

Culinary Between Two Continents



This full-day culinary experience takes you to the finest specialty food shops and local restaurants of Istanbul's two most exciting neighborhoods: Beyoğlu on the European side and Kadikoy on the Asian side. While tasting some of the best examples of Istanbul's delicacies, you will also listen to the inspiring stories behind these culinary delights, meet the people who make them and delve deep into the bustling Turkish street culture.

You must have heard the worldwide fame of Turkish breakfast. Our journey begins in Beyoğlu with a traditional Turkish breakfast. Next we discover the eateries in Beyoğlu's local market and learn about the meyhane (tavern) culture, including the proper way to drink your raki alongside matching mezes. We taste one of the best cups of Turkish coffee in town in a historical landmark; a 150-year old arcade. We continue along the back streets of Istiklal and Galata, where we will taste some other traditional delicacies.

Among this walking tour in Istiklal Street, we'll visit HAYATA SARIL LOKANTASI, which is Turkey's first diner that provides food, labour and psychological support for homeless and for those who are ignored by the society. The restuarant enables those who are in need to embrace life by gaining them hope and strenght. The aim is to adopt the understanding of sustainable civil society and to establish a system that is supported by a profit-oriented business model which can be returned back to the society.

After our short visit, we head down to Karaköy to catch a ferry to cross the majestic Bosphorus strait towards the Asian side. The ferry ride is an unforgettable experience in itself, where you get to feed simit.

We will be spending the next half of the day between Kadikoy and Moda. The local market of Kadikoy is beyond compare. You can find most Turkish delicacies lined up one after another in seemingly unending narrow streets. The real challenge becomes in choosing which ones to taste; lahmacun from the South East, meat balls from Marmara, dolmas and mezes from the Aegean region... Our Kadiköy adventure finalizes on a sweet note in a picturesque pastry and sweets shop. The day ends exploring the fashionable Moda district with its hip cafes and fine architecture.