



MUST-SEE MUSEUM

The massive domed structure known as the **Haghia Sophia** dates back more than 1,500 years, to 537 BC. Now a museum, the former Greek Orthodox church-turned-mosque has survived seven earthquakes. Seek out the green marble columns on the first floor that were brought from Ephesus and the lifelike glass mosaics of Jesus, Mary and John on the second floor.

SHOPPING OPS

Haggling for bargains and finding travel treasures is part of the shopping fun in Istanbul. At the **Egyptian Spice Market**, saffron sells for a fraction of what it does in the U.S., and at the **Grand Bazaar** you can pick up pillow covers, pashminas, leather goods, jewelry and more—for next to nothing. **Armaggan**, in Nuruosmaniye, sells one-of-a-kind jewelry, clothing, home goods and works of art while **Yesam Culinary Arts Center** holds daily candy-making demonstrations.

DINNER WITH A VIEW

FerahFeza Restaurant in the trendy Karaköy neighborhood serves modern Mediterranean fare such as lamb and octopus and boasts priceless views of Sultanhmet (Sultan's Palace) from its terrace. For right-off-the-boat grilled grouper and prime water views, head to **Giritli Restaurant** in the Old City.

DRINK IT IN

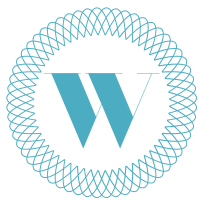
After a day on the town, sit back and unwind with afternoon tea, finger sandwiches and pastries in the red velvet-swathed **Kubbeli Saloon Tea Lounge** at Pera Palace Jumeirah. For a memorable way to take in the city after hours, reserve a spot at **360Istanbul**, in the penthouse of a 19th-century apartment building overlooking the old embassy row in Beyoglu.

SCRUB AND BUBBLES

A traditional Turkish bath combines a relaxing saunalike steam with massage and exfoliation. At the **Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hamami** in the Old City, you'll be covered in a blanket of soapy bubbles, scrubbed and rubbed down by pros who gently escort you across slippery marble floors in the hammam that Süleyman the Magnificent built for his wife back in 1557. Compact urban spa **Pera Palace Spa Istanbul** features hamman sessions and signature treatments like Hemingway's Will, a combination of back massage with Argan oil and reflexology.

Clockwise from top: the Saloon at Pera Palace Jumeirah in Istanbul; afternoon tea at Kubbeli Saloon Tea Lounge; the Haghia Sophia; the hotel's exterior; spices.

Turkish
Delight Unearth Istanbul's hidden gems and bustling brilliance



With its distinctive mix of ancient and modern, Istanbul—the one city that straddles Europe and Asia—is like no other. There's no shortage of five-star hotels in Istanbul, but **Pera Palace Jumeirah** stands out thanks to its timeless elegance. *Watch!* asked general manager **Pinar Timer**, voted one of "Istanbul's 50 Most Influential Women," for her Turkish tips. jumeirah.com

— Michele Shapiro



PERA PALACE JUMEIRAH (3)