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## SHOPPING

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Over centuries, İstanbullular have perfected the practice of shopping, and then shopping some more. Trading is in their blood and they've turned making a sale or purchase into a true art form. Go into any carpet shop and you'll see what we mean – there's etiquette to be followed, tea to be drunk, conversation to be had. And, of course, there's money to be spent and made.

Whether you're after a cheap souvenir or a family-heirloom-to-be, İstanbul is the city to find it. Rugs (carpets and kilims), textiles, ceramics and jewellery are just a few of the temptations laid out in more arcades, bazaars and stores than you could ever hope to flash a credit card in. There's also fashion, decorative arts and homewares that can hold their own against the stock of any concept store or designer boutique in London, LA or Lisbon. And we won't even begin to rhapsodise about the delectable foodstuffs on offer...

## BARGAINING

Traditionally, when customers enter a Turkish shop to make a significant purchase, they're offered a comfortable seat and a drink (coffee, tea or a soft drink). There is some general chitchat, then discussion of the shop's goods (carpets, apparel, jewellery etc) in general, then of the customer's tastes, preferences and requirements. Finally, a number of items in the shop are displayed for the customer's inspection.

The customer asks the price; the shop owner gives it; the customer looks doubtful and makes a counteroffer 25% to 50% lower. This procedure goes back and forth several times before a price acceptable to both parties is arrived at. It is considered very bad form to offer an amount, have the shopkeeper agree and then change your mind. If no price is agreed upon, the customer has absolutely no obligation and may walk out at any time.

To bargain effectively you must be prepared to take your time, and you must know something about the items in question, not to mention their market price. The best way to do this is to look at similar goods in several shops, asking prices but not making counteroffers. Shopkeepers will give you a quick education about their wares by demonstrating to you what's good about them and telling you what's bad about their competitors' goods. Soon you will discover which shops have the best quality for the lowest asking prices and you can then proceed to bargain. Always stay good-humoured and polite when you are bargaining – if you do this, the shopkeeper will too. And remember, shopkeepers know their own bottom line and will only bargain up to a certain point.

When bargaining, you can often get a discount by offering to buy several items at once,

or by paying in cash and not requesting a receipt.

If you don't have sufficient time to shop around, follow the age-old rule: find something you like at a price you're willing to pay, buy it, enjoy it and don't worry about whether or not you received the world's lowest price.

## OPENING HOURS

The most common shopping hours are from 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday, but this is by no means always the case. We have indicated specific hours in all reviews.

## TAXES & REFUNDS

Turkey has a value-added tax (VAT) known as the *katma değer vergisi* (KDV). This means that 18% tax is added to (and hidden in) the price of most goods and services.

If nonresidents buy an expensive item such as a carpet or a leather garment from a shop that participates in the national 'Global Refund: Tax Free Shopping' scheme and then take the item out of the country within three months, they are entitled to a refund of the KDV. Unfortunately, there aren't many shops participating in this scheme. Still, it's always worth asking the shopkeeper if it is possible to get a *KDV iade özel fatura* (special VAT refund receipt). Ask for this when you're haggling over the price, rather than after you've made your purchase. Some shops display a blue, grey and white 'Tax Free Shopping' sign in their window, conveniently signalling that they are participants in the refund scheme.

If the shopkeeper issues the refund receipt, take it with you to the airport when you leave. Before going through immigration, take the receipt and the goods that you have purchased to the 'Global Refund: Tax Free Shopping'

desk, where staff will stamp the receipts to confirm that you are leaving the country. You then collect your refund from one of two booths in the departure lounge after you have gone through immigration. The refund is available in the form of cash (Turkish lira) on the spot or a credit to your chosen credit-card account.

## WHAT TO BUY

While Turkey's rugs have the highest shopping profile, there are plenty of other souvenir possibilities.

## Antiques

The grand Ottoman-era houses of İstanbul are still surrendering fascinating stuff left over from the empire. You'll find these treasures – furniture in the Ottoman baroque style, jewellery, crockery, paintings and more – in the antique shops of Çukurcuma and Nişantaşı.

## Ceramics

After carpets and kilims, ceramics would have to be Turkey's most successful souvenir industry. This is for good reason: the ceramics are beautiful and the standard fare fits within most budgets. Many of the tiles you see in the tourist shops have been painted using a silk-screen printing method and this is why they're cheap. One step up are the ubiquitous hand-painted bowls, plates and other pieces; these are made by rubbing a patterned carbon paper on the raw ceramic, tracing the black outline and filling in the holes with colour. The most expensive ceramics for sale are hand-painted – without the use of a carbon-paper pattern – and derived from an original design. Note that many of the ceramics have lead in the glaze, so it's probably safest to use them as ornaments only.

## Copper

Some copper vessels on sale in the bazaars are old, most are handsome and some are still eminently useful. The new copperware tends to be of a lighter gauge; that's one of the ways you tell the new from old. But even the new stuff will have been made by hand. Copper vessels should not be used for cooking in or eating from unless they are tinned inside: that is, washed with molten tin that covers the toxic copper. If you intend to use a copper vessel, make sure the interior layer of

tin is intact, or negotiate to have it *kalaylamak* (tinned). If there is a *kalaycı* shop nearby, ask about the price of the tinning in advance, as tin is expensive.

## Glassware

İstanbul produces some unique glasswork, a legacy of the Ottoman Empire's affection for this delicate and intricate art. Paşabağçe, a large factory on the Asian side, has been producing glass for 150 years and still churns out some good stuff. If you're after tea sets, the Grand Bazaar (Kapalı Çarşı) has many shops selling plain, colourful and gilded sets. Note that most of the ornate, curvy perfume bottles you see in the touristy shops are Egyptian, despite what the seller might say.

## Inlaid Wood

Local artisans make jewellery boxes, chess and backgammon (*tavla*) boards, and other items that are inlaid with different coloured woods, silver or mother-of-pearl. Make sure the piece really does feature inlay. These days, alarmingly accurate decals exist. Also, check the silver: is it really silver, or does it look like aluminium or pewter? And what about that mother-of-pearl – is it in fact 'daughter-of-polystyrene'?

## Jewellery

İstanbul is a wonderful place to buy jewellery, especially antique stuff. New gold work tends to be flashy, featuring yellow gold and a surfeit of decoration – it won't appeal to everyone. Silverware is more refined and there is an incredible variety of styles and designs, including many inspired by Ottoman and Byzantine jewellery. Gold shops should have a copy of the newspaper that bears the daily price for unworked gold of so many carats. Serious gold buyers should check this price, watch carefully as the jeweller weighs the piece in question, and then calculate what part of the price is for

## ANTIQUITIES & THE LAW

When shopping for antiques, it's important to remember that antiquities – objects from Turkey's Hittite, Greco-Roman, Byzantine and early Ottoman past – may not be sold, bought, or taken out of the country under penalty of law. A century-old painting, lampshade or carpet usually poses no problems, but a Roman statuette, Byzantine icon or 17th-century İznik tile means trouble and quite possibly time in jail.

## SHOPPING STRIPS

Every tourist has heard of Istanbul's **Grand Bazaar** (Kapalı Çarşısı; p76), and many will find their way to Sultanahmet's **Arasta Bazaar** (Map p50), but few know about the various speciality shopping areas in the city. Those who are serious about their shopping or who want specific items should follow the locals and go to the retail neighbourhood specialising in goods of a particular type.

- Antiques – Çukurcuma in Beyoğlu
- Books & Maps – **Sahafkar Çarşısı** (Old Book Bazaar; Map p78) near the Grand Bazaar; around **İstiklal Caddesi** (Map p107)
- Ceramics – Grand Bazaar; Sultanahmet
- Fashion – Around Teşvikiye Caddesi in **Nişantaşı** (Map p115); **Kanyon** (p143); Çukurcuma in **Beyoğlu** (Map p107)
- Handicrafts – Grand Bazaar; Sultanahmet
- Jewellery – Grand Bazaar; Sultanahmet; Nuruosmaniye Caddesi in **Cağaloğlu** (near the Grand Bazaar; Map p63)
- Leather – Grand Bazaar
- Music – Galipedede Caddesi in **Tünel** (Map p107)
- Rugs & Textiles – Grand Bazaar; Sultanahmet

gold and what part for labour. Silver will also be weighed. There is sterling-silver jewellery (look for the hallmark), but nickel silver and pewterlike alloys are much more common. Serious dealers don't try to pass off alloy as silver. Some shops will pass off plastic, glass and other stones as real gemstones – if you don't know what you're looking for, steer clear.

## Leather

On any given Kurban Bayramı (Sacrifice Holiday; see p239), more than 2½ million sheep get the chop in Turkey. Add to that the normal day-to-day needs of a cuisine based on mutton and lamb and you have a huge amount of raw material to be made into leather items, hence the country's thriving leather industry. If you've always wanted a leather coat or jacket, İstanbul may be the place to purchase it, but look out for shoddy workmanship.

## Old Books, Maps & Prints

Collectors will have a field day with İstanbul's wealth of antique books – some immaculate, some moth-eaten. The city and its inhabitants have been immortalised in maps, illustrations and engravings throughout the years, and many of these are available as prints, which make excellent souvenirs. You'll also see illuminated pages, supposedly from Ottoman manuscripts. These are usually modern reproductions, but they're attractive nevertheless and, again, make excellent souvenirs.

## Silk

Bursa, south of the Sea of Marmara, is the silk centre of Turkey. Silkworms are raised,

their cocoons are sold in Bursa and there the silk is crafted into scarves and other items. Here in İstanbul you can get your hands on Bursa's beautiful scarves; many have ornate hand-painted patterns and/or marbled colouring.

## Spices, Potions & Turkish Delight

The Spice Bazaar (Mısır Çarşısı; p82) was once the centre of the spice and medicinal herb trade in İstanbul. It's still an important outlet, though these days locals are more likely to shop in the surrounding streets, leaving the market for tourists. Do what the locals do and shop along Hasircılar Caddesi (Map p78) for spices, tea, herbs and sweets. Prices are clearly marked and you are encouraged to taste goods before you buy.

## SULTANAHMET

**DESIGN ZONE** Map p50 Art  
☎ 212-527 9285; **Alibaba Türbe Sokak, Nuruosmaniye**; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat  
Contemporary Turkish designers and artists show and sell their work here. There's nifty jewellery (we love the *lale* motifs), ceramics, furniture and homewares, as well as some less impressive painting and sculpture work.

**GALERİ KAYSERİ** Map p50 Books  
☎ 212-512 0456; **Divan Yolu Caddesi 11**; ☎ 9am-9pm; ☒ Sultanahmet  
Sultanahmet's most famous bookshop has two stores on Divan Yolu near the Sultanahmet tram stop. The reasons for this

store's success are simple: the staff know and love their stock and the stock itself is extensive – thousands of English-language titles about Turkey and the Middle East.

**İZNİK CLASSICS & TILES** Map p50 Ceramics  
☎ 212-517 1705; **Arasta Bazaar 67, 73 & 141, Cankurtaran**; ☎ 9am-8pm; ☒ Sultanahmet  
İznik Classics & Tiles is the best place in town to source collector-item ceramics, including hand-painted pieces by accredited masters including Adnan Hoca, whose plates, vases and tiles are made with real quartz and metal oxides from pigments and retail for anything up to YTL5000. It also stocks some mass-produced stock, which is a lot cheaper but still beautiful. There's another store around the corner at 17 Utangaç Sokak, and a third in the Old Bazaar at the Grand Bazaar.

**CAFERAĞA MEDRESEİ** Map p50 Handicrafts  
☎ 212-513 3601; **Caferiye Sokak, near Topkapı Palace**; ☎ 8.30am-7pm; ☒ Gülhane  
The rooms around this pretty *medrese* (Islamic seminary; see p73) are used as art-teaching studios and some of the products – jewellery, miniatures, *ebru* (marbled paper) – are sold here for reasonable prices. There isn't a lot to choose from, but it's certainly worth wandering in for a peek at what's on offer.

**İSTANBUL HANDICRAFTS MARKET** Map p50 Handicrafts  
**İstanbul Sanatlar Çarşısı**; ☎ 212-517 6782; **Kabasa-kal Caddesi 23**; ☎ 9am-6.30pm; ☒ Sultanahmet  
Set in the small rooms surrounding the leafy courtyard of the 18th-century Cedid Mehmed Efendi Medresesi, this handicrafts centre next door to the hotel Yeşil Ev is unusual in that local artisans sometimes work here and don't mind if visitors watch while they do so. Their creations are available for purchase; it's a great place to source beautiful calligraphy, glassware, hand embroidery, miniature paintings, ceramics and fabric dolls.

**GALERİ CENGİZ** Map p50 Rugs  
☎ 212-518 8882; **Arasta Bazaar 155-157, Cankurtaran**; ☎ 9am-9pm; ☒ Sultanahmet  
One of the many rug shops in the Arasta Bazaar, Galeri Cengiz stocks a colourful range of carpets and kilims that are sure to place your baggage allowance for the flight home in jeopardy.

**HASEKİ HAMAM CARPET & KILIM SALES STORE** Map p50 Rugs  
**Haseki Hürrem Hamamı**; ☎ 212-638 0035; **Aya Sofya Square 4**; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm Tue-Sun; ☒ Sultanahmet  
Located in the historic **Baths of Lady Hürrem** (p53), which are worth a visit in their own right, this Ministry of Culture carpet shop sells new carpets replicated from museum pieces. Prices are set and clearly marked, so it's a good place to compare prices.

**COCOON** Map p50 Rugs & Textiles  
☎ 212-638 6271; **Küçük Aya Sofya Caddesi 13, Küçük Aya Sofya**; ☎ 8.30am-7.30pm; ☒ Sultanahmet  
There are so many rug and textile shops in İstanbul that isolating individual stores is usually particularly difficult. We had no problems whatsoever in singling this one out, though. In Cocoon's flagship store, four floors of felt hats and antique costumes and textiles from Central Asia are artfully displayed; its next-door rug outlet sells items from Persia, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Anatolia. The owners here really know their stuff, and most of their sales are international and dealer-based. Put simply, it is one of the most beautiful shops in the city and we love it to bits. There's another, smaller store in the nearby Arasta Bazaar.

**ER & NE & MET** Map p50 Rugs & Textiles  
☎ 212-516 8082; **Küçük Aya Sofya Caddesi 1, Küçük Aya Sofya**; ☎ 9am-9pm; ☒ Sultanahmet  
Need a few rugs for your palazzo? This is where to get them. Specialising in oversized rugs, it stocks a large range of new, old, antique and silk examples of the craft, all of which are top quality.

**MEHMET ÇETİNKAYA GALLERY** Map p50 Rugs & Textiles  
☎ 212-517 6808; **Tavukhane Sokak 7, Küçük Aya Sofya**; ☎ 9.30am-8.30pm; ☒ Sultanahmet  
When rug experts throughout the country meet for their annual shindig, this is where they come to check out the good stuff. You won't find any rubbish here, and you could quite possibly find a family heirloom or two. Just remember: quality never comes cheaply. It has a second shop selling textiles and objects in the Arasta Bazaar.

## A CARPET-BUYER'S PRIMER

There's no right or wrong way to go about buying a carpet when you're in Turkey. There are only two hard-and-fast rules. The first is that you should never feel pressured by anyone to buy – the decision is yours and yours alone. The second is to only ever pay a price that you feel comfortable with. When you return home, you want to do so with a piece that you love and that isn't going to bankrupt you.

A good-quality, long-lasting carpet should be 100% wool (*yüz de yüz yün*): check the warp (the lengthwise yarns), weft (the crosswise yarns) and pile (the vertical yarns knotted into the matrix of warp and weft). Is the wool fine and shiny, with signs of the natural oil? More expensive carpets may be of a silk and wool blend. Cheaper carpets may have warp and weft of mercerised cotton. You can tell by checking the fringes at either end; if the fringe is of cotton or 'floss' (mercerised cotton) you shouldn't pay for wool. Another way to identify the material of the warp and weft is to turn the carpet over and look for the fine, frizzy fibres common to wool, but not to cotton. But bear in mind that just being made of wool doesn't guarantee a carpet's quality. If the dyes and design are ugly, even a 100% woollen carpet can be a bad buy.

Check the closeness of the weave by turning the carpet over and inspecting the back. In general, the tighter the weave and the smaller the knots, the higher the quality and durability of the carpet. The oldest carpets sometimes have thick knots, so consider the number of knots alongside the colours and the quality of the wool.

Compare the colours on the back with those on the front. Spread the nap with your fingers and look at the bottom of the pile. Are the colours brighter there than on the surface? Slight colour variations could occur in older carpets when a new batch of dye was mixed, but richer colour deep in the pile is often an indication that the surface has faded in the sun. Natural dyes don't fade as readily as chemical dyes. There is nothing wrong with chemical dyes, which have a long history of their own, but natural dyes and colours tend to be preferred and therefore fetch higher prices. Don't pay for natural if you're getting chemical.

New carpets can be made to look old, and damaged or worn carpets can be rewoven (good work but expensive), patched or even painted. There is nothing wrong with a dealer offering you a patched or repainted carpet, of course, provided they point out these defects and price the piece accordingly. And note that some red Bukhara carpets (Bukhara is a city region in Uzbekistan) will continue to give off colour, even though they're of better quality than cheap woollen carpets that don't.

When you are examining the carpet, look at it from one end, then from the other. The colours will differ because the pile always leans one way or the other. Take the carpet out into the sunlight and look at it there. Imagine where you might put the carpet at home and how the light will strike it.

It's all very well taking measures such as plucking some fibres and burning them to see if they smell like wool, silk or nylon, or rubbing a wet handkerchief over the carpet to see if the colour comes off, but unless you know what you're doing you're unlikely to learn much from the exercise – and you may well end up with an irate carpet-seller to deal with!

In the end the most important consideration should be whether or not you like the carpet.

## YÖRÜK COLLECTION

Map p50

Rugs & Textiles

☎ 212-511 7766; Yerebatan Caddesi 35-37, Sultanahmet; ☎ 9am-9pm; ☑ Sultanahmet

It's worth entering this shop to see the building. It formerly housed an Ottoman library and has been beautifully restored. It sells rugs, silk, miniatures, textiles, ceramics, jewellery and quirky handmade glass light fittings. For a bit of fun, ask to go upstairs and check out 'Mike's Museum', which is filled with a colourful jumble of rugs, pottery, costumes, tassels, jewellery and textiles.

## TOPKAPI PALACE & AROUND

SOFA Map p63

Art & Antiques

☎ 212-520 2850; Nuruosmaniye Caddesi 85, Cağaloğlu; ☎ 9.30am-7pm Mon-Sat

What a treasure-trove of a shop! As well as its eclectic range of prints, textiles, calligraphy and Ottoman miniatures, Sofa sells contemporary Turkish art. The pricey jewellery made out of antique Ottoman coins and 24-carat gold is particularly alluring.

VAKKO İNDİRİM Map p63

Clothing

Vakko Sale Store; ☎ 212-522 8941; Yenıcamii Caddesi 1/13, Eminönü; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Eminönü

If you've checked out Vakko's style at one of the malls or in Teşvikiye but have concerns about the price tags, this remainder store may be for you. There's a good selection of quality women's and men's clothing, as well as shoes and accessories.

ALİ MUHİDDİN HACI BEKİR

Map p63

Food & Drink

☎ 212-522 0666; Hamidiye Caddesi 83, Eminönü; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Sat, 9am-8pm Sun; ☑ Eminönü

## Pricing & Payment

When it comes to buying, there's no substitute for spending time developing an 'eye' for what you really like. You also need to be realistic about your budget. These days carpets are such big business that true bargains are hard to come by unless there's something (like gigantic size) that makes them hard to sell for their true value. Prices are determined by age, material, quality, condition, demand, the enthusiasm of the buyer and the debt load of the seller. Bear in mind that if you do your shopping on a tour or when accompanied by a guide, the price will have been inflated to include a commission of up to 35% for the tour operator or guide.

It may be wiser to go for something small but of high quality rather than for a room-sized cheapie. And it's worth remembering that kilims (pileless woven rugs) are usually cheaper than carpets. Another way to make your money stretch further is to opt for one of the smaller items made from carpet materials: old camel bags and hanging baby's cradles opened out to make rugs on which food would be eaten, decorative grain bags, even the bags that once held rock salt for animals.

Most dealers prefer to be paid with cash. Most will accept credit cards, but some require you to pay the credit-card company's fee and the cost of the phone call to check your credit-worthiness. They will rarely be participants in the Global Refund Scheme (tax-free shopping; see p132). A few dealers will let you pay in instalments.

All of this is a lot to remember, but it will be worth it if you get a carpet you like at a decent price. You'll have something to take home that will give you pleasure for the rest of your life.

## Beware of the Carpet Bait & Switch

Here's the scenario: you make friends with a charming Turk, or perhaps a Turkish-American/European couple. They recommend a friend's shop, so you go and have a look. There's no pressure to buy. Indeed, your new friends wine and dine you (always in a jolly group with others). Before you leave Istanbul you decide to buy a carpet. You go to the shop, choose one you like and ask the price. So far so good; if you can buy that carpet at a good price, everything's fine. But if the owner strongly urges you to buy a 'better' carpet, more expensive because it's 'old' or 'Persian' or 'rare' or 'makes a good investment', beware. You may return home to find you've paid many times more than it is worth. If the shopkeeper ships the carpet for you, the carpet that arrives may not be the expensive carpet you bought; instead it could be a cheap copy.

To avoid this rip-off, you should choose a carpet, inspect it carefully, then shop around. Compare prices for similar work at other shops, then buy the best-value one: not necessarily the one from your friends' shop. Finally take the carpet with you or ship it yourself; don't have the shopkeeper ship it.

It's best to buy *lokum* (Turkish delight) in specialist shops and you can't find one more specialised than this. The stuff was invented by Ali Muhiddin in the 18th century and it's now sold from this (the original) shop by his descendants. Pre-packed gift boxes range in cost from YTL2.75 to YTL14. There's another store on İstiklal Caddesi in Beyoğlu and one in Kadıköy.

HAFİZ MUSTAFA ŞEKERLEMELERİ

Map p63

Food & Drink

☎ 212-526 5627; Hamidiye Caddesi 84-86, Eminönü; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Sat, 9am-8pm Sun; ☑ Eminönü

Opposite Ali Muhiddin Hacı Bekir (opposite), this shop also sells excellent Turkish delight. You can buy a small bag of freshly made treats to sample, plus gift boxes to take home. Best of all, they're happy to let you taste before buying (within reason, of course). There's also a small *café/börekçi* (above) upstairs.

## BAZAAR DISTRICT

ZİYA AYKAÇ Map p77

Antiques

☎ 212-527 6082; Tekkeçiler Sokak 68-72, Old Bazaar, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazıt

Established in 1910, Ziya Aykaç stocks antique watches, silk prayer rugs, silver jewellery and old porcelain. If you can't find something great to take home, you're just not looking hard enough.

KURUKAHVECİ MEHMET EFENDİ

MAHDUMLARI Map p78

Food & Drink

☎ 212-522 0080; Tahmis Sokak 66, Eminönü; ☎ 9am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat; ☑ Eminönü

Caffeine addicts are regularly spotted queuing outside this, the flagship store of Istanbul's most famous coffee purveyor. You can join them in getting a fix of the freshest beans in town, and also purchase a cute little set of two signature coffee cups and

sauers, a copper coffee pot and a jar of coffee – it's a great gift to take back home.

## ABDULLA NATURAL PRODUCTS

Map p77 Homewares

☎ 212-527 3684; Halıcilar Caddesi 62, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

The first of the Western-style designer stores that are starting to appear in this ancient marketplace, Abdulla sells cotton bed linen, handspun woollen throws from Eastern Turkey, cotton *peştemals* (bath wraps) and pure olive-oil soap. It's all quality stuff, but you do pay a premium. There's another store in the *Fes Café* (p172) in Çemberlitaş.

## DERVİŞ

Map p77 Homewares

☎ 212-514 4525; Keseciler Caddesi 33-35, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

The owner of this shop was in partnership with the crew at Abdulla Natural Products before striking out on his own and he is selling almost identical stock, though with a greater emphasis on village textiles. It's a great place to pick up a souvenir hamam bowl, a felt rug or pair of slippers, cotton and silk towels or dowry shirts in silk or cotton. There's another store at Halıcilar Caddesi 51.

## AK GÜMÜS

Map p77 Jewellery

☎ 212-527 6648; Gani Çelebi Sokak 8, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

Lapis lazuli has a long history, including being used as a gemstone in Mesopotamia and as a finely ground pigment in top-quality Ottoman-era miniatures and calligraphy. Here at Ak Gümüş, the deep-blue stone features in a wide array of jewellery.

## MILANO GÜZELİŞ

Map p77 Jewellery

☎ 212-527 6648; Kalpakçılar Caddesi 103, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

We've received a number of enthusiastic recommendations of this shop from travellers, meaning that we're confident in recommending this long-established store in the bazaar's main street. It makes jewellery to order using every gold grade and every conceivable gem, precious or otherwise.

## NECEF

Map p77 Jewellery

☎ 212-513 0372; Şerifağa Sokak 123, Old Bazaar, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

This is where to come for a gorgeous Byzantine-style piece of jewellery in gold or silver with semiprecious stones. The earrings and rings are particularly elegant and are very well priced when one considers their quality. It also sells antique pieces.

## KOÇ DERİ

Map p77 Leather

☎ 212-527 5553; Kürkçüler Çarşısı 22-46, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 8.30am-8pm; ☑ Beyazit

If you fancy a leather jacket or coat, Koç is bound to have something that suits.

It's one of the bazaar's busiest stores and certainly the most stylish of the leather outlets here.

## KÜÇÜK KÖŞE

Map p77 Leather Handbags

Little Corner; ☎ 212-513 0335; Kalpakçılar Caddesi 89-91, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

If you've always wanted a Kelly or Birkin but can't afford Hermès, this place is for you. Its copies of the work of the big-gun designers are good quality and they're a lot more affordable than the originals. The next-door store, Pako, is owned by the same people.

## DHOKU

Map p77 Rugs

☎ 212-527 6841; Tekkeçiler Sokak 58-60, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

One of the new generation of rug stores opening in the bazaar, Dhoku (texture) sells artfully designed wool kilims in resolutely modernist designs. Its sister store, *EthniCon* (Tekkeçiler Sokak, Grand Bazaar), sells similarly stylish rugs in vivid colours and can be said to have started the current craze in contemporary kilims. Brits may have seen some of this store's products in the Conran Shop.

## ŞİŞKO OSMAN

Map p77 Rugs

☎ 212-528 3548; Zincirli Han 15, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

The Osmans have been in the rug business for four generations and are rated by many as the best dealers in the bazaar. Certainly, their stock is a cut above many of their competitors. Most of the rugs on sale are dowry pieces and all have been hand woven and coloured with vegetable dyes. There's another store at Halıcilar Caddesi 49.

## YÖRÜK

Map p77 Rugs

☎ 212-527 3211; Kürkçüler Çarşısı 16, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

This narrow store has a selection of top-quality rugs from the Caucasus and Central Asia, most of them dowry pieces. The owners are friendly and knowledgeable – best of all, they refrain from the hard sell.

## MEHMET KALMAZ BAHAİRATÇI

Map p78 Spices & Tonics

☎ 212-522 6604; Spice Bazaar 41, Eminönü; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Eminönü

One of the few shops in the *Spice Bazaar* (Mısır Çarşısı; p76) that specialises in po-

tions and lotions, this old-fashioned place sells remedies to make women younger, others to make men stronger, and a royal love potion that, we guess, is supposed to combine the two. It also stocks spices, bath accessories, teas and medicinal herbs.

## ANTIQUÉ OBJET

Map p77 Textiles

☎ 212-526 7451; Zenneciler Caddesi 48-50, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

The cute embroidered slippers sold here make great gifts for friends and family, and the *suzani* (needlework) pieces are the stuff that we all like to treat ourselves to once in a while. You'll need to rummage, as this place is jam-packed.

## AZAD TEKSTİL

Map p77 Textiles

☎ 212-512 4202; Yağlıklar Caddesi 16, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

Simple but stylish cotton bedspreads, tablecloths and *peştemals* (hamam towels) are sold at bargain prices at this busy store. Check out the range here before buying up big at *Derviş* (opposite) or *Abdullah Natural Products* (opposite).

## MUHLİS GÜNBATTI

Map p77 Textiles

☎ 212-511 6562; Parçaçılar Sokak 48, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

One of the most famous stores in the bazaar, Muhlîs Günbattî specialises in *suzani* fabrics from Uzbekistan. These spectacularly beautiful bedspreads, tablecloths and wall hangings are made from fine cotton embroidered with silk. As well as the textiles, it stocks top-quality carpets, brightly coloured kilims and a small range of antique Ottoman fabrics richly embroidered with gold. Its second shop at *Tevkiffane Sokak* (Map p50) in Sultanahmet sells a wider range of costumes at truly stratospheric prices.

## SEMERKAND SUZANİ

Map p77 Textiles

☎ 212-526 2269; Yağlıklar Caddesi, Astarçı Han 25, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

If you fancy the idea of swanning around at home wearing an old kaftan from Uzbekistan or a dowry shirt from Anatolia, this is where you can source them. There are caps, fabrics and lots of lovely pieces to choose from.

## DELİ KIZIN YERİ JUNIOR

Map p77 Toys

☎ 212-511 1914; Halıcilar Caddesi 42, Grand Bazaar; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Beyazit

## MAKING A LIVING IN THE GRAND BAZAAR

İlhan Güzelîş is the owner and chief designer at *Milano Güzelîş* (above), a well-known jewellery store in the Grand Bazaar. The family-owned business was established by his great-grandfather in Mardin, in Turkey's southeast, and his father moved it to Istanbul in 1957. At that time there were fewer than 10 jewellery stores in the bazaar – these days 1500 of the bazaar's 4000 shops sell jewellery and the surrounding streets are littered with jewellery workshops. İlhan began learning his trade from his father when he was seven years old, but he fears that his own sons won't be following in his footsteps – it's hard to make a good living from individually designed and handcrafted jewellery these days due to competition from glitzy mega-stores and malls, which sell relatively inexpensive mass-produced jewellery. He fears that the days of jewellers and their customers interacting over individual pieces are about to end.

One aspect of the bazaar that İlhan likes to discuss is its cultural and religious diversity. He points out that Muslims and Christians have always worked together harmoniously here, and that most of the diamonds the jewellers use are supplied by Jewish diamond traders. İlhan himself is a member of the Assyrian Orthodox Church – in Istanbul, half of the church's 15,000 members are involved in the jewellery business. Like many of the bazaar's shopkeepers he speaks a number of languages (in his case Turkish, English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic), but he and around 50% of his fellow Assyrian Christians can also speak Aramaic, one of the world's oldest languages.

İlhan will stay on in the bazaar for as long as he can keep on making a good livelihood and paying his rent. This is calculated separately for each store according to how much space the store occupies and where it is – all of the stores on Kalpakçilar Caddesi, where Milano Güzelîş is located, pay hefty rents because their street is perhaps the busiest in the bazaar. The rent is paid in gold (which seems particularly appropriate for jeweller tenants!), and can cost anywhere between half a kilogram to 8kg of the precious metal per year.

In Turkish, the name of this shop is 'The Crazy Lady's Place'. There's nothing nutty about buying the wonderful toys sold here, though. Dolls, marionettes, hand puppets and cute clothes are on offer, all featuring Anatolian motifs, materials and designs. Perfect gifts for the little ones in your life.

### EKİNCİOĞLU TOYS & GIFTS Map p78 Toys

☎ 212-522 6220; Kalın Sokak 5, Eminönü; ☎ 9am-7pm; ☑ Eminönü

If your junior travelling companion's behaviour is on the skids and some urgent bribery is called for, this place should provide the answer.

## GALATA & TOPHANE

### İSTANBUL MODERN GIFT SHOP

Map p103 Souvenirs & Gifts

☎ 212-334 7300; Meclis-i Mebusan Caddesi, Karaköy; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Wed & Fri-Sun, 10am-8pm Thu; ☑ Tophane

Sometimes it can be difficult to source well-priced souvenirs to take home to one's nearest and dearest. Fortunately the gift shop at this top-notch contemporary art gallery sells desirable items aplenty – niftily designed T-shirts, CDs, coffee mugs, home-wares and jewellery are on offer, as are cute gifts for kids. We particularly like the paint-your-own T-shirts, painting sets and stationery.

## İSTIKLAL & AROUND

### ANADOL ANTİK Map p107 Art & Antiques

☎ 212-251 5228; Turnacıbaşı Sokak 65, Çukurcuma; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

Fancy a wooden door from an Ottoman house? Or perhaps a ceramic-clad wood stove? This cavernous shop is filled with a hodgepodge of curios and collectables. If you brave the dust and the dim lights you just might find yourself a treasure.

### ARTRİUM Map p107 Art & Antiques

☎ 212-251 4302; Tünel Square 7; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Karaköy then funicular to Tünel

This Aladdin's cave of a shop is crammed with antique ceramics, Ottoman miniature paintings, maps, prints and jewellery. It also has occasional pieces of Ottoman cloth-

ing and fabric. If you're after anything in particular, ask the owner, as she'll be happy to rummage upstairs in the storage area where excess stock is kept. Pricey but nice.

### GALERİ ALFA Map p107 Art & Antiques

☎ 212-251 1672; Faikpaşa Sokak 47, Çukurcuma; ☎ 11am-5.30pm; ☑ Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

What makes this store special is its range of charming toy Ottoman soldiers and court figures – even Süleyman the Magnificent has been shrunk to 10cm tall. It also stocks old maps and prints.

### HİKMET + PİNAR Map p107 Art & Antiques

☎ 212-293 0575; Faikpaşa Yokuşu 36A, Çukurcuma; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

An opulently decorated store filled to the brim with top-class Ottoman-era furniture, mirrors, glassware, textiles and paintings, Hikmet + Pinar is the type of place you enter only if you're ready to spend the cash equivalent of a second mortgage. We bet they furnish more than their fair share of Istanbul mansions.

### ŞAMDAN Map p107 Art & Antiques

☎ 212-245 4445; Altıpatlar Sokak 20, Çukurcuma; ☎ 11am-5.30pm; ☑ Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

Located on one of Beyoğlu's main antique strips, this small shop stocks quality antique furniture, china and glassware, specialising in Ottoman and Art Deco pieces.

### DENİZLER KİTABEVİ

Map p107 Antique Books, Maps & Prints

☎ 212-249 8893; İstiklal Caddesi 395; ☎ 9.30am-7.30pm; ☑ Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

A charmingly eccentric shop specialising in old maps and books, Denizler Kitabevi also stocks antique prints and quirky chess sets with different historical figures.

### HOMER KİTABEVİ Map p107 Books

☎ 212-249 5902; Yeniçarşısı Caddesi 28/A, Galatasaray; ☎ 10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat;

☑ Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

Homer has an excellent selection of history, architecture and art books – all about Turkey and Istanbul and all in English. It also has a large range of English-language fiction.

### İSTANBUL KİTAPÇISI Map p107 Books

☎ 212-292 7692; İstiklal Caddesi 379; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat, 11am-7pm Sun; ☑ Karaköy then funicular to Tünel

This bookshop is run by the municipality and as a consequence prices are very reasonable. It stocks some English-language books about Istanbul, and a good range of maps, CDs, postcards and prints.

### PANDORA Map p107 Books

☎ 212-243 3503; Büyükparmakkapı Sokak 3, off İstiklal Caddesi; ☎ 10am-8pm Sun-Thu, 10am-10pm Fri & Sat; ☑ Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

Unreconstructed lefties and self-confessed postmodernists are equally at home in this excellent bookshop. Though most of the stock is in Turkish, there are a fair few titles in English, including novels, guidebooks, histories, and art and politics texts. If you can't find what you're looking for on the ground floor, climb two floors up.

### ROBINSON CRUSOE Map p107 Books

☎ 212-293 6968; İstiklal Caddesi 389; ☎ 9am-9.30pm Mon-Sat, 10am-9.30pm Sun; ☑ Karaköy then funicular to Tünel

There are few more pleasant fates than being marooned here for an hour or so. With its classy décor, good magazine selection and wide range of English-language novels and books about Istanbul, it's one of the best bookshops around. Staff speak English and know their books.

### BEYOĞLU HALI EVİ Map p107 Ceramics

☎ 212-293 9990; İstiklal Caddesi 388; ☎ 9am-8pm; ☑ Karaköy then funicular to Tünel

The ceramics on sale here aren't of the highest quality, but they're well priced and worthy of a browse. Tea glasses and copies of Ottoman originals are the best bets.

### ART.I.CHOKE Map p107 Clothing

☎ 212-293 7410; Faikpaşa Sokak 4, Çukurcuma; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

Some places are as much art gallery as they are shop, and art.i.choke is most certainly one of them. A shrine to the wonderful art of felt, it creates and sells unique objects made from the fuzzy stuff. The clothes, slippers, cushions, shawls and rugs on offer here are truly exquisite. If there's no-one in the shop, try the upstairs studio.

### BİS Map p107 Clothing

☎ 212-292 292 9700; Aznavur Pasajı 212-213, Galatasaray; ☎ 9am-7pm; ☑ Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

Its good line in funky urban wear, including clubbing wear, makes Bis a favourite with bright young things. There's another store at Çukurcuma (Hayriye Sokak 18A).

### LEYLA SEYHANLI Map p107 Clothing

☎ 212-293 7410; Altıpatlar Sokak 10, Cihangir; ☎ 10am-7pm; ☑ Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

If you love old clothes, you'll adore Leyla Seyhanlı's boutique. Filled to the brim with piles of Ottoman embroidery and outfits, it's a rummager's delight. It stocks everything from 1890s cashmere and velvet coats to 1950s taffeta party frocks to silk-embroidery cushion covers that would have been at home in the Dolmabahçe Palace linen cupboard.

### MAVİ JEANS Map p107 Clothing

☎ 212-293 4332; İstiklal Caddesi 91; ☎ 10am-10pm; ☑ Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

The dress code of choice for Istanbul's youth is a pair of worn jeans (usually tight and low-slung) and a fair percentage of these would have been purchased from local company Mavi. Among the most popular ranges are those designed by internationally recognised fashion designer, Rifat Özbek. Prices are at least half of those of foreign imports. There are other branches at İstiklal Caddesi 195 and 425.

### SEDEF ÇALARKAN Map p107 Clothing

☎ 212-292 5948; Hayriye Sokak 2, Çukurcuma; ☎ 11am-5pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

Here you'll find a fabulously funky range of T-shirts and leather bags decorated with images of sultans. We were particularly taken with the design featuring Murad III wearing a Bluetooth headset!

### MUDO PERA Map p107 Clothing & Gifts

☎ 212-251 8682; İstiklal Caddesi 401; ☎ 10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Karaköy then funicular to Tünel

Housed on the bottom two floors of an Art Nouveau building, the interior of this boutique is all gleaming wood and cunning lighting – very 1920s Pera. It stocks good-quality clothing made from cashmere,

cotton and silks, as well as an eclectic range of gifts and tableware. There's another store in [Teşvikiye Caddesi](#) (Map p115).

**AMBAR** Map p107 Food & Drink  
☎ 212-292 9272; Kallavi Sokak 12; ☎ 9am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, 12.30-7.30pm Sun; 🚶 Karaköy then funicular to Tünel

This small organic-produce store smells as good as it looks. It stocks free-range eggs, tofu, soy milk and other health foods, as well as a range of stylish earthenware pottery and quality olive-oil soap.

**LA CAVE WINE SHOP** Map p107 Food & Drink  
La Cave Şarap Evi; ☎ 212-243 2405; Siraselviler Caddesi 207, Cihangir; ☎ 9am-9pm; 🚶 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

Its enormous selection of local and imported wine makes La Cave a good stop for tipplers. The staff can tell a Chablis from a Chardonnay and will be happy to give advice on the best Turkish bottles to add to your cellar.

**PAŞABAĞÇE** Map p107 Glassware  
☎ 212-244 0544; İstiklal Caddesi 314; ☎ 10am-8pm; 🚶 Karaköy then funicular to Tünel  
Established in 1957, this local firm manufactures excellent glassware from its factory on the Bosphorus. Three floors of glassware, vases and decanters feature here and prices are very reasonable. Styles are both traditional and contemporary.

**MOR TAKI** Map p107 Jewellery  
☎ 212-292 8817; Turnacıbaşı Sokak 16, off İstiklal Caddesi; ☎ 10.30am-8.30pm Mon-Sat; 🚶 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim  
The gals of this city love their jewellery, and this funky little store keeps many of their collections topped up with costume pieces by local designers.

**LALE PLAK** Map p107 Music  
☎ 212-293 7739; Galipdede Caddesi 1, Tünel; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; 🚶 Karaköy then funicular to Tünel

This small shop is crammed with CDs of jazz, Western classical and Turkish classical and folk music. It's a popular hang-out for local bohemian types.

**MEPHISTO** Map p107 Music  
☎ 212-249 0687; İstiklal Caddesi 197; ☎ 9am-midnight; 🚶 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim

If you manage to develop a taste for local music while you're in town, this popular store is the place to indulge it. As well as a huge CD collection of Turkish popular music, there's a select range of Turkish folk, jazz and classical music.

**ELVIS** Map p107 Musical Instruments  
☎ 212-293 8752; Galipdede Caddesi 35; Tünel; ☎ 10am-6pm; 🚶 Karaköy then funicular to Tünel  
If you thought Elvis was hiding in the Bahamas, you're wrong. He's here, selling a good range of traditional stringed instruments.

**A LA TURCA** Map p107 Rugs  
☎ 212-245 2933; Faikpaşa Sokak 4, Çukurcuma; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat; 🚶 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim  
If you fancy an antique Anatolian kilim to brighten up your home (and who doesn't?) A la Turca may be the place to get it. In the trendy Çukurcuma district, which is one of the best areas in the city to browse for antiques and curios, its small but interesting selection of stock is certainly worth a second or third look.

**İPEK** Map p107 Silk  
☎ 212-249 8207; İstiklal Caddesi 120; ☎ 9am-6pm; 🚶 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim  
The silk ties and scarves sold at this long-established store make great presents, as they don't take up much of your baggage allowance and are keenly priced. Check out the colourful scarves featuring Ottoman calligraphy.

**İYİGÜN OYUNCAK** Map p107 Toys  
☎ 212-243 8910; İstiklal Caddesi 415; ☎ 9am-9pm; 🚶 Karaköy then funicular to Tünel  
These guys know what little kids like. And unlike the other stores in town, stock isn't dominated by toy weapons. There's everything from Brio to Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, with a few educational parent-pleasers thrown in for good measure.

## TAKSİM, HARBIYE & NİŞANTAŞI

The city's serious shoppers gravitate towards the upmarket suburbs of Teşvikiye and Nişantaşı, about 2km north of Taksim Square. This is where international fashion and design

## MARKETS & MALLS

With one foot planted in the East and another in the West, Istanbul's shopping has more than its fair share of contradictions: ritzy shopping plazas dot posh suburbs, while the mass of shoppers elbow for goods at the weekly street markets.

### Street Markets

On Tuesday there is a massive market in Kadıköy, on the Asian side: the [Salı Pazarı](#) (Map p127). The cheapest clothes in town are on sale here, so if you've been on the road for a while and your underwear needs replenishing, this is the place to do it! To get there, get off the ferry and move straight ahead along the major boulevard of Söğütözü Caddesi for about 500m until you come to a busy intersection, Altıyol Square. Cross over, take the right fork and continue eastward along Kuşdili Caddesi for another 250m (three cross streets). At Hasircıbaşı Caddesi turn left and you'll see the tent-city market spread out before you. It's open between 8am and 6pm. On Sunday the market is taken over by stall-keepers selling a motley collection of antiques, furniture and jewellery.

On Saturday and Sunday the laneways around the waterfront mosque in Ortaköy host a flea market. Merchandise is tacky – most seems to come from the Subcontinent and Africa and is found in flea markets worldwide – and the handicrafts on offer are firmly in the hippy camp, but it's still a pleasant stop to while away a weekend hour or two.

On Wednesday the grounds, courtyard and surrounding streets of the [Fatih Camii](#) (p95) in the Western Districts host the [Fatih Pazarı](#), a great market selling fresh produce, clothes and household items.

### Malls

Western-style mall culture has well and truly taken off on Istanbul.

The ritzy [Kanyon](#) (☎ 212-353 5300; www.kanyon.com.tr; Büyükdere Caddesi 185, Levent; ☎ 10am-10pm; 🚶 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim then metro to Levent) is home to multinational names such as Harvey Nichols, Wagamama, Georg Jensen, Le Pain Quotidien, Birkenstock, Mango and Mandarina Duck. It also has a few locally based stores, including Vakko, Ottoman Empire (funky T-shirts screen-printed with Ottoman influenced motifs) and Remzi Kitabevi (an excellent chain bookstore with a big English-language selection).

Next door is [Metrocity](#) (☎ 212-344 0660; www.metrocity.com.tr in Turkish; Büyükdere Caddesi 171, Levent; ☎ 10am-10pm; 🚶 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim then metro to Levent), which isn't anywhere near as glam as Kanyon but is still extremely popular. It hosts high-street labels such as Zara, Benetton, Nike, Levi's and Mavi Jeans.

These two malls are large, but they're nowhere near the size of the massive [Cevahir](#) (☎ 212-380 0893/4; www.istanbulcevahir.com in Turkish; Büyükdere Caddesi 22, Şişli; ☎ 10am-10pm; 🚶 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim then metro to Şişli), which advertises itself as Europe's largest mall. It's home to many of the same stores that you'll find in Metrocity and Akmerkez, as well as familiar UK-based outlets such as Topshop and Miss Selfridge.

Once the jewel in the shopping crown, [Akmerkez](#) (☎ 212-282 0170; www.akmerkez.com.tr; Nispetiye Caddesi, Etiler; ☎ 10am-10pm; 🚶 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim then bus 559C to Etiler) has lost some of its shine, but it still boasts an impressive array of shops, including Beyman, Vakko, Zara, Mothercare and Remzi Kitabevi.

labels have traditionally set up shop (though some are now decamping to Kanyon, see [above](#)) and where top-drawer local designers show off their creations.

### GÖNÜL PAKSOY Map p115 Clothing

☎ 212-261 9081; Atiye Sokak 6/A & 1/3, Teşvikiye; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat; 🚶 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim then metro to Osmanbey  
Paksoy creates and sells pieces that transcend fashion and step into art. She works in a number of forms, and these two shops stock her distinctive silk and cotton knits, jewellery based on traditional Ottoman designs, and silk and cotton clothing in rich fabrics with feature trimming.

### VAKKO Map p115 Clothing & Gifts

☎ 212-251 4092; Adilpeçki Caddesi, Nişantaşı; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Sat; 🚶 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim then metro to Osmanbey  
Istanbul's most famous boutique department store stocks a quality range of clothing for men and women, fabrics, shoes, homewares and scarves made from Bursa silk. It even produces its own perfume and chocolate.

### YARGICI Map p115 Clothing & Gifts

☎ 212-225 2952; Vali Konağı Caddesi 30, Teşvikiye; ☎ 9.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, 1-6pm Sun; 🚶 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim then metro to Osmanbey

Whether they're aged 15 or 50, Istanbul's men and women love buying clothes, toiletries and accessories at Yargıcı. The clothes are affordable high-street styles that are made in Turkey and the accessories are so good they're exported internationally.

**SEMA PAKSOY** Map p115 Jewellery

☎ 212-241 5533; **Atiye Sokak 9, Teşvikiye;**

🕒 10am-7pm Mon-Sat; 🚏 Kabataş then funicular to Taksim then metro to Osmanbey

If your jewellery is more statement than investment, Sema Paksoy is your woman. Her chunky pieces crafted from antique silver and semiprecious stones are Ottoman-

inspired and lovely. They're pricey but worth it.

## KADIKÖY

### GREENHOUSE BOOKSHOP CAFE

Map p127

Books & Toys

**Sera Kitapevi Kafe;** ☎ 216-550 4961/2; **Moda Caddesi 28;** 🕒 10am-6.30pm Mon & Wed-Sat;

📍 Kadıköy

This friendly bookshop stocks the city's best range of books in English about Istanbul and Turkey. There's a huge kids section and a decent fiction section. It's where most of the expats in the know buy their reading matter.