

http://www.discoveringturkey...

3 days in Istanbul...

Is there any other city quite like Istanbul? Europe and Asia meet in this fascinating and lively place. With amazing sights, sounds, and smells on every corner, it's a must-see for everyone!

Day 1: START WITH A WALKING TOUR Your tour begins at Gülhane Park. Enjoy the shaded lawns and beautiful gardens, and walk toward the famous Topkapi Palace. The museum has incredible jewels, gold, and works of art. Then walk through the palace grounds for fabulous views across the Bosphorus. Walk back into the park and enjoy a cup of *chay* – Turkish tea – at one of the little outdoor cafés.

Outside the park, walk down one of the little cobblestone streets with traditional wooden houses. Find your way to the seventeenth century Blue Mosque – named for the blue tiles on its inside walls. Then walk north for a couple of blocks and visit the beautiful Hagia Sophia mosque – now a museum.

Day 2: SHOP TILL YOU DROP Start your day at the colorful and bustling Grand Bazaar. There are thousands of shops with everything from gold and silver to beautiful Turkish rugs. You'll find plenty of souvenirs here to take home with you. Then head north and continue to the fabulous spice market.

For a quick lunch, go to one of Istanbul's pastry shops and try a *borek* – a pastry with a cheese or meat filling. Delicious!

Spend the rest of your day exploring the fashionable area of Nisantasi, with its designer shops and exciting nightlife. Ready to drop? End your day at one of Istanbul's famous Turkish baths.

Day 3: TAKE A TRIP ON THE RIVER Today, take the local ferry from Eminonu to Anadolu Kavagi. Don't forget your camera so you can take spectacular photos of palaces, old houses, and forts along the way. Then, before the boat returns, be sure to have a leisurely lunch at one of the seafood restaurants. Or, if you're feeling energetic, hike up the hill for a fantastic view.

C Read the website again and answer the questions.

- Where can you do these things, according to the website?
 - buy a Turkish rug
 - walk around beautiful gardens
 - see jewels and works of art
 - drink Turkish tea
- What is a *borek*?
- What sights can you see on the boat trip?
- How did the Blue Mosque get its name?
- Which three places would you like to see on this tour? Why?
- Are there any places you would *not* go to? Why?