

## **The Side Waiting to be Discovered, Asian Side!**

### **Istanbul Marriott Hotel Asia**

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### **Football Fanatics and Moonlight Fanciers Fenerbahçe and Kalamış**

Fenerbahçe will always be associated primarily with the mega-league football team whose stadium can be found here. For non-football fans, however, it's also the location of delightful park that opened to the public back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Neighboring Kalamış is home to a large marina. This is a well-heeled residential area with some suitably upscale restaurants to go with it.

Fenerbahçe takes its name, which means "lighthouse garden" in Turkish, from a **light-house** that stands on the coast here. It's a district of well-maintained low-rise apartment blocks in leafy streets, with the occasional fine old mansion surviving as a reminder of the past. One of the best stands near Fenerbahçe Park; its wooden facade is decorated with a protruding classical-style bust while two lively green dragons serve as brackets supporting the top floor cumba (bay window).

#### **Kalamış and The Marina**

The small 19<sup>th</sup> century Church of **Church of Hagios Ioannis Khrysostomos (John Chrysostom)** stands opposite the entrance to the Kalamış Marina. Externally it's not much to look at although the icon-filled interior is atmospheric. In the narthex look out for a fine old 19<sup>th</sup> century stone printing block depicting a much older İstanbul.

One of İstanbul's two marinas, Kalamış is larger than Ataköy, with berths for more than 1000 yachts. Like all Turkey's marinas, it's operated by Setur.

#### **HOW TO GET THERE?**

There is a ferry from Eminönü or Beşiktaş to Kadıköy and then either walk along the coast road, or catch a bus east to Fenerbahçe.

#### **WHERE TO EAT?**

##### **Belvü Restaurant**

Fener Kalamış Caddesi No.114/A  
Tel: 0216 450 39 60

Waterside cafe and restaurant with small children's play area and own car park that offers an open-buffet brunch at weekends.

**Happy Moon's Cafe**

Fener Kalamış Caddesi, No.89

Tel: 0216 550 05 00

[www.happymoos.com.tr](http://www.happymoos.com.tr)

It is housed in a fine old mansion with a large garden, a fine setting to enjoy Sunday brunches.

**Kazancılar Kebapçısı**

Münir Nurettin Caddesi, No.52, Kalamış

Tel: 0216 336 05 05

İstanbul branch of a famous and long-lived Adana restaurant offering every variety of kebab you have ever heard of (and many you won't have) with *şalgam* (beetroot juice) as an optional extra.

**Posh**

Münir Nurettin Selçuk Caddesi, No.34, Kalamış

Tel: 0216 550 41 42

Don't be put off by the name since this is really a very inviting restaurant with a high-quality international menu designed to tempt passing mariners with things like Chinese spring rolls, pizzas and spaghettis as well as the more routine fish and kebabs.

**Romantika**

Fenerbahçe Park

Tel: 0216 348 80 56

All-in-one restaurant and cafe right in the park with lots of outdoor tables for soaking up the view and a conservatory-style interior where you can tuck into tea and cakes beneath Venetian glass chandeliers.

**True Blue**

Fener Kalamış Caddesi, Marina Karşısı

Tel: 0216 550 51 95

[www.truebluelive.com](http://www.truebluelive.com)

The Aegean menu and the Sunday brunches are almost incidental at this unexpectedly delightful beach club with its own pool, sandpit, barbecue and waterside sun deck. There's even an olive tree growing in the restaurant.

**Ancient Chalcedon****Kadıköy and Moda**

Hard though it is to imagine it today, Kadıköy was once a completely separate settlement gazing at Byzantium across the water. This was the Chalcedon of the Megarians which was founded in c.635 BC, but fell to the Turks long before Byzantium. Of all the suburbs on the Asian side of the city, today's Kadıköy has to be the one of the liveliest, with a large student population and plenty of nightlife opportunities especially along its famous "Bar Street". Adjoining Moda is one of the Asian

İstanbul's glitziest residential suburbs.

Arriving by ferry in Kadıköy (the Village of the Judge), its attractions are not immediately obvious – you will find yourself stranded in a shapeless concrete plaza facing onto what looks like an unbroken line of high-rise shop and apartment blocks. The sole building of distinction is the low-rise **Old Market Building (Eski Hal Binası)** on the right which was built to house a wholesale market in the 1920s but is now home to the **Istanbul Conservatory**. Still, appearances can be deceptive, and you only have to delve down the side streets behind the high-rises to find narrow pedestrianized streets lined with interesting shops, exciting restaurants and lively bars that cater to a large local student population; it's a bit like Beşiktaş but with heavy metal T-shirts and attitude. Here, too, are a number of small, discreet churches dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Kadıköy is within handy walking of ferry distance of **Haydarpaşa station**, the imposing, German-designed terminal for train services to Asia.

To the right of the Eski Hal Binası an unusual **statue of Atatürk** commemorates the changeover from writing Turkish in the Arabic script to writing it using the Roman alphabet in 1928. A huge step forward in enabling ordinary people to learn to read and write, the change had the unintended consequence of cutting Republican Turks off from Ottoman history which was sealed in the archives in suddenly mysterious Ottoman Turkish. Behind the statue stands the **Kadıköy Kaymakamlığı** (local government building), a fine example of First National Architecture dating back to around 1913 and designed by the Greek architect **Constantinos P. Kyriakides**.

Amid the maze of busy shopping streets are a couple of landmark monuments to look out for. Just as Wall Street in New York has its monumental bull, so too does Kadıköy. Watch out, too, for the monumental slab with a tiny crocodile perched on the corner and use it to get your bearings inside the market.

### **Bahariye Caddesi**

Pedestrianized Bahariye Caddesi (officially General Asım Gündüz Caddesi but no one calls it that) is the İstiklal Caddesi of the Asian side of İstanbul with a similar old-fashioned **tram** trundling along it en route to Moda. The most striking monument on the street is the grand **Süreyya Opera House** ([www.sureyyaoperasi.org](http://www.sureyyaoperasi.org)) donated to the city by Süreyya and Adalet İlmen in 1924. This was later converted into a **cinema** but was restored to its original function in 2007. The facade is decorated with carvings of the Muses and masks of tragedy and comedy and many people will find the elaborate interior more than worth the price of a concert ticket. Beside it stands a modern marble sculpture by **Neslihan Pala** called Vodvil (Vaudeville).

There are masses of cheap, delightful bars and cafes tucked away in the side streets. To find Bahariye Caddesi walk up Söğütlüçeşme Caddesi from the harbor until you reach the statue of the bull and then turn right.

### **SHOPPING**

The **Historic Tuesday Market (Tarihi Salı Pazarı)** has been moved to **Hasanpaşa**, effectively in the middle of nowhere. There are free service buses from the site of the Eski (Old) Salı Pazarı behind the Fenerbahçe football stadium, but we think you'd have to be feeling pretty desperate for a cheap T-shirt to endure the queues or the traffic along the way.

### **HOW TO GET THERE?**

Take a ferry from Eminönü or Beşiktaş to Kadıköy during the day. The views from the ferry

are enough to justify the trip on their own. After the ferries stop there are dolmuşes to and from Taksim. A nostalgic tram similar to the one that services İstiklal Caddesi runs from Kadıköy to Moda via pedestrianized Bahariye Caddesi, although you can just as easily walk along the coastal promenade.

### **Greenhouse**

(Dumlupınar Sokak No.17)

Tel: 0216 449 30 34

Greenhouse is an excellent English-language bookshop with a great range of titles relating to Turkey and the Middle East.

Those with a sweet tooth may want to track down **Cemilzade** (Cemil Topuzlu Caddesi No.7/4, Selamiçeşme, Tel: 0216 385 04 23, [www.cemilzade.com.tr](http://www.cemilzade.com.tr)) which is still offering a great range of hard and soft candies more than 100 years since it opened in 1883.

### **WHAT TO DO?**

If you'd like to see İstanbul from the air, it's possible to take a short hot-air balloon ride from Kadıköy. **The Turk-balon** ( Tel: 0216 347 67 03, [www.turkbalon.net](http://www.turkbalon.net)) only goes up and down on the same spot, and can only do that on wind-free mornings, but the trip will give you the chance to snap some original photographs for a very reasonable price.

### **WHERE TO EAT?**

#### **Baylan**

Muvakkithane Caddesi No.19

Tel: 0216 336 28 81

[www.baylanpastanesi.com](http://www.baylanpastanesi.com)

Old-fashioned, formerly Greek-owned and very popular patisserie with a rear garden which opened here in 1961. Its specialty is the *Kup Griye*, a delicious caramel and vanilla ice-cream sundae topped with honey, cream and nuts.

#### **Çiya**

Caferağa Mahallesi, Güneşlibahçe Sokak No.44

Tel: 0216 418 51 15

[www.ciya.com.tr](http://www.ciya.com.tr)

Take your pick – Çiya has three branches, all close together, one serving kebabs, one serving stews, the third serving a mixture everything. Despite rather lackadaisical service, this is a restaurant for real foodies, serving a wide-range of south-eastern Anatolian dishes not available anywhere else in town. Prices reflect the high quality of the food. No alcohol is served.

#### **Denizati (Seahorse)**

Eski Kadıköy İskelesi

Tel: 0216 414 76 43

Housed inside the original Kadıköy ferry terminal which dates back to the 1920s, this pleasant restaurant has a few outdoor tables where you can soak up a fantastic view of Old İstanbul while tucking into a fairly predictable range of pastas and sandwiches. The interior has the feel of a ship's bridge about it.

### **Kadı Nimet Balıkçılık**

Tarihi Balıkçılar Çarşısı, Serasker Caddesi No:10/A

Tel: 0216 348 73 89

The fish comes straight from the surrounding market stalls at this highly-rated, atmospheric and reasonably-priced fish restaurant that used to be known for a tame goose that roamed the nearby market streets.

### **Şelale ( Waterfall)**

Güneşlibahçe Sokak No.60

Tel: 0216 330 44 20

Sprawling restaurant and nargile cafe in the heart of the market.

### **Viktor Levi**

Moda Caddesi, Damacı Sokak No.4

Tel: 0216 449 93 29

[www.viktorlevimoda.com](http://www.viktorlevimoda.com)

Popular wine house and restaurant housed in an old building with a spacious back garden.

### **Yanyalı Fehmi Lokantası**

Söğütlüçeşme Caddesi, Yağlıkçı Sokak No.1

Tel: 0216 336 33 33

[www.fehmilokantasi.com](http://www.fehmilokantasi.com)

In business since 1919, this hygiene-focused restaurant in the market serves a range of fresh stews and grills as well as some interesting desserts such as *yoğurt revani*, a delicious soft sponge, and *yassı kadayıf*, a sticky walnut pudding soaked in syrup.

### **Moda**

#### **Tarihi Moda İskelesi**

Moda İskele Caddesi

Tel: 0216 449 92 62

Joined to the mainland by a walkway, this surprisingly reasonably priced restaurant is housed in the delightful building that used to serve as the ferry terminal. Stunning views but no alcohol.

### **The Road to Baghdad**

#### **Bağdat Caddesi Sahil Yolu**

The premier shopping street on the Asian side of the city, Bağdat Caddesi (Baghdad Street) runs for six kilometers from Kadıköy to Bostancı, passing through or skirting round Kızıltoprak, Feneryolu, Selamiçeşme, Çiftehavuzlar, Göztepe, Caddebostan, Erenköy, Şaşkınbakkal, Suadiye and Çatalçeşme. Somewhat fancifully dubbed the Rodeo Drive or Bond St of İstanbul, it's more like a more modern version of İstiklal Caddesi without the tram and historic buildings. Come here to shop for big-name brands, to eat at classy restaurants, and to watch the Turks watching each other. For much of its length the parallel Sahil Yolu provides an alternative walking route with several pleasant seaward-facing parks.

Today Bağdat Caddesi, especially between Caddebostan and Suadiye, is a place to promenade or to drive slowly up and down adding to the traffic congestion. It's at its most exuberant whenever the Fenerbahçe football team has a win. At such times non-football fans might like to steer well clear. There are several pleasant local parks including the waterside **Dalyan Park** in Caddebostan and the huge **Özgürlük (Freedom) Park** in Selamiçeşme where a small outdoor theater hosts a festival in early August. **Göztepe Park** also has a pleasant rose garden running alongside it. The modern **synagogue** in Taş Mektep Sokak is a reminder of Göztepe's relatively large Jewish population.

## **Göztepe Toy Museum**

The leafy residential area of Göztepe is home to İstanbul's wonderful **Toy Museum** ([www.istanbuloyuncakmuzesi.com](http://www.istanbuloyuncakmuzesi.com), closed Mondays) which houses more than 5000 toys collected over the year by its writer-owner **Sunay Akın**; the oldest is a French-made violin dating back to 1817. A reconstructed toyshop shows off examples of the types of non-figurative **wooden toys** that used to be made in Eyüp. Children swoon over the room that resembles a railway compartment, and over toilets housed in a replica submarine; their parents will be almost as enthralled by the unexpectedly stylish **cafe** on the ground floor.

Outside in the courtyard are larger than life models of two Turkish folk heroes, Nasreddin Hoca and Keloğlan. The museum is in Dr Zeki Zeren Sokak, off Ömerpaşa Caddesi and is well signposted from Göztepe bus stop.

## **SHOPPING**

In business since 1934, **Vakko** ( Tel: 0216 416 42 04, [www.vakko.com](http://www.vakko.com)) in Suadiye is one of Turkey's most famous luxury brands, a great place to come to stock up on clothes, shoes decorative objects and fabrics. **Chakra** ( Tel: 0216 350 33 34, [www.chakra.com.tr](http://www.chakra.com.tr)) in Erenköy stocks an unforgettable range of bath and bed accessories. **Naked** ( Tel: 0216 445 57 76) is a fashion store with a difference – dim lighting and Pom-pidou Center-style-inside-out decor provide the perfect back-drop for its cutting-edge designs.

## **HOW TO GET THERE?**

Buses and dolmuşes from Kadıköy serve this area although a frustrating one-way system means that they run from Kadıköy to Bostancı along the Coast Road (Sahil Yolu) and then back from Bostancı to Kadıköy along Bağdat Caddesi. To get to Bağdat Caddesi from Kadıköy you will have to get out on the coast road and take one of the side turnings inland or wait while the bus trundles right round the loop.

Most of the surrounding suburbs are also accessible via the grungy suburban train service from Haydarpaşa which should become much more inviting once the Marmaray project is completed. There are ferry services from Eminönü, Karaköy and Beşiktaş to Kadıköy and a hydrofoil service from Kabataş to Bostancı.

## **WHAT TO DO?**

The flashy **Caddebostan Cultural Center** ( Haldun Taner Sokak, Tel:0216 467 36 00) is an all-in-one entertainments center with an AFM multiplex cinema, a D&R bookshop, a branch of Hayal Kahvesi and an exercise and fitness center.

## **WHERE TO EAT?**

### **Cafe Zanzibar**

Cemil Topuzlu Caddesi No.102/A Caddebostan

Tel: 0216 385 64 30

[www.cafezanzibar.com.tr](http://www.cafezanzibar.com.tr)

Wonderfully romantic restaurant in what was the lovely 19<sup>th</sup> century American Girls' Camp building with a mature garden overlooking the sea. Wide-ranging menu serves excellent thin-crust pizzas and even recommends wines to complement each dish.

### **Cercis Murat Konağı**

Yazmacı Tahir Sokak No.22 Suadiye Sahil Yolu

Tel: 0216 373 11 93

[www.cercismurat.com](http://www.cercismurat.com)

The true taste of Mardin comes to town at this branch of a famous south-eastern Turkish

restaurant where presentation is almost as important as the delectable food. Pomegranate is the flavoring of choice, and there's Assyrian wine as made in Midyat to wash everything down.

### **Dinette**

Bağdat Caddesi No.418, Suadiye

Tel: 0216 372 59 49

[www.dinette.com.tr](http://www.dinette.com.tr)

Inviting cafe with pavement tables serving a range of pastas, salads and burgers, plus a great choice of breakfasts.

### **Mado**

Bağdat Caddesi, Plaj Yolu No.2/B Caddebostan

Tel: 0216 360 60 21

Street-corner branch of the popular ice cream emporium. Great for people-watching.

### **Maria'nın Bahçesi**

Sahil Yolu No.86, Küçükyalı

Tel: 0216 519 98 19

[www.marianinbahcesi.com](http://www.marianinbahcesi.com)

On the Pendik side of Bostancı, this restaurant stands in a huge garden. Chef Maria serves excellent Aegean cuisine with a Greek touch.

### **Mert Manti**

M.Mazharbey Sokak No.30, Göztepe

Tel: 0216 567 40 63

One of the city's favourite *manti* (ravioli) venues, in business since the 1990s.

### **Köşebaşı**

Bağdat Caddesi No.235/1A, Göztepe

Tel: 0216 467 25 20

Even Clintons tried their delicious kebabs.

### **The Snake In The Basket**

#### **The Maiden's Tower**

Just off the Bosphorus coast at Üsküdar, the cute little Maiden's Tower (Kız Kulesi in Turkish) crops up in many old pictures of İstanbul and has attracted many romantic stories over the years. After the most recent restoration, it houses a restaurant and small cafe, and offers 360-degree city views from its balcony.

Although the tower ([www.kizkulesi.com.tr](http://www.kizkulesi.com.tr)) currently standing on the rock off Üsküdar dates back only to the 19<sup>th</sup> century the earliest building there seems to have been a small fort built by the Athenian general **Alcibiades** in 408 BC to keep the Persians at bay. Later the Byzantine Emperor **Manuel I Comnenos** (1143-80) had a miniature castle created to discourage invaders. **Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror** replaced this mini-castle with one of his own which was restored by **Sultan Selim I**. Like İstanbul's larger islands, this islet also served time as a **prison**, with Sultan Mahmud I locking up the **Chief White Eunuch Beşir Ağa** here before beheading him, and then Sultan Osman III locking up his **Grand Vizier Hekimoğlu Ali Paşa** here before exiling him to Cyprus.

Like so many İstanbul buildings, the Maiden's Tower has also fallen foul of a fire, this time one started by torches at a party that got out of control in 1719. It was replaced almost immediately by Sultan Ahmed III's Grand Vizier **Damat İbrahim Paşa**, at which point it appears to have been

turned into a **lighthouse**.The final version was created by **Sultan Mahmud II** in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Since then the rock has served a predictable collection of functions as a **semaphore station**, a **quarantine outpost** during a cholera outbreak, and a **tollbooth**.It was completely restored in 2000, and now houses a cafe, restaurant and lookout balcony.

### **HOW TO GET THERE?**

Regular ferries to the tower run from Salacak to Üsküdar's waterfront promenade immediately facing the rock. There are also a few ferries from Ortaköy, as well as a couple from Kabataş to suit night-time diners.

### **WHERE TO EAT?**

#### **Kizkulesi**

Tel: 0216 342 47 47

[www.kizkulesi.com.tr](http://www.kizkulesi.com.tr)

A la carte dinners are served on the ground floor of the tower where the only views are through small side windows.

Alternatively, you can down a tea or coffee at the top floor cafe which some might argue is the nicer venue anyway.

### **The Empress' Love-Nest**

#### **Beylerbeyi**

The Bosphorus Bridge separates Kuzguncuk from Beylerbeyi, best known for its palace but also home to a fine baroque mosque, a yalı-hotel and a collection of inviting restaurants grouped together around the ferry terminal. It was used as a setting in the famous 1964 heist movie "Topkapı" starring the late Peter Ustinov.

#### **Beylerbeyi Palace**

The first Beylerbeyi Palace was built here between 1829 and 1832, but, so often, fell victim to a fire in 1851. Although enough of the palace survived for him to continue to use it, **Sultan Abdülmecid** never returned there, and in 1865 Sultan **Abdülaziz** had it replaced with the present relatively restrained baroque building that was designed by **Sarkis Balyan**. It was here that Sultan **Abdülhamid II** lived after he returned from exile in Salonica in 1912, and here that he died in 1918.

Originally the palace would have been approached from the Bosphorus and it has a delightful **private landing stage** of marble flanked by exquisite **boathouses** that look like tents rendered in stone. Today of course most visitors have to be content with creeping up on it from the rear before joining a guided party in the hall.

Intended for summer use and to house official guests, the palace (*closed Mondays and Thursdays*) has a very manageable 26 rooms divided into the public men and private women's quarters. The single most impressive room is focused on a large **marble pool** with a fountain carved with dolphins; the sound of the cascading water must have been marvelously cooling in summer. Also very impressive are two rooms facing each other across a hallway whose walls, ceilings and furniture are all carved with **Moorish-style woodwork**. Like the larger and older Dolmabahçe Palace, Beylerbeyi is decorated throughout with Hereke carpets, Baccarat glass and Yıldız porcelain. However, one of its more conspicuous features is the omnipresence of **maritime scenes** painted by **Stanislas Chlebowski**, a Polish artist much admired by Sultan Abdülaziz, on the walls and ceilings. There is also a series of decorative panels inscribed with poetry and with quotations from the Koran.

## HOW TO GET THERE?

There are infrequent ferries from Çengelköy and other Bosphorus suburbs ([www.ido.com.tr](http://www.ido.com.tr)), but the easiest way to reach Beylerbeyi is by bus or dolmuş from Üsküdar.

## WHERE TO EAT?

### Cafe Via Veneto

Arabacılar Sokak No.1/2 – 3

Tel: 0216 422 42 55

Cute little corners cafe serving cakes, coffee and a decent choice of cooked meals.

### İnciraltı (Under the Fig Tree)

Arabacılar Sokak No.4

Tel: 0216 557 66 86

[www.inciralti.com.tr](http://www.inciralti.com.tr)

Small and elegant meyhane with a delightful tree-shaded rear courtyard. Serves excellent brunches.

### Tarihi Beylerbeyi Restaurant

İskele Caddesi No.1

Tel: 0216 318 67 01

Wrapped around a lovely marble fountain (1811) beside the mosque, this small fish restaurant could hardly get much closer to the water. It's a great place for a quick bite before boarding the ferry.

### Robert's Coffee

İskele Caddesi No.15

Tel: 0216 318 69 69

Branch of a Finnish cafe chain which serves tasty salads, sandwiches and smoothies.

### Villa Bosphorus

İskele Caddesi No.14

Tel: 0216 318 68 10

Exclusive fish restaurant behind a high wall right on the waterfront. In winter diners feast on mezes and fish inside the "Pink Mansion (Pembe Yalı) "; in summer they move outdoors to the delightful garden.

### İskele Restaurant

İskele Caddesi No.13 B

Tel: 0216 422 22 29

[www.iskelerestaurant.com](http://www.iskelerestaurant.com)

Old-style fish restaurant featuring a sea of white tablecloths on the inner side of the square by the ferry terminal.

## WHAT TO DO?

Inconspicuously located behind what looks like the façade of a wooden house **Beylerbeyi Hamam** (Tel: 0216 321 46 83) was built in 1789 as part of the Beylerbeyi Mosque complex. It still serves men and women, with women mainly welcomed during the middle part of the day and men in the early morning or evening.

### **Anchor Village**

#### **Çengelköy, Kuleli and Vaniköy**

North of Üsküdar, beyond Kuzguncuk and Beylerbeyi, lies the waterside suburb of Çengelköy, known for its pretty main square which is shaded by ancient plane trees. This is not a place to come in search of major sights so much as somewhere where you can while away a few hours beside the water and shop the way the locals do. The most prominent landmark between Çengelköy and Vaniköy is the lemon-walled, twin-towered, oddly asymmetrical Kuleli Military School, clearly visible as you cruise along the Bosphorus.

### **Church of St George**

At the Kuleli end of Çengelköy, in Tanrıverdi Sokağı, the large 19th-century Greek Orthodox church of Hagios Georgios (St George) stands on sloping land with a bell tower at the top of a flight of steps. From the outside (which is all that you are likely to be able to see) it looks almost like a warehouse. Inside, however, it contains a particularly fine iconostasis.

On 6 January (Epiphany) swimmers retrieve crosses thrown into the sea during an ancient ceremony known as **tossing the cross** at Çengelköy, Kuzguncuk, Fener, Ortaköy, Arnavutköy and Yeşilköy.

### **Vahdeddin Köşkü**

High on the hillside above Çengelköy stands a huge 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion distinguished by a tower topped with an onion dome. Originally built for the **Armenian Köçeoğlu Family**, it became home to Sultan Abdülaziz's nephew **Prince Burhaneddin** and then to **Vahdeddin Mehmed VI**, the last of sultans who reigned from 1918 to 1922 before being sent into exile.

### **The Junior Fortress**

#### **Anadolu Hisarı**

It was here at the narrowest point of the Bosphorus that Sultan Beyazıt I chose to build his castle, and it was here, much later on, that many wealthy individuals chose to build their yalıs, including the magnificent Amcazade Hüseyin Paşa Yalı, the oldest such waterside mansion to survive. This was also the part of İstanbul famed as the "Sweet Waters of Asia".

### **HOW TO GET THERE?**

A limited ferry service links Anadolu Hisarı with Çengelköy, İstinye and points in between ([www.ido.com.tr](http://www.ido.com.tr)). Otherwise bus No.15 runs from in front of Üsküdar ferry terminal.

### **WHERE TO EAT?**

#### **Hüseyin Bey Cafeteria**

Kızılsırçe Sokak No.10

Tel: 0216 462 13 98

A handful of tables on a wooden deck and yet more dotted about a small garden give rustic appeal to this small fish restaurant which looks straight out on the Göksu River.

#### **Dere Balık**

Toplarönü Mevkii No.13A / Tel: 0216 332 26 09

With a tree poking up through the roof and boats bobbing up and down outside the door, this is the sort of fish restaurant that majors on atmosphere rather than glamor. Prices are pleasingly unpretentious too.

### **Göksu Kafe**

Toplarönü Sokak, Riyaziyeci Çıkmazı No.5

Tel: 0216 332 16 37

Small new cafe tucked away in a quiet residential street in front of the castle. A good place to come for a slap-up breakfast.

### **Lacivert**

Körfez Caddesi No.5 / Tel: 0216 413 42 24

[www.lacivertrestaurant.com](http://www.lacivertrestaurant.com)

With stunning views of the Bosphorus, Lacivert (Navy Blue) is renowned for its *kabak tatlısı* (pumpkin dessert), the perfect end to a dinner, which might feature fish soup fresh from the harbor or a tasty Lacivert steak. A classy place which attracts a classy clientele.

### **The Egyptian Summer-House**

#### **Çubuklu and the Khedive's Villa**

One of İstanbul's more easily overlooked delights is the Khedive's Villa (Hıdiv Kasrı) at Çubuklu near Kanlıca on the Asian side of the Bosphorus, which is clearly visible from the ferries and from the grounds of the Sakıp Sabancı Museum but which vanishes from sight once you get closer to it.

### **HOW TO GET THERE?**

Take bus No.15 from the waterfront at Üsküdar to Kanlıca and then walk uphill for about 20 minutes to reach the villa. It's signposted from Kanlıca.

### **WHERE TO EAT?**

#### **Çubuklu 29**

Paşabahçe Yolu No.24 Tel:0216 322 28 29

[www.cubuklu29.com](http://www.cubuklu29.com)

In Çubuklu itself Çubuklu 29 is a waterside wedding venue popular with the jet set. It's an exclusive summer-only place in an exquisite waterside location with a beautiful pool surrounded by oleander bushes. Çubuklu 29 is accessible via a turn-off on the left as you drive towards Paşabahçe, and there's a large car park.

### **Hayal Kahvesi**

Çubuklu Burunbahçe A+B

Tel: 0216 413 68 80

[www.hayalkahvesi.com.tr](http://www.hayalkahvesi.com.tr)

Don't be misled by the word "kahve (cafe)" in the name. This upscale waterside bar, restaurant and nightclub housed in 300-year-old liquor warehouses beside Çubuklu 29 boasts an exquisite waterside setting, and a familiar international menu of steaks, burgers and pastas with familiar Turkish mezes relabeled as "tapas". Prices reflect the exclusive location.

### **Hıdiv Kasrı**

Hıdiv Yolu No.32

Tel: 0216 413 96 44

[www.beltur.com.tr](http://www.beltur.com.tr)

The Khedive's Villa now houses a state-run restaurant, which means posh surroundings and Turkish-Ottoman cuisine at very reasonable prices, but no alcohol. Over weekends open-buffet breakfasts are available from 9 am to 10 pm. The garden cafe offers teas, coffees and light snacks.

## **Gateway to the Black Sea**

### **Anadolu Kavađı**

As its very last stop the Bosphorus excursion boat from Eminönü calls in at Anadolu Kavađı on the Asian shore where the remains of a huge Byzantine-Genoese castle sit astride the hill offering views out towards the Black Sea. Anadolu Kavađı is still a real village separated from Beykoz by dense woodland. However, its main square is full of fish restaurants catering to the boat trippers.

### **HOW TO GET THERE?**

In summer three Bosphorus excursion ferries ([www.ido.com.tr](http://www.ido.com.tr)) stop at Anadolu Kavađı every day. There are also hourly ferries from Sarıyer. Otherwise bus No.15A runs along the coast from Üsküdar. You can get to Poyrazköy by minibus from Beykoz.

### **WHERE TO EAT?**

The Anadolu Kavađı **fish restaurants** are used to dealing with visitors on short stops, so don't expect to find a lot to choose between them except in terms of location and whether they serve proper sit-down meals or grab-and-go fried mussels and fish sandwiches.

#### **Kavak Dođanay Restaurant**

Yalı Caddesi No.13

Tel: 0216 320 20 36

#### **Yedigül Restaurant**

İskele Meydanı

Tel: 0216 320 21 80

#### **Yosun**

İskele Meydanı No.1

Tel: 0216 320 21 48

### **Yoros Castle**

It's not clear exactly when the castle on the Asian side of the Bosphorus was built although it's assumed to date from the period when the Palaeologos family ruled Constantinople, it's still possible to make out their motto on an inside wall above the entrance – a cross surrounded by four "b"s (for "basileus") which stand for "King of kings who kings it over kings". In 1352 the **Genoese** seized the castle and started to collect the customs dues for themselves. In 1452 **Mehmed the Conqueror** took over the castle, but he doesn't seem to have made use of it, and it was allowed to fall into ruin.

The castle is usually referred to as Yoros Castle, a name thought to derive either from the Greek for "oros(mountain)" or "ourious (fair winds)". Today Rumeli Hisarı may look far more impressive but in its heyday Yoros Castle covered twice as much ground, making it the largest castle on the Bosphorus. In 2010 archeological excavations began at the castle which is currently closed to visitors.

## **ISTANBUL ESCAPES**

### **Turkey's Largest Lighthouse**

#### **Şile**

A growing beach resort north of Istanbul on the Asian side, Şile boasts long sandy beaches, some offshore rock formations, a crumbling castle, and Turkey's largest lighthouse. It's a popular escape from the city – come here mid-week to escape the crowds.

### **Şile Castle**

The remains of a picturesque small castle dating back to Byzantine times but rebuilt under the Ottomans bestride a rock overlooking a colorful fishing harbor. This was originally the harbor of the ancient settlement of **Calpe** through which Xenophon's 10,000 Greek mercenaries passed on their way home from sorting out problems in Persia in 400 B.C, as recounted in the "**Anabasis**".

### **The Lighthouse**

The largest lighthouse in Turkey and the second largest lighthouse still in operation in the world, Şile's stripy black and white "fener" dates back to 1859 when it was built at the command of Sultan Abdülmecid I. It's officially open to visitors from May to the end of August from 10am to 4pm, but to be sure of admission time your visit for a weekend. A pleasantly landscaped **tea garden** slopes down behind the lighthouse.

### **Şile Bezi**

Şile is famous for a crinkled, sweat-absorbent, see-through fabric called Şile bezi (Şile cloth) that is popular for making shirts. Originally hand-woven, it is now usually machine-made but is popular with labels like Denizli's stylish Burdan. You can buy it in İstanbul shops, but it's more fun to browse the rails here, especially during the annual **Şile Festival** which takes place every year in the last week of July.

### **HOW TO GET THERE?**

Bus Nos.139A and 139D run to Şile from in front of the Şemsi Paşa Mosque in Üsküdar. It's a 70-kilometer drive from central İstanbul.

### **WHERE TO EAT?**

#### **Fusa Restaurant**

Vali Muhittin Caddesi, Maşatlık Mevkii

Tel: 0216 711 42 38

On a headland overlooking Şile Castle, this new restaurant offers a variety of indoor and outdoor eating areas, and a Turkish menu priced for locals rather than well-heeled outsiders.

#### **Değirmen Hotel**

Plaj Yolu, No.24

Tel: 0216 711 50 48

In business for more than 40 years, the 73-room Değirmen is also inland but boasts a wide range of facilities including a pool, restaurant and fitness center.

### **Where Two Rivers Meet the Black Sea**

#### **Ağva**

One of İstanbul's most popular weekend getaway destinations, Ağva, officially known as Yeşillçay (Green River), has the advantage of being both on the Black Sea coast close to a sandy beach and on the banks of the Göksu river which flows slowly out towards the sea here bypassing a string of hotels that cater for those in search of semi-rural tranquility on the doorstep of the big city.

#### **Aqua**

The name "Ağva" is said to be a corruption of the Latin "Aqua", meaning simply water. It was renamed Yeşillçay as part of a general policy of Turkifying place names in the mid-20th century.

### **HOW TO GET THERE?**

Bus No.139A travels to Ağva from in front of the Şemsi Paşa Mosque in Üsküdar, but if

possible it's best to drive the 100 kilometers from central İstanbul so that you can explore the surrounding countryside, too. First you pass through Şile, then after a few kilometers the road divides. The left fork leads to the coast, while the curvy right for leads into the forest. Ideally you should take one route on the outward journey and the other on the way back. Unfortunately pipes bringing water from the Melen Çayı (River) to İstanbul are starting to intrude on the natural beauty.

### **Trotsky's Hideaway**

#### **Büyükada**

Called Prinkipo in the past, Büyükada (Big Island) is the largest of the Prince's Islands. With its pine forests, flowering judas trees, beautiful wooden houses and blissful lack of traffic, it's a world apart from the rest of İstanbul, the perfect retreat at any time of year but especially in spring and autumn. Come here to take a phaeton ride around the island, then to tuck into a fish supper at one of the waterside restaurants. The longish ferry ride to get here is all part of the fun.

### **Büyükada Anatolian Club**

In 23 Nisan Caddesi, this attractive building was originally created for the Prinkipo Yacht Club by the British in 1906 and has hosted everybody from President İsmet İnönü through to the last shah of Iran and Nikolae Ceaucescu, the Romanian dictator. Of course Atatürk stayed here, too, and his room has been preserved as it was in his day. It's open to members and their guests only.

### **Turkey's Most Beautiful Street**

Çankaya Caddesi is a millionaire's row of exquisite houses in all the styles of the 19th and 20th centuries, most of them set in lush, well-kept gardens. If there's a prettier street in Turkey it's hard to think where it could be.

### **HOW TO GET THERE?**

There are regular high-speed ferries to the island from Kabataş, Kadıköy and Bostancı ([www.ido.com.tr](http://www.ido.com.tr)). Expect them to be very busy at weekends and over school holidays.

### **WHAT TO DO?**

Take a **phaeton ride** round the island. To find the phaetons walk 50 meters inland from the ferry terminal and then turn left at the clock tower. The **long tour (büyük tur)**, a complete circuit of the island, lasts around 75 minutes; the **short tour (küçük tur)** takes in only the northern part of the island.

Hire a **bicycle** and make your own way around the island. The rental shops are also near the clocktower.

Go **swimming** off Yörük Ali Plajı on the west side of the island, or at the Büyükada Water Sports Club.