

Ansen Suite Hotel, Meşrutiyet Caddesi 130, Tepebaşı

Tel: 0212 245 8808 www.ansensuite.com

Rates: 330–460 YTL

Another small, classy newcomer, the highly recommended 10-room Ansen Suite Hotel occupies an ornate, six-storey, late Ottoman building in the old hotel district of Pera (also called



Tepebaşı) in Beyoğlu. Successfully designed by architect Yılmaz Deđer to offer the comfortable feel of a private apartment, with the facilities of a hotel, the rooms are spacious, come with large TVs and dataports, and are contemporary without being pretentious. The addition of two little electric cooking rings in the kitchenette areas of the rooms is more symbolic than practical, given the many culinary attractions of Beyoğlu on its doorstep. The friendly staff and small but relaxed bar/lounge/dining/reception area contribute to a pleasantly informal atmosphere. There is also a small, eccentric private dining room with a glass front onto Meşrutiyet Caddesi, perfect for show-offs with a passion for dining, literally, in public. As there are only 10 rooms booking well in advance would be wise.

Style 9, Atmosphere 8, Location 8

Ayasofya Konakları, Soğukçeşme Sokak, Sultanhamet

Tel: 0212 513 3660 www.ayasofyapensions.com

Rates: 170–300 YTL

There are few hotels in the world that can boast of having three world-class cultural attractions on their doorstep. Most of those that can are in Sultanhamet and the Ayasofya Konakları (Ayasofya Mansions) is one of them. On an old cobbled lane next door to the Topkapı, right behind the Hagia Sophia and a small, weak child's stone throw from the Blue Mosque, its location is hard to better. Built in the 1980s by the Turkish Touring and Automobile Association, the Ayasofya Konakları (until recently the Ayasofya Pansiyonları – 'mansions' replacing 'pensions') was the first Ottoman boutique hotel. Unusually it is a row of pretty, pastel-coloured houses, with a total of 57 rooms and seven suites, built to exactly mimic the old Ottoman houses that once stood in their place. A separate building in pretty surroundings at the end of the street houses a restaurant and bar. The downsides are the tired, Ottoman-cum-19th-century-European chintzy décor (though renovations are underway) and the few mod cons.



Style 7, Atmosphere 6, Location 10

Bebek Hotel, Cevdet Paşa Caddesi 34, Bebek

Tel: 0212 358 2000 www.bebekhotel.com.tr

Rates: 280–300 YTL

Unsurprisingly few visitors end up staying as far from the old city or Beyoğlu as Bebek, the smartest of the village-cum-suburbs along the European shore of the Bosphorus. But if you prefer