

Tourism in Turkey

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- **Tourism in Turkey** is focused largely on a variety of historical sites, and on seaside resorts along its Aegean and Mediterranean Sea coasts. Turkey has also become a popular destination for culture, spa, and health care.



Istanbul

- Istanbul is one of the most important tourism spots not only in Turkey but also in the world. There are thousands of hotels and other tourist-oriented industries in the city. Turkey's largest city, Istanbul has a number of major attractions derived from its historical status as capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. These include the Sultan Ahmed Mosque (the "Blue Mosque"), the Hagia Sophia, the Topkapı Palace, the Basilica Cistern, the Dolmabahçe Palace, the Galata Tower, the Grand Bazaar, the Spice Bazaar, and the Pera Palace Hotel. Istanbul has also recently become one of the biggest shopping centers of the European region by hosting malls and shopping centers, such as Metrocity, Akmerkez and Cevahir Mall, which is the biggest mall in Europe and seventh largest shopping center in the world. Other attractions include sporting events, museums, and cultural events.

Turkish Traditions

- ❑ Nazar (The Evil Eye)
- ❑ One of Turkey's most popular souvenirs, these blue eyes made of glass are actually meant to ward off the negative energy from someone's eyes who feels envious of you. The evil eye is blue because according to superstition, blue eyes give off the most negative energy, and the glass eye is supposed to cancel it out. Traditionally, Evil eyes are pinned onto newborn babies' clothes as well as hung above doors in houses and businesses for protection against bad luck.



Oil wrestling

- Oil wrestling is one of Turkey's most traditional sports with roots that go all the way back to ancient Mesopotamia. During the famous Kirkpınar oil-wrestling tournament in Edirne, which has been held annually since 1362, the wrestlers douse themselves in oil and then wrestle until a loser is declared (when the navel faces the sky). Oil wrestling matches can go on for up to 40 minutes and for all the peculiar oiliness, can actually be quite captivating.

Turkish Tea

- Turkish tea is not just a strong dark red brew served in a tulip shaped glass, it's a tradition that revolves around hospitality. Wherever you go in Turkey, it's traditional to be offered a cup of Turkish tea as a sign of welcome, whether you're at someone's home, a shop, or even the hairdresser.

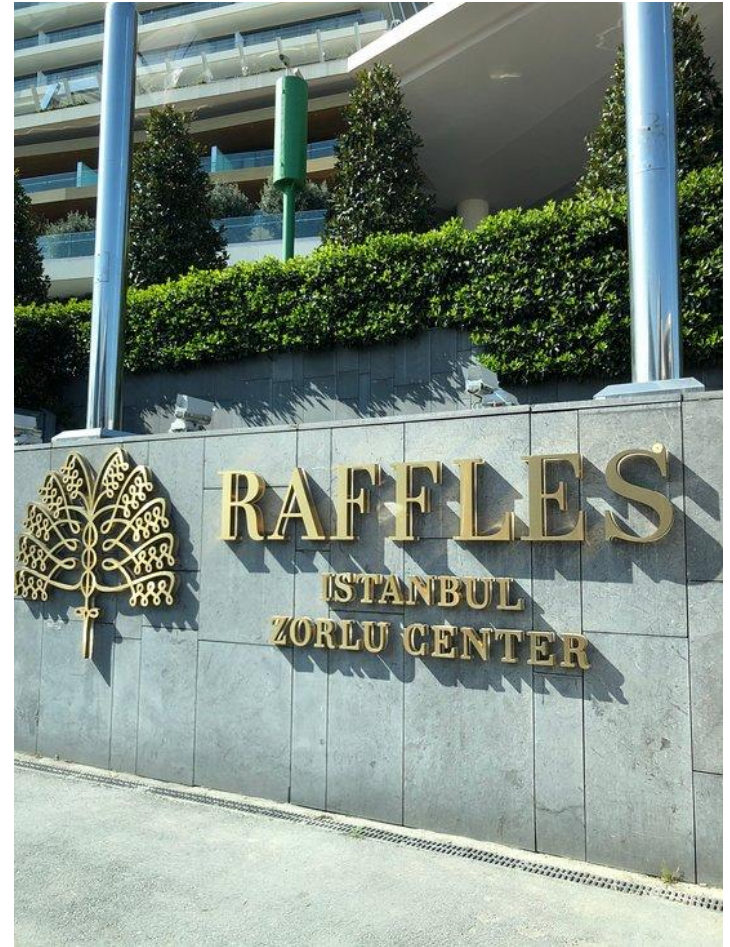
Ulus 29 restaurant



Opened in 1993, Ulus 29 is the perfect place to view [Bosphorus](#) and the bridges of Istanbul from the restaurant's terraces in the summer. Ulus 29 centers on gastronomic concepts with traditional cooking methods to offer regional cuisine with seasonal freshness. The restaurant makes its own dry-aged meats as well as ice cream and pasta for an authentic experience when searching for where to eat in Istanbul. Opt for gastronomy-focused dishes, classic Turkish fare or sushi. A wine list of roughly 4,500 bottles includes labels. Enjoy cocktails at the Teras Bar, or choose a lively evening at the Ulus Club 29 to dance along to international DJs on the weekends.

Raffles Istanbul Hotel

- ▣ **Raffles Istanbul** is a 5-star hotel in [Istanbul](#) that is managed by [Raffles Hotels & Resorts](#). The hotel opened on September 1, 2014. Designed by Emre Arolat & Tabanlıoğlu Architecture, the hotel has a height of 134 meters, making it one of Istanbul's most noticeable buildings.



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