



# Strolling Through Istanbul: The Classic Guide to the City

*Hilary Sumner-Boyd , John Freely*

Download now

Read Online ➔

# Strolling Through Istanbul: The Classic Guide to the City

*Hilary Sumner-Boyd , John Freely*

**Strolling Through Istanbul: The Classic Guide to the City** Hilary Sumner-Boyd , John Freely

Available for the first time since its original publication thirty-seven years ago, this classic guide to Istanbul by Hilary Sumner-Boyd and John Freely is published in a completely revised and updated edition. Taking the reader on foot through Istanbul, the European City of Culture 2010, the authors describe the historic monuments and sites of what was once Constantinople and the capital, in turn, of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, in the context of the great living city. Woven throughout are anecdotes, secret histories, hidden gems, and every major place of interest the traveler will want to see. Practical and informative, readable and vividly described, this is the definitive guide to and story of Istanbul, by those who know it best.

## Strolling Through Istanbul: The Classic Guide to the City Details

Date : Published January 19th 2010 by Tauris Parke Paperbacks (first published January 4th 1987)

ISBN : 9781848851542

Author : Hilary Sumner-Boyd , John Freely

Format : Paperback 544 pages

Genre : Travel, History, Nonfiction, Archaeology



[Download Strolling Through Istanbul: The Classic Guide to the Ci ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Strolling Through Istanbul: The Classic Guide to the ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Strolling Through Istanbul: The Classic Guide to the City Hilary Sumner-Boyd , John Freely**

---

# **From Reader Review Strolling Through Istanbul: The Classic Guide to the City for online ebook**

## **Kay says**

Dated but delightful. I only wish we'd had more time in Istanbul to devote to some of these wonderfully detailed walks. It's also the sort of guide book that is a bit on the ponderous side -- I actually didn't carry it but read things in advance and afterward. Packed full of fascinating anecdotes and historical tidbits, written by someone who knew the city inside and out, and through the ages.

---

## **Hadi says**

A wealth of information (quite frankly too much), and a writing style that is a little dry and very even toned made this very difficult to read. Not one of the guidebooks I'm going to take with me.

3\* for the research and info

2\* for the writing

1\* for making Istanbul feel so flat.

---

## **Avinash Mamtora says**

Though I've not fully read it, would advise anyone who's about to go to this wonderful city to read it beforehand and then go back to the book each day as you wade through the archaeological marvel of this city. Alternately, if you're moving to Istanbul, the ideal thing would be to just read a chapter a day and complete the tour in the sequence that it is set out. A magical book.

---

## **Rob and Liz says**

As advertised, this book is a great guide for those who want to stroll through this beautiful city. The book is fun to read. The authors expertly weave together the geography, culture and history that make Istanbul such a fascinating place.

---

## **Letha says**

Beautifully written and engaging. This narrative is intellectually stimulating while presenting a vivid feast for the imagination! I'm inspired and ready to take a stroll through marketplaces and bazaars, gaze upon the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn, experience the sights and sounds and smells, and marvel at the architecture and history - take me away!

---

## **Michelle says**

An interesting take on the guidebook. The authors certainly know Istanbul well--but almost too well for a first-time visitor. The walks are fascinating but hard to follow, and if you're there less than a week you probably won't want this much depth. If you live in Istanbul, I can imagine this would be an enriching book. If you're visiting, don't let this be your only guidebook.

---

## **Norm Boese says**

Good as an overview of the city. Useful while I was on a trip to Turkey

---

## **?????? Nabeel says**

I planned to read this marvelous guide while taking on the same strolls in this ancient city. However, I could not do that on ground and go to every single site of great historical interest mentioned in the book, but I spent months reading it while going out in the city.

It is a book that talks to you, a storyteller of myths, legends, battles, passions, love stories, jokes, folktales, beliefs, and much history depicted in great vivid way that makes you live in each site you visit in all its details – both place and time. The authors are great historians and very knowledgeable of what they write on. I loved the sites I have been to many times much more after reading this book. This book will take you to ancient times, and make you read on Byzantium, Constantinople, and Istanbul at the same time. In this book, you can read on iconoclastic period, the Byzantine renaissance, and the Tulip Period in the 18th century. You will visit every church, mosque, library, museum, palace, and bath of interest. You will read the stories of great leaders who defend their cities, and conquerors celebrating their victories. You will read sad stories of executions, and forced conversion of many Christians under the Ottoman rule, among whom Mimar Sinan who had built more than 120 establishments in Istanbul alone, and is highly praised in the book as in the Ottoman culture. You will read on the society, the mix of Turks, Greeks, Armenians, Chaldean-Assyrian, and Jews. This is a chance to discover the city, the stories of its foreign visitors and their impressions. The authors write on it with great passion and love, and I cannot imagine you not falling in love with it while reading their accounts.

It is a window on the architecture and the ways Ottoman styles blends with Byzantine and Roman ones. It is the best way to read on each place in a way that brings it back to life. I feel unable to summarize this huge book. I can say that I felt sad finishing it as if I had my trip to this culturally rich capital of two great empires.

If you want to discover the hidden treasures of Byzantine Empire, the mysterious Ottoman stories, and the repeated occupations and assaults on this city, including the Arab siege that was defeated by Constantine IV. If you want to discover the magic of the Byzantine iconography, and the charm of the Ottoman tiles, then you have to read this precious guide.

Gilgamesh Nabeel

---

## **Ros says**

I first started to read and use this book in the 1970's when it was first published. It is a great book that helps you discover the hidden parts of Istanbul as well as the major tourist sites such as Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque etc. I now have it on my Kindle!

---

## **Pierian says**

This is a fantastic guide to the monuments and history of Istanbul. I would have liked more notes on day-to-day life, culture, and social history of the Istanbul's neighborhoods to round out the experience of "strolling through" this vibrant city.

---

## **Fusun Dulger charles says**

The book to have if you are visiting Istanbul. Forget all the other sight-seeing books, you only need this one. I am Turkish and from Istanbul, I get a lot of foreign visitors and take them seeing all "The Must See Places of Istanbul" and I thought I knew my beloved city well.

What a mistake, after buying this book I decided to walk the suggested places and found some amazing hidden pearls.

Now, living in the USA when someone tells me they are going to Istanbul, I either lend them my copy or tell them to buy it.

A fabulous way to walk through Istanbul and discover some non-touristy charming places.

---

## **Kate says**

If you are coming to Istanbul and have an interest in history and architecture, you can't do any better than to bring along this book. But don't get me wrong, this isn't a Lonely Planet guide: it won't tell you where the cheapest hotels are; it won't tell you where to eat the best döner; nor will it tell you that the Hagia Sophia is closed on Mondays (which it is, btw) - but it will give you an idea of Istanbul as a whole city, a place connected not only by roads but by the people who came and went, and maybe even looked from the very same spots you will go to, to marvel at the "Cit of the World's Desire." I'd also venture to say that those who are interested in Istanbul's architecture might like to read this book even without visiting the city.

Its format is also not one for a rushed tourist, who will hit only a few important locations then head on to the next city. "Strolling Through Istanbul" has a self-descriptive title: Freely and Sumner-Boyd take you on a series of strolls through the city, where you are privy to all the information that's in their (incredibly informed) heads. They act like tour guides in book form (and this is also good because you can skip ahead when necessary, too). Just be sure to get the updated version (2010, this cover) because a lot has changed since they first published the book in the 70s.

The only thing that may hold someone back from loving this book is that they authors take for granted that

you know (or will learn) the technical terms related to classical architecture, such as where the pendentives are in a domed church, what an ogival arch is, or what part of a column is called the capital. If these words are unfamiliar, one should browse through the first chapter or so and make a vocabulary list (like I had to do). To be clear, though, I'm not saying that this detracts from the book: I'd prefer this to having them simplify and dumb-down things, because these words exist for a reason. I'm in favor of keeping this kind of richness in a language - and besides, if I can learn the words, then anyone can. But still, this book will probably be too much for some people - but for those who do read it, it will be rewarding.

I also had the good fortune to hear John Freely speak at the Istanbul Book Fair last year, and he's really an amazing guy. He's written over 40 books (yes, forty), most of which are about Greece or Turkey, both of which are places where he's lived and calls home. Moreover he truly loves Istanbul, and it's evident in the care he takes in writing this guide. He also seems to be somewhat of a modern-day Renaissance man: he was a physics professor at Bogazici (Bosphorus) University for a good number of years, and can still be seen around the campus now and then. All in all, I totally wish he were my friend.

All in all (for real this time), "Strolling Through Istanbul" does what a good guidebook should do: it illuminates Istanbul, and brings a richness to one's travels that perhaps one wouldn't have gotten otherwise.

---

### **Ricardo Ribeiro says**

Boring, dry. This is, I believe, how school lessons were taught 60 years ago. And for good reasons they aren't anymore. Because there is no motivation or appeal in this scholastic sterile prose. The authors may have extensive knowledge on the subject, but they have no clue on how to pass it to readers. Or on how to write.

---

### **Jennifer says**

Depending on your point of view, *Strolling Through Istanbul* is either exhaustive or exhausting. With 23 strolls that stretch the breadth of the city, it's certainly thorough, but one wonders occasionally to what point. More than once the authors draw attention to some feature of interest only to note "however, the restoration has wantonly destroyed all that was original in the structure and it is now hardly worth even a passing mention" - which kind of makes you question why they bothered to mention it in the first place. That kind of thing, along with the space spent detailing an auction that hasn't been held for years and the authors' tendency to refer to absolutely everything as "charming," makes me think this classic guide is in need of another good edit.

Mostly dry scholastic detail, there are occasional narrative jewels tossed into the openings of the chapters, but overall this guide is really only worthwhile if you're actually toting it about as you walk and consulting it every other step, which would be something of a trick given that it's about five hundred pages and not precisely lightly bound. For my money, I found the Lonely Planet to offer more versatility if not the same depth, while being smaller and lighterweight.

---

### **Mehmet Dönmez says**

Freely'nin peşisıra okuduğum bu ikinci İstanbul kitabı, İstanbulun daha turistikliği son 50 yılda

yaz?lm?? ve her büyük eser gibi sonras?na esin kayna?? olmu? bir gezi rehberi. Epik “?stanbul: The Imperial City” ile baz? k?s?mlarda çok benze?se de bu bir tarih anlat?s? de?il, ve bu detaylar, tarihsel figürler ancak bir yap?yla ili?kiliyse bahis konusu oluyor kitapta.

?mkan?n?z varsa siz benim yapt???m? yapmay?n, ?ehri 23 paftaya bölen bu kitab? elinize al?p rotalar? takip ederken okuyun kitab?, ben özellikle ?ehrin çok iyi bildi?im k?s?mlar?n? okurken kitab?n künhüne daha çok vard?m ve çok görmek istedi?im ama hiç gitmedi?im suriçini okurken mimari detaylarda bo?uldum biraz, ki benim gibi temel mimari bilgiden yoksunsan?z baz? k?s?mlar? okumas? zor da olabiliyor.

Istanbul: Imperial City için de benzer bir yorum yazm??t?m, bu iki Bo?aziçili akademisyenin gözünden 60lar?n, 70lerin ?stanbulu - benim istanbulum 2000lerde ke?meke? içinde, yorgun, ba?ka bir ?ehirdi, ama o haliyle bile bana dokundu. Yazarlar?m?z ?ehrin geçirdi?i devasa dönü?ümün üzerine bu kitab? tekrar yazsalar, ç?kacak eseri de bu kadar be?enir miydim, sanm?yorum.

---