



Istanbul City Film

Watch the Turkish Tourism Office's informative video on Istanbul here: <http://youtu.be/GRjDnsgdq-s>

Istanbul is the largest city in Turkey, forming the country's economic, cultural, and historical heart. With a population of 13.4 million, the city is at the center of the **second-largest urban area in Europe** after Moscow.

Straddling the Bosphorus- one of the world's busiest waterways- in northwestern Turkey, Istanbul is a **transcontinental city**, with one third of its population living in Asia but its commercial and historical center in Europe.

Istanbul's **strategic position** along the historic Silk Road, rail networks to Europe and the Middle East, and the only sea route between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean have helped foster an eclectic populace, although less so since the establishment of the Republic.

Art festivals were established at the end of the 20th century, and infrastructure improvements have produced a complex transportation network.

Seven million foreign visitors arrived in Istanbul in 2010, when it was named a **European Capital of Culture**, making it the **world's tenth-most popular tourist destination**. The city's biggest draw remains its historic center, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Ranked an alpha-global city, Istanbul hosts the headquarters of many Turkish companies and media outlets and accounts for more than a quarter of the country's gross domestic product. Hoping to capitalize on its revitalization and rapid expansion, **Istanbul is currently bidding for the 2020 Summer Olympics**.

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Registration: US-Turkey Creative Economies Summit

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Registration: <http://www.trcna.org/CreativeEconomiesSummit.aspx>

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