

# Where East Meets West: Best Of Istanbul, Turkey

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Apr 30, 2022, 02:24pm EDT



Landscape photograph of the Istanbul waterfront and Bosphorus Strait in the early morning GETTY IMAGES

Istanbul has been a sprawling, cosmopolitan city and vital commercial hub since the days it was called Byzantium. The exciting [Istanbul Art biennale](#) this fall is just one of many reasons to visit the [Turkish city](#), a captivating blend of ancient and modern. Bridging Asia and Europe, Istanbul is both a culturally modern western city and a traditional eastern city. Hip hotels, shops and restaurants sit alongside historic mosques and the famous Grand Bazaar. It's a fascinating city for a weekend break.

## Where to Stay



Mandarin Oriental on the Bosphorus, Istanbul MARIO MARTIN

Launched in September 2021, the [Mandarin Oriental](#) was one of the most highly anticipated hotel openings last year and it is certainly impressive from its super chic exterior to its gorgeous location, right on the shoreline of the Bosphorus. The 100 spacious guest rooms and suites are elegant, well-equipped and best of all, most have stunning views over the Bosphorus.



The spa at Mandarin Oriental, Istanbul MANOLO YLLERA

Located along the coast away from the city center, it's the ideal oasis to relax in after a busy day of sight-seeing. The spa offering is superb with three swimming pools, one of which is a large indoor pool, Turkish baths and a fitness center with great wellness programs that Mandarin Oriental hotels are known for. The spa also has various small shops including one with a range of resortware from Turkish luxury lifestyle brand [Kutnia](#). The food and drink offer is excellent too with [Novikov](#) as the signature restaurant, a chilled out bar, and a lobby lounge with waterfront terrace, plus a pool bar in a garden oasis. Nearby are two public parks, pedestrian walkways and the protected Naile Sultan pine grove.