

## lonely planet Hotels & Hostels

Want more Sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to [lonelyplanet.com/hotels](https://lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

## SLEEPING

### top picks

- **Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul** (p199) Top luxury hotel
- **Hotel Empress Zoe** (p200) Top Ottoman boutique hotel
- **Hotel Nomade** (p201) Top budget boutique hotel
- **Hotel Peninsula** (p202) Top cheap sleep
- **İstanbul Holiday Apartments** (p206) Top apartments
- **Tria Hotel İstanbul** (p200) Top mid-range option
- **Hotel Şebnem** (p201) Top value for money
- **Eklektik Guest House** (p206) Top gay-friendly sleep
- **Leb-i Derya Richmond** (at the Richmond Hotel; p176)  
Top hotel bar



and we're confident that guests will be more than happy with this comfortable mid-sized hotel. In a painstakingly restored Ottoman wooden house, the interior features exquisitely painted ceilings and custom-designed wooden furniture throughout. Rooms, which have four-star amenities, are extremely comfortable, sporting a gold and russet-red colour scheme that gives a sense of luxury. Those with sea views cost a little bit extra. There's a lift, a roof terrace with Sea of Marmara and Blue Mosque views, and a charming breakfast café. Best of all, levels of service are extremely high.

### SARI KONAK OTELI

Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-638 6258; [www.istanbulhotelsarikonak.com](http://www.istanbulhotelsarikonak.com); Mimar Mehmet Ağa Caddesi 42-46, Cankurtaran; r standard/deluxe €89/129, ste €149-219; ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒; ☒ Sultanahmet

The type of place that could fit just as easily in Washington as in this city of sultans, the Sari Konak is a truly classy joint. The spacious deluxe rooms are beautifully decorated with soothing colour schemes, top-notch linens and attractive prints, embroideries and etchings on the walls; try and snaffle number 303, which is pretty as a picture. The standard rooms are considerably smaller, but are just as attractive, and the suites are total knockouts – perfect for families. Guests enjoy relaxing on the roof terrace with its Sea of Marmara and Blue Mosque views, but seem to be equally partial to hanging out in the downstairs lounge and courtyard.

### HOTEL EMPRESS ZOE

Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-518 2504; [www.emzoe.com](http://www.emzoe.com); Adliye Sokak 10, Cankurtaran; s €85, d €100-135; ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒; ☒ Sultanahmet

Named after the feisty Byzantine Empress whose portrait adorns the gallery at Aya Sofya, this fabulous place is owned and managed by American Ann Nevens and her sister Cristina, who really know their stuff when it comes to running a hotel. The prototype for 'Cankurtaran Modern', the now almost ubiquitous decorative style utilised in myriad Sultanahmet boutique hotels, the Empress Zoe is unusual in that it is constantly being changed and improved – hence the recent opening of the stylish

Maison Zoe and Villa Zoe garden suites (€225 to €250). These join the Chez Zoe garden suites (€150 to €200) in overlooking a gorgeous flower-filled garden where breakfast is served. Equally fabulous is Room 42, which has a private terrace and views over the Sea of Marmara (€135). All rooms are individually and charmingly decorated, and although some rooms in the main building are tiny, these are available at discounted rates (s/d €60/70). The rooftop lounge-terrace has excellent views.

### HOTEL TURKOMAN

Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-516 2956; [www.turkomanhotel.com](http://www.turkomanhotel.com); Asmalı Çeşme Sokak 2, Binbirdirek; s €79, d €99-139; ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒; ☒ Sultanahmet

You'll feel as if you've booked into a private club when you walk into the Turkoman. In a fantastic position up the hill a few steps off the Hippodrome, this renovated 19th-century building features rooms that are simply but tastefully decorated with kilims, reproduction antique furniture and brass beds. Ask for room 4A, which has a balcony and Blue Mosque view. The roof terrace has good views.

### TRIA HOTEL İSTANBUL

Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-518 4518; [www.triahotelistanbul.com](http://www.triahotelistanbul.com); Turbiyık Sokak 7, Cankurtaran; standard s/d €75/95, deluxe s/d €100/120; ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒; ☒ Sultanahmet

The old adage that handsome is as handsome does certainly applies to the Tria. This totally terrific hotel opened in 2007 and has already built a formidable reputation for its service and style. Extremely comfortable rooms offer tea-and-coffee making equipment, satellite TV, work desk and large bed; all are attractively decorated with polished floorboards, silk curtains, embroidered bedspreads and objets d'art. There's a comfortable lounge on the ground floor and a wonderful roof terrace furnished with cane armchairs and huge umbrellas – a perfect spot to view the Sea of Marmara, Aya Sofya and the Blue Mosque.

### HOTEL DAPHNE

Map p50 Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-638 7060; [www.hoteldaphne.com](http://www.hoteldaphne.com); Su Terazisi Sokak 10, Binbirdirek; standard s/d €75/95, deluxe s/d €100/120; ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒; ☒ Sultanahmet

A hop, skip and jump away from the Hippodrome and close to the **Grand Bazaar** (p76),

this small hotel is particularly notable for its lovely roof terrace, which has great Sea of Marmara views. Rooms have a pretty décor in shades of burnished orange and emerald green – ask for one with a sea view. Bathrooms are large (with baths), which is a definite plus, but some of the air-con units can be noisy – ask to check this out before you unpack.

### HOTEL ARARAT

Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-516 0411; [www.ararathotel.com](http://www.ararathotel.com); Torun Sokak 3, Cankurtaran; r €75-95, ste €110; ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒; ☒ Sultanahmet

Another hotel decorated by Nikos Papadakis, who did such an inspired job with the initial rooms at the **Empress Zoe** (opposite), the Ararat is tiny, but its charming host Haydar Sarigul and cosy rooftop terrace-bar in the shadow of the Blue Mosque make it a popular choice. Dark wooden floors, textile bedspreads and clever space-enhancing mirrors are the decorative hallmarks; quality linen and homemade *börek* (savoury pastry) for breakfast are quality touches. It's not worth paying the extra euros for a view, particularly as the two terrace rooms are the smallest in the hotel.

### HOTEL NOMADE

Map p50 Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-513 8172; [www.hotelnomade.com](http://www.hotelnomade.com); Ticarethane Sokak 15, Alemdar; s/d €70/85; ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒; ☒ Sultanahmet

Mega style and budget pricing don't often go together, but the Nomade bucks the trend. A few years ago the owners brought in French designer Dan Beranger to give the place a total overhaul and all we can say is 'ooh la la'. Just a few steps off busy Divan Yolu, the hotel's 16 small rooms and three suites are très, très chic, with great bathrooms, stylish bedlinen and satellite TV. With one of the best roof-terrace bars in town (smack-bang in front of Aya Sofya) and a Philippe Stark feel, this place is about as hip as Sultanahmet gets.

### HOTEL UYAN İSTANBUL

Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-518 9255; [www.uyanhotel.com](http://www.uyanhotel.com); Utangaç Sokak 25, Cankurtaran; s €50, d standard/deluxe €99/130; ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒; ☒ Sultanahmet

The Uyan is in a close race with the **Tria Hotel** (opposite), **Tan Otel** (p204) and **Ottoman Hotel Imperial** (p204) for the title of best new

midrange addition to the Old City's sleeping scene. Like its competitors, it offers comfortable and attractive rooms with a good range of amenities and high levels of service. The extremely elegant décor nods towards the Ottoman style, but never goes over the top – everyone will feel comfortable here. The view from the spacious roof terrace is one of the best in the area.

### ARTEFES HOTEL

Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-516 5863; [www.artefes.com](http://www.artefes.com); Çayıroğlu Sokak 25, Küçük Aya Sofya; s €50-60, d €70-80; ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒; ☒ Sultanahmet

A large wooden house adorned with flower-filled window boxes, the Artefes is almost a prototype of a safe midrange accommodation choice. It offers clean, sun-drenched rooms featuring amenities such as satellite TV and hairdryer. The foyer and roof terrace are impressive and the location is blissfully quiet.

### HOTEL ŞEBNEM

Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-517 6623; [www.sebnemhotel.net](http://www.sebnemhotel.net); Adliye Sokak 1, Cankurtaran; s €50, d €65-75; ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒; ☒ Sultanahmet

Simplicity is the rule at the Şebnem, and it works a treat. Run by a wonderfully friendly young team, its rooms have rose-pink walls, wooden floors and extremely comfortable canopy beds. Stylish linen and framed Ottoman prints provide a touch of class. The large terrace upstairs has views over the Sea of Marmara (as do the more expensive double rooms), and the downstairs rooms, though a tad dark, have a private courtyard garden. All of this, plus one of the best breakfast spreads in Sultanahmet, mean that this place is hard to beat.

### HOTEL POEM

Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-638 9744; [www.hotelpoem.com](http://www.hotelpoem.com); Terbiyık Sokak 12; s/d €45/70; ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒; ☒ Sultanahmet

Many guests end up waxing lyrical about their stays in this cute hotel. Rooms are named after poems by well-known Turkish poets, and the tranquil rear garden is a perfect spot to linger over an anthology and a glass of tea. Book into the 'All of a Sudden' room (€130) and you'll be able to sit

on a private balcony looking towards the Princes' Islands; score 'Listening to Istanbul' (€130) and you'll appreciate its large windows, sea views and king-sized bed. Other rooms are on the small side and lack style, but they're clean and have amenities such as satellite TV and hairdryer. There's also a terrace with good views.

**HOTEL HALI** Map p50 Hotel €€  
☎ 212-516 2170; [www.halihotel.com](http://www.halihotel.com); Klodfarer Caddesi 20, Çemberlitaş; s/d €45/70; ☒ ☑ ☑; ☒ Sultanahmet

All the rugs in Turkey couldn't hide this hotel's institutional feel. That said, it's worth considering due to its roof terrace, which has amazing views, its huge bathrooms and its quiet position. Third- and 4th-floor rooms have views of the Sea of Marmara and Aya Sofya.

**HOTEL ALP GUESTHOUSE** Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
☎ 212-517 7067; [www.alpguesthouse.com](http://www.alpguesthouse.com); Adliye Sokak 4, Cankurtaran; s/d/f €45/65/90; ☒ ☑ ☑; ☒ Sultanahmet

The Alp lives up to its location in Sultanahmet's premier small-hotel enclave, offering a range of attractive and well-equipped rooms at reasonable prices. Rooms have four-poster beds with white linen and gold hangings, wooden floorboards scattered with rugs, and extras such as satellite TV and work desks. The spacious front rooms are the pick of the bunch (ask for 301 or 401) because though some rear rooms have sea views, they also look onto the minaret of a local mosque, meaning that early-morning noise can be a problem. The roof terrace is lovely, with great sea views and comfortable indoor and outdoor set-ups.

**HOTEL SULTAN'S INN** Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
☎ 212-638 2562; [www.sultansinn.com](http://www.sultansinn.com); Mustafa Paşa Sokak 50, Küçük Aya Sofya; s €35-70, d €50-100; ☒ ☑ ☑; ☒ Sultanahmet

One of a growing number of good-value, reasonably stylish hotels in the Küçük Aya Sofya area, the Sultan's Inn is a safe if uninspired choice. The well-equipped rooms are pretty but small, and bathrooms could do with a lavish application of antimould agent. The roof terrace is home to flowerpots and plants galore; it's a lovely spot for breakfast. The owners also run

the nearby **Naz Wooden House** and **Deniz Konak** hotels; rooms at these are slightly more comfortable and attractive than those on offer here (they're also a tad more expensive), but neither of their roof terraces are as impressive.

**HANEDAN HOTEL** Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
☎ 212-516 4869; [www.hanedanhotel.com](http://www.hanedanhotel.com); Adliye Sokak 3, Cankurtaran; s/d/f €35/55/75; ☒ ☑ ☑; ☒ Sultanahmet

Recent renovation works have endowed this small and very clean hotel with the ubiquitous 'Cankurtaran aesthetic', and it's very pleasant as a result. Pale lemon walls and polished wooden floors give the rooms a light and elegant feel, as do the white marble bathrooms (with hairdryer) and the firm beds covered with crisp white linen. The huge Byzantium Room with its Sea of Marmara views is perfect for families. A pleasant roof terrace overlooks the sea and Aya Sofya.

**HOTEL PENINSULA** Map p50 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
☎ 212-458 6850; [www.hotelpeninsula.com](http://www.hotelpeninsula.com); Adliye Sokak 6, Cankurtaran; s/d €35/45; ☒ ☑ ☑; ☒ Sultanahmet

The management of this unassuming hotel could quite possibly be the friendliest we've ever encountered. And we're talking friendly in a good, non-pushy, we-really-like-meeting-people type of way, not the hi-I'm-your-new-best-friend-please-visit-my-carpet-shop type of way. There are 12 simple but comfortable rooms that are slated for renovation in the near future, as well as a lovely terrace with sea views and comfortable hammocks. We like the breakfast room with its traditional low stools and brass tables and we love the fact that the owner's mum makes cakes, jam and yogurt for everyone's breakfast. Great value.

**SİDE HOTEL & PENSION** Map p50 Hotel & Apartments €€  
☎ 212-517 2282; [www.sidehotel.com](http://www.sidehotel.com); Utangaç Sokak 20, Cankurtaran; hotel s/d €45/60, pension s/d without bathroom €25/35, pension s/d with bathroom €35/45, 4-person apt €80-95; ☒ ☑ ☑ ☑; ☒ Sultanahmet

A sprawling place that has built a reputation for providing cheap, clean and comfortable rooms, the Side has hotel rooms

with TV and en suite; pension rooms with shared or private bathrooms; and fully equipped but dark apartments sleeping one to six people. The picks of the bunch are the front hotel rooms with private balcony overlooking the Blue Mosque and Aya Sofya. The rooftop garden-lounge has decent views and a welcoming atmosphere. Note that air-con costs an extra €10 per room per night.

**ORIENT INTERNATIONAL HOSTEL** Map p50 Hostel €€  
☎ 212-518 0789; [www.orienthostel.com](http://www.orienthostel.com); Akbiyik Caddesi 13, Cankurtaran; dm €10-13, s/d without bathroom €27/33, d with bathroom €42; ☒ ☑ ☑; ☒ Sultanahmet

The Orient should only be considered if you don't care about creature comforts and are ready to party. There's a shower for every 12 guests and an array of dorms, some of which are light and relatively quiet, and others that are unpleasantly dark and have the most uncomfortable mattresses that we've ever encountered (and considering our job, that's really saying something). The cheapest option is a barracks-style 30-bed dorm. The rooftop terrace bar has fabulous views and is a good place to relax, unlike the noisy cafeteria and internet area. Private rooms are overpriced for what they offer.

**MAVİ GUESTHOUSE** Map p50 Hostel €€  
☎ 212-517 7287; [www.maviguesthouse.com](http://www.maviguesthouse.com); Kutlugün Sokak 3, Sultanahmet; dm €10-11, s €20, d €24-30; ☒ ☑ ☑; ☒ Sultanahmet

Mavi's management is very friendly, which is just as well since some rooms at this tiny place are cramped and windowless, and all share bathrooms that could do with a thorough scrub. Mattresses on the rooftop cost €7 (including breakfast) but the best value is provided by front rooms, one of which has an Aya Sofya view. Breakfast is served downstairs or at streetside tables.

**SULTAN HOSTEL** Map p50 Hostel €€  
☎ 212-516 9260; [www.sultanhostel.com](http://www.sultanhostel.com); Akbiyik Sokak 21, Cankurtaran; dm €9-15, d without/with bathroom €30/36; ☒ ☑ ☑; ☒ Sultanahmet

Next door to – and clearly in hot competition with – the Orient, this place is currently undergoing a staged renovation. As a result, it offers accommodation that is far more comfortable than that provided by

its raffish neighbour. The freshly painted dorms have new bunk beds and good mattresses; linen is clean and crisp and towels are provided. Shared bathrooms are very clean and there are female-only dorms for those gals who want to steer clear of smelly socks. The pick of the rooms on offer is number 48, a double with lovely Sea of Marmara views and its own cubicle bathroom. Views from the terrace bar aren't as impressive as those at the Orient, but its set-up is much more relaxed and stylish. There's a 10% discount for HI cardholders.

**BAHAUS GUESTHOUSE** Map p50 Hostel €€  
☎ 212-638 6534; [www.travelistanbul.com](http://www.travelistanbul.com); Kutlugün Sokak 3, Cankurtaran; dm €9-14, d without bathroom €34, d with shower €44; ☒ ☑ ☑; ☒ Sultanahmet

When it comes to hostels, word of mouth is the most reliable gauge of quality. And this place generates great word of mouth. Friendly and knowledgeable staff run a professional operation that's miles away from the institutional feel of some of its nearby and much larger competitors. Dorms have bunks with good mattresses and curtains to provide a skerrick of privacy; some have their own bathroom and all have ceiling fans. There's one shared bathroom for every seven beds and a constant supply of luke-warm water. Top marks go to the rooftop terrace, with its sea view, beanbags, cheap evening meals (YTL8), beers (YTL5) and nargilehs (YTL5).

**BIG APPLE HOSTEL** Map p50 Hostel €€  
☎ 212-517 7931; [www.hostelbigapple.com](http://www.hostelbigapple.com); Bayram Fırını Sokak 12, Cankurtaran; dm €9-12; ☒ ☑ ☑; ☒ Sultanahmet

Though a newcomer to the competitive Cankurtaran hostel scene, we reckon this well-run place is likely to be a stayer. Dorms on the ground floor are a bit dingy, but those above are light, freshly painted and clean. There's a foyer with large-screen satellite TV and a rooftop bar with beanbags, lounges and good views where you can enjoy a nargileh (YTL6) and a cheap beer (YTL3).

## TOPKAPI PALACE & AROUND

There aren't too many hotels in this area. Fortunately, the two below – one near Gülhane

Park and the other close to the Spice Bazaar – are both sound choices.

### AYASOFYA KONAKLARI

Map p63 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-513 3660; [www.ayasofyakonaklari.com](http://www.ayasofyakonaklari.com); Soğukçeşme Sokak; s €85-100, d €110-130, ste €190; 📶 📺 📺; 🏠 Gülhane

If you're keen to play out Ottoman fantasies, come here. A row of 19th-century wooden houses occupying an entire cobbled street abutting [Topkapı Palace](#) (Topkapı Sarayı; p62), Ayasofya Konakları is about as authentic as the Ottoman boutique hotel comes and it's picturesque to boot. Choose from a total of 52 rooms, all of which are charmingly decorated with brass beds, and enjoy the most glamorous breakfast in town, served in a glass conservatory complete with chandeliers.

### KONUK EVİ Map p63 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 212-513 3660; [www.ayasofyapensions.com](http://www.ayasofyapensions.com); Soğukçeşme Sokak; s €85-100, d €110-130; 📶 📺 📺; 🏠 Gülhane

Part of the [Ayasofya Konakları](#) (above), this annex set in a spectacular private garden overlooking the [Caferaga Medresesi](#) (p73) is even more impressive than its parent. Rooms are large and extremely elegant, with parquet floors, luxurious rugs and velvet-upholstered furniture. The building itself is a replica of a large Ottoman house that was on this site, so it has all the mod cons as well as more than its fair share of period charm. The foyer features gilt mirrors and a grand piano. An undeniably classy option.

### KYBELE HOTEL

Map p63 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-511 7766; [www.kybelehotel.com](http://www.kybelehotel.com); Yerebatan Caddesi 35, Alemdar; s €70-80, d €90-120; 📶 📺 📺; 🏠 Sultanahmet

The gilded exterior of this small hotel (peacock blue with loads of gold) reflects the décor inside, which features hundreds of coloured lights, wooden floors covered in rugs, and antique furniture and curios. Run by three brothers in a personable and professional style, it's got bucketloads of charm and lots of added extras, including a great café and bar, a charming rear garden patio and a library for guests. The location near Aya Sofya is central, and the rooms, which feature cute marble bathrooms, are smallish but comfortable. Try

and score room number 201, which is a corker.

### OTTOMAN HOTEL IMPERIAL

Map p63 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-513 6150/1; [www.ottomanhotelimperial.com](http://www.ottomanhotelimperial.com); Caferiye Sokak 6/1; standard s/d €89/109, superior s/d €129/149; 📶 📺 📺; 🏠 Gülhane

This recently opened four-star hotel is in a wonderful location just outside the walls of Topkapı Palace (Topkapı Sarayı; p62). Once the city's main youth hostel, the building has been extensively renovated and features large rooms decorated with Ottoman-style ceramics, textiles and *ebru* (traditional Turkish marbling). Comfort and amenity levels are high, and some rooms have Aya Sofya views (try and snaffle number 406). There's a lift, a lovely rear garden with restaurant and bar, and excellent levels of service.

### TAN OTEL Map p63 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 212-520 9130; [www.tanhotel.com](http://www.tanhotel.com); Dr Emin Paşa Sokak 20, Alemdar; s/d/ste €80/99/139; 📶 📺 📺; 🏠 Sultanahmet

Run by an enthusiastic brother-and-sister team, this newly opened hotel off Divan Yolu is a showcase of understated style and high-level service. Everything here is brand spanking new and generously sized – the beds in some rooms are so large we can only describe them as Sheikh-sized. Bathrooms are excellent (all have Jacuzzis) and are so clean they gleam. There's even a terrace bar sporting excellent views of the Blue Mosque, Aya Sofya and the Sea of Marmara.

### WORLD PARK HOTEL Map p63 Hotel €€

☎ 212-527 6767; [www.worldparkhotel.com](http://www.worldparkhotel.com); Hamidiye Caddesi 64, Eminönü; s/d/ste €199/229/369; 📶 📺 📺; 🏠 Sirkeci

Occupying the architecturally significant [4 Vakıf Han](#) (p92), this recently opened five-star hotel conversion is a mass of contradictions. The 'Kulliye' rooms are massive and wonderfully full of light, whereas the 'Atrium' rooms are relatively small and dark – bizarrely, there's no difference in price. And the architects have done an absolutely wonderful job renovating the grand foyer, but have totally missed the opportunity to capitalise on what could have been a fabulous top-floor terrace, instead offering a bland and unwelcoming function room-cum-buffet restaurant

area. We like the pool, hamam and fitness centre in the basement, though, and find the location next to the [Spice Bazaar](#) (p82) excellent.

### HOTEL ERBOY Map p63 Hotel €€

☎ 212-513 3750; [www.erboyhotel.com](http://www.erboyhotel.com); Ebussuut Caddesi 32, Sirkeci; s/d €54/64; 📶 📺 📺; 🏠 Sirkeci  
 The Vegas-style furniture and marble floors in its lobby are the Erboy's only attempts at glamour. The rest of the place is resolutely mom-and-pop style, with small rooms that are clean but without frills. On the plus side, the location, near Topkapı, is central and quiet, and the rooms are reasonably priced. There's a roof terrace with so-so views and a pleasant restaurant spilling into the cobbled street.

## BAZAAR DISTRICT

This part of town is noisy and doesn't have the charm of the rest of Old İstanbul, but its close proximity to the Grand Bazaar will be drawcard enough for some visitors.

### HOTEL NILES Map p78 Hotel €€

☎ 212-517 3239; [www.hotelniles.com](http://www.hotelniles.com); Dibekli Cami Sokak 19, Beyazıt; s/d €55/65; 📶 📺 📺; 🏠 Beyazıt  
 Serious shoppers seduced by the prospect of bunking down close to the Grand Bazaar could do a lot worse than stay in this well-run and reasonably priced place. Rooms are characterless but extremely clean, and there's a pleasant rooftop terrace and restaurant.

### HOTEL TÜRKUAZ

Map p78 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-518 1897; [www.hotelturkuaz.com](http://www.hotelturkuaz.com); Kadırga Cıncı Meydanı 36, Kumkapı; s €35, d €40-45, ste €65-80; 📶 📺 📺; 🏠 Beyazıt

If you're the type of traveller who is happy to trade comfort for character, this eccentric place will be right up your alley. In a local neighbourhood near [Küçük Aya Sofya](#) (p57), it occupies an atmospheric 150-year-old timber mansion that once would have been the grandest place on the block but now is in urgent need of a facelift. The owners have plans to replace the antiquated bathrooms and hot-water system, sagging beds and patchy plasterwork in the near future, but are fortunately intent on retaining the crystal chandeliers, velvet curtains and ornate furniture.

## GALATA & TOPHANE

In many ways, this is the best location in İstanbul. Halfway between the major sights of Old İstanbul and the main entertainment and eating strip of İstiklal Caddesi, it's rapidly building a reputation as the city's new bohemian centre, with art galleries, cafés, bars and funky boutiques starting to sprout.

### ANEMON GALATA

Map p103 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 212-293 2343; [www.anemonhotels.com](http://www.anemonhotels.com); cnr Galata Meydanı & Büyükhendek Caddesi, Karaköy; s/d € 120/140; 📶 📺 📺; 🏠 Karaköy

Small hotels don't come much better than this, particularly on this side of town. Located on the attractive new square that's been built around Galata Tower, this wooden building dates from 1842 but has been almost completely rebuilt inside. Individually decorated rooms are extremely elegant, featuring ornate painted ceilings, king-sized beds and antique-style desks. Large bathrooms have baths and marble basins. Frankly, we're not sure which of the hotel's features is the best. Is it the classically beautiful foyer with its chandeliers, marble floors and luxurious rugs? Or the stylish modern bar-restaurant sheathed in glass that's been built on the rooftop? Ask for a room with a view.

### GALATA RESIDENCE CAMONDO APARTMENT HOTEL

Map p103 Apartments €€  
 ☎ 212-292 4841; [www.galataresidence.com](http://www.galataresidence.com); Hacı Ali Sokak, Karaköy; 1-/2-bed apartments €80/120; 📶 📺 📺; 🏠 Karaköy

Buried in the maze of narrow streets down from the Galata Tower, this historic building was built in the late 19th century to house indigent Jewish families. It's now an apartment-hotel with a Greek restaurant on the top floor and a modern annex (for the one-bedroom apartments) next door. Perfectly situated between İstiklal Caddesi and Eminönü (to find it, ask taxi drivers to drop you in front of the Yaşar Bank at the corner of Voyvova Caddesi and Haraççı Ali Sokak and walk up the steep stairs – the hotel is right at the top), the fully-equipped apartments are run down but comfortable, with large rooms and a reasonable amount of light. Top marks go to the daily servicing and the helpful staff. To avoid listening to

renditions of *Zorba the Greek* late into the night, avoid the top-floor rooms. Monthly rates are available.

## EKLEKTİK GUEST HOUSE

Map p103 Ottoman Boutique Hotel €€  
☎ 212-243 7446; [www.eklektikgalata.com](http://www.eklektikgalata.com);  
Kadınbey Cıkmazi 4, Galata; r €95-115; 🍷 📺 ;  
🚶 Karaköy

Advertising itself as offering 'the first and only gay accommodation in Istanbul', this gay-owned-and-managed place offers seven individually decorated rooms with TV. You can enact fantasies in the Pasha Room, chill out after a big night in the Zen Room or just feel funky in the Retro Room. There's a roof terrace for bronzing that buffed bod. It's hard to find – look for the bright pink building (geddit?) in a cul de sac.

## İSTANBUL HOLIDAY APARTMENTS

Map p103 Apartments €€  
☎ 212-251 8530; [www.istanbulholidayapartments.com](http://www.istanbulholidayapartments.com); per night €90-210; 🍷 ; 🚶 Karaköy  
Saying that holiday apartments in Istanbul are easy to find is like saying the sultans were celibate – it just ain't true. So we can say with absolute certainty that the ever-expanding portfolio of apartments run by American Ann Taboroff Uysel is as unique as it is welcome. Now in locations as diverse as Galata, Cihangir, Taksim, Şişli and Beşiktaş, these handsome apartments in residential blocks are perfect for city sojourns of three days or more. Our favourites are the penthouse terrace and top-floor view apartments in the Glorya building near the Galata Tower, but all are impressive, having undergone quality renovations and being fitted out with washer/drier, good kitchens, CD players and satellite TVs; some have aircon and/or dishwashers and some have knock-em-dead views over the Golden Horn and Bosphorus. There's weekly maid service.

## WORLD HOUSE HOSTEL

Map p103 Hostel €  
☎ 212-293 5520; [www.worldhouseistanbul.com](http://www.worldhouseistanbul.com); Galıpdede Caddesi 85, Tünel; dm €10-14, s/d €35/40; 📺 🍷 ; 🚶 Karaköy  
We like this place. Hostels in Istanbul are usually impersonal hulks with jungle-like atmospheres, but World House is small, friendly and calm. Best of all is the fact that it's located close to Beyoğlu's restaurant, bar and club scene, but not too

close – meaning that it's possible to grab a decent night's kip here. The enthusiastic young owners have set up a cheerful café on the ground floor and have plans to build both a terrace on the roof and a second hostel nearby. The small dorms are clean and light, and bathrooms are in plentiful supply. Avoid the private rooms – they're far too expensive for what they offer.

## İSTİKLAL & AROUND

If you're in town to party at the nightclubs, take advantage of the city's great restaurant and bar scene or do business, this is a good choice of location. Hotels here are more expensive and generally less impressive than their Sultanahmet alternatives, though.

## MARMARA İSTANBUL

Map p107 Luxury Hotel €€€  
☎ 212-251 4696; [www.themarmarahotels.com](http://www.themarmarahotels.com);  
Taksim Square; s €350-400, d €400-480, ste €650-950; 🍷 📺 📺 📺 ; 🚶 Kabataş, then funicular to Taksim  
Right beside busy Taksim Square, the Marmara is an Istanbul institution, having opened to great acclaim in 1976. Its splendid views (10th floor and up) and extremely comfortable rooms make it a good choice for tourists and business people alike. Rooms are large with a classy décor enlivened with royal-blue and gold Ottoman touches. There is a rooftop restaurant and bar, as well as a gym and hamam. Breakfast costs an extra €24.

## MARMARA PERA

Map p107 Luxury Hotel €€  
☎ 212-251 4646; [www.themarmarahotels.com](http://www.themarmarahotels.com);  
Meşrutiyet Caddesi 1, Tepebaşı; s €225-260, d €250-285; 🍷 📺 📺 📺 📺 ; 🚶 Karaköy, then funicular to Tünel  
This funky little sister of the landmark hotel in Taksim Square opened in 2004 and has been a popular choice with glam globe-trotters ever since. Rooms are small-ish but extremely well appointed, featuring quality touches such as a magazine selection, pillow menu and stylish white linen. Stand-out amenities include one of the best restaurants in the city, *Mikla* (p165), a rooftop pool bar with spectacular views, and a 24-hour fitness centre. It's worth paying extra for a room on a higher floor with sea view.

Note that the hotel website usually has much cheaper deals on offer than the rack rates cited above.

## LUSH HIP HOTEL

Map p107 Boutique Hotel €€  
☎ 212-243 9595; [www.lushhiphotel.com](http://www.lushhiphotel.com);  
Sıraselviler Sokak 12, Taksim; s €182-244, d €214-278; 🍷 📺 📺 ; 🚶 Kabataş, then funicular to Taksim  
One of a fast-sprouting crop of boutique hotels around town, this self-consciously hip place has 22 attractive rooms of varying sizes, all of which are individually decorated and presented with nice touches such as L'Occitane toiletries and CD players. There's a strong emphasis on service here – if you want a personal shopper or a limousine, you'll have no trouble getting them – and management claims that its staff possess 'a mastery of speedy problem solving'. Gosh. It's on a busy street near Taksim Square, so front rooms could be a tad noisy.

## TAKSİM SQUARE HOTEL

Map p107 Hotel €€  
☎ 212-292 6440; [www.taksimsquarehotel.com.tr](http://www.taksimsquarehotel.com.tr);  
Sıraselviler Caddesi 15, Taksim; s/d €120/130; 🍷 📺 ; 🚶 Kabataş, then funicular to Taksim  
This glass-fronted building matches the ugly Taksim surrounds, but inside you'll be pleasantly surprised by the large rooms, which feature a stylish autumn-leaf décor. Most rooms have views (Square or Bosphorus); corner rooms from the fourth floor up have views of both sides at a nice price, so request one of these. The top-floor breakfast salon is a great place to prepare for the day. In all, a bargain four-star choice.

## RICHMOND HOTEL

Map p107 Hotel €€  
☎ 212-252 5460; [www.richmondhotels.com.tr](http://www.richmondhotels.com.tr);  
İstiklal Caddesi 445; r €89-119, ste €199; 🍷 📺 📺 ; 🚶 Karaköy, then funicular to Tünel  
Next to the palatial Russian consulate, the Richmond has a fabulous location right on the city's major boulevard. Behind its 19th-century facade, the place is modern, quite comfortable and well run. Standard rooms are comfortable if characterless, but the suites are knock outs, with modernist décor, excellent views, great workstations, Jacuzzis and plasma TVs. Best of all is the fact that one of the best bars in the city, *Leb-i Derya Richmond* (p176) is on the top floor, meaning that your bed will only be a short stagger away. A mainly business clientele keeps the place busy so book ahead.

## TRIADA RESIDENCE

Map p107 Apartments €€  
☎ 212-251 0101; [www.triadaresidence.com](http://www.triadaresidence.com);  
Meşelik Sokak 10, Taksim; r €60-80; 🍷 ; 🚶 Kabataş, then funicular to Taksim  
Attracted by the idea of sitting in your own apartment and enjoying a meal and a bottle of wine before kicking off to a nearby club? You can do this at the Triada. These well-appointed apartments, which sleep up to three, are located in a side street off İstiklal Caddesi and are perfect for those who want to self-cater. All have small, clean kitchens and bathrooms, as well as a bedroom and sitting area with satellite TV. The best of the bunch is apartment 601, which has a huge terrace complete with BBQ, outdoor furniture and a view of Taksim Square.

## HOTEL RESIDENCE

Map p107 Hotel €€  
☎ 212-252 7685; [www.hotelresidence.com.tr](http://www.hotelresidence.com.tr);  
Sadri Alışık Sokak 19, off İstiklal Caddesi; s/d €44/55; 🍷 ; 🚶 Kabataş, then funicular to Taksim  
This place is opposite a large police station, so guests will feel extremely safe when returning from a heavy night of partying at the nearby nightclubs. It's very old-fashioned and not at all stylish, but at these prices, who's complaining? Rooms are light and have a small bathroom; most have twin beds.

## BÜYÜK LONDRA OTELİ

Map p107 Historic Hotel €€  
☎ 212-245 0670; [www.londrahotel.net](http://www.londrahotel.net);  
Meşrutiyet Caddesi 117, Tepebaşı; unrenovated s €35-100, d €50-115, renovated s €75-120, d €85-130; 🍷 ; 🚶 Karaköy, then funicular to Tünel  
The Büyük's 'gothic house of horrors' feel may not be for everyone. Dating from the same era as the nearby *Pera Palas Oteli* (p110), it is looking decidedly worse for wear these days. The good news is that its run-down rooms are slowly being renovated – we'd suggest making a booking only if you are guaranteed one of these. The remaining rooms are musty and very scuffed around the edges, with tiny bathrooms and no aircon. Fortunately, you can always escape them and park yourself at a table in the wonderfully atmospheric foyer bar (p175).

## VARDAR PALACE HOTEL

Map p107 Hotel €€  
☎ 212-252 2888; [www.vardarhotel.com](http://www.vardarhotel.com);  
Sıraselviler Caddesi 54, Taksim; s €44-64, d €78-90; 🍷 ; 🚶 Kabataş, then funicular to Taksim  
This old-fashioned small hotel just off Taksim Square offers excellent value for money and

