

Situated where Europe and Asia meet, Istanbul is an east/west city. It's a busy port full of mosques (mosquées), markets, palaces and museums. It's not the Turkish capital - that's Ankara - but it is the country's largest city (population six million). It's got a long history, too - over 2,500 years. Those are a few basic facts. What about the highlights?



One of the highlights is definitely (décidément) „**Hagia Sophia**“ („Saint Sophia“ - the name means „The Church of Holy Wisdom“). It's one of the world's most beautiful buildings and it was first built by the Roman emperor Constantine. That was in the fourth century (siècle) and in those days it was a Christian church. A thousand years later, it was changed it into a Muslim mosque. Then, 500 years after that (in 1935) it became a museum. Now, it's full of both Christian and Muslim treasures.

Another historic and beautiful museum is the **Topkapi Palace**. This is where Sultans of the Ottoman Empire lived for over 400 years. The name „Topkapi“ means 'Cannon Gate'. That's because two huge (énormes) guns used to defend (défendre) the palace. Now, though, visitors are welcome and what they find is a series of fascinating rooms, as well as displays (expositions) of weapons (armes), jewels, costumes, pictures and books.

You can't buy any of the Topkapi exhibits (objets exposés), but you can spend your money at the **Great Bazaar**. This is another of Istanbul's main attractions and it's a vast covered market in the city centre. Carpets, clothes, jewels... they're all on offer (disponibles), along with much, much more.

Finally, one of Istanbul's more modern highlights is the **Bosporus Bridge**. The Bosporus itself is a narrow strait (détroit), 30 kilometres long, which separates Europe from Asia. One of the bridges across it - the Bosporus Bridge - is 68 metres high and more than one kilometre long.

**Dictated**

*Istanbul is Turkey's largest city. It has a long history and you can visit some very old buildings. Or you can spend your money at a big market in the city centre. You can also walk from Europe to Asia across a very long and rather high bridge.*

**Translate:**

- Ankara est-elle la capitale de la Turquie? .....
- Où est le port? .....
- Que signifie "Hagia Sophia"? .....
- Qui construisit l'église au quatrième siècle? .....
- Quand le nom fut-il changé? .....
- L'église devint-elle un musée? .....
- Que peut-on acheter au marché? .....
- Quelle longueur et quelle hauteur le pont fait-il? .....