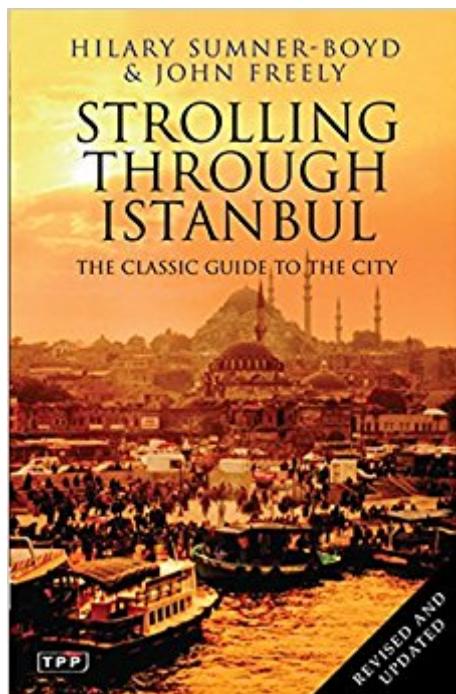


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# Strolling Through Istanbul: The Classic Guide To The City (Tauris Parke Paperbacks)



## **Synopsis**

Available for the first time since its original publication in 1973, 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 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.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Praise for Strolling Through Istanbul: "A classic. The best travel guide to Istanbul." --The Times  
"A guide book that reads like a novel" -- William Buckley, The New York Times "It is a guide-book that reads more like a literary tale and should do well with its subject city decreed European Capital of Culture this year (2010)." --The Bookseller "Both engaging and scholarly, this is a guide to Istanbul that has yet to be surpassed." --Daily Telegraph/  
telegraph.co.uk "As a guide to the city, John was peerless; it is doubtful whether any westerner in the late 20th century had a better understanding of it than he.... What makes Strolling Through Istanbul so unusual is its combination of erudition and first-hand observation." (Derek Johns, The Guardian 2017-06-05)

Hilary Sumner-Boyd (1910-1976) was professor of humanities at Robert-College-Bosphorus University. His magisterial work, *The Seven Hills of Constantinople: A Study of the Byzantine and Turkish Monuments of the City*, was unpublished at the time of his death in 1977 and is now being prepared for publication by Bosphorus University Press. John Freely (1926 - 2017) was born in New York and joined the US Navy at the age of seventeen, serving during the last two years of World War II. He had a PhD in physics from New York University and did post-doctoral studies in the history of science at Oxford. He was for many years professor of physics at Bosphorus University in Istanbul, where he taught physics and the history of science. He wrote more than forty books, including *Light from the East: How the Science of Medieval Islam Helped Shape the Western World* (I.B.Tauris, 2010), *The Grand Turk*, *Storm on Horseback*, *Children of Achilles*, *The Cyclades*, *The Ionian Islands* (all I.B.Tauris), *Crete*, *The Western Shores of Turkey*, *Strolling through Athens*, *Strolling through Venice* and the bestselling *Strolling through Istanbul* (all Tauris Parke Paperbacks).

I bought the last edition of this book 15 years ago, when I was an expat teacher living in Istanbul. Some of my happiest memories of that time are of wandering through the back alleys of the city with this book, early on Saturday mornings before the bustle started. While there are plenty of badly-researched travel guides that give you (an often erroneous) overview, and lots of academic histories of the city big enough to stop a truck, this book occupies a unique niche. This is a walking historical tour guide, written by two of the most enthusiastic and literate historians of the city, who actually have lived there most of their lives. Istanbul is not a "pretty" city, it is a chaotic mash-up of old and new, and a quick bus tour of the place may well leave you unmoved. But take a bit of time to learn the histories, the layers to this city, and it becomes an utterly magical, fascinating place. This book helps you do that. I bought the new edition in anticipation of a trip this summer and revisiting some of those old walks, that the city has changed dramatically in the last decade, so a re-write is very welcome. This is not a book for a whirlwind two-day bus tour of the city. Like all worthwhile things, the book requires a bit of time and commitment (read at least parts of it before you go), a willingness to get off the beaten track and visit some out-of-the-way parts of the city, to risk getting lost now and again in ancient, unsigned streets. But, this is Istanbul, Constantinople, Byzantium - really, if you aren't willing to do that, why are you going at all?

We visited Istanbul for the first time last Summer. Our hotel was located about 3 short blocks from the Blue Mosque, a perfect spot from which to launch a walking adventure. Our journey was

enhanced by notes from good friends who had visited the same area 5 or 6 times. Their suggestions brought us to places we would have never found on our own. Strolling Through Istanbul serves the same purpose, only with much more detail and skillfully drawn maps to assist in finding locations in the maze that characterizes the entire City. Finding one unique, out of the way cultural/historic site not frequented by tourist hordes is well worth the price of this exceptional guide book.

The best guide to Istanbul I know of. Immensely detailed walking tours. I've been to Istanbul several times and had no idea what I was looking at even though I used the DK Eyewitness Guide To Istanbul, which is also a wonderful travel guide. This book is so enjoyable that you can read it without even being in Istanbul. If you're traveling to Istanbul you should bring this with you and if you have the space also bring the DK Eyewitness guide which has copious illustrations and cutaway drawings. I think that to do the entire itinerary would take you several days due to the interesting details described and explained, but you could just pick out the major landmarks and skip the rest if you don't have the time. Buy this book!

Was great to use in Istanbul - didn't have restaurants or hotels, but wonderful details about sites to see. I spent a very long time at Kariye Camii, (formerly a church and a mosque and now a museum) and with the aid of this book which explained each mosaic in the correct order, I was able to follow the remarkable stories shown in these mosaics. Without this book, I wouldn't have begun to understand this amazing museum.

This book is priceless for historically-minded tourists who want to carry with them a detailed explanation of what they are looking at. It covers all the major sites in old Constantinople, and has information on many other historical sites as well. We carried it on our recent (April 2011) trip, and were well pleased with it. Minor drawbacks include somewhat murky maps -- it's a good idea to get a good map, available from various tourist info kiosks -- and some information that apparently wasn't updated from the first edition. But overall this book made our time in Istanbul much better. However, this book is not a practical book like Lonely Planet, Rough Guide, etc. -- you'll need one of those also to help you figure out how to get around, where to stay, and so on.

The descriptions of neighborhood walks are deeply informative but not pedantic. It is helpful for the traveler to have a working knowledge of Istanbul's layout before following the walks. Although it is

obvious that the new edition has been updated for current conditions, the writers seem to effortlessly evoke the charm of the past.

Best travel book ever written for Istanbul. This is a book written by a person who knows Istanbul inside out and has developed the absolute best routes to see it. Hillary Sumner Boyd's book is the best travel companion you can have.

Guida interessante, ricca di spunti e approfondimenti. Ben scritta, approfondisce la storia della città e la cultura del popolo che la abita. Va affiancata ad una guida più pratica con indirizzari. L'unico problema è la leggibilità delle mappe nella versione Kindle.

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