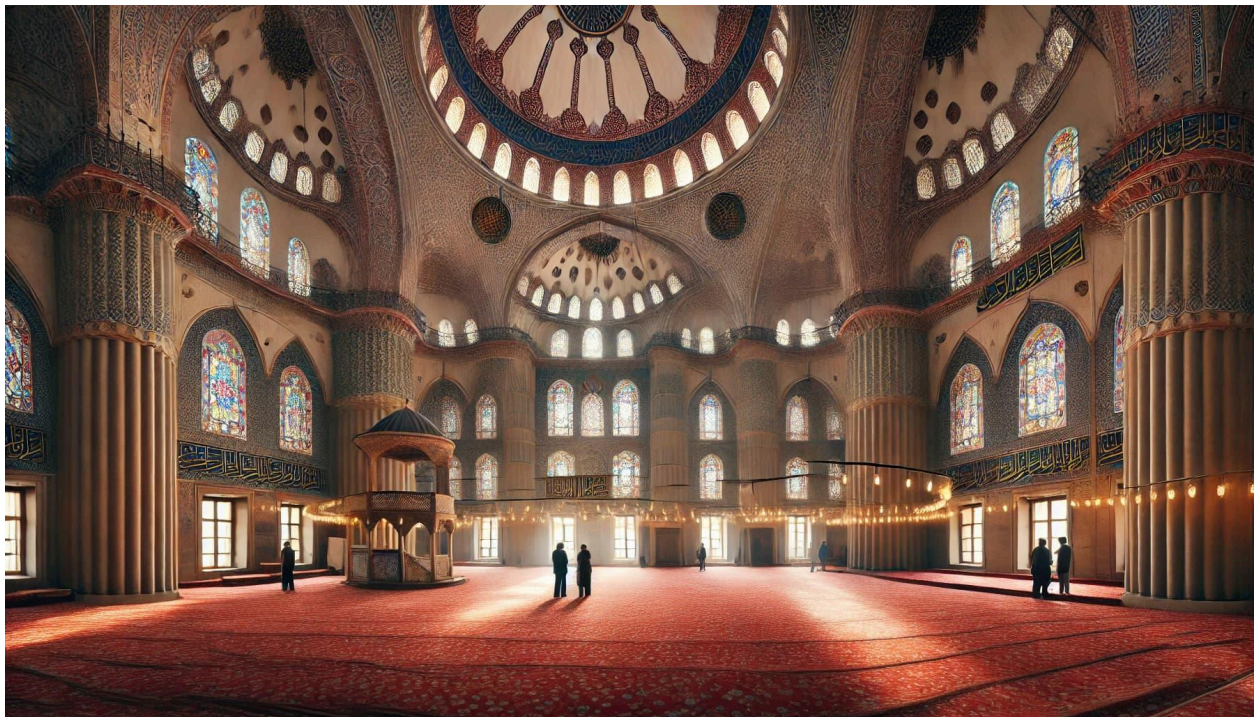

🕌 Layers of Empire: Discovering Istanbul's Historical Heart

(Paragraph 1)

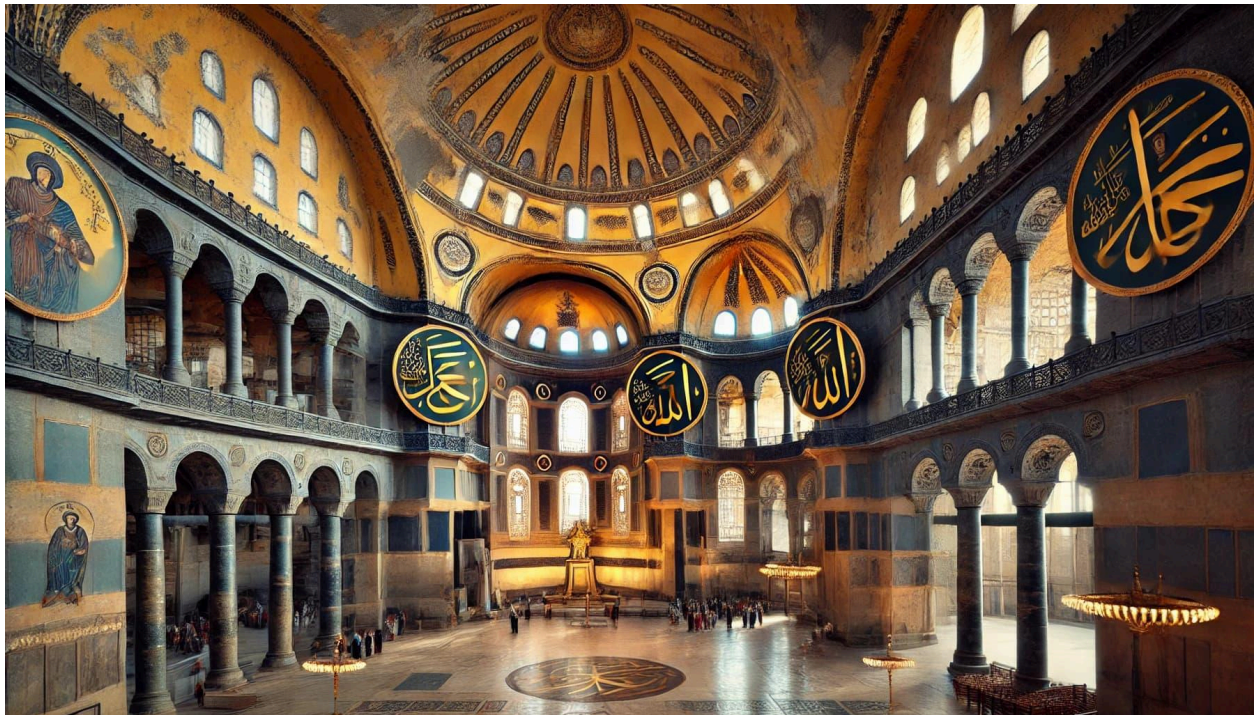
The morning begins in Istanbul's historical district, where centuries of civilization are layered beneath every stone. The first stop is the Blue Mosque, famous for its six minarets and cascading domes. Inside, over 20,000 blue tiles cover the walls, glowing softly in the daylight. Tourists remove their shoes, step onto the soft carpet, and experience a space still used for prayer, reminding visitors that this is a living monument, not just a museum.



[photo01] *Interior of the Blue Mosque, with blue tiles and prayer area*

(Paragraph 2)

Next, the group walks to the magnificent Hagia Sophia, just a few steps away. Originally built as a cathedral in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian, it later became a mosque, then a museum, and now functions once again as a mosque. Its massive dome appears to float above visitors' heads, supported by hidden structures. Mosaics of Christian saints and Islamic calligraphy coexist here, symbolizing Istanbul's complex spiritual legacy.



[photo02] *Interior of Hagia Sophia showing Christian mosaics and Arabic calligraphy*

(Paragraph 3)

Just behind Hagia Sophia stands the entrance to Topkapi Palace, the former residence of Ottoman sultans. Inside its courtyards and pavilions, visitors explore treasures like jewel-encrusted swords, ancient manuscripts, and sacred relics. The most fascinating section is the Harem, where the private lives of the royal family unfolded behind intricate wooden screens. It's a window into a world of power, politics, and tradition.



[photo03] *Topkapi Palace Harem courtyard with decorative tiles*

(Paragraph 4)

Beneath the city lies another wonder: the Basilica Cistern. As they descend into the cool underground space, travelers find themselves surrounded by rows of marble columns rising from shallow water. Dim lighting reflects off the surface, creating an eerie beauty. Two columns have Medusa heads carved at the base, their origin still debated. It's a place where myth and engineering meet.



[photo04] *Medusa column base inside the Basilica Cistern*

(Paragraph 5)

After resurfacing, the group dives into the colorful world of the Grand Bazaar. With over 4,000 shops under one roof, it feels like a city within a city. From carpets and ceramics to spices and silver, every corner invites exploration. Bargaining is expected, and cheerful negotiation is part of the culture. The air is filled with the scent of tea, perfume, and history.



[photo05] *Crowded corridor of the Grand Bazaar with lanterns and textiles*

(Paragraph 6)

The day ends in the nearby Egyptian Bazaar, smaller but equally vibrant. Here, locals shop for daily spices and sweets, offering a more authentic flavor of Istanbul life. As the sun sets over the Golden Horn, the city's skyline glows with the silhouettes of domes and minarets. It's a perfect end to a day spent walking through the living museum that is Istanbul.



[photo06] *Evening view of the Egyptian Bazaar with sunset light outside*



Vocabulary List

(各語に 発音記号 と 英語での簡潔な定義を併記しています)

- **Minaret** ('mɪnəˌreɪt) — a tall slender tower, typically part of a mosque, from which the call to prayer is announced
- **Mosaic** (məʊˈzeɪɪk) — a picture or decoration made by arranging small pieces of colored stone, glass, or tile
- **Calligraphy** (kəˈlɪɡrəfi) — decorative handwriting or handwritten lettering, especially in Arabic script
- **Harem** ('hæərəm) — the separate part of a Muslim household reserved for wives and female members, especially in a palace
- **Cistern** ('sɪstərn) — an underground reservoir for storing water, often part of ancient water systems
- **Bargaining** ('bɑːrgənɪŋ) — the act of negotiating prices or terms of a purchase
- **Silhouette** (ˌsɪluːɪt) — the dark shape or outline of someone or something visible against a lighter background
- **Pavilion** (pəˈvɪliən) — a decorative building or structure, often found in palaces or parks
- **Relic** ('reɪɪk) — an object surviving from an earlier time, especially one of religious or historical interest
- **Carpet** ('kɑːrpiːt) — a thick woven fabric used for covering floors, commonly traded in Turkish bazaars



Day 1 Questions

(語彙・概要理解を中心に)

1. Fill in the blank

The Blue Mosque is famous for its six _____ and over 20,000 blue tiles inside.

2. Choose the correct definition: **Relic**

- A) A food item from a foreign culture
 - B) A sacred or historical object from the past
 - C) A type of jewelry used in royal ceremonies
-

3. Multiple Choice

Which site in Istanbul shows both Christian mosaics and Islamic calligraphy?

- A) Blue Mosque
 - B) Basilica Cistern
 - C) Hagia Sophia
-

4. Matching — *Match the word with its correct meaning (shuffled)*

Word	Meaning
A. Calligraphy	1. A place to store water underground
B. Cistern	2. A decorative writing style, often Arabic
C. Pavilion	3. A structure in a palace or park
D. Bargaining	4. Discussing price before buying something

5. True or False

The Harem in Topkapi Palace was a public meeting space open to visitors during the Ottoman era.

☐ True ☐ False



Day 2 Questions

(詳細理解・順序・史実との関連など)

1. Short Answer

Why does Hagia Sophia reflect both Christian and Islamic influences?

2. Fill in the blank

Visitors often describe the Basilica Cistern as both mysterious and _____, due to its lighting and reflections.

3. Matching — *Match each site with its unique feature (shuffled)*

Site	Feature
A. Topkapi Palace	1. Marble columns rising from shallow water
B. Blue Mosque	2. Covered market with thousands of shops
C. Basilica Cistern	3. Residence of sultans with a private harem
D. Grand Bazaar	4. Famous for blue tiles and multiple minarets

4. Multiple Choice

What is one reason people still visit the Grand Bazaar today?

- A) It's the oldest mosque in Turkey
 - B) It holds sacred relics from Roman times
 - C) It offers a lively shopping experience with cultural tradition
-

5. Chronological Order — *Put the places in the order visited during the day*

1. Topkapi Palace

2. Grand Bazaar
 3. Blue Mosque
 4. Hagia Sophia
 5. Egyptian Bazaar
 6. Basilica Cistern
-

Discussion Prompts

(会話・意見交換向け)

1. What did you find most impressive or surprising about the historical sites in Istanbul?
 2. How does visiting a living religious site like the Blue Mosque differ from visiting a museum?
 3. In your opinion, what makes Istanbul unique compared to other cities with long histories?
 4. If you had to recommend just one place from Day 8 to a friend, which would it be and why?
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