READING UNIT 9

So, You Want to See Istanbul?

by Charlie Hayford

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Product description

A down-to-earth guide to visiting Istanbul. No frills, no fuss – just all the information you need at your fingertips, in a paperback format with pull-out maps that will fit comfortably into your jacket pocket or handbag. *So You Want to See Istanbul?* gives you the lowdown on this tantalizing east-meets-west city.

The latest in our series of city guides, *So You Want to See Istanbul?* gives you reliable nuggets of information about where to stay, the best ways to get around, what to see and where to find the best food, shopping and nightlife. It is full of both traditional and quirky suggestions, yet always authentic. From the exquisite domes and minarets of the old quarter to the buzzing entertainment centre of Beyoglu, *So You Want to See Istanbul?* has every corner of one of the world's greatest cities covered.

So you want to see Istanbul? OK, pick up a copy of our easy-to-use guidebook – and off you go! What's stopping you?!

* Other cities in the series include: Amsterdam, Berlin, Bucharest, Dublin, Kiev, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Moscow, Oslo, Paris, Prague, Rome, St Petersburg, Stockholm, Vienna, Warsaw.

Helpful customer reviews

Reviewer: *Travelbuff* Date: 18 November

This book is definitely not worth the money. After a couple of days of taking it out of my pocket, some of the pages even started falling out. I don't think that's what they meant by 'pull-out'! It was really annoying turning to the page we needed, only to find that it wasn't there.

To be fair, the book packs a punch with the amount of information you get. But then, so do quite a few of the other guidebooks out there. If I were you, I'd choose one of the others that doesn't fall apart when you open it.

Reviewer: *Amelia* Date: 20 January

My boyfriend and I went to Istanbul to celebrate our engagement last month. We needed it to be cheap and cheerful, and this book really helped us to do that. It doesn't just point you to the touristy places that cost a fortune. It also tells you about places that are off the typical tourist trail, where you can see a slice of more authentic Turkish life – this was exactly what we were looking for. It also has a detailed guide on where to dine if it's local cuisine you're after.

There are dozens of walks, clearly described and mapped, that take you all around the ancient parts of the city, including the 6.5km city wall walk from the Marble Tower to the Golden Horn. The book spells out all the things you can enjoy that won't cost you a penny – walking through the ancient Spice Bazaar, for example, was such a treat for all the senses. A fully comprehensive list of Istanbul's many religious sites tells you which you can visit for free.

We only scratched the surface of this amazing city in a long weekend. Next time we go, we'll be married – and we'll be taking our trusty guidebook with us again.

Reviewer: *Toby* Date: 6 May

I've tried quite a few of the different guidebook series out there, but I have to say, I think this series has the edge. I'd already used the *So You Want to See?* guides to Madrid, Prague and Berlin, so I knew what to expect – and *Istanbul* was no exception. These guides have always proven to be the most trustworthy – and the most facts for your cash.

Comprehensive, while also a bit quirky and witty – it's right up my street. You don't waste money on loads of fancy features like 3D illustrations and large glossy photos. You just get to spend a bit more money on going there yourself, seeing the things with your own eyes and taking your own pictures!

There's not much more you can say about a guidebook, really – it does what it says on the cover. But I'll definitely go back to this series when I need another city guide. Where to next? St Petersburg, maybe – or perhaps I'll head to Warsaw!

1. Match the words from the Product description to the definitions.

1	down-to-earth	A	unusual, unexpected
2	give the lowdown	B	extremely beautiful
3	nugget of information	C	valuable idea or fact
4	quirky	D	tell you about the most relevant information
5	exquisite	E	full of life
6	buzzing	F	practical and realistic

2. Read the reviews quickly and choose the correct names to complete the sentences.

1 *Travelbuff / Amelia / Toby* believes that this series of guidebooks is the best, as it is reliable and very good value for money.

2 *Travelbuff / Amelia / Toby* particularly appreciates the guidebook's suggestions for people on a budget.

3 *Travelbuff / Amelia / Toby* thinks that the guidebook is badly made.

3. Read the reviews again. Are the sentences true or false?

1 Travelbuff likes the guidebook's pull-out maps. TRUE/FALSE

2 Travelbuff thinks this guidebook contains more information than all other guidebooks. TRUE/FALSE

3 Amelia thinks the guidebook is good for restaurant recommendations. TRUE/FALSE

4 Amelia wanted to see the typical touristic sights in Istanbul. TRUE/FALSE

5 Toby thinks the guidebook should have included more photos. TRUE/FALSE

6 Toby likes the guidebook because it is unusual and funny. TRUE/FALSE

7 You can buy this guidebook online at a discounted price. TRUE/FALSE