



## *Crossing Continents: A Farewell to Istanbul*

### (Paragraph 1)

The final morning of the journey begins with a gentle cruise along the Bosphorus Strait, where two continents meet. As the boat glides between Europe and Asia, travelers take in the skyline dotted with domes, palaces, and bridges. The salty breeze, the sound of seagulls, and the slow rhythm of the water create a calm contrast to the excitement of earlier days. It's a moment to reflect, to breathe, and to say a quiet goodbye to a city unlike any other.



[photo01] *View from the Bosphorus cruise, showing both European and Asian shores*

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## (Paragraph 2)

From the boat, passengers disembark on the Asian side of Istanbul—less touristic, more local. In Üsküdar, narrow streets are lined with small markets, bakeries, and cafés. Locals go about their day while the group walks toward the Mihrimah Sultan Mosque, an elegant structure built in honor of the beloved daughter of Sultan Suleiman. The mosque's peaceful courtyard and simple interior offer a quiet spiritual experience.



[photo02] *Mihrimah Sultan Mosque courtyard with local visitors*



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### (Paragraph 3)

Nearby, another hidden gem awaits: the Valide-i Cedid Mosque. Unlike the grand mosques of the previous day, this one feels more personal. Elderly men sip tea outside, children play nearby, and birds rest on the domes. It's not a tourist attraction—it's a living part of the community. Here, Istanbul shows its human side: warm, familiar, and enduring.



[photo03] *Valide-i Cedid Mosque seen from the square with locals around*



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#### (Paragraph 4)

For lunch, the group returns to the European side and enjoys a simple but iconic meal—**balık ekmek**, or grilled fish sandwich. Served fresh from boats docked near the Galata Bridge, this humble dish brings together sea, bread, and spice in perfect balance. Sitting by the water, surrounded by the sound of waves and street vendors, travelers feel deeply connected to the daily life of the city.



[photo04] *Balık ekmek stand by the water near Galata Bridge*



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### (Paragraph 5)

As the afternoon sun begins to soften, it's time to say goodbye. The bus winds through the city one last time, passing familiar landmarks—the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, the Bosphorus Bridge. Cameras are lowered. The travelers now carry these sights not just in photos, but in memory. The city has become not just a destination, but a story.



[photo05] *View from bus window: silhouettes of minarets and domes in golden light*

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## (Paragraph 6)

At the airport, suitcases are checked in and final gifts are packed away. There's laughter, tired smiles, and quiet conversation. Outside the terminal, planes rise above the city skyline. Istanbul fades behind them, but its layers—its sounds, scents, and stories—remain. The journey ends not with a full stop, but with a deep breath and a promise: to return, one day.



[photo06] *View of Istanbul skyline from the airport terminal window*



## Vocabulary List

- **Strait** (streɪt) — a narrow body of water connecting two larger bodies, often between land masses
- **Disembark** (ˌdɪsəmˈbɑːrk) — to leave a ship, plane, or other form of transport
- **Courtyard** (ˈkɔːrtjɑːrd) — an open space surrounded by walls or buildings, often part of a mosque or palace
- **Elderly** (ˈɛldərli) — older people, especially in a respectful or community context
- **Vendor** (ˈvɛndər) — someone who sells goods, often in the street or at a market
- **Silhouette** (ˌsɪluˈet) — the dark shape of something seen against a lighter background
- **Terminal** (ˈtɜːrmɪnəl) — a building at an airport where passengers arrive and depart
- **Iconic** (aɪˈkɒnɪk) — widely recognized and representative of something important
- **Enduring** (ɪnˈdjʊrɪŋ) — lasting over time; continuing despite challenges
- **Reflect** (rɪˈflekt) — to think deeply or carefully about something



## Day 1 Questions

(語彙・概要理解)

### 1. Fill in the blank

The Bosphorus Strait separates the continents of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

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### 2. Choose the correct definition: **Vendor**

- A) A person who repairs shoes
  - B) A person who sells goods, often outdoors
  - C) A person who drives tourists around
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### 3. Multiple Choice

Which meal is described as simple but iconic in Istanbul's street food culture?

- A) Kebab and yogurt
  - B) Lentil soup with rice
  - C) Grilled fish sandwich (balık ekmek)
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### 4. Matching — *Match the place with its description (shuffled)*

- | A. Üsküdar | 1. Peaceful mosque with children playing nearby
  - | B. Galata Bridge area | 2. A local district on the Asian side
  - | C. Valide-i Cedid | 3. Place to enjoy balık ekmek from boats
  - | D. Mihrimah Sultan | 4. Mosque built for the daughter of Sultan Suleiman
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### 5. True or False

At the end of the tour, most travelers leave Istanbul without any emotional connection.

- ☐ True      ☐ False





## Day 2 Questions

(詳細理解・順序・考察)

### 1. Short Answer

Why does the visit to the Valide-i Cedid Mosque feel different from major tourist sites?

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### 2. Fill in the blank

The fish sandwich known as “balık ekmek” is often served fresh from boats near the \_\_\_\_\_.

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### 3. Matching — *Match the word with its meaning (shuffled)*

- | A. Enduring | 1. Something familiar and widely recognized
  - | B. Terminal | 2. A place where travelers check in and depart
  - | C. Iconic | 3. Something that lasts over time
  - | D. Reflect | 4. To think carefully or deeply about something
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### 4. Multiple Choice

What mood does the final bus ride through Istanbul convey?

- A) Excitement and confusion
  - B) Reflection and quiet farewell
  - C) Fear and stress
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### 5. Chronological Order — *Arrange the events*

1. Disembark on the Asian side
2. Eat grilled fish sandwich
3. Visit Mihrimah Sultan Mosque
4. Fly out of Istanbul
5. Bosphorus cruise
6. Ride the bus through Istanbul one last time







## Discussion Prompts

1. How did visiting both the European and Asian sides of Istanbul shape your view of the city?
  2. What was the emotional impact of the final day's quiet scenes compared to earlier, busier days?
  3. Why do you think street food like balık ekmek remains so important in Turkish culture?
  4. Have you ever left a city feeling like you were leaving a story behind? What was that like?
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