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Istanbul - The Exciting Gateway City Between Europe And Asia

Istanbul serves as an important gateway between Europe and Asia and is heavily influenced by both. As the largest city in Turkey, Istanbul is an important cultural and financial hub. Istanbul was once the might city of Constantinople, and it was vastly important even then. This long history as well as its location between Asia and Europe make it a truly interesting place to visit. If you have plans that take you to this city, remember that you will need a passport first. If you need to replace stolen, lost, or damaged passports, online passport services can make it incredibly easy.

Get Your Passport Online

Getting your passport from an expedited online service comes with quite a few pluses. One of the biggest of these benefits is how much time you save by going online. The application only takes a few minutes to complete, and you also get to choose how quickly you'd like your passport delivered, which is a huge improvement over having to wait the usual 8-14 week waiting period. It's also incredibly convenient. You can go online and apply for expedited passport cards, name changes, or child passports any time you like. There's no rushing to the post office at the last minute. It's also great having the personal help of passport specialists when you go online.

The Old City District

If you are interested in the history of Istanbul, head to the Old City district, which is where ancient Constantinople stood. This is the spot where you'll encounter the most historical landmarks, such as the famous Hagia Sofia, a gigantic basilica constructed in the 6th century. Enduring a lot throughout Turkish history, it is renowned for its beautiful ancient mosaics and eye-catching details. For over a thousand years, it was actually the largest enclosed space on the planet. Other mosques are nearby, and they are worth checking out as well, such as the Blue Mosque. Don't miss out on the Basilica Cistern also. This is an underground reservoir created in the 500's to store water in case the city was under siege.

Istanbul Archaeology Museum

For more information on the history of the city, visit the popular Istanbul Archaeology Museum. This museum was the first Turkish museum, and it's gradually grown into one of the biggest in the world. Over a million artifacts and items are on display, with most from the Romans, the Greeks, and the Byzantines. One of the most famous exhibits is the sarcophagi, particularly the Alexander Sarcophagus, as well as a piece of the Babylonian wall.

The Turkish Bath

Of course you can't visit Turkey without indulging in a Turkish bath, also called the hamam. A hamam is similar to a sauna, and it often also comes with a massage. If you are interested in more Turkish traditions, try smoking on a nargile, or an authentic Turkish hookah.

As you can see, Istanbul is a city bursting with history. However, it's also a busy modern city, and it's European-Asian influences make it unlike any other city in the world. If you are planning to travel here, remember to get a passport. Lost, stolen, or [damaged USA Passports](#) can be replaced online. Other services - such as [expedited US passport cards](#) - can also be handled online.

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