24 Hours in Istanbul

Best things to see in one day

Dolmabahce Palace 7

8 Istiklal Street

9 Galata Tower

Grand Bazaar 6

Basilica Cistern 5 3 Topkapi Palace

Obelisk 4 1 Hagia Sofia

2 Blue Mosque

Remember it takes around 45 minutes to get to Istanbul Airport by taxi.

Start here

Hagia Sofia

One of the most famous buildings in the world, the Hagia Sofia. Construction was completed in 537 AD.



Blue Mosque

The Blue Mosque is an Ottoman era mosque erected between 1609 and 1617. It is just across from Hagia Sofia.



Topkapi Palace

Right up to 1856 this palace was where the sultans lived and so was the centre of the Ottoman Empire.



Obelisk of Theodosius

The Hippodrome of ancient Constantinople You can see where horses used to race. In the centre is the Obelisk of Theodosius.



Basilica Cistern

Across from the Hagia Sofia, constructed in 532 AD. There are many ancient cisterns underneath the city of Istanbul.

15 minute walk



Grand Bazaar

1 km from Sultanahmet, are the Grand Bazaar and Egyptian Spice Markets, some of the oldest covered markets in the world.

30 minute tram or 25 minute taxi (depending on traffic)



Dolmabahce Palace

Dolmabahce Palace on the shores of the Bosphorus. Constructed in the mid-19th century and was where the sultans lived.

20 minute taxi or 25 minute walk (to Taksim Square)



Istiklal Street

At 3km long, it starts at Taksim Square and leads you to Galata Tower. It's lined with historical buildings, restaurants, and shops.

25 minute walk along Istiklal Street



Galata Tower

Originally built as a watch tower, this iconic building is now a museum and a restaurant where you can get amazing views of the city.

