



## ASIAN SIDE

When you're in the only city in the world to bridge two continents, it'd be criminal not to visit the Asian side, tantalisingly close across the Bosphorus Strait. While it's not culturally different to the European side, there's a more laid-back feel to Asian Istanbul; maybe it's the wooden Ottoman houses, but its enclaves feel more like villages than city suburbs. Regular ferry services make crossing the Bosphorus quick and easy. Note that while Istanbul hotel rates generally fluctuate a lot seasonally, prices for hotels on the Bosphorus can triple in summer.



### 01 We recommend:

#### SUMAHAN ON THE WATER

The skeleton of a ruined alcohol factory, just a short distance upstream from the Bosphorus Bridge, has been transformed into this strikingly sleek, modern retreat, whose 24 rooms — named after villages around Istanbul — all look out onto the Bosphorus, which tickles the lawn just yards away.

The magical views are the main attraction here, with simple, high-ceilinged guest rooms focused around large windows. Most rooms have fireplaces; many even have bathroom windows overlooking the Bosphorus from the shower. On site are two restaurants, a hamam and even a lawnside lighthouse, while bustling Çengelköy is just beyond the front door. If you want to get out and explore, catch a free ride in the hotel's wooden houseboat, which ferries guests to the European side in style.

**Rooms:** Doubles from €125 (£103), B&B. [sumahan.com](http://sumahan.com)

### 02 Best for views:

#### BOSPHORUS PALACE

At this neo-Ottoman mansion in the shadow of Bosphorus Bridge, the walls are striped mint-green, and ceilings frescoed. It's a quirky atmosphere, but artfully done — the 14 rooms are beautifully *belle époque*, all but the Superior category (and one Standard room) have Bosphorus views, and a few, plus the lounge and glass-floored restaurant, are even cantilevered out over the water.

**Rooms:** Doubles from €115 (£95), B&B. [bosporuspalace.com](http://bosporuspalace.com)

### 03 Best for budget:

#### THE MODA APART

This 19th-century wooden house — part B&B, part private rental — is located in the heart of Kadıköy, an easy ferry ride from Eminönü, near Sultanahmet. Located above the owner's upmarket kebab restaurant, which provides guests with a traditional Turkish breakfast every day, the simply furnished rooms are all en suite with a kitchenette — handy if you fancy raiding the local markets. There's also a shared sitting room.

**Rooms:** Doubles from 140TL (£40), B&B. [modaapart.com](http://modaapart.com) □