The Side Waiting to be Discovered, Asian Side!

Istanbul Marriott Hotel Asia

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Fenerbahçe and Kalamış

Fenerbahçe will always be associated primarily with the mega-league football team whose stadium can be found here. For non-football fans, however, it's also the location of delightful park that opened to the public back in the 19th century. Neighboring Kalamış is home to a large marina. This is a well-heeled residential area with some suitably upscale restaurants to go with it. Fenerbahçe takes its name, which means "lighthouse garden" in Turkish, from a lighthouse that stands on the coast here. It's a district of well-maintained low-rise apartment blocks in leafy streets, with the occasional fine old mansion surviving as a reminder of the past. One of the best stands near Fenerbahçe Park; its wooden facade is decorated with a protruding classical-style bust while two lively green dragons serve as brackets supporting the top floor cumba (bay window).

Kalamış and The Marina The small 19th century Church of Hagios Ioannis Chyrsostomos (John Chyrsostom) stands opposite the entrance to the Kalamış Marina. Externally it's not much to look at although the icon-filled interior is atmospheric. In the narthex look out for a fine old 19th century stone printing block depicting a much older İstanbul. One of İstanbul's two marinas, Kalamış is larger than Ataköy, with berths for more than 1000 yachts. Like all Turkey's marinas, it's operated by Setur.

HOW TO GET THERE?

There is a ferry from Eminönü or Beşiktaş to Kadıköy and then either walk along the coast road, or catch a bus east to Fenerbahçe.
WHERE TO EAT?

**Belvü Restaurant**
Fener Kalamış Caddesi No.114/A  
Tel: 0216 450 39 60  
Waterside cafe and restaurant with small children's play area and own car park that offers an open-buffet brunch at weekends.

**Happy Moon's Cafe**
Fener Kalamış Caddesi, No.89  
Tel: 0216 550 05 00  
www.happymoons.com.tr  
It is housed in a fine old mansion with a large garden, a fine setting to enjoy Sunday brunches.

**Posh**
Münir Nurettin Selçuk Caddesi, No.34, Kalamış  
Tel: 0216 550 41 42  
Don't be put off by the name since this is really a very inviting restaurant with a high-quality international menu designed to tempt passing mariners with things like Chinese spring rolls, pizzas and spaghettis as well as the more routine fish and kebabs.

**Romantika**
Fenerbahçe Park  
Tel: 0216 348 80 56  
All-in-one restaurant and cafe right in the park with lots of outdoor tables for soaking up the view and a conservatory-style interior where you can tuck into tea and cakes beneath Venetian glass chandeliers.
Ancient Chalcedon

Kadıköy and Moda

Hard though it is to imagine it today, Kadıköy was once a completely separate settlement gazing at Byzantium across the water. This was the Chalcedon of the Megarians which was founded in c.635 BC, but fell to the Turks long before Byzantium. Of all the suburbs on the Asian side of the city, today's Kadıköy has to be the one of the liveliest, with a large student population and plenty of nightlife opportunities especially along its famous "Bar Street". Adjoining Moda is one of the Asian İstanbul's glitziest residential suburbs. Arriving by ferry in Kadıköy (the Village of the Judge), its attractions are not immediately obvious you will find yourself stranded in a shapeless concrete plaza facing onto what looks like an unbroken line of high-rise shop and apartment blocks. The sole building of distinction is the low-rise Old Market Building (Eski Hal Binası) on the right which was built to house a wholesale market in the 1920s but is now home to the Istanbul Conservatory. Still, appearances can be deceptive, and you only have to delve down the side streets behind the high-rises to find narrow pedestrianized streets lined with interesting shops, exciting restaurants and lively bars that cater to a large local student population; it's a bit like Beşiktaş but with heavy metal T-shirts and attitude. Here, too, are a number of small, discreet churches dating back to the 19th century. Kadıköy is within handy walking of ferry distance of Haydarpaşa station, the imposing, German-designed terminal for train services to Asia. To the right of the Eski Hal Binası an unusual statue of Atatürk commemorates the changeover from writing Turkish in the Arabic script to writing it using the Roman alphabet in 1928. A huge step forward in enabling ordinary people to learn to read and write, the change had the unintended consequence of cutting Republican Turks off from Ottoman history which was sealed in the archives in suddenly mysterious Ottoman Turkish. Behind the statue stands the Kadıköy Kaymakamlığı (local government building), a fine example of First National Architecture dating back to around 1913 and designed by the Greek architect Constantinos P. Kyriakides. Amid the maze of busy shopping streets are a couple of landmark monuments to look out for. Just as Wall Street in New York has its monumental bull, so too does Kadıköy. Watch out, too, for the monumental slab with a tiny crocodile perched on the corner and use it to get your bearings inside the market.
Bahariye Caddesi

Pedestrianized Bahariye Caddesi (officially General Asım Gündüz Caddesi but no one calls it that) is the İstiklal Caddesi of the Asian side of İstanbul with a similar old-fashioned tram trundling along it enroute to Moda. The most striking monument on the street is the grand Süreyya Opera House (www.sureyyaoperasi.org) donated to the city by Süreyya and Adalet İlmen in 1924. This was later converted into a cinema but was restored to its original function in 2007. The facade is decorated with carvings of the Muses and masks of tragedy and comedy and many people will find the elaborate interior more than worth the price of a concert ticket. Beside it stands a modern marble sculpture by Neslihan Pala called Vodvil (Vaudeville). There are masses of cheap, delightful bars and cafes tucked away in the side streets. To find Bahariye Caddesi walk up Söğütlüçeşme Caddesi from the harbor until you reach the statue of the bull and then turn right.

SHOPPING

The Historic Tuesday Market (Tarihi Salı Pazarı) has been moved to Hasanpaşa, effectively in the middle of nowhere. There are free service buses from the site of the Eski (Old) Salı Pazarı behind the Fenerbahçe football stadium, but we think you'd have to be feeling pretty desperate for a cheap T-shirt to endure the queues or the traffic along the way.

HOW TO GET THERE?

Take a ferry from Eminönü or Beşiktaş to Kadıköy during the day. The views from the ferry are enough to justify the trip on their own. After the ferries stop there are dolmuş to and from Taksim. A nostalgic tram similar to the one that services İstiklal Caddesi runs from Kadıköy to Moda via pedestrianized Bahariye Caddesi, although you can just as easily walk along the coastal promenade.

Greenhouse
(Dumlupınar Sokak No.17)
Tel: 0216 449 30 34
Greenhouse is an excellent English-language bookshop with a great range of titles relating to Turkey and the Middle East.
Those with a sweet tooth may want to track down Cemilzade (Cemil Topuzlu Caddesi No.7/4,Selamiçeşme, Tel: 0216 385 04 23, www.cemilzade.com.tr ) which is still offering a great range of hard and soft candies more than 100 years since it opened in 1883.

WHERE TO EAT?

Baylan
Muvakkithane Caddesi No.19
Tel: 0216 336 28 81
www.baylanpastanesi.com
Old-fashioned, formerly Greek-owned and very popular patisserie with a rear garden which opened here in 1961. Its specialty is the Kup Griye, a delicious caramel and vanilla ice-cream sundae topped with honey, cream and nuts.

Çiya
Caferağa Mahallesi, Güneşlibahçe Sokak No.44
Tel: 0216 418 51 15
www.ciya.com.tr
Take your pick – Çiya has three branches, all close together, one serving kebabs, one serving stews, the third serving a mixture everything. Despite rather lackadaisical service, this is a restaurant for real foodies, serving a wide-range of south-eastern Anatolian dishes not available anywhere else in town. Prices reflect the high quality of the food. No alcohol is served.

Denizatı (Seahorse)
Eski Kadıköy İskelesi Tel: 0216 414 76 43
Housed inside the original Kadıköy ferry terminal which dates back to the 1920s, this pleasant restaurant has a few outdoor tables where you can soak up a fantastic view of Old İstanbul while tucking into a fairly predictable range of pastas and sandwiches. The interior has the feel of a ship's bridge about it.
Kadı Nimet Balıkçılık
Tarihi Balıkçılar Çarşısı, Serasker Caddesi No:10/A
Tel: 0216 348 73 89
The fish comes straight from the surrounding market stalls at this highly-rated, atmospheric and reasonably-priced fish restaurant that used to be known for a tame goose that roamed the nearby market streets.

Şelale (Waterfall)
Güneşlibahçe Sokak No.60
Tel: 0216 330 44 20
Sprawling restaurant and hookah cafe in the heart of the market.

Viktor Levi
Moda Caddesi, Damacı Sokak No.4
Tel: 0216 449 93 29
www.viktorlevimoda.com
Popular wine house and restaurant housed in an old building with a spacious back garden.

Yanyalı Fehmi Lokantası
Söğütlüçeşme Caddesi, Yağlıkçı Sokak No.1
Tel: 0216 336 33 33
www.fehmilokantasi.com
In business since 1919, this hygiene-focused restaurant in the market serves a range of fresh stews and grills as well as some interesting desserts such as yoğurt revani, a delicious soft sponge, and yassı kadayıf, a sticky walnut pudding soaked in syrup.

Moda

Tarihi Moda İskelesi
Moda İskele Caddesi
Tel: 0216 449 92 62
Joined to the mainland by a walkway, this surprisingly reasonably priced restaurant is housed in the delightful building that used to serve as the ferry terminal. Stunning views but no alcohol.
Göztepe Toy Museum

The leafy residential area of Göztepe is home to İstanbul's wonderful Toy Museum (www.istanbuloyuncakmuzesi.com, closed Mondays) which houses more than 5000 toys collected over the year by its writer-owner Sunay Akın; the oldest is a French-made violin dating back to 1817. A reconstructed toyshop shows off examples of the types of non-figurative wooden toys that used to be made in Eyüp. Children swoon over the room that resembles a railway compartment, and over toilets housed in a replica submarine; their parents will be almost as enthralled by the unexpectedly stylish cafe on the ground floor. Outside in the courtyard are larger than life models of two Turkish folk heroes, Nasreddin Hoca and Keloğlan. The museum is in Dr Zeki Zeren Sokak, off Ömerpaşa Caddesi and is well signposted from Göztepe bus stop.

SHOPPING

In business since 1934, Vakko (Tel: 0216 416 42 04, www.vakko.com) in Suadiye is one of Turkey's most famous luxury brands, a great place to come to stock up on clothes, shoes decorative objects and fabrics. Chakra (Tel: 0216 350 33 34, www.chakra.com.tr) in Erenköy stocks an unforgettable range of bath and bed accessories. Naked (Tel: 0216 445 57 76) is a fashion store with a difference – dim lighting and Pom-pidou Center-style-inside-out decor provide the perfect back-drop for its cutting-edge designs.

HOW TO GET THERE?

Buses and dolmuşes from Kadıköy serve this area although a frustrating one-way system means that they run from Kadıköy to Bostancı along the Coast Road (Sahil Yolu) and then back from Bostancı to Kadıköy along Bağdat Caddesi. To get to Bağdat Caddesi from Kadıköy you will have to get out on the coast road and take one of the side turnings inland or wait while the bus trundles right round the loop. Most of the surrounding suburbs are also accessible via the grungy suburban train service from Haydarpaşa which should become much more inviting once the Marmaray project is completed. There are ferry services from Eminönü, Karaköy and Beşiktaş to Kadıköy and a hydrofoil service from Kabataş to Bostancı.

WHAT TO DO?

The flashy Caddebostan Cultural Center (Haldun Taner Sokak, Tel:0216 467 36 00) is an all-in-one entertainments center with an AFM multiplex cinema, a D&R bookshop, a branch of Hayal Kahvesi and an exercise and fitness center.
WHERE TO EAT?

**Cafe Zanzibar**  
Cemil Topuzlu Caddesi No.102/A Caddebostan  
Tel: 0216 385 64 30  
www.cafezanzibar.com.tr  
Wonderfully romantic restaurant in what was the lovely 19th century American Girls' Camp building with a mature garden overlooking the sea. Wide-ranging menu serves excellent thin-crust pizzas and even recommends wines to complement each dish.

**Cercis Murat Konağı**  
Yazmacı Tahir Sokak No.22 Suadiye Sahil Yolu  
Tel: 0216 373 11 93  
www.cercismurat.com  
The true taste of Mardin comes to town at this branch of a famous south-eastern Turkish restaurant where presentation is almost as important as the delectable food. Pomegranate is the flavoring of choice, and there's Assyrian wine as made in Midyat to wash everything down.

**Mado**  
Bağdat Caddesi, Plaj Yolu No.2/B Caddebostan  
Tel: 0216 360 60 21  
Street-corner branch of the popular ice cream emporium. Great for people-watching.

**Maria’nın Bahçesi**  
Sahil Yolu No.86, Küçükyalı  
Tel: 0216 519 98 19  
www.marianinbahcesi.com  
On the Pendik side of Bostancı, this restaurant stands in a huge garden. Chef Maria serves excellent Aegean cuisine with a Greek touch.

**Köşebaşı**  
Bağdat Caddesi No.235/1A, Göztepe  
Tel: 0216 467 25 20  
Even Clintons tried their delicious kebabs.
The Snake In The Basket

The Maiden's Tower
Just off the Bosphorus coast at Üsküdar, the cute little Maiden's Tower (Kız Kulesi in Turkish) crops up in many old pictures of İstanbul and has attracted many romantic stories over the years. After the most recent restoration, it houses a restaurant and small cafe, and offers 360-degree city views from its balcony. Although the tower (www.kizkulesi.com.tr) currently standing on the rock off Üsküdar dates back only to the 19th century the earliest building there seems to have been a small fort built by the Athenian general Alcibiades in 408 BC to keep the Persians at bay. Later the Byzantine Emperor Manuel I Comnenos (1143-80) had a miniature castle created to discourage invaders. Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror replaced this mini-castle with one of his own which was restored by Sultan Selim I. Like İstanbul's larger islands, this islet also served time as a prison, with Sultan Mahmud I locking up the Chief White Eunuch Beşir Ağa here before beheading him, and then Sultan Osman III locking up his Grand Vizier Hekimoğlu Ali Paşa here before exiling him to Cyprus. Like so many İstanbul buildings, the Maiden's Tower has also fallen foul of a fire, this time one started by torches at a party that got out of control in 1719. It was replaced almost immediately by Sultan Ahmed III's Grand Vizier Damat İbrahim Paşa, at which point it appears to have been 8 turned into a lighthouse. The final version was created by Sultan Mahmud II in the early 19th century. Since then the rock has served a predictable collection of functions as a semaphore station, a quarantine outpost during a cholera outbreak, and a tollbooth. It was completely restored in 2000, and now houses a cafe, restaurant and lookout balcony.

HOW TO GET THERE?
Regular ferries to the tower run from Salacak to Üsküdar's waterfront promenade immediately facing the rock. There are also a few ferries from Ortaköy, as well as a couple from Kabataş to suit night-timediners.

WHERE TO EAT?

Kızkulesi
Tel: 0216 342 47 47
www.kizkulesi.com.tr
A la carte dinners are served on the ground floor of the tower where the only views are through small side windows. Alternatively, you can down a tea or coffee at the top floor cafe which some might argue is the nicer venue anyway.
Beylerbeyi
The Bosphorus Bridge separates Kuzguncuk from Beylerbeyi, best known for its palace but also home to a fine baroque mosque, a yalı-hotel and a collection of inviting restaurants grouped together around the ferry terminal. It was used as a setting in the famous 1964 heist movie "Topkapı" starring the late Peter Ustinov. Beylerbeyi Palace The first Beylerbeyi Palace was built here between 1829 and 1832, but, so often, fell victim to a fire in 1851. Although enough of the palace survived for him to continue to use it, Sultan Abdülmecid never returned there, and in 1865 Sultan Abdülaziz had it replaced with the present relatively restrained baroque building that was designed by Sarkis Balyan. It was here that Sultan Abdülhamid II lived after he returned from exile in Salonica in 1912, and here that he died in 1918. Originally the palace would have been approached from the Bosphorus and it has a delightful private landing stage of marble flanked by exquisite boathouses that look like tents rendered in stone. Today of course most visitors have to be content with creeping up on it from the rear before joining a guided party in the hall. Intended for summer use and to house official guests, the palace (closed Mondays and Thursdays) has a very manageable 26 rooms divided into the public men and private women’s quarters. The single most impressive room is focused on a large marble pool with a fountain carved with dolphins; the sound of the cascading water must have been marvelously cooling in summer. Also very impressive are two rooms facing each other across a hallway whose walls, ceilings and furniture are all carved with Moorish-style woodwork. Like the larger and older Dolmabahçe Palace, Beylerbeyi is decorated throughout with Hereke carpets, Baccarat glass and Yıldız porcelain. However, one of its more conspicuous features is the omnipresence of maritime scenes painted by Stanislas Chlebowski, a Polish artist much admired by Sultan Abdülaziz, on the walls and ceilings. There is also a series of decorative panels inscribed with poetry and with quotations from the Koran.

HOW TO GET THERE?
There are infrequent ferries from Çengelköy and other Bosphorus suburbs (www.ido.com.tr), but the easiest way to reach Beylerbeyi is by bus or dolmuş from Üsküdar.

WHERE TO EAT?

Cafe Via Veneto
Arabacılar Sokak No.1/2 – 3
Tel: 0216 422 42 55
Cute little corners cafe serving cakes, coffee and a decent choice of cooked meals.
İnciraltı (Under the Fig Tree)
Arabacılar Sokak No.4
Tel: 0216 557 66 86
www.inciralti.com.tr
Small and elegant meyhane with a delightful tree-shaded rear courtyard. Serves excellent brunches.

Tarihi Beylerbeyi Restaurant
İskele Caddesi No.1
Tel: 0216 318 67 01
Wrapped around a lovely marble fountain (1811) beside the mosque, this small fish restaurant could hardly get much closer to the water. It's a great place for a quick bite before boarding the ferry.

Villa Bosphorus
İskele Caddesi No.14
Tel: 0216 318 68 10
Exclusive fish restaurant behind a high wall right on the waterfront. In winter diners feast on mezes and fish inside the "Pink Mansion (Pembe Yali)"; in summer they move outdoors to the delightful garden.

İskele Restaurant
İskele Caddesi No.13 B
Tel: 0216 422 22 29
www.iskelerestaurant.com
Old-style fish restaurant featuring a sea of white tablecloths on the inner side of the square by the ferry terminal.

WHAT TO DO?
Inconspicuously located behind what looks like the façade of a wooden house Beylerbeyi Hamam (Tel: 0216 321 46 83) was built in 1789 as part of the Beylerbeyi Mosque complex. It still serves men and women, with women mainly welcomed during the middle part of the day and men in the early morning or evening.
Church of St George
At the Kuleli end of Çengelköy, in Tanriverdi Sokakı, the large 19th-century Greek Orthodox church of Hagios Georgios (St George) stands on sloping land with a bell tower at the top of a flight of steps. From the outside (which is all that you are likely to be able to see) it looks almost like a warehouse. Inside, however, it contains a particularly fine iconostasis. On 6 January (Epiphany) swimmers retrieve crosses thrown into the sea during an ancient ceremony known as tossing the cross at Çengelköy, Kuzguncuk, Fener, Ortaköy, Arnavutköy and Yeşilköy.

Vahdeddin Köşkü
High on the hillside above Çengelköy stands a huge 19th century mansion distinguished by a towertopped with an onion dome. Originally built for the Armenian Köçeoğlu Family, it became home to Sultan Abdülaziz's nephew Prince Burhaneddin and then to Vahdeddin Mehmed VI, the last of sultans who reigned from 1918 to 1922 before being sent into exile.

Anadolu Hisarı
It was here at the narrowest point of the Bosphorus that Sultan Beyazıd I chose to build his castle, and it was here, much later on, that many wealthy individuals chose to build their yalıs, including the magnificent Amcazade Hüseyin Paşa Yalı, the oldest such waterside mansion to survive. This was also the part of İstanbul famed as the "Sweet Waters of Asia".

HOW TO GET THERE?
A limited ferry service links Anadolu Hisarı with Çengelköy, İstinye and points in between (www.ido.com.tr). Otherwise bus No.15 runs from in front of Üsküdar ferry terminal.

WHERE TO EAT?
Dere Balık
Toplarönü Mevkii No.13A / Tel: 0216 332 26 09
With a tree poking up through the roof and boats bobbing up and down outside the door, this is the sort of fish restaurant that majors on atmosphere rather than glamor. Prices are pleasingly unpretentious too.
Göksu Kafe
Toplarönü Sokak, Riyaziyeci Çıkması No.5
Tel: 0216 332 16 37
Small new cafe tucked away in a quiet residential street in front of the castle. A good place to come for a slap-up breakfast.

Lacivert
Körfez Caddesi No.5 / Tel: 0216 413 42 24
www.lacivertrestaurant.com
With stunning views of the Bosphorus, Lacivert (Navy Blue) is renowned for its kabak tatlısı (pumpkin dessert), the perfect end to a dinner, which might feature fish soup fresh from the harbor or a tasty Lacivert steak. A classy place which attracts a classy clientele.

Çubuklu and the Khedive's Villa
One of İstanbul's more easily overlooked delights is the Khedive's Villa (Hıdiv Kasrı) at Çubuklu near Kanlıca on the Asian side of the Bosphorus, which is clearly visible from the ferries and from the grounds of the Sakıp Sabancı Museum but which vanishes from sight once you get closer to it.

HOW TO GET THERE?
Take bus No.15 from the waterfront at Üsküdar to Kanlıca and then walk uphill for about 20 minutes to reach the villa. It's signposted from Kanlıca.

WHERE TO EAT?
Çubuklu 29
Paşabahçe Yolu No.24 Tel: 0216 322 28 29
www.cubuklu29.com
In Çubuklu itself Çubuklu 29 is a waterside wedding venue popular with the jet set. It's an exclusivesummer-only place in an exquisite waterside location with a beautiful pool surrounded by oleander bushes. Çubuklu 29 is accessible via a turn-off on the left as you drive towards Paşabahçe, and there's a large car park.
Don't be misled by the word "kahve (cafe) " in the name. This upscale waterside bar, restaurant and nightclub housed in 300-year-old liquor warehouses beside Çubuklu 29 boasts an exquisite waterside setting, and a familiar international menu of steaks, burgers and pastas with familiar Turkish mezes relabeled as "tapas". Prices reflect the exclusive location.

**Gateway to the Black Sea**

**Anadolu Kavağı**

As its very last stop the Bosphorus excursion boat from Eminönü calls in at Anadolu Kavağı on the Asian shore where the remains of a huge Byzantine-Genoese castle sit astride the hill offering views out towards the Black Sea. Anadolu Kavağı is still a real village separated from Beykoz by dense woodland. However, its main square is full of fish restaurants catering to the boat trippers.

**HOW TO GET THERE?**

In summer three Bosphorus excursion ferries (wwwIDO.com.tr) stop at Anadolu Kavağı every day. There are also hourly ferries from Sarıyer. Otherwise bus No. 15A runs along the coast from Üsküdar. You can get to Poyrazköy by minibus from Beykoz.

**WHERE TO EAT?**

The Anadolu Kavağı fish restaurants are used to dealing with visitors on short stops, so don't expect to find a lot to choose between them except in terms of location and whether they serve proper sit-down meals or grab-and-go fried mussels and fish sandwiches.

**Kavak Doğanay Restaurant**

Yalı Caddesi No. 13

Tel: 0216 320 20 36
Yedigül Restaurant
İskel Meşidani
Tel: 0216 320 21 80

Yosun
İskel Meşidani No.1
Tel: 0216 320 21 48

Yoros Castle
It's not clear exactly when the castle on the Asian side of the Bosphorus was built although it's assumed to date from the period when the Palaelogos family ruled Constantinople, it's still possible to make out their motto on an inside wall above the entrance – a cross surrounded by four "b"s (for "basileus") which stand for "King of kings who kings it over kings". In 1352 the Genoese seized the castle and started to collect the customs dues for themselves. In 1452 Mehmed the Conqueror took over the castle, but he doesn't seem to have made use of it, and it was allowed to fall into ruin. The castle is usually referred to as Yoros Castle, a name thought to derive either from the Greek for "oros(mountain)" or "ourious (fair winds)". Today Rumeli Hisarı may look far more impressive but in its heyday Yoros Castle covered twice as much ground, making it the largest castle on the Bosphorus. In 2010 archeological excavations began at the castle which is currently closed to visitors.

ISTANBUL ESCAPES
Turkey's Largest Lighthouse
Şile
A growing beach resort north of Istanbul on the Asian side, Şile boasts long sandy beaches, some offshore rock formations, a crumbling castle, and Turkey's largest lighthouse. It's a popular escape from the city – come here mid-week to escape the crowds.

Şile Castle
The remains of a picturesque small castle dating back to Byzantine times but rebuilt under the Ottomans bestride a rock overlooking a colorful fishing harbor. This was originally the harbor of the ancient settlement of Calpe through which Xenophon's 10,000 Greek mercenaries passed on their way home from sorting out problems in Persia in 400 B.C, as recounted in the "Anabasis".

Şile
The Lighthouse
The largest lighthouse in Turkey and the second largest lighthouse still in operation in the world, Şile's stripy black and white "fener" dates back to 1859 when it was built at the command of Sultan Abdülmecid I. It's officially open to visitors from May to the end of August from 10am to 4pm, but to be sure of admission time your visit for a weekend. A pleasantly landscaped tea garden slopes down behind the lighthouse.

Şile Bezi
Şile is famous for a crinkled, sweat-absorbent, see-through fabric called Şile bezi (Şile cloth) that is popular for making shirts. Originally hand-woven, it is now usually machine-made but is popular with labels like Denizli's stylish Burdan. You can buy it in İstanbul shops, but it's more fun to browse the rails here, especially during the annual Şile Festival which takes place every year in the last week of July.

HOW TO GET THERE?
Bus Nos. 139A and 139D run to Şile from in front of the Şemsi Paşa Mosque in Üsküdar. It's a 70 kilometer drive from central İstanbul.

WHERE TO EAT?

Fusa Restaurant
Vali Muhittin Caddesi, Maşatlık Mevkii
Tel: 0216 711 42 38
On a headland overlooking Şile Castle, this new restaurant offers a variety of indoor and outdoor eating areas, and a Turkish menu priced for locals rather than well-heeled outsiders.

Değirmen Hotel
Plaj Yolu, No.24
Tel: 0216 711 50 48
In business for more than 40 years, the 73-room Değirmen is also inland but boasts a wide range of facilities including a pool, restaurant and fitness center.
Where Two Rivers Meet the Black Sea Ağva
One of İstanbul's most popular weekend getaway destinations, Ağva, officially known as Yeşilçay (Green River), has the advantage of being both on the Black Sea coast close to a sandy beach and on the banks of the Göksu river which flows slowly out towards the sea here bypassing a string of hotels that cater for those in search of semi-rural tranquility on the doorstep of the big city.

Aqua
The name “Ağva” is said to be a corruption of the Latin “Aqua”, meaning simply water. It was renamed Yeşilçay as part of a general policy of Turkifying place names in the mid-20th century.

HOW TO GET THERE?
Bus No.139A travels to Ağva from in front of the Şemsi Paşa Mosque in Üsküdar, but if possible it's best to drive the 100 kilometers from central İstanbul so that you can explore the surrounding countryside, too. First you pass through Şile, then after a few kilometers the road divides. The left fork leads to the coast, while the curvy right fork leads into the forest. Ideally you should take one route on the outward journey and the other on the way back. Unfortunately pipes bringing water from the Melen Çayı (River) to İstanbul are starting to intrude on the natural beauty.

Trotsky’s Hideaway
Büyükada
Called Prinkipo in the past, Büyükada (Big Island) is the largest of the Prince’s Islands. With its pine forests, flowering judas trees, beautiful wooden houses and blissful lack of traffic, it’s a world apart from the rest of İstanbul, the perfect retreat at any time of year but especially in spring and autumn. Come here to take a phaeton ride around the island, then to tuck into a fish supper at one of the waterside restaurants. The longish ferry ride to get here is all part of the fun.

Büyükada Anatolian Club
In 23 Nisan Caddesi, this attractive building was originally created for the Prinkipo Yacht Club by the British in 1906 and has hosted everybody from President İsmet İnönü through to the last shah of Iran and Nicolae Ceaucescu, the Romanian dictator. Of course Atatürk stayed here, too, and his room has been preserved as it was in his day. It’s open to members and their guests only.
Turkey’s Most Beautiful Street
Çankaya Caddesi is a millionaire’s row of exquisite houses in all the styles of the 19th and 20th centuries, most of them set in lush, well-kept gardens. If there’s a prettier street in Turkey it’s hard to think where it could be.

HOW TO GET THERE?
There are regular high-speed ferries to the island from Kabataş, Kadıköy and Bostancı (www.ido.com.tr.). Expect them to be very busy at weekends and over school holidays.

WHAT TO DO?
Take a phaeton ride round the island. To find the phaetons walk 50 meters inland from the ferry terminal and then turn left at the clock tower. The long tour (büyük tur), a complete circuit of the island, lasts around 75 minutes; the short tour (küçük tur) takes in only the northern part of the island. Hire a bicycle and make your own way around the island. The rental shops are also near the clocktower. Go swimming off Yörük Ali Plaji on the west side of the island, or at the Büyükada Water Sports Club.