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Istanbul Things to Do by Lek Boonlert

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However you prefer to spend your time whilst on holiday, there is plenty to see and do in Istanbul. There are many ways to enjoy Turkish food, not just by visiting the many restaurants but also by taking part in cookery classes. By doing so, you can take a little of the authentic flavours back home with you.

Hagia Sophia

No visit to Istanbul would be complete without a trip to Hagia Sophia. Built as a cathedral, which then became a mosque 900 years later, it is now a museum and home to some amazing mosaics and frescoes. Its awe-inspiring size is an amazing sight on the landscape and, as it is one of the most popular tourist sites, buying tickets to the museum in advance is advisable.

Turkish Dance Night

Visiting the Hodjapasha Culture Centre to see a performance of Turkish dance is also another activity not to be missed. There are both group performances and solo displays, as well as a mix of modern and traditional dance routines. Fully choreographed with light shows, this is a completely unique holiday experience.

Sultanahmet District

The SultanAhmet District is a mecca of shops. It is a hive of activity and also exactly where you need to be to visit the popular tourist hotspot, the Blue Mosque. Still used today as a place of worship, it is an amazing building with historical and architectural significance.

You can use both Turkish Lira and Euros as currency in Istanbul. Hotels in Istanbul and some other places may also take British pounds and American dollars. Bartering in the shops and markets is expected and many a bargain can be found this way.

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