği)	7	B2
Bomb Ridge (Bomba Sirtı)	8	B2
Canterbury Cemetery	9	B2
Chunuk Bair New Zealand Memorial (Conkbayın Yabancı Mezarlık)	10	D1
Conkbayın Mehmetçik Memorials (Conkbayın Anıtları)	11	D1
Courtney's & Steele's Post Cemetery	12	B2
Düztepe (10 Alay Cephesi)	13	C2
Embarkation Pier Cemetery	14	B1
Farm Cemetery	15	C1
German Officers' Ridge & Trenches	16	B3
Johnston's Jolly (Kırmızı Sirtı)	17	B3
Kanlısirt Kitabesi (Bloody Ridge Inscription)	18	B3
Kemalyeri (Scrubby Knoll, Turkish HQ)	19	D1
Kesik Dere Cemetery	20	B2
Lalabaşa Cemetery	21	A2
Lone Pine (Kanlı Sirtı) Cemetery	22	B3
Mehmet Çavuş Monument (Mehmet Çavuş Anıtı)	23	B2
Mesudiye Topu	(see 5)	
New Zealand No 2 Outpost Cemetery	24	B1
Place where Atatürk spent the night of 9-10 August 1915	25	D1
Plugge's Plateau Cemetery	26	A3
Quinn's Post Cemetery	27	B2
Talat Göktepe Monument	28	C1
The Nek	29	B2

### BOSPHORUS

0 4 km / 0 2 miles

SIGHTS & INFORMATION	Page	Code
Anadolu Hisarı	1	B3
Anadolu Kavağı Kalesi	2	A1
Beylerbeyi Sarayı	3	B4
Boğaziçi Üniversitesi	4	A3
Çırağan Sarayı	5	A4
Dolmabahçe Palace	6	A4
Fethi Ahmet Paşa Yalı	7	B4
Former Egyptian Consulate Building	8	A3
Hidiv Kasrı	9	B2
Kıbrıslı Mustafa Emin Paşa Yalı	10	B3
Kırmızı Yalı	11	B3
Köprülü Amcazade Hüseyin Paşa Yalı	12	B2
Küçüksu Kasrı	13	B3
Kuleli Military School	14	B3
Ortaköy Camii	15	B4
Rumeli Hisarı	16	B3
Rumeli İskeleyi	(see 20)	
Sadberk Hanım Müzesi	17	A1
Sait Halim Paşa Yalı	18	A2
Sakıp Sabancı Müzesi	19	A2

EATING	Page	Code
Donjon	20	A3
Hidiv Kasrı Café	(see 9)	
Il Porto	(see 8)	
Kale Café & Pastane	(see 20)	
Körfez Restaurant	21	B2
Mangerie	(see 8)	
Müzedechanga	(see 19)	
Poseidon	(see 8)	
Sade Kahve	(see 20)	

ENTERTAINMENT	Page	Code
Q Jazz by Les Ottomans	(see 23)	

SLEEPING	Page	Code
Ajia	22	B2
Hotel Les Ottomans	23	A3
Sumahan on the Water	24	B3

first time there was a physical link across the straits from Europe to Asia. Traffic was so heavy over the bridge that it paid for itself in less than a decade. Now there is a second bridge, the Fatih Bridge (named after Mehmet the Conqueror, Mehmet Fatih), just north of Rumeli Hisarı. A third bridge, even further north, is planned.

For pleasant places to pit-stop, see p219; and for details on boat and ferry services, bus connections and fares, see the Transport boxed text, p217.

## EMİNÖNÜ TO ORTAKÖY

As you start your trip up the Bosphorus, watch out for the small island of *Kız Kulesi* (p123), just off the Asian shore near Üsküdar. Just before the first stop at Beşiktaş, you'll pass the grandiose

## BOSPHORUS

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Anadolu Hisarı	1	B3
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Boğaziçi Üniversitesi	4	A3
Çırağan Sarayı	5	A4
Dolmabahçe Palace	6	A4
Fethi Ahmet Paşa Yalı	7	B4
Former Egyptian Consulate Building	8	A3
Hidiv Kasrı	9	B2
Kıbrıslı Mustafa Emin Paşa Yalı	10	B3
Kırmızı Yalı	11	B3
Köprülü Amcazade Hüseyin Paşa Yalı	12	B2
Küçüksu Kasrı	13	B3
Kuleli Military School	14	B3
Ortaköy Camii	15	B4
Rumeli Hisarı	16	B3
Rumeli İskeleyi	(see 20)	
Sadberk Hanım Müzesi	17	A1
Sait Halim Paşa Yalı	18	A2
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EATING	Page	Code
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Hidiv Kasrı Café	(see 9)	
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Sumahan on the Water	24	B3

*Dolmabahçe Palace* (p116), built on the European shore of the Bosphorus by Sultan Abdül Mecit between 1843 and 1856. Shortly after *Beşiktaş*, *Çırağan Sarayı* (p119), once home to Sultan Abdül Aziz and now a luxury hotel, looms up on the left. On the Asian shore is the *Fethi Ahmet Paşa Yalı*, built in the late 18th century. The word *yalı* comes from the Greek word for 'coast', and describes the waterside wooden summer residences along the Bosphorus built by Ottoman aristocracy and foreign ambassadors in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, now all protected by the country's heritage laws. This one is known as the 'pink yalı'. To your left a little further on is the pretty *Ortaköy Camii* (p120), its dome and two minarets dwarfed by the adjacent *Bosphorus Bridge*, the symbol of modern İstanbul.

## BEYLERBEYİ PALACE

On the waterfront across the bridge is the grand *Beylerbeyi Palace* (Beylerbeyi Sarayı; ☎ 216-321 9320;

Abdullah Ağa Caddesi, Beylerbeyi; admission YTL8, camera YTL6, video YTL15; ☎ 9.30am–5pm Tue, Wed & Fri–Sun). Look for its whimsical marble bathing pavilions on the shore, one was for men, the other for the women of the harem.

Every sultan needed a little place to get away to, and the 30-room Beylerbeyi Palace was the place for Abdül Aziz (r 1861–76). An earlier wooden palace had burned down here, so Abdül Aziz wanted stone and marble. He ordered architect Sarkis Balyan, brother of Nikoğos, architect of Dolmabahçe, to get to work. Balyan came up with a building that delighted the many foreign dignitaries who visited, including Empress Eugénie of France; Nasruddin, shah of Persia; and Nicholas, grand duke of Russia. The palace's last imperial 'guest' was the former sultan, Abdül Hamit II, who was brought here to spend the remainder of his life (1913–18) under house arrest. He had the dubious pleasure of gazing across the Bosphorus and watching the empire he had ruled for over 30 years crumble before his eyes.

A visit to Beylerbeyi is an attractive alternative to visiting the grander but much more crowded Dolmabahçe. The compulsory guided tour whips you past room after room of Bohemian crystal chandeliers, French (Sèvres) and Ming vases and sumptuous carpets. There's a grand *selamlık* (private quarters) and a small but opulent harem. Highlights include the music room, with its inlaid walnut walls; a sitting room with parquet floors and walls inlaid with ebony and wood; and a dining room with chairs covered in gazelle skin. After the tour you can enjoy a glass of tea in the pretty garden café.

The palace is a few kilometres north of Üsküdar. Catch bus No 15A or a *dolmuş* north along the shore road from Üsküdar's main square, and get out at the Çayırbaşı stop, just north of Beylerbeyi and the Asian pylons of the Bosphorus Bridge. The trip takes 15 minutes.

## ORTAKÖY TO BEBEK

Past the small village of Çengelköy on the Asian side is the imposing **Kuleli Military School**, built in 1860 and immortalised in Irfan Ortağ's wonderful memoir, *Portrait of a Turkish Family* (see p30).

Opposite Kuleli on the European shore north of Ortaköy is **Arnavutköy**, a village boasting a number of frilly Ottoman-era wooden houses, including numerous *yalis*. On the

hill above it are buildings formerly occupied by the American College for Girls. Its most famous alumni was Halide Edib Adıvar, who wrote about the years she spent here in her 1926 autobiographical work, *The Memoir of Halide Edib*.

Arnavutköy runs straight into the glamorous suburb of **Bebek**, famous for upmarket restaurants such as **Poseidon** (p220) and waterside cafés such as **Mangerie** and **Il Porto** (see p220). It also has the most glamorous Starbucks in the city (right on the water, and with a lovely terrace). Bebek's shops surround a small park and a mosque; to the east of these is the ferry dock, to the south is the former **Egyptian consulate building**. This gorgeous Art Nouveau minipalace was built by the last khedive of Egypt, Abbas Hilmi II, who also later built **Hidiv Kasrı** (p218) above Kanlıca on the Asian side of the Bosphorus. You'll see its mansard roof and ornate wrought-iron fence from the ferry.

Above Bebek you'll notice the New England 19th century-style architecture of the **Boğaziçi Üniversitesi** (Bosphorus University). Founded by American missionaries in the mid-19th century as Robert College, the college had an important influence on the modernisation of political, social, economic and scientific thought in Turkey. It was donated to the Turkish Republic in the early 1970s.

## BEBEK TO KANLICA

Opposite Bebek on the Asian shore is **Kırmızı Yalı** (Red Yalı), constructed in 1790 and one of the oldest mansions still standing; a bit further on, also past the village of Kandilli, is the long, white **Kıbrıslı Mustafa Emin Paşa Yalı**.

Next to the Kıbrıslı Yalı are the Büyükk Göksu Deresi (Great Heavenly Stream) and Küçük Göksu Deresi (Small Heavenly Stream), two brooks that descend from the Asian hills into the Bosphorus. Between them is a fertile delta, grassy and shady, which the Ottoman elite thought perfect for picnics. Foreign residents, referred to the place as 'The Sweet Waters of Asia'.

If the weather was good, the sultan joined the picnic, and did so in style. Sultan Abdül Mecit's answer to a simple picnic blanket was the wedding cake-like **Küçüküsu Kasrı** (☎ 216-332 3303; Küçüküsu Caddesi; admission YTL4; ☎ 9am–4pm Tue, Wed & Fri–Sun Nov–Mar, 9.30am–5pm Tue, Wed & Fri–Sun Apr–Oct), an ornate lodge built in 1856–57. Earlier sultans had wooden kiosks here, but architect Nikoğos Balyan designed a rococo gem in marble for his monarch. Take bus No

## TRANSPORT – BOSPHORUS

The most popular way to explore the Bosphorus is by ferry. Most day-trippers take the Eminönü–Kavaklar Boğazıcı Özel Gezi Seferleri (Eminönü–Kavaklar Bosphorus Special Touristic Excursions) ferry up its entire length. These depart from the Boğaz Hattı dock (dock No 3; Map p63) at Eminönü daily at 10.35am. From June to September, there are extra services at noon and 1.35pm. A ticket costs YTL12.50 return, YTL6.50 one-way. The ferry stops at Beşiktaş, Kanlıca, Yeniköy, Sarıyer, Rumeli Kavağı and Anadolu Kavağı (the turnaround point). It is not possible to get on and off the ferry at stops along the way using the same ticket.

The boats fill up early in summer – especially on weekends – so buy your ticket and walk aboard at least 45 minutes (preferably an hour) prior to departure to get a seat outside or next to a window. During the trip waiters will offer you fresh orange juice, tea and other drinks. An orange juice costs YTL4, other drinks are cheaper.

Most day-trippers take the ferry all the way to Anadolu Kavağı, stopping at various sights along the way, but some go only as far as Sarıyer, on the European shore. They then make their way back to the city on the bus, stopping at **Emirgan** (p218) and **Rumeli Hisarı** (below) on the return trip; sometimes they also stop at **Ortaköy** (p116), **Çırağan Palace** (p119) or **Dolmabahçe Palace** (p116) on the return trip. From Sarıyer, bus No 25E makes the slow trip back to Eminönü, No 40 and 25T to Taksim Square and No 40B to Beşiktaş. Those to Taksim and Beşiktaş go via Emirgan, Rumeli Hisarı, Bebek, Ortaköy and Yıldız. The ferry arrives at Sarıyer at 11.45am, 11.10pm (June to September) and 2.45pm (June to September).

The trip to Anadolu Kavağı takes 1¾ hours and the ferry returns at 3pm and 4.15pm. If you decide to catch the ferry to Anadolu Kavağı and make your way back by bus, catch the No 15A, which leaves from just east of the ferry terminal en route to Kavacık Aktarma. Get off at Kanlıca to visit **Hidiv Kasrı** (p218) and then catch the No 101 bus to Beşiktaş. Alternatively, catch the infrequent Nos 15 or 15P to Üsküdar, from where you can catch a ferry to Eminönü; or catch a taxi across the Fatih Bridge to Rumeli Hisarı and catch a bus back to Eminönü, Taksim Square or Beşiktaş.

From Kanlıca it's also possible to catch a passenger ferry back to towards İstanbul. These stop at Anadolu Hisarı, Kandilli, Bebek and Arnavutköy. Departures from Kanlıca are at 8.40am, 10.10am, 1.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.10pm, 5.40pm, 5.05pm and 7pm. The trip to Bebek takes 25 minutes. These are winter times (departure times vary with the seasons).

There is also a passenger ferry service between Sarıyer and Anadolu Kavağı, with 15 ferries a day from 7.15am to 11pm; seven of these ferries stop at Rumeli Kavağı on the way.

Yet another option is a private Bosphorus boat tour. Ticket touts are always to be found around dock No 3 at Eminönü flogging the tickets for these, which cost YTL24 (try bargaining). Tours are on smaller boats (60 to 100 people), each with a small sun deck. They only travel as far as Rumeli Hisarı (without stopping) where they stop for lunch for an hour before returning. The whole trip takes about three hours. The advantage of these trips is they take less time and the boat goes closer to the shore; the disadvantages are the higher price and the fact that you don't get to see the whole of the Bosphorus. These boats leave when they are full, starting from 11am and finishing at 8pm from May to September (4pm at other times).

15A or a *dolmuş* along the shore road north from Beylerbeyi and Üsküdar to reach the Küçüküsu Kasrı bus stop, then walk the 300m to the shore and the pavilion.

Just before the Fatih Bridge are the majestic structures of **Rumeli Hisarı** (Fortress of Europe; ☎ 212-263 5305; Yahya Kemal Caddesi 42, Rumeli Hisarı; admission YTL2; ☎ 9am–noon & 12.30–4.30pm Thu–Tue) and **Anadolu Hisarı** (Fortress of Anatolia). Mehmet the Conqueror had Rumeli Hisarı built in a mere four months during 1452, in preparation for his siege of Byzantine Constantinople. For its location, he chose the narrowest point of the Bosphorus, opposite Anadolu Hisarı, which Sultan Beyazıt I had built in 1391. By doing so, Mehmet was able to control all traffic on the strait, so cutting the city off from re-supply by sea.

To speed Rumeli Hisarı's completion (he was impatient to conquer Constantinople),

Mehmet ordered each of his three viziers to take responsibility for one of the three main towers. If the tower's construction was not completed on schedule, the vizier would pay with his life. Not surprisingly, the work was completed on time. The mighty fortress' useful military life lasted less than one year. After the conquest of Constantinople, it was used as a glorified Bosphorus tollbooth for a while, then as a barracks, a prison, and finally as an open-air theatre. Its amphitheatre still functions as a performance venue during the summer months, particularly during the **International İstanbul Music Festival** (p16).

Within Rumeli Hisarı's walls are parklike grounds, an open-air theatre and the minaret of a ruined mosque. Steep stairs (with no barriers, so beware!) lead up to the rampsarts and towers; the views of the Bosphorus from here are magnificent. Just next to the fortress is a clutch

of cafés and restaurants, including the hip eatery/bar, **Donjon** (p220), long-standing favourite **Rumeli İskele** (p220), and popular cafés such as **Sade Kahve** (p220) and **Kale Café & Pastane** (p220).

To get to Rumeli Hisarı by bus, catch No 25E, 40, 40B or 42 from Beşiktaş or No 559C from Taksim. The buses from Beşiktaş stop in front of the cafés next to the fortress; the bus from Taksim terminates in the town above the fortress and you'll have to walk for 10 minutes down the hill.

Though not open as a museum, visitors are free to wander about Anadolu Hisarı's ruined walls.

Just past Anadolu Hisarı (before the Fatih Bridge) is **Köprülülü Amcade Hüseyin Paşa Yalı**, built right on the water in 1698. It is the oldest mansion on the Bosphorus and is in a deplorable state of repair.

Past the bridge, still on the Asian side, is the charming village of **Kanlıca**, famous for its rich and delicious yoghurt. You'll be offered some on the ferry and can sample it in the **Asırlık Kanlıca Yoğurdu**, a café on the shady waterfront village square. The small **Gazi İskender Paşa Camii** in the square dates from 1560 and was designed by Sinan.

## KANLICA TO İSTİNYE

One of İstanbul's most famous seafood restaurants, **Körfez Restaurant** (opposite), is on Kanlıca's outskirts, almost directly under the bridge. This is the perfect place to spend an afternoon, eating lunch on its outdoor terrace while watching the ferries and boats sail past. Just near Körfez is the late-19th-century **Ethem Pertev Yalı**, with its boathouse and ornate wooden decoration.

High on a promontory above Kanlıca is **Hidiv Kasrı** (Khedive's Villa; ☎ 216-413 9644; Çubuklu Yolu 32, Kanlıca; admission free; ☎ 8am-11pm), a grand Art Nouveau villa built by the last khedive of Egypt as a summer residence for use during his family's annual visits to İstanbul.

Having ruled Egypt for centuries, in 1805 the Ottomans lost control to an adventurer named Muhammad Ali (also known as Mehmet Ali), who defied the sultan in İstanbul to dislodge him. The sultan, unable to do so, gave him quasi-independence and had to be satisfied with reigning over Egypt rather than ruling. This was left to Muhammad Ali and his line, and the ruler of Egypt was styled *hidiv*, 'khedive' (not 'king', as that would be unbearably independent). The khedives of Egypt kept up the pretence of Ottoman suzerainty by paying tribute to İstanbul.

The Egyptian royal family, which looked upon itself as Turkish, often spent its summers in a traditional *yalı* on the Bosphorus shore at Bebek (now the Egyptian consulate, p216). In 1906, Khedive Abbas Hilmi II built himself this palatial villa on the most dramatic promontory on the Bosphorus. In the 1930s it became the property of the municipality.

Restored after decades of neglect, the Hidiv Kasrı now functions as a restaurant and garden **café** (p220), much to the delight of İstanbullular and tourists alike. The villa is a gem and the view from the extensive and lovely garden is superb.

The villa is a few minutes by taxi (YTL4) uphill from Kanlıca or a 20-minute walk. To walk, go north from Kanlıca's main square and mosque and turn right at the first street (Kafadar Sokak), which winds up towards the villa car park. Turn left at Dere Sokak and shortly you'll come to a fork in the road. Take the left fork and walk up past Kanlıca Hekimler Sitesi on the corner. You'll soon see the villa's car park and extensive wooded garden.

On the opposite shore is the wealthy suburb of **Emirgan**, home to the recently opened and extremely impressive **Sakıp Sabancı Müzesi** (☎ 212-277 2200; www.muze.sabanciuniv.edu; Sakıp Sabancı Caddesi 22; adult/student/child under 14 YTL10/3/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue, Thu, Fri & Sun, 10am-10pm Wed, 10am-7pm Sat), which hosts international travelling art exhibitions. The museum is home to one of İstanbul's hottest eateries, **Müzedechanga** (p220). In late April to early May, **Emirgan Park**, just above the town, is decked out in tulips. North of Emirgan, there's a ferry dock near the small yacht-lined cove of **İstinye**.

## İSTİNYE TO SARIYER

Just north of İstinye, **Yeniköy** is on a point jutting out from the European shore. It was first settled in classical times and later became a favourite summer resort, as indicated by the lavish 19th-century Ottoman *yalı* of the one-time grand vizier, Sait Halim Paşa. Look for its two small stone lions on the quay. On the opposite shore is the village of **Paşabahçe**, famous for its glassware factory. A bit further on is the fishing village of **Beykoz**, which has a graceful ablutions fountain **İshak Ağa Çeşmesi**, dating from 1746, near the village square, as well as several fish restaurants. Much of the land along the Bosphorus shore north of Beykoz is a military zone.

Originally called Therapia for its healthy climate, the little cove of **Tarabya** on the

European shore has been a favourite summer watering place for İstanbul's well-to-do for centuries, though contemporary developments such as the horrendous multi-storey Grand Hotel Tarabya right on the promontory have poisoned some of its charm. For an account of Therapia in its heyday, read Harold Nicolson's 1921 novel *Sweet Waters*. Nicholson, who is best known as Vita Sackville-West's husband, served as the third Secretary in the British Embassy in Constantinople between 1912 and 1914, the years of the Balkan wars, and clearly knew Therapia well. In the novel, the main character, Eirene, who was clearly based on Vita, spent her summers here.

North of the village are some of the old summer embassies of foreign powers. When the heat and fear of disease increased in the warm months, foreign ambassadors would retire to palatial residences, complete with lush gardens, on this shore. The region for such embassy residences extended north to the village of **Büyükdere**, notable for its churches, summer embassies and the **Sadberk Hanım Müzesi** (☎ 212-242 3813; Büyükdere Caddesi 27-9, Sarıyer; admission YTL7; ☎ 10am-5pm Thu-Tue). Walk south from the ferry docks in Sarıyer for approximately 15 minutes. Named after the wife of the late Vehbi Koç, founder of Turkey's foremost commercial empire in 1926, the museum is a showcase for her extraordinary private collection of antiquities and Ottoman heirlooms. Labels are in English and Turkish.

The original museum building is a graceful old *yalı*, once the summer residence of Manuk Azaryan Efendi, an Armenian who was speaker of the Ottoman parliament. It houses artefacts and exhibits such as beautiful İznik and Kütahya ceramics, and Ottoman silk textiles and needlework. A number of rooms in the great old house have been arranged and decorated in Ottoman style.

The collections in the new building, which is beside the original *yalı*, include an exquisite collection of diadems from the Mycenaean, Archaic and Classical periods, as well as Ottoman and Roman times.

The residents of **Sarıyer**, the next village up from Büyükdere on the European shore, have occupied themselves for most of their history by fishing. This is still a pastime and the main livelihood here, and Sarıyer is justly noted for its good fish restaurants. It's a busy place. Turn right as you leave the ferry dock, stay as close to the shore as

possible, and you will pass the seabus terminal and several fish restaurants before coming to the **Tarihi Balıkçılar Çarşısı**, the village's historic fish market.

## SARIYER TO ANADOLU KAVAĞI

The ferry's second-last stop is **Rumeli Kavağı**, a sleepy place that only gets excited with the arrival and departure of the ferry. A public beach named **Altınkum**, near the village, has a small restaurant serving meze and beer, but not much else. To the south of the town is the shrine of the Moslem saint Telli Baba, reputed to be able to find suitable husbands for young women who pray there.

**Anadolu Kavağı** is where the Bosphorus excursions ferry finishes its journey. It's a pleasant spot in which to wander and have a seafood lunch at one of the touristy places on the square in front of the ferry terminal.

Perched above the village are the ruins of **Anadolu Kavağı Kalesi**, a medieval castle that originally had eight massive towers in its walls. First built by the Byzantines, it was restored and reinforced by the Genoese in 1350, and later by the Ottomans. Two more fortresses built by Sultan Murat IV in the 17th century are north of here. It will take you 30 to 50 minutes to walk up to the fortress from the town. Alternatively, taxis wait near the fountain in the town square just east of the ferry dock; they charge YTL12 for the return trip with 30 minutes waiting time. Whichever way you get there, it's worth the effort for the spectacular Black Sea views. Unfortunately, the site is strewn with litter discarded by picnickers.

## EATING & DRINKING

There are places for every taste and budget along the shores of the Bosphorus. Many people choose to organise their day's itinerary around their choice of lunch venue, and there's a lot to be said for following their example.

**Körfez Restaurant** (☎ 216-413 4314; Körfez Caddesi 78, Kanlıca; mains YTL30-75; ☎ 11am-4pm Tue-Sun, 6pm-midnight daily) Famous for its sea bass baked in salt, Körfez is the perfect place for a special meal in İstanbul. To make it even more special, organise for the restaurant's own motor launch to pick you up from Rumeli Hisarı across the strait and drop you back after your meal. Book ahead.

**Poseidon** (☎ 212-263 3823; Cevdet Paşa Caddesi 58, Bebek; starters YTL4-22, fish by kg YTL65-120; ☎ noon-midnight) This place evokes class with a capital 'C' – for credit card danger. If you want some of the best seafood in the city served on a stylish deck overlooking the bobbing boats of Bebek Bay, it's the perfect place. You'll be in the company of beautifully groomed women who dote on designer handbags and are often mistaken by their dining partners as said fashion accessory.

**Rumeli İskele** (☎ 212-263 2997; Yahya Kemal Caddesi 1, Rumeli Hisarı; meze YTL4-20, mains YTL35-65; ☎ noon-1am) In the old timber ferry terminal building right on the water, this long-standing favourite is a great spot for lunch. Businessmen (sometimes with girlfriend, sometimes with colleagues) are a permanent fixture, ordering delectable meze such as *levrek marine* (sea bass in a creamy but piquant lemon sauce) or *çiroz* (salted and dried thin mackerel). The catch of the day is priced by the kilo (prepare yourself for a hefty outlay) and there are good wine choices by the glass and bottle. There's a cover charge of YTL5 per person – tsk tsk.

**Müzedechanga** (☎ 212-3230901; Sakıp Sabancı Müzesi, Sakıp Sabancı Caddesi 22, Emirgan; starters YTL14-28, mains YTL19-46; ☎ 10.30am-1am Tue-Sun) İstanbul was agog when the relatively new Sakıp Sabancı Museum announced that one of the city's top restaurants, **Changa** (p165), was going to relocate here during the summer months. Many were dubious that the Changa crew would be happy making the transition from Taksim to this sleepy Bosphorus suburb, but it soon became obvious to all that the curators at the museum know how to present a masterpiece, be it an artwork or a restaurant. As well as possessing the most stylish restaurant interior in the city (maybe in Europe?), this place also has a terrace with lovely Bosphorus views. The food is wonderful – brunch favourites include the mixed breakfast plate or the *katmer* (local flaky pastry with goat-cheese cream and marinated green olives with preserved lemons) accompanied by a wasabi Bloody Mary; lunch and dinner highlights include perfectly cooked dishes such as grilled grouper on white-bean purée with fresh broad beans and a mint and green pepper salsa, washed down by a glass of wine from a good list. Well worth the trip from town – go for a weekend lunch or brunch.

**Donjon** (☎ 212-287 2910; Yahya Kemal Caddesi 40, Rumeli Hisarı; mains YTL20; ☎ 8am-2am) Hip young things loll on the beanbags downstairs and

listen to the in-house DJ spin his stuff; others seek out the pleasant roof balcony or the terraces with its swimming pool and imposing views over the Bosphorus. It's the second café from the fortress.

**Il Porto** (☎ 212-263 5199; Cevdet Paşa Caddesi 58, Bebek; mains YTL20; ☎ 10am-midnight) There are a number of ways to observe the glam Bebek set at play: you can dine at the mega-pricey Poseidon, have a coffee on the terrace at Starbucks or enjoy a casual summer lunch on the terrace here at Il Porto. Built right over the water, this is a good spot to see and be seen – the food is perfectly acceptable, but that's not why the crowds are here. Wear casual designer togs and have a botox shot before you go.

**Mangerie** (☎ 212-263 5199; Cevdet Paşa Caddesi 69/3, Bebek; mains YTL20; ☎ 8am-midnight) Mangerie has got the Bebek sheen of casual chic, but isn't at all pretentious. The interior is light and white, with soaring ceilings and a decidedly Scandinavian feel, and there's a terrace with Bosphorus views. Food is simple but moreish, with sandwiches and salads taking centre stage.

**Hidiv Kasrı Café** (☎ 216-320 2036; sandwiches YTL5-10, grills YTL18-24; ☎ 8am-11pm) Choose from the simple menu at the charming café next to the rose garden or the more extensive choice in the grand dining room and adjoining marble terrace. The food is average but the surroundings are drop-dead gorgeous. No alcohol is served.

At **Sade Kahve** (☎ 212-358 2324; Yahya Kemal Caddesi 36, Rumeli Hisarı; ☎ 8am-2am) you have a cheap and cheerful terrace café near the fortress that is a good spot for a tea and snack. It's similar to the **Kale Café & Pastane** next to the bus stop, which serves Anatolian favourites such as *mantı* (Turkish ravioli served with a yogurt and tomato sauce), *gözleme* (Turkish crepes filled with cheese, spinach or potato and cooked on a griddle) and *menemen* (eggs cooked with tomato, onions and white cheese).

## PRINCES' ISLANDS

Most İstanbullular refer to the Princes' Islands (Kızıl Adalar, or 'Red Islands'; [Map p213](#)) as 'The Islands' (Adalar), as they are the only islands around the city. They lie about 20km southeast of the city in the Sea of Marmara, and make a great destination for a day escape from the city.

In antiquity the islands were known as Demonisia, the People's Islands. In Byzantine

times, refractory princes, deposed monarchs and troublesome associates were interned here in convents and monasteries, hence the name the 'Princes' Islands'. A steam-ferry service from İstanbul was started in the mid 19th century and the islands became popular summer resorts with Pera's Greek, Jewish and Armenian communities. Many of the fine Victorian villas built by these wealthy merchants survive, and make the larger islands, Büyükkada and Heybeliada, charming places to explore. There are still significant Armenian and Jewish populations living on the islands, as well as some members of the Greek community, but most of the current island population is Turkish. For excellent historical and architectural background on the islands and their buildings, try to source a copy of John Freely's *The Princes' Isles: A Guide*, which is published by Adalı Islander Editions. You should be able to find it in İstanbul's English-language bookshops.

You'll realise after landing that there are no cars on the islands, something that comes as a welcome relief after the traffic mayhem of the city. Except for the necessary police, fire and sanitation vehicles, transportation is by bicycle, horse-drawn carriage and foot, as in centuries past.

All of the islands are busy in summer, particularly on weekends. For that reason, avoid a Sunday visit. If you wish to stay overnight during the summer months, book ahead. Many hotels are closed during winter.

There are nine islands in the Princes' Islands group and the ferry stops at four of these. Year-round there are 15,000 permanent residents scattered across the six islands that are populated, but numbers swell to 100,000 or so during summer when İstanbullular – many of whom have holiday homes on the islands –

escape the city heat. The small islands of **Kınalıada** and **Burgazada** are the ferry's first stops; frankly, neither offers much reward for the trouble of getting off the ferry.

In contrast, the charming island of **Heybeliada** (Heybeli for short) has much to offer the visitor. It's home to the Deniz Lisesi (Turkish Naval Academy), which was founded in 1773, and which you'll see to the left of the ferry dock as you arrive, and it has a number of restaurants and a thriving shopping strip, with bakeries and delicatessens selling picnic provisions to day-trippers, who come here on weekends to walk in the pine groves and swim from the tiny (but crowded) beaches. The island's major landmark is the hilltop **Hagia Triada Monastery** (☎ 216-351 8563). Perched above a picturesque line of poplar trees in a spot that has been occupied by a Greek monastery since Byzantine times, this building dates from 1894. It functioned as a Greek Orthodox theological school until 1971, when it was closed on the government's orders, and has an internationally renowned library. There are signs that it may re-open soon. You may be able to visit if you call ahead.

Heybeliada has a couple of hotels, including the comfortable **Merit Halkı Palace** (p222), perched at the top of Rafah Şehitleri Caddesi with wonderful water views. The delightful walk up to this hotel passes an antique shop and a host of large wooden villas set in lovingly tended gardens. Many laneways and streets leading to picnic spots, and lookout points are located off the upper reaches of this street. To find the hotel, turn right as you leave the ferry and head past the waterfront restaurants and cafés to the plaza with the Atatürk statue. From here walk up İsgüzar Sokak, veering right until you hit Rafah Şehitleri Caddesi. If you don't feel

## TRANSPORT – PRINCES' ISLANDS

Fourteen ferries run to the islands each day from 6.50am to midnight, departing from Kabataş 'Adalar İskelesi' dock. The most useful departure times for day-trippers are 9.30am, 10am and 11.30am. On summer weekends, board the vessel and grab a seat at least half an hour before departure time unless you want to stand the whole way. The trip costs YTL2 to the islands and the same for each leg between the islands and the return trip. The cheapest and easiest way to pay is to use your Akbil. To be safe, check the timetable at [www.ido.com.tr](http://www.ido.com.tr), as the schedule can change.

The ferry steams away from Kabataş and on its journey treats passengers to fine views of Topkapı Palace, Aya Sofya and the Blue Mosque on the right, and Üsküdar and Haydarpaşa on the left. After 20 minutes the ferry makes a quick stop at Kadıköy on the Asian side before making its way to the first island, Kınalıada. This leg takes 30 minutes. After this, it's another 15 minutes to Burgazada; another 15 minutes again to Heybeliada, the second-largest island; and another 10 minutes to Büyükkada, the largest island in the group.

Ferries return to İstanbul every 1.5 hours or so. The last ferry of the day leaves Büyükkada at 10pm and Heybeliada at 10.15pm.

## SEX & DEATH ON THE PRINCES' ISLANDS

For an entertaining take on life in the Princes' Islands, read Lawrence Goodman's series of crime novels set on the archipelago. The cast of characters includes Everett and Lily Blum, an expat American couple with more than a few similarities to William Powell and Myra Loy in the *Thin Man* movies of the 1930s (too many martinis and coy sexual banter). In the books, these amateur sleuths befriend hapless American English-language teacher Ed Wilkie and his no-nonsense Turkish wife, Elif. The plots are silly, but the books evoke life on the islands and in Istanbul well. The first in the series, *Sweet Confusion on the Princes' Islands*, has been followed by *Sour Grapes on the Princes' Islands* and *A Grain of Salt on the Princes' Islands*.

like walking up to the hotel (it's uphill but not too steep), you can hire a bicycle (YTL2 to YTL3 per hour) from one of the shops in the main street or a *fatyon* to take you around the island. A 25-minute tour (*küçük tur*) costs YTL20 and a one-hour tour (*büyük tur*) costs YTL30. Some visitors spend the day by the pool at the Merit Halki Palace, which is a good idea, as the waters around the island aren't very clean. Towels and chaise lounges are supplied, and there's a pleasant terrace restaurant for meals or drinks. The charge for non-guests to use the pool is YTL35 on weekdays and YTL50 on weekends.

The largest island in the group, **Büyükada** (Great Island), is impressive from the ferry, with gingerbread villas climbing up the slopes of the hill and the bulbous twin cupolas of the Splendid Otel providing an unmistakable landmark. It's a truly lovely spot to spend an afternoon.

The **ferry terminal** is an attractive building in the Ottoman kiosk style; it dates from 1899. Inside there's a pleasant tile-decorated café with an outdoor terrace, as well as a Tourist Information Office. Eateries serve fresh fish to the left of the ferry terminal, next to an ATM.

The island's main drawcard is the Greek **Monastery of St George**, in the 'saddle' between Büyükada's two highest hills. Walk from the ferry straight ahead to the clock tower in İskele Square (Dock Square). The shopping district is left along Recep Koç Sokak. Bear right onto 23 Nisan Caddesi, then head along Çankaya Caddesi up the hill to the monastery; when you come to a fork in the road, veer right. The walk (at least one hour) takes you past a long progression of impressive wooden villas set in gardens. About a quarter of the way up on the left is the **Büyükada Kültür Evi**, a charming spot where you can enjoy a tea or coffee in a garden setting. The house itself dates from 1878 and was restored in 1998. After 40 minutes or so you will reach a reserve called 'Luna Park' by the locals. The monastery is a 25-minute walk up an

extremely steep hill from here. Some visitors hire a donkey to take them up the hill and back for YTL10. As you ascend, you'll see countless pieces of cloth tied to the branches of trees along the path – each represents a prayer, most made by female supplicants visiting the monastery to pray for a child.

There's not a lot to see at the monastery. A small and gaudy church is the only building of note, but there are fabulous panoramic views from the terrace, as well as the highly regarded **Yüceetepe Kir Gazinosu** (right), a restaurant with outdoor seating. From its tables you will be able to see all the way to Istanbul and the nearby islands of Yassiada and Sivriada.

Bicycles are available for rent in several of the town's shops, and shops on the market street can provide picnic supplies, though food is cheaper on the mainland. Just off the clock tower square and opposite the Splendid Otel there are *fatyon* stands. Hire one for a long tour of the town, hills and shore (one hour YTL45) or a shorter tour of the town (YTL35). It costs YTL16 to be taken to Luna Park. A shop just near the *fatyon* stand hires out bicycles (YTL2.50 to YTL3 per hour).

## INFORMATION

**Tourist Information Office** (☎ 0216-382 1092; Ferry Terminal, Büyükada; ☏ 10am-4pm) Staffed by volunteers, this office offers advice, but no maps or brochures.

## SLEEPING

There's not really much of an argument for staying here overnight – it's much more sensible to spend the day and then return to the city, where the sleeping options are better and less expensive.

**Merit Halki Palace** (☎ 216-351 0025; www.halkipalace.com; Refah Şehitleri Caddesi 94, Heybeliada; s/d €72/95; 📍) This comfortable hotel was built in the style of an 1852 hotel that was previously on the site but burned down in 1991. With its garden setting and wonderful pool area, if

you're going to overnight on the islands, this is the place to do it.

**Splendid Palas** (☎ 216-382 6950; www.splendidhotel.net; Nisan Caddesi 23, Büyükdada; r from €65; 📍) This landmark building is indeed splendid. Rooms aren't quite as impressive as the exterior, but are comfortable enough. Front ones have small balconies and sea views. There's a pool and a restaurant.

## EATING

There aren't many eateries of note on the islands, particularly on Heybeliada. A picnic is your best bet there. On Büyükdada, we highly recommend the outdoor restaurant at the Monastery of St George's.

**Alibaba Restaurant** (☎ 216-382 3733; Gülistan Caddesi 20, Büyükdada; meze YTL5-12, fish YTL20-35; ☎ noon-11pm) Alibaba is the most popular of the seafood joints on the water near the ferry terminal. The overpriced food is adequate, but nothing more.

**Büyükdada Kültür Evi** (☎ 216-382 8620; Çankaya Caddesi 21, Büyükdada; sandwiches YTL5-10, grills YTL10, beer YTL6; ☎ daily Apr-Oct, weekends only Nov-Mar) Set up by the Turing Association in 1998, this garden café serves breakfast, lunch and dinner in its terraced garden. Service can be desultory and the food's not up to much, but it's an undeniably pretty setting and a great spot for a morning glass of tea or a late-afternoon beer.

**Yüceetepe Kir Gazinosu** (Monastery of St George, Büyükdada; meze YTL3.50-5, grills YTL6-7, beer YTL3.50; ☎ daily Apr-

Oct, weekends only Nov-Mar) What a shame this utterly fabulous eatery is so far out of the city! If it were closer, we'd be eating here morning, noon and night. At the very top of the hill where the Monastery of St George is located, its benches and chairs are set up on a terrace overlooking the sea and Istanbul. Dishes are simple but really impressive – the *köfte* we enjoyed on our most recent visit was possibly the best we've ever eaten and meze such as the fried *patlican* (eggplant) with yogurt were nearly as good. You can enjoy a beer and will finish the end of your meal having only spent YTL12 or so on the food. Fabulous.

## GALLIPOLI & TROY

Few places resonate with history as strongly as Troy and Gallipoli. Both are the locations of great battles and have been the subjects of major works of literature, countless school history texts and Hollywood feature films both good and bad (Brad Pitt as Achilles? *Ay curumba!*). Together, they make a trip to the Dardanelles from Istanbul an enticing prospect.

## ÇANAKKALE

This pleasant harbour town is the principal base for people visiting Gallipoli and Troy. Home to Çanakkale University, it's a surprisingly fun place to visit (see Eating & Drinking, p224).

## TRANSPORT – GALLIPOLI, TROY & ÇANAKKALE

Çanakkale is the logical base for visits to the Gallipoli battlefields and/or Troy. **Truva Turizm** (www.truvatuzim.com) and **Radar Turizm** (www.radarturizm.org) buses depart Kadıköy and then Istanbul's main *otogar* at Esenler regularly between 7.45am and midnight. The only time you'll need to book ahead is around Anzac Day. The trip (six hours, 340km) costs YTL27, with a small discount for children. Buses stop for one rest break. If you're heading back to Istanbul, you can buy bus tickets and board buses from near the ferry docks rather than going to the Çanakkale *otogar*. Truva Turizm buses leave Çanakkale at 7am, 8am, 9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm and 1am. Radar Turizm buses follow a similar timetable. Most buses to/from Istanbul travel on the Eceabat–Çanakkale ferry and along the Thracian side of the Sea of Marmara coast.

**Atlas Jet** (www.atlasjet.com) flies from Istanbul to Çanakkale (YTL72 to YTL162, 35 to 40 minutes) every day except Saturday and flies the other way every day except Sunday. The airport is approximately 8km from the centre of town; a *dolmuş* between the two costs YTL1 and a taxi costs YTL15.

If you are travelling in your own car, there are car ferries between Gelibolu and Lapseki; Eceabat and Çanakkale; and Kilitbahir and Çanakkale. Most depart hourly between 6am and midnight.

Troy is only 25 minutes (36km) by car or *dolmuş* from Çanakkale. The *dolmuş* station is under a small bridge opposite the fairground on Atatürk Caddesi. In high summer, *dolmuşes* go to the small village of Tefvikiye, just outside Troy, every 30 to 60 minutes. A ticket cost YTL5. At other times of the year, you should plan to visit early in the day to be sure of getting a return *dolmuş*.

There is no public transport around the Gallipoli Peninsula, so your only options are to take a tour or have your own car.

Çanakkale is situated at the narrowest point in the Dardanelles; it was from here that Leander swam across what was then called the Hellespont to his lover Hero, and from here too that Lord Byron emulated the feat in 1810.

Today visitors by sea are greeted by a strangely familiar, life-sized **Trojan Horse** on the waterfront promenade: yes, it is the actual horse from the movie *Troy* (2004).

## Information

The **Tourist Information Office** (☎ 217 1187; 🕒 8am-noon & 1-7pm Mon-Fri) is located by the harbour. There are banks, a PTT and shops around Cumhuriyet Meydanı on the waterfront. Check your emails at **Maxi Internet** (Fetvane Sokak 51; per hr YTL; 🕒 10am-1am).

## Tours

**Hassle Free Tours** (☎ 213 5969; www.anzchouse.com; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 61) This well-known outfit is based at the Anzac House hostel in Çanakkale. It runs Gallipoli tours for €30 and Troy tours for €26. The three-hour Troy tour leaves at 8.30am; the 5½-hour Gallipoli tour leaves at 11.30am and includes lunch at the Maydos Restaurant in Eceabat. It's possible to do both tours in one day. Hassle Free also organises round-trip Gallipoli tours from its **Istanbul office** (Map p50), which includes transport, a Troy tour and one night's accommodation in Çanakkale. There is a tour for the dawn service on Anzac Day. Check the website.

**TJ Tours** (☎ 286-814 3121; www.anzacgallipolitours.com; Cumhuriyet Caddesi 5/A, Eceabat) Run by a Turkish-Australian couple, TJ's offers a four-to-five-hour Gallipoli tour leaving at 11.30am. The company is based at TJ's Hostel in Eceabat on the Gallipoli Peninsula, across the strait from Çanakkale, and its Gallipoli tour has a good reputation.

## Sleeping

All hotels are heavily booked in summer, and the town is insanely crowded around Anzac Day. Unless mentioned, all places listed offer air-conditioned rooms with en suite bathroom.

**Hotel Akol** (☎ 286-217 9456; www.hotelakol.com; Kordonboyu; s/d €45/67; 🚰 📺 📶) This place has large rooms with all the mod cons and is popular with tour groups as a consequence. Though

getting on in years it's aging quite gracefully. All rooms have a balcony, some with water views.

**Çanak Otel** (☎ 286-214 1582; www.canakhotel.com; Dibek Sokak 1; s/d €43/50; 🚰 📺) This relatively new place offers extremely comfortable rooms at reasonable prices. There's a pleasant rooftop restaurant and bar.

**Hotel Kervansaray** (☎ 217 8192; www.otelkervansaray.com; Fetvane Sokak 13; s/d €25/45; 🚰 📺) Çanakkale's only boutique hotel lays on loads of Ottoman flourishes and is far and away the best accommodation choice in town. The rooms are beautifully presented and the public areas are impressive, especially the gorgeous courtyard garden. Excellent value.

**Maydos Hotel** (☎ 213 5970; www.maydos.com.tr; Yalı Caddesi 12; s €22.50-34, d €45-68; 🚰 📺) The latest venture from the people behind Hassle Free Tours, the Maydos offers clean and comfortable rooms at reasonable prices.

**Yellow Rose Pension** (☎ 217 3343; www.yellowrose.4mg.com; Yeni Sokak 5; dm €8, s €14, d €20-28; 📺) This cheerful hostel has a quiet location and lots of extras, from laundry and kitchen to book exchange and video library. All rooms have private bathroom.

**Efes Hotel** (☎ 217 3256; Aralık Sokak 5; s/d €14/20; 🚰) This place near the clocktower is spotlessly clean, has very comfortable beds and is extremely quiet. Two rooms have air-conditioning; the rest have fans. Breakfast costs extra, but is really good.

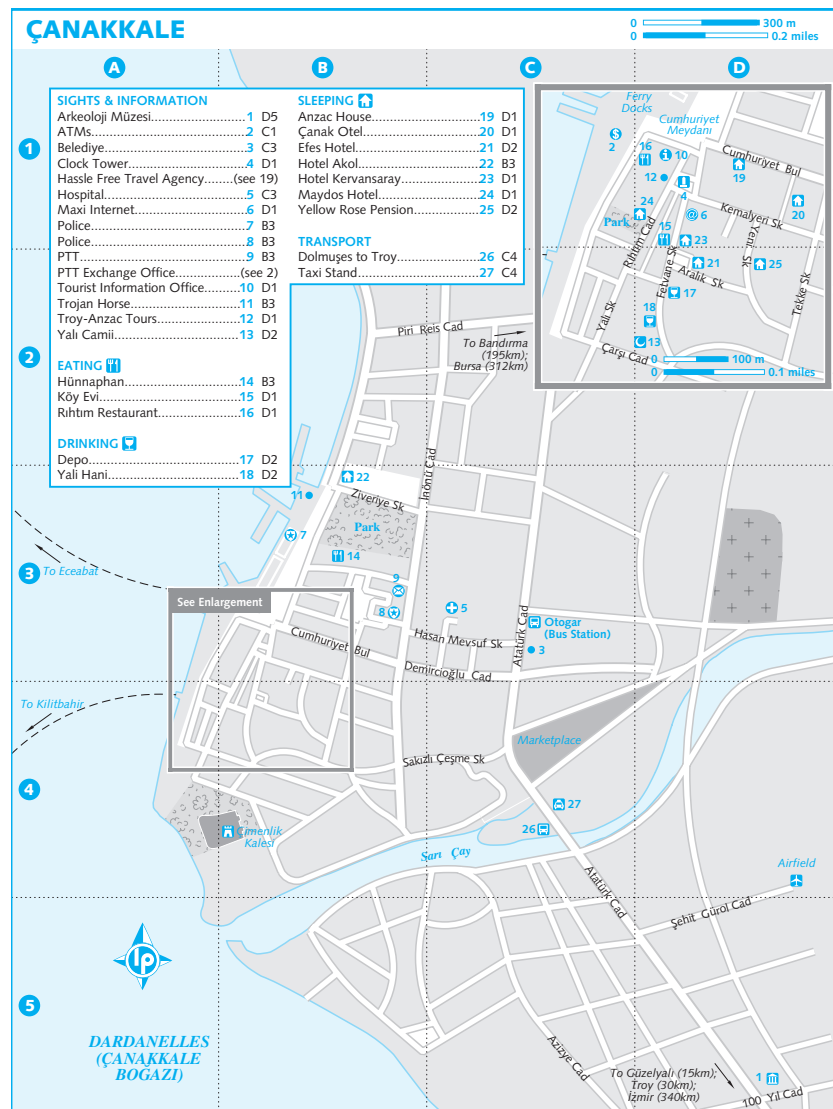
## Eating & Drinking

Good eateries are thin on the ground here, but there's a healthy bar scene.

**Hünnaphan** (☎ 286-214 2535; Mehmetçik Bulvarı 21; mains YTL8-15; 🕒 11am-11.30pm) Set in an old purple house away from the waterfront, this charming restaurant has a beautiful patio garden and two semiprivate balconies where diners can enjoy park views. Turkish and Western dishes are on offer and there's an extensive wine list.

**Rıhtım Restaurant** (Eski Balıkhane Sokak; mains YTL5-12; 🕒 11am-11.30pm) This long-established eatery on the waterfront serves a varied menu of Turkish and Western dishes.

**Köy Evi** (Yalı Caddesi 13; dishes YTL1.5-3; 🕒 8am-9pm) Here, headscarfed local women serve up dirt-cheap home-cooked *mantı*, *börek* and other Anatolian favourites.



**Depo** (☎ 212-6813; Fetvane Sokak 19; admission YTL5)

The biggest and rowdiest joint in a street of similar establishments, Depo has a warehouse vibe and a fantastic open courtyard full of bean-bag chairs. It's the best dance spot in town.

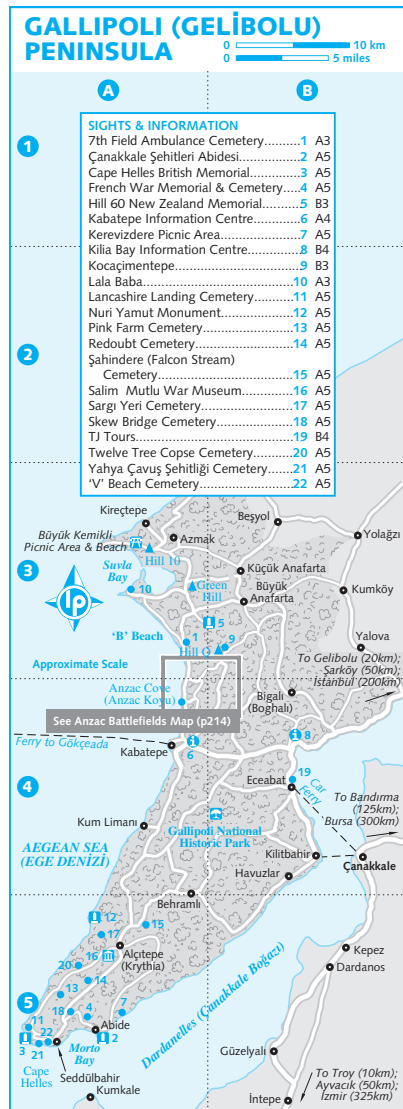
**Yalı Hani** (Fetvane Sokak 26; admission YTL5; 🕒 10.30am-midnight) This atmospheric bar set in an old caravanserai is the town's most popular live-music venue. As well as the bar, there's a pleasant courtyard *çay bahçesi*.

## GALLIPLI

The slender peninsula that forms the north-western side of the Dardanelles (Çanakkale Boğazi; Map p226), across the water from the town of Çanakkale, is called Gallipoli ('Gelibolu' in Turkish). For a millennium it has been the key to Istanbul – the navy that could force the straits had a good chance of capturing the capital of the Eastern European world. Many



fleets have tried to do so. Most, including the Allied fleet mustered in WW1, have failed. Today, the Gallipoli battlefields are peaceful places covered in scrubby brush, pine forests and fields. But the battles fought here nearly a century ago still live in the memories of many people. The annual pilgrimage that Australians and New Zealanders make here on Anzac Day (25 April) has become one of the major events on the Turkish tourism calendar.



Most people know the tragic story of the Gallipoli offensive. With the intention of capturing the Ottoman capital and the road to Eastern Europe during WWI, Winston Churchill, British First Lord of the Admiralty, organised a naval assault on the Dardanelles. A strong Franco-British fleet tried first to force them in March 1915 but failed. Then, in April, British, Australian, New Zealand and Indian troops were landed on Gallipoli, and French troops near Çanakkale. Both Turkish and Allied troops fought desperately and fearlessly. After months of ferocious combat with little progress, the Allied forces were withdrawn.

The Turkish success at Gallipoli was partly due to bad luck and bad leadership on the Allied side, and partly due to the timely provision of reinforcements aiding the Turkish side under the command of General Liman von Sanders. But a crucial element in the defeat was that the Allied troops landed in a sector where they faced Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk).

At this time Atatürk was a relatively minor officer, but he had General von Sanders' confidence. He guessed the Allied battle plan correctly when his commanders did not, and disobeyed an order from his commanders to send his troops south to Cape Helles, instead stalling the invasion by bitter fighting that wiped out his regiment. Though suffering from malaria, he commanded in full view of his troops and of the enemy, and miraculously escaped death several times. His brilliant performance made him a folk hero and paved the way for his promotion to *paşa* (general).

The Gallipoli campaign lasted until January 1916, and resulted in a total of more than half a million Allied and Turkish casualties.

## Touring the Battlefields

Gallipoli is a fairly large area to tour: it's over 35km as the crow flies from the northernmost battlefield to the southern tip of the peninsula. The principal battles took place on the western shore of the peninsula, near Anzac Cove and Arıburnu Cemetery, and in the hills just to the east.

With a car you can easily tour the major battlefields in a day and be in a Çanakkale hotel by nightfall. If you're in a hurry, a morning or afternoon will be enough time to see the main sites. Most of the tours run by companies in Çanakkale and Eceabat take half a day. The best of these tours are run by **Hassle Free** in Çanakkale and **TJ Tours** in Eceabat (see p224).

If you're a hiker, and you have lots of time, take a ferry from Çanakkale to Eceabat and a *dolmuş* or taxi to Kabatepe, and follow the trail around the sites described in an excellent map sold at the **Kabatepe Information Centre & Museum** (Kabatepe Tanıtma Merkezi Müzesi; ☎ 9am-5pm).

**Gallipoli National Historic Park** (Gelibolu Yarımadası Tarihi Milli Parkı) covers much of the peninsula and all of the significant battle sites. To get to the Information Centre, head north of Eceabat. After about 3km you'll see a road marked for Kabatepe; follow it until you come to the information centre, just east of Kabatepe.

From the information centre, head west and then north for 3km to the **Beach (Hell Spit) Cemetery**; a bit further on a road goes inland to the Shrapnel Valley and **Plugge's Plateau Cemetery**.

Further north from the inland turn-off is **Anzac Cove** (Anzac Koyu). The ill-fated Allied landing was made here on 25 April 1915, beneath and just south of the Arıburnu cliffs. As it is a memorial reserve, the beach here is off limits to swimmers and picnickers.

A few hundred metres south of the Anzac Memorial is the **Arıburnu Cemetery**. Less than 1km further north along the seaside road are the cemeteries at **No 2 Outpost**, set back inland from the road, and the **New Zealand No 2 Outpost**, right next to the road. The **Embarkation Pier Cemetery** is shortly beyond them.

Retrace your steps and follow the signs to **Lone Pine Cemetery** (Kanlı Sırt). It's along the same inland road that passes Shrapnel Valley. At Lone Pine, 400m uphill from the **Kanlı Sırt Kitabesi** (Bloody Ridge Inscription), Australian forces captured Turkish positions on 6 August. In the few days of the August assault, 4000 men died. The trees that shaded the cemetery were swept away by a 1994 fire, leaving only one: a lone pine planted as a memorial years ago from the seed of the original tree that stood here during the battle. The small tombstones carry touching epitaphs: 'Only son', 'He died for his country' and 'If I could hold your hand once more just to say well done'.

The trenches were separated only by the width of the modern road at **Johnston's Jolly**, 300m beyond Lone Pine; **Courtney's & Steele's Post**, another 300m along; and especially at **Quinn's Post**, another 400m uphill. On the western side at Johnston's Jolly is the Turkish monument to the soldiers of the 125th Regiment who died here on 'Red Ridge' (Kırmızı Sırt/125 Alay Cephesi). At Quinn's Post is the memorial to Sergeant Mehmet, who fought with rocks and

his fists after he ran out of ammunition; and the **Captain Mehmet Cemetery**.

Just over 1km uphill from Lone Pine is a **monument to Mehmetçik** (the Turkish equivalent of GI Joe) on the west side of the road and, on the east side, the **cemetery and monument for officers and soldiers of the Ottoman 57th Regiment**. As the Anzac troops made their way up the slopes towards Chunuk Bair on 25 April, Atatürk brought up the 57th Infantry Regiment and gave them his famous order: 'I order you not just to attack, but to die. In the time it takes us to die, other troops and commanders will arrive to take our places'. The 57th was wiped out, but held the line and inflicted equally heavy casualties on the Anzacs below.

The statue of an old man showing his granddaughter the battle sites portrays veteran Hüseyin Kaçmaz, who fought in the Balkan Wars, in Gallipoli and in the War of Independence at the fateful Battle of Dumlupınar. He died in 1994 at the age of 110.

A few hundred metres past the **57th Regiment Cemetery**, a road goes northwest to the monument to **Mehmet Çavuş** (another Sergeant Mehmet) and the **Nek**. It was at the Nek on 7 August 1915 that the 8th (Victorian) and 10th (West Australian) regiments of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade vaulted out of their trenches into withering fire and certain death. Their action was immortalised in Peter Weir's film, *Gallipoli*.

**Baby 700 Cemetery** on the site of the other object of the assault, is 300m further uphill from Mehmet Çavuş.

At the top of the hill, past the **monument to Talat Göktepe**, is a 'T' intersection. A right turn takes you to the spot where, having stayed awake for four days straight, Atatürk spent the night of 9-10 August, and to the **Kemalyeri** (Scrubby Knoll), his command post. A left turn leads after 100m to **Chunuk Bair**, the first objective of the Allied landing in April 1915, and now the site of the **New Zealand memorial**. Chunuk Bair was at the heart of the struggle on 6 to 9 August 1915, when 28,000 men died on this ridge. The peaceful pine grove of today makes it difficult to imagine the battlefield of old. The Anzac attack on 6-7 August, which included the New Zealand Mounted Rifle Brigade and a Maori contingent, was deadly, but the attack on the following day was of a ferocity which, according to Atatürk, 'could scarcely be described'.

To the east a road leads up to the Turkish **Conkbayın Mehmetçik Memorial**. Here are five

gigantic tablets with inscriptions (in Turkish) describing the progress of the battle.

Memorials on the Southern Peninsula can be reached via the road that goes south from near the Kabatepe Information Centre. It's about 18km to the village of **Alçıtepe**, formerly known as Krythia or Kirt. In the village, signs point out the road southwest to the cemeteries of **Twelve Tree Copse** and **Pink Farm** and north to the Turkish cemetery **Sargı Yeri** and the **Nuri Yamut monument**.

Heading south, the road passes the **Redoubt Cemetery**. About 5.5km south of Alçıtepe, just south of the **Skew Bridge Cemetery**, the road divides, the right fork leading to the village of **Seddülbahir** and several Allied memorials.

The initial Allied attack was two-pronged, with the southern landing taking place here at the tip of the peninsula on **'V' Beach**. Yahya Çavuş was the Turkish officer who led the first resistance to the Allied landing on 25 April 1915, causing heavy casualties. The cemetery named after him, **Yahya Çavuş Şehitliği**, is between the Helles Memorial and **'V' Beach**.

Follow the signs for Yahya Çavuş Şehitliği to reach the **Cape Helles British Memorial**, 1km beyond the Seddülbahir village square. From the Helles Memorial there are fine views of the Dardanelles, with ships cruising by placidly. **Lancashire Landing Cemetery** is off to the north along a road marked by a sign.

Retrace your steps to the road division and go east. For Abide and/or Çanakkale Şehitleri Abidesi follow the signs east at Morto Bay. Along the way you pass the **French War Memorial and Cemetery**. French troops, including a regiment of Africans, attacked Kumkale on the Asian shore in March 1915 with complete success, then re-embarked and landed in support of their British comrades-in-arms at Cape Helles.

**Çanakkale Şehitleri Abidesi** (Çanakkale Martyrs' Memorial) commemorates all of the Turkish soldiers who fought and died at Gallipoli. It's a gigantic four-legged stone table, almost 42m high and surrounded by landscaped grounds, standing above a war museum. At the foot of the Turkish monument hill is a fine pine-shaded picnic area.

## TROY

The approach to **Troy Archaeological Site** (Truva; [Map p213](#); ☎ 286-283 0536; admission YTL10; 🕒 8.30am-6pm), 36km from Çanakkale, is across rolling grain fields. This is the ancient Troad, all but lost to legend until German-born Californian

treasure-seeker and amateur archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann (1822-90) excavated atop a promising hill in 1871. He uncovered four superimposed ancient towns, destroying three others in the process.

The window where you buy your admission ticket is just past the village of Tefikiye, 500m before the site. Guidebooks (with maps) to the site are available at souvenir shops near the ticket box. The author of one of the guidebooks, **Mustafa Askin**, is a highly regarded local guide. Check out his website ([www.thetroyguide.com](http://www.thetroyguide.com)) or inquire through **Hassle Free Tours** (p224).

There are few structures here, but visitors can clearly trace the excavations and can get an idea of what the ancient town must have looked like. With a good guide, it makes a fascinating excursion. The views around the countryside and over to the Dardanelles are a bonus, too.

In Homer's *Iliad*, Troy was the town of Ilium. The Trojan War took place in the 13th century BC, with Agamemnon, Achilles, Odysseus (Ulysses), Patroclus and Nestor on the Achaeans (Greek) side, and Priam with his sons Hector and Paris on the Trojan side. Rather than suggesting commercial rivalries as a cause for the war, Homer claimed that Paris had kidnapped the beautiful Helen from her husband, Menelaus, King of Sparta (his reward for giving the golden apple for most beautiful woman to Aphrodite, goddess of love), and the king asked the Achaeans to help him get her back.

During the decade-long war, Hector killed Patroclus and Achilles killed Hector. Paris knew that Achilles' mother had dipped her son in the River Styx to make him invincible. However, to do so she had held him by his heel, the one part of his body that remained unprotected. Hence Paris shot Achilles in the heel and bequeathed a phrase to the English language.

When 10 years of carnage couldn't end the war, Odysseus came up with the idea of the wooden horse filled with soldiers, against which Cassandra warned the Trojans in vain. It was left outside the west gate for the Trojans to wheel inside the walls. At the site there is a wooden replica that children love to climb.

One theory has it that the earthquake of 1250 BC aided the Achaeans by bringing down Troy's formidable walls and allowing them to battle their way into the city. In gratitude to Poseidon, the earth-shaker, they built a monumental wooden statue of his horse. So there may well have been a Trojan horse, even though Homer's account is not historical.

Excavations by Schliemann and others have revealed nine ancient cities, one on top of another, dating back to 3000 BC. The first people lived here during the early Bronze Age. The cities called Troy I to Troy V (3000-1700 BC) had a similar culture, but Troy VI (1700-1250 BC) had a different character, with a new population of Indo-European stock related to the Mycenaeans. The town doubled in size and carried on a prosperous trade with Mycenae.

Troy VII lasted from 1250 to 1050 BC, then languished for four centuries. It was revived as a Greek city (Troy VIII; 700-85 BC) and then as a Roman one (Troy IX; 85 BC-AD 500).

The **Kazi Evi** (Excavation House) near the wooden horse replica was used by earlier archaeological teams. Today it holds exhibits on work in progress, as well as historical interpretations and a history of the site's excavation that is particularly unkind to Schliemann. The models and illustrations show what Troy looked like at different points in its history.

Of the remaining structures at the site, the oldest still-standing wall in the world; the **bouleuterion** (council chamber) built circa 800 BC; the **stone ramp** from Troy II; and the **Temple of Athena** from Troy VIII, rebuilt by the Romans, are of particular interest.

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