

Special interest: Istanbul

High upon the shores of the Bosphorus stands Istanbul, just the name conjures up images of oriental mystery, magical Bosphorus cruises, atmospheric bazaars, Sultan's palaces and of course the cross-roads of Europe and Asia.



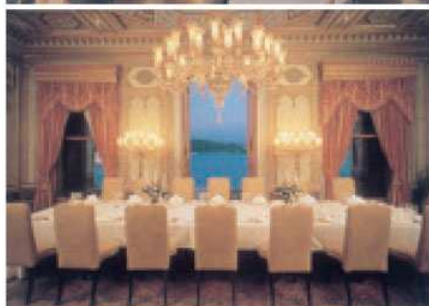
Istanbul is the last bastion of the Western world, the golden gateway of the continent of Asia, the city where East meets West in a profusion of noise, colour, unique to the World. The skyline is dominated by the slender minarets of the great Mosques from which the muezzins bring the city to life with their haunting call to prayer that will stay with you forever.

You can soak up the history of the Ottoman Empire in the Topkapi Palace or marvel at the sheer beauty of the St. Sophia and Blue Mosque.

The famous covered Bazaar is a shopper's paradise with its maze of tunnels and variety of mysterious goods that can only be found here.

Authentic Ottoman houses can be found everywhere along the narrow streets in the old town while you can taste some modern life in the famous Taksim area. Enjoy the ultimate city break destination and spend a weekend or perhaps a little longer in one of the World's truly remarkable cities. Istanbul is a must and you will need several days to do justice to all that it has to offer. The friendly and informative Blue Cruise representatives in Istanbul are available to host a wide variety of tours exploring many different aspects of the city.

Istanbul



BB Ciragan Palace Kempinski

The elegant Ciragan Palace is located in the city centre, 30 minutes from the Istanbul airport and is a member of the prestigious 'Leading Hotels of the World'.

The exquisite architecture and decor, put together on the front of the Bosphorus is perfectly charming and a splendour to look at. Built for the Ottoman Sultans, the Ciragan Palace has everything and more you would expect from a hotel of its calibre and all the comforts the sultans wanted.

Although the Sultans are long gone, their magnificent hotel still stands more wonderful than ever and with everything from a Turkish bath to one of several a la carte restaurants. The rooms are double the size of conventional ones and could be called palaces themselves by right. The Ciragan in fact is made up of two hotels, the Sultan's palace and grounds and then the deluxe grand hotel made in the image of its neighbour.

It has 322 rooms which includes 26 suites, 45 deluxe rooms and 251 standard rooms. The luxury of this hotel is legendary and the Ciragan Palace is certainly one of those seeking this splendour.

Hotel Facilities

- Indoor and outdoor restaurants (in hotel and palace)
- Conference rooms
- Ballroom and 7 meeting rooms
- 5 bars
- Health club, Sauna, Turkish bath and Gymnasium
- Business centre
- Baby sitting service
- Beauty hall
- Shopping centre
- Disco and Night-club
- Laundry and Dry-cleaning
- 24 hours room service
- Hairdresser
- Drugstore
- Indoor and outdoor swimming pools
- Each room has a mini-bar, satellite TV, direct dial telephone, air-conditioning. Smoking and non-smoking rooms and rooms with balconies available on request
- All rooms with Ottoman inspired decor