

SAS CITY PORTRAITS

Istanbul

SAS



An old fountain with Hilton
Hotel in the background





SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES SYSTEM




Key to the Map:

1. The Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmed), and the Hippodrome.
2. St. Sophia, the Sunken Palace, and the Grand Bazaar.
3. The Seraglio Palace: Topkapi Museum, Treasury, Archaeological Museums, and the Seraglio Gardens.
4. The Constantine Column.
5. The Beyazit Mosque.
6. The Süleymaniye Mosque, and the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art.
7. The Aqueduct of Valens. Nearby are: the Fatih Mosque, the Fatih Museum, and the Municipal Museum.
8. The Kariye Mosque.
9. The Eyüp Mosque.
10. The Yeni Cami Mosque.
11. The Galata Tower.
12. Taksim Square.
13. The Dolmabahçe Palace, and the Naval Museum.

 SAS Ticket Office and Air Terminal: Cumhuriyet Caddesi, Altınbakkal, P. O. Box 221, Beyoğlu. Tel.: 47 31 40.

 Tourist Information Office: İstiklal Caddesi 120/3, Beyoğlu. Tel.: 44 00 89.

 Turkish Government Tourist Office, Hilton Arcade Altınbakkal (near the SAS office) Tel.: 48 63 00 — 48 68 64.

Your First 30 Minutes in Istanbul

Having disembarked at Yesilkoy Airport in Istanbul, you will be directed to the Arrival Hall, where currency and passport control take place, followed by customs inspection in the Customs Hall. Tell the porters whether your baggage should be brought to the bus (free transportation to SAS Ticket Office and Air Terminal, 45 minutes) or to a taxi (TL 20.00 to the city). For any information please ask the SAS Traffic Assistants or the Turkish Tourist Information Bureau in the Customs Hall.

There is an airport restaurant, post and telegraph office and bookshops both upstairs in the Departure Hall and downstairs in the Transit Hall.

The bus stop and taxi stand are just outside the Exit Hall. Buses depart for the city soon after end of the customs examination of arriving SAS passengers.

In case you have ordered a self-drive or a chauffeur driven car you will be informed by written message where the car is parked.

The SAS Terminal is situated in the center of the city near Taksim Square and the Hilton Hotel.

Hotel reservations, if not made in advance, should be arranged in the SAS town office. Don't hesitate to ask the SAS personnel for assistance whenever you need it; they are glad to help you!

If you are flying on from Istanbul by SAS one of the first things to do after your arrival is to reconfirm your onward reservation by informing SAS of the reservation you hold and your intention to use the space previously reserved for you. You might do this at the SAS counter at the airport or by dropping in at the SAS town office before starting out on your sight-seeing.

Monetary unit in Turkey is the Turkish Lira (£T), which is divided into 100 kuruş. One US dollar is worth approximately £T 5.25 and one £ Sterling about £T 14.70. (Official rate: One US dollar = £T 2.80, one £ Sterling = £T 7.84).

One Hour's Walk Around Istanbul

Start at the Hilton Hotel, walk up to Taksim Square through Taksim Park, follow the tram line and walk right through İstiklal Avenue, the shopping center, to the subway entrance. Walk down "Yüksekkaldırım" and climb the "Galata Tower" from where a magnificent view of the "Golden Horn" and the Bosphorus can be had. Then walk down to Galata Bridge which joins the new and old town.

ISTANBUL

1500 years is a long time indeed; and when one realizes that this span encompasses only about half of Istanbul's history, one begins to appreciate the elements which have blended together to make this one of the world's most authentically glamorous cities. In the ninth century BC, a tiny settlement existed at the spot where Asia Minor touches Europe; in 330 AD (on May 11, to be exact!) the city, then known as Byzantium, became the capital of the Roman Empire (east) and was renamed Constantinople to honor the reigning emperor Constantine. In the 13th century it was captured and ransacked by the crusaders. Two hundred years later, it began to regain some of its former glory as the capital of the Ottoman Empire, a status it held until 1922, when Turkey became a republic under the reformer and "Westernizer" Atatürk, who gave the city its present name and moved the capital to Ankara.

Istanbul is the only city of importance in the world to be situated on two continents; the Bosphorus, connecting the Sea of Marmara with the Black Sea, separates Europe from Asia and bisects the city as well. Thus, its strategic location and the diverse cultures acquired through centuries of alternating Eastern and Western domination combine to give Istanbul a flavor and patina not to be duplicated anywhere else.

While the clusters of minarets, the "Grand Bazaar" and the dominance of the Moslem religion contribute their exotic touches and give Istanbul an Asian accent, in general, Istanbul presents itself as a European city. Aside from their religion, Istanbul's 1,500,000 citizens live as Europeans; you will meet no veiled women, polygamy has been suppressed, wearing of the fez is illegal, and the Turks enjoy complete freedom with full civil liberties.



Additionally, French, English and German are spoken widely, and you will have little difficulty in being understood, especially in the hotels, better shops and restaurants.

Hotels

Beside the Hilton hotel, which is in the de luxe category, Istanbul boasts many other very good hotels. Most visitors will feel happy at places such as the Park Oteli (Ayazpaşa, Taksim) and the Pera Palas (Tepebaşı). These charge about £T 15—20. The Hilton, at Harbiye (Taksim), offers accommodation from £T 45 upwards, while the Divan Hotel (Taksim) charges from £T 20—70 per person per day. The hotels mentioned so far are all located in the Beyoğlu district of Istanbul, which is the city center both for hotels and entertainment. You may compare its main square, Taksim Meydanı, with Times Square in New York or London's Piccadilly Circus. There are other satisfactory hotels in the Old Istanbul, e.g. the Ipek Palas, at Sirkeci, Kordon Hotel in Kadiköf, the Plaza at Cihangir, and — near the airport — the Deniz Park, and the Cinar Hotel, at Yesilkoy. The first charges £T 15—30, the latter £T 9—15. Add a service charge of 15 % to the above prices.

Numerous other hotels are available. Let SAS or your travel agency help you find a place suitable to your particular wishes. Also ask them to reserve a room for you in advance. Note: The electrical current is 110 Volts A.C. in most districts on the European side, and 220 A.C. on the Asiatic.

Restaurants and Food

Breakfast is served around 8 AM and lunch from 1 PM, but dinner is a little later than in many countries, being served after 8:30 PM. Between meals, Turks drink plenty of their special Turkish coffee which is thick and sweet, medium or bitter. Should you not care for it, order "French coffee" and you will get what is usually served on the European Continent.

Turkey offers many culinary specialties, and although the international hotels in Istanbul will provide French cuisine, you should not miss trying some of these interesting dishes: *kiliç*, swordfish grilled on a spit with bay leaves; *midye dolması*, mussels cooked in their shells with rice, onions, raisins and olive oil; *iç pilav*, rice cooked with currants, pine nuts and spices, and usually served with chicken or turkey. A very popular dish is the *döner kebabi*, meat broiled on a big vertical spit and sliced. You will be surprised to see the number of varied chicken dishes available; above all, it will probably amaze you to have chicken served as dessert! If you want to see for yourself that this is true, just order the *tavuk-göğsü*, breast of chicken prepared with milk and sugar.

Here are a few culinary terms which may be useful: *pilav* is rice cooked with water or broth and butter; *kebap* is lamb and it is served in hundreds of varieties; *dolmas* is grape or cabbage leaves filled with ground beef and served with sour cream. You may also try the *tomates dolması*, tomatoes stuffed either with mincemeat and served hot, or with rice and olive oil and served cold. So, you see, there are plenty of food surprises in store for you.

Now, to find a nice restaurant! There is a wide choice, and while places like the Pandeli, the Misir Çarşisi (or the Spice Market at Eminönü and the Abdullah (86 Istiklâl Caddesi, at Beyoğlu), are well known even outside Turkey, there are numerous other restaurants of high standard; for lunch try the Liman, where the view is quite exotic, and the food excellent. This restaurant is located at the Customs House along the Harbor. On the Beyoğlu side you'll enjoy Abdullah (86 Istiklâl Caddesi Beyoğlu) and Ekrem Yeğen (on the same street), quite fashionable and with excellent food. The hotel restaurants are always good. At the Hilton you may have a snack and a cup of coffee at the Bosphorus Terrace, or you may dine at the more formal Terrace Restaurant, which has an American bar.

Should you wish to try an inexpensive place, here are a few suggestions: the Hungarian restaurant Çardaş (at Tepabasi), Piknik (at Beyoğlu) and the restaurant Fisher (at Galatasaray), or Degustation, an Italian restaurant. All these restaurants are in the city area, but since you will probably take a sightseeing trip through the Bosphorus during your stay in Istanbul, it would be a fine idea to have lunch at Canlı Balık, at Mardiros, or at Billur Köşk, Emirgân. The seafood at these places is wonderful and the view unsurpassable.

What to drink? Well, drinking water comes from a lake outside the city and has passed through several reservoirs. You can safely drink it. There are excellent mineral waters from local springs, and the Turkish beer is very good, as are the local red and white wines. Local brands of vermouth, gin, brandy and liqueurs (flavored with cherry, banana, strawberry and rose-leaf) are all good. Get acquainted with the *rakı* (pronounce "rocky"), a local drink, distilled from grapes. It is served with *meze*, a marvellous Turkish edition of the Swedish "smörgåsbord". You may have imported wines and spirits, but they are expensive.



Sights

A glance at the map will help you to get acquainted with this interesting city. When you land in Istanbul you are still on European soil, but it will cost you no more than a dime to go by ferry to Asia across the Bosphorus.

Another important stretch of water is the "Golden Horn", dividing the European part of the city. The Atatürk bridge and the famous Galata bridge (where the ferries between the European



and the Asiatic part of Istanbul depart) connect the Old Istanbul District (south) with the Galata District (north). Further north is the Beyoğlu District where many of the leading hotels are situated. Galata is the business center, but the Istanbul District is really the core of the old city. This is where all the ancient monuments, the museums, the mosques and churches and the Grand Bazaar are situated. So, it is in the European part of the city the visitor will stay, although he may join the citizens when they cross the Bosphorus and settle down for a few hours or, perhaps, for a week-end or a holiday, in one of the pleasant resorts on the coast of the Marmara Sea: Kadıyönü, Moda, Pendik or Yalova. The Asiatic (or Anatolian) side of Bosphorus is a wonderful holiday country.

Should you wish to take an escorted sightseeing tour, any travel agency in Istanbul will gladly assist you. On the other hand, many tourists like to ramble around on their own, so we list below a few places which you should try not to miss. (The figures correspond to the map.)

- (1) *The Blue Mosque*, or the Mosque of Sultan Ahmed, is situated near St. Sophia (see below), and is the only one in the world with six minarets. Constructed between 1609 and 1616, it is a real masterpiece of Turkish architecture. It is called the "Blue Mosque" because of the wonderful blue tilework adorning its interior, giving it an atmosphere of peace and quiet. The Hippodrome was first laid out by the Roman Emperor Septimius Severus as a sports ground for chariot races and other competitions. On the square is the Egyptian Obelisk, brought here in 390 by the Emperor Theodosius I. Note the carvings describing the method employed in its erection. Two other columns stand here: the Serpentine Column, which was brought from Delphi, where it was originally erected to commemorate the battle of Plataea (in 500 BC), and the Waller Column, erected by Constantine VII during the 10th century. The Fountain of Wilhelm II was brought from Germany in 1898.
 - (2) *St. Sophia*. Originally constructed in 347 by Constantine, Rome's first Christian Emperor, St. Sophia was devastated by fire 50 years later and rebuilt by the Emperor Justinianus. Then, as time went on, the Moslems converted the Basilica into a mosque with four minarets, after the conquest of Istanbul by Fatih Sultan Mehmet II, and finally, after the creation of the Republic of Turkey, it was turned into a museum. The interior is decorated with beautiful mosaics representing Christ, the Virgin Mary, Justinianus, Constantine the Great and others, dating from the 14th century. Admission: daily from 10 AM to 4.30 PM, Sundays from 1 to 5 PM. Closed on Mondays.
- Yerebatan Sarayı*, "The Sunken Palace", is an original Byzantine cistern, situated near St. Sophia and the Constantine Column (see below). It was constructed under the reign of Justinianus some 1400 years ago, and has

336 columns still intact. Istanbul has a number of cisterns from the Byzantine period, but this is one of the largest and the only one in which there is still water. There are electric lights and it is possible—and of course exciting—to go inside by boat. Admission: Open every day except Sunday from 1 to 5 PM.

Nearby is the Grand Bazaar, a "must" for everyone coming to Istanbul. It is an authentic covered Oriental bazaar, and although it has on several occasions been destroyed by fire—most recently in 1954—it still retains the pattern of the original layout, and you will hardly see the like of it anywhere else. The Grand Bazaar is like a small city, divided into districts, with crossroads, open squares and streets teeming with craftsmen and merchants of various trades. Especially worth visiting is the "Bedesten" and the weapon and antique markets, open from 9 AM to 7 PM on weekdays. While the Grand Bazaar is no longer as important as it once was, what is left will stimulate your imagination and help to recreate the "good old days".

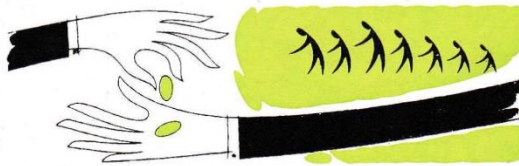
- (3) *The Topkapı Palace*, Museum (Seraglio). Not far from St. Sophia stands the Seraglio, which is the ancient residence of the Ottoman Sultans, the spot from which this great Empire was ruled for centuries. Spread through a vast garden, it consists of several structures and sections: The Pavilion of the Treasury contains an outstanding collection of Jewelry unmatched anywhere in the world; The Chinese Porcelain Section is another interesting part of the museum. Here are rich collections originating from the Sung and the Yuan dynasties, dating from the 9th to the 14th century. The so-called "Bâğdat Köşk" was built by Murat IV to celebrate his capture of Baghdad in 1638; nearby is the Tulip Garden and the old Harem quarters. It is no overstatement to say that the Seraglio Palace (The Topkapı Museum) is a temple of art and history, spotlighting nearly five centuries of Turkish culture.
- The old Seraglio also houses the *Archaeological Museum*. It is famous for collections relating to the ancient Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans. One of its treasures is the sarcophagus of Alexander the Great. Nearby is the Museum of Oriental Archaeology with collections of antiquities from the Hittites, the Assyrians and the Egyptians. The wonderful view from the Seraglio gardens alone is worth the whole visit. Admission hours: The Topkapı Museum daily from 9:30 AM to 12 noon and from 1:30 to 5:00 PM except Tuesdays, all sections. Saturday mornings: Treasury and Harem only. Saturdays: Treasury and Harem closed, other sections open. Sundays: Only Treasury open.
- (4) *The Constantine Column*, on the avenue leading from St. Sophia to Beyazit Square, was brought from Rome in 330 AD by Constantine. It consists of nine cylindrical blocks of porphyry, and is 35 m. high.
 - (5) *The Beyazit Mosque*, on the Beyazit Square, near the Fire Tower, is one of the most beautiful mosques of Istanbul, and is the first one built in Turkish style (1501—1505).
 - (6) *The Süleymaniye Mosque* is famed as one of the finest and noblest religious edifices in the world. Built by the great Turkish architect Sinan in the 16th century, it is characterized by the symmetrical style of its facade as well as of its interior. The height of its great dome measures 174 feet (54 m) and the diameter is 105 feet (32 m).

The huge porphyry columns supporting it are said to have come from the Temple of Diana at Ephesus in Greece. Nearby is the *Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art*. Besides old manuscripts and books there are collections of Seljuk carpets, gold Korans and beautiful miniatures.

- (7) *The Aqeduct of Valens* was constructed about 1700 years ago, during the reign of the Emperor Valens, to carry water between two of the Istanbul hills. (Like Rome, Istanbul was built on seven hills). The district in which the Aqeduct stands is named Fatih (Conqueror) after the famous Sultan Mehmet The Conqueror. Here is also the *Fatih Mosque* (1771) and the *Fatih Museum* with relics of the Sultan, and nearby, the *Municipal Museum*, which houses very interesting historical collections illustrating Istanbul and the Bosphorus through the ages. Admission: daily (except Thursday) from 10 AM to noon and 2—5 PM.
- There are other interesting mosques on this side of the Golden Horn, which are worth a visit: the *Kariye Mosque* (No. 8 on the map, open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM) originally a Byzantine church (beautiful mosaics), and the *Eyüp Mosque* (9), reached by boat from the Galata Bridge. In the courtyard thousands of pigeons are fed by the faithful, and salesmen display their sacred books, framed papers with verses from the Koran, prayer beads and little flacons of perfume. From the small Pierre Loti Café behind the mosque, there is a good view of the Golden Horn.
- (10) *The Yeni Cami Mosque* (or the New Mosque) is situated at the head of the Galata Bridge on the Istanbul side. It is a very fine specimen of Turkish art with harmonious proportions. It was built during the first half of the 17th century, and is renowned for the beautiful tiles adorning its interior.
 - (11) *The Galata Tower* is a very old building, said to date from the 5th century. When Istanbul was captured by the Genoese, it was called the Jesus Tower and used as an observatory. The view of the city, from the top (224 feet) is magnificent. Admission: daily from 9 AM to 5 PM. Nearby is the "Tunnel", a short underground railway, leading from Galata to Beyoğlu, a trip of only two minutes. At the upper end is the beginning of the local "Broadway", İstiklal Caddesi, with theaters, cinemas, shops, restaurants and hotels. This leads to:
 - (12) *Taksim Square* with the Memorial to the War of Independence, erected in 1928, in the center.
 - (13) *The Dolmabahçe Palace* is one of the numerous royal palaces which dot the shores of the Bosphorus. Constructed in 1853 by Sultan Abdülmecid, its architecture is varied in style, created partly by European, partly by Turkish architects. The interior is decorated in porphyry, crystal and other precious materials, and it was in this palace that Kemal Atatürk died. Open to visitors: Tuesdays and Fridays 2—5 PM. Get your permit from the State Tourist Office, located in the Hilton Areacle. Even if the Palace is not open, go there to enjoy the view over the Bosphorus.
- The Naval Museum* is situated near the Dolmabahçe Palace in the Dolmabahçe Mosque. Interesting collections illustrate the Naval History of the Ottoman Empire as well as modern Turkey. Admission: daily—except Monday and Tuesday—from 1 PM to 5 PM.

Tipping

A service charge of 10—15 % (minimum 100 kurus) is added to the bill in hotels and restaurants. Tip the porter or waiter an additional 10 %. Taxi-drivers expect a tip of 10—20 %.



Transportation

The easiest way to get around is by taxi. There are many and they are not expensive, but be sure always to ask for the fare before you take the car.

Trams and buses cover the entire area, and the "tunnel" — a short distance subway — provides the fastest connection between Galata and Beyoğlu. You pay according to the length of the ride. In addition to these traditional means of transport there are in Istanbul a number of "dolmuş" taxis: i.e. community taxis with fixed routings, as a rule accommodating 4—5 persons, who share the fare.

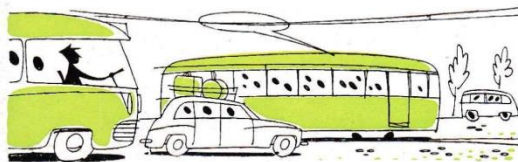
Numerous ferry boats link the European and the Asiatic shores. Departure point is the Galata Bridge on the European side and Üsküdar on the Asiatic side.

The principal suburban and long distance bus lines depart from the Taksim Square. Should you wish to hire a car, the SAS Ticket Office will be pleased to make arrangements for you, the charge being approximately T£ 60.00 per day, exclusive of gasoline.

Excursions

Bosphorus — half-day round trip. At 10 AM take the motor boat or ferry from the Galata Bridge along the scenic coast line of Europe and Asia lined with old palaces, summer villas and beaches. The crowning jewel is the 15th century Turkish Castle situated at the narrowest point of the Bosphorus. Note: Beyond Yeniköy, the use of cameras and field glasses is prohibited (military zone). Leave the boat at Sarıyer, from where you return by bus to Taksim Square (45 minutes).

The Princes Isles — All day excursion by boat from the Galata Bridge. Take the ferry to Büyükada (Prinkipo), which is the largest island of the group, passing the Marmara Sea with a marvellous view of the Blue Mosque and the St. Sophia Barracks of Selim, where, during the Crimean War (1854—57), Florence Nightingale started on her nursing career.





The next stop is Haydarpaşa, terminal for the Ankara and Tarsus Express. The ferry then calls at Kinalı, Burgaz and Heybeliada, and finally at Büyükada. Motor cars are prohibited on the islands, but you'll enjoy a trip by horse-drawn carriage. End your visit with a sea-food lunch.

There are several other interesting excursions; have a chat with one of the travel agencies, or with the Official Tourist Information Office (see map), and let them advise you.

Shopping

The main shopping district is that of Beyoğlu, and especially the main thoroughfare İstiklal Caddesi. Most shops are open from 9 AM to 7 PM. Apart from U.S. manufactured goods, all imported articles are inexpensive, including French perfumes, German cameras and field glasses, English textiles, etc.

However, what most visitors fancy are Turkish souvenirs of the kinds you find in the old "Bazaar" (No. 2 on the map). These include hand-embroideries, silk, carpets, filigree work in gold and silver, pipes, ceramics and perfumes. During or after your shopping expedition in this famous market place, have an authentic Turkish meal in the Misir Çarşisi restaurant located on the second floor of the Spice market.



Entertainment and Night Life

Excellent theatres offer dramas ranging from Shakespeare to Sherwood, in Turkish. One of the highlights of the music season (October to May) is the annual visit of the State Opera Company of Ankara in the spring. The Philharmonic Orchestra gives symphonic concerts on alternate Thursdays at the Saray Theater, with visitings soloists of international note. Other interesting items of the Istanbul musical season are the popular Sunday morning concerts at the Yeni Tiyatro (the Municipality Play House on İstiklal Caddesi). These are devoted to symphonic concerts by the City Orchestra and to classical Turkish music performed on alternate weeks throughout the season. To these, add numerous instrumental recitals and chamber music concerts. Check the Weekly Tourist Information Bulletin for all current events.

Modern cinemas show fairly new American and European films with the original sound track and Turkish subtitles. Such theaters are the Yeni Melek, Lâle, Lüks, Saray, Atlas, Elhamra, Ar, all situated centrally midtown. Performances usually start at 2:30, 4:30, 6:30 and 9:15 PM, with an extra show on Sundays at 11 AM. It is advisable to reserve seats beforehand; let your hotel porter arrange it for you.

For dinner, dancing and floor shows, Kervansaray, Cordon Bleu, Taksim Casino, Hilton Hotel, Park Hotel, Normandiya, Wagon Bleu, Moulin Rouge, Klob-X and Güney Park rank among the best places to go to. Then, outside the city, places like Beau Rivage, Billur Köşk, Lido, Deniz Park and Bebek Casino are lovely during summer.

Night clubs are usually open late, often from about 10:30 PM until dawn. They're good — with excellent orchestras and usually with international stars. Aside from the establishments listed above, you'll like Taksim Pavillon, Park Hotel (Snake Pit), Konak, Cumhuriyet, Studio and Normandiya. Would you like to see night clubs real local atmosphere, go to Tepebaşı or Caca-

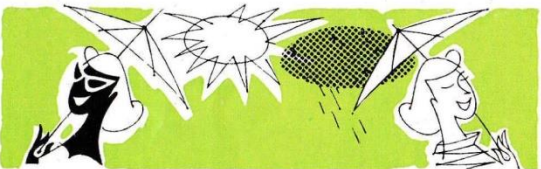


blanca casinos. If you think that there's nothing left to do when the night clubs have closed down you are wrong! Both the Kervansaray and the Cordon Bleu open special clubs for night owls at 3 AM with light music and dishes especially suitable as antidotes for the "morning after". Surely, no one need be bored in Istanbul!

Climate and Clothing

Istanbul enjoys an ideal climate in spring, summer and autumn, with long periods of warm, dry and pleasant weather, cool evenings, and only occasional rain. In July and August the average temperature is 72°F (22.5°C). Winter is not severe although there will be a little snow from time to time. Coldest and most rainy are February and March, with an average temperature of 40°F (4.5°C), so dress accordingly.

A raincoat will be useful at all times of the year, while in winter woollen clothing and a warm topcoat are indispensable. If you're



going to Ankara, note that summer there is warmer, and winter colder, than in Istanbul.

Formal dress is necessary only when visiting the most distinguished night clubs. The hotel will take care of your laundry and dry-cleaning, prices are reasonable, and the job is done satisfactorily.

Sports

The waters around Istanbul provide fine facilities for swimming, boating and fishing. On the Asiatic side there are excellent facilities for swimming and sailing at Kadıköy (the Yacht Club of the Moda Bay, the Sailing Club at Fenerbahçe). From here the wonderful bathing beaches of Suadiye and Küçük Yalı are easily reached. A little further on is the lovely Kilyos Beach on the Black Sea. Take the bus from Taksim Square or the boat from the Galata Bridge to Sariyer (see Excursions), and from there the bus to Kilyos. Another fine place for swimming is at Sile, a landing on the Black Sea.

Hunters will be delighted at the variety of game. Near the city there are grouse, pheasant, quail and different kinds of wild duck and wild geese, as well as hare, deer and wild boar. Let the Government Tourist Office or the Municipal Tourist Information Office advise you.

Horse-racing, soccer, wrestling, basketball, tennis and golf are popular sports. If you want to see a game, you will find a list of the sporting events in the "Weekly Tourist Information Bulletin".



Public Holidays

The population being mostly Moslem, partly Christian, visitors will find that there are in Turkey as many, if not more public holidays than they are used to at home. Here is a list of the immovable holidays:

April 23rd: Children's Day; May 1st: Spring festival; May 19th: Youth and Sports Day; August 30th: Victory Day; October 29th: Republic Day. On these holidays all shops and offices are closed. Christmas and Easter are, of course, celebrated by the Christian part of the population, and there are two important Moslem holidays: Seker Bayram (wonderful illumination of the mosques and other public buildings) and Kurban Bayram. The dates of these two holidays vary from year to year.



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