



change

TRAVEL SUMMER 2007



THE PLACE
ISTANBUL

Ottoman Rules

Istanbul, the city that once commanded an empire (and was called Constantinople, New Rome and Byzantium), embodies centuries' worth of East-meets-West history. But that's all water down the Bosphorus. A new generation is creating a vibrant cosmopolis that bridges two continents, and cultures, in style. BY SUNA ERDEM

13 hours in New Byzantium

12 P.M.

Take a leisurely walk across the **Golden Horn bridge** and ride the historic funicular up to the trendy Beyoglu district.

5 P.M.

Go for a soak at **Combedas Hamamı**, a historic bath with a modern ethos. Vezirhan Caddesi 6; 011-90-212-522-7974

9 A.M.

Grab a simit (sesame bread ring) from a street stall or at a new simit emporium like **Simit Sarayı**, with locations around town.

1 P.M.

Join the cool lunch crowd for chard borani at **Helvetos**. General Yazgan Sokak 8; 011-90-212-245-8780; entrees \$4.50 to \$8

8:30 P.M.

Try the terrific meze at **Hamdi Rozaoglu**. Tahmis Caddesi, Kalcin Sokak 17; 011-90-212-528-0390; entrees \$7.50 to \$12

10 A.M.

Pay respects to the **Hagia Sophia**, then stroll to the **Topkapı Palace** to see how the sultans lived. Sultanahmet Square.

3 P.M.

Get a taste of Turkish fashion at the shopping mall **Kanyon**. Buyukdere Caddesi 185; 011-90-212-353-5300

10 P.M.

Sip cocktails and take in the view at **360 Istanbul**, the city's hottest spot. Isiklal Caddesi, Misir Apartmani 32/309; 011-90-212-251-1042

ARTWORK BY JULIEN FICAUD

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FAB FOUR

Designers on the fashion vanguard.

Atıl Kutuglu This designer, who shows his collection in New York, turns Ottoman shapes and Turkish fabrics into slinky little numbers. Find his pieces at Beymen stores in Nisantasi (Abdi Ipekci Caddesi, 23/1; 011-90-212-343-0404) and Akmerkez (Nispetiyet Caddesi, Enile; 011-90-212-282-0380).



Ottoman Empire This hip T-shirt brand plays with Turkish history — one shirt displays a Janissary soldier with the slogan "The Empire Strikes Back," another the words "Terrible Turk" — for its limited-edition line. Sakayik Sokak 59/1, Beykiviye; 011-90-212-296-5619.



Umit Unal He's often compared to Japanese designers for his quirky, conceptual clothes. This season's collection is a fantasy of silk and satin pieces inspired by the journey of Jason and the Argonauts. Asmalı Mescit Mahallesi Ensiz Sokak 3 Tunel, Beyoglu; 011-90-212-245-7886.



Aran Kaprol She sets herself apart from the crowd by giving classics a twist: clean-cut trousers paired with a concertina-pleated shirt, the lining of a suit jacket hand-painted with tulips. Abdi Ipekci Caddesi 34, Nisantasi; 011-90-212-225-0129.



Turkish Delights

Around every corner is yet another kahve or kebab. So where do you go for quintessential Ottoman treats?

- TURKISH COFFEE** Bebek Kahve, a perennially popular, old-fashioned waterfront cafe where old men play backgammon and starlets gossip. Ceydet Pasa Caddesi 13, Bebek; 011-90-212-257-5402.
- MEZE** Sofyalı 9 Restaurant, for the traditional cold starters of hummus, lefs and stuffed grape leaves, paired with the anise-flavored drink raki. Locals who get drunk enough sing. Asmalı Mescit Caddesi, Sofyalı Sokak 9; 011-90-212-245-0362; meze about \$6 to \$10.
- DONER KEBAB** Bursa Garaj Kebab, for leaf-thin cuts of meat served with flatbread, yogurt and tomato sauce. Hacı Adil Caddesi, Karanfil Sokak 2, Levent; 011-90-212-281-4848; kebabs about \$11.
- HUNKAR BEGENDI** Hunkar Restaurant, which takes its name from the classic dish of creamy aubergine purée and lamb. Mim Kemal Oke Caddesi 21; 011-90-212-225-4665; entrees \$11 to \$16.
- BAKLAVA** Karakoy Gulluoglu, where you can watch the pastry being rolled out so thin that it's transparent. Mumhane Caddesi 171, Karakoy; 011-90-212-249-9680; baklava \$3.

checking in

The lowdown on the city's newest high-end hotels.

 <p>COZY ANGELN 130</p> <p>Masrutiyet Caddesi 130; 011-90-212-245-8808; www.ahensuites.com; doubles from \$340.</p> <p>PROS This 10-room hotel has the most stylish suites in Beyoglu.</p> <p>CONS The proximity to night life might be too close for some.</p> <p>PERKS Top-floor rooms have a view of the Golden Horn. There's also a good wine bar next door.</p>	 <p>QUIRKY LUSH</p> <p>Siraselviler 12; 011-90-212-243-9595; www.lushhiphotel.com; doubles from \$300.</p> <p>PROS Fresh, whimsical design — every room in this Beyoglu property is unique.</p> <p>CONS With the cool look come varying degrees of comfort. A typical five-star hotel this isn't.</p> <p>PERKS It hosts cultural events, such as theater performances in Room 104, for which a play was especially written.</p>	 <p>TRANQUIL SUMAHAN</p> <p>Kuleli Caddesi 51; 011-90-216-422-8000; www.sumahan.com; doubles from \$380.</p> <p>PROS The style is a sophisticated mix of rustic and modern in a 19th-century distillery.</p> <p>CONS Being on the Asian side of the Bosphorus puts scenesters far from the action.</p> <p>PERKS The riverside lawn and restaurant are an escape from the central city. Even locals come to decompress.</p>	 <p>MINIMALIST SCIFA</p> <p>Tesvikiye Caddesi 123; www.thesofahotel.com; doubles from \$380.</p> <p>PROS The 82 simple, chic rooms are a rarity in the smart shopping district of Nisantasi.</p> <p>CONS Its size attracts business meetings and conventioners.</p> <p>PERKS Tuus, the hotel's much-lauded restaurant, serves excellent haute Mediterranean food.</p>	 <p>LUXE LESOTTOMANS</p> <p>Muallim Naci Caddesi 168; 011-90-212-359-1500; www.lesottomans.com; doubles from \$1,086.</p> <p>PROS This hot new property is in a redone Ottoman house on the European side of the Bosphorus.</p> <p>CONS The location isn't very convenient to the sites. And the price is awfully steep.</p> <p>PERKS There's an ultraluxe hammam and the hopping Q Jazz Club.</p>
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