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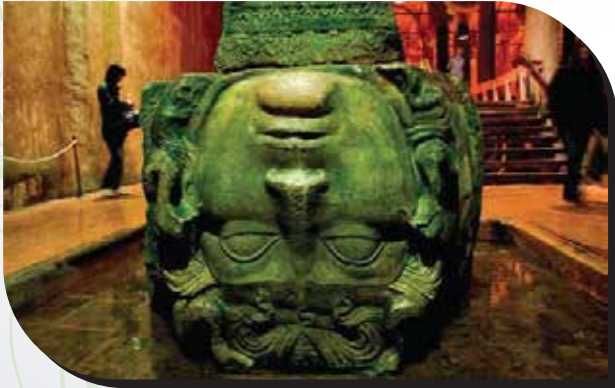
Did you know ...

The world's largest bohemian crystal chandelier is in the Ceromonial Hall in Dolmabahce Palace - Istanbul ?

The chandelier, a gift from Queen Victoria, has 750 lamps and weights 4.5 tonnes.



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Did you know ...

Having 336 marble columns, the Basilica Cistern is the largest of several hundred ancient cisterns hidden underneath the Istanbul ?

One must see the two Medusa heads, casually used as column bases, one positioned upside down, the other tilted to the side; both their positioning as their origin remain a mystery up till now.



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Did you know ...

The Alexander Sarcophagus, an unmistakably a work of the highest artistic order, the largest sarcophagus of the world which weighs 25 tons, among the most important classical antiquities ever discovered, is in at the Istanbul Archaeological Museum ?

Despite its 2,000- plus year's history, this masterpiece is totally intact and in almost perfect condition.



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Did you know ...

..... the Galata Bridge, spans the Golden Horn in Istanbul, is one of the few bascule bridge in the world that has an electric tram passing on it?

The first electric tram started running in 1914.



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Did you know ...

... the Maiden's Tower, located 150 – 200 meters off the shore at the southern entrance of the Bosphorus, is built in the 5th century BC by the Athenian general Alcibiades ?

The tower was featured in the James Bond movie "The World Is Not Enough"



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Did you know ...

...Istanbul is a city known for its tulip?

There used to be 1,588 different tulip species in Istanbul, but many of these became extinct over time.



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Did you know ...

.... the foundation of Istanbul University goes back to 30th May 1453, one day after the conquest of the city by Fatih Sultan Mehmet?

Istanbul University is among the World Top 500 Universities.



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Did you know ...

.... The Grand Bazaar, one of the largest covered markets in the world, has 60 streets and 5,000 shops?

Attracting between 250.000 to 400.000 visitors daily, Grand Bazaar is constructed in 1461.



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Did you know ...

..... the Hagia Irene which was built in the 4th century, is the first church built in Istanbul?

Hagia Irene is the first Turkish museum since 1846. Today, due to its extraordinary acoustic characteristics and impressive atmosphere, the museum is the setting for classical music concerts during the Istanbul Music Festival.