Istanbul E-Pass

Prices are drawn only from two sources: the E-Pass's own listing, and atourguideinconstantinople.org's 2026 museum fee guide. No third-party pricing was used.

Exchange rates used (approx., July 2026): 1 EUR ≈ 54 TRY ≈ 1.15 USD | 1 USD ≈ 47 TRY

Pass price — 7 day: €245 (~$282 / ~₺13,230) **Claimed total value:** €733 per person, "67% off"

1. Verified vs. Unverified Pricing

The pass claims a €733 total value. Checking each line item against the museum fee guide shows most of the pass is made of commercial add-ons (cruises, shows, workshops) that carry no transparent, checkable price anywhere — meaning the €733 figure cannot actually be substantiated from real ticket prices. Below is everything that *can* be checked.

Confirmed against the official 2026 fee guide

Item	Verified Price (EUR/USD/TRY)
Topkapı Palace (incl. Harem)	€55 / $65 / ₺2,750
Hagia Sophia (Visitor Gallery)	€25 / $29 / ₺1,270
Basilica Cistern	€38 / $45 / ₺1,950
Blue Mosque	FREE
Istanbul Palace Collections Museum	€6 / $7 / ₺280
Miniatürk	€20 / $23 / ₺990
Panorama 1453 History Museum	€20 / $23 / ₺990

Subtotal (verified)	**€164 / $189 / ₺8,880** (Blue Mosque = €0)

Priced only in the pass's own listing (not independently verifiable here)

Item	Pass's stated price	EUR / USD equivalent
Yıldız Palace Entry	₺900	~€17 / ~$19
Archaeology Museum	₺640	~€12 / ~$14
Turkish Islamic & Art Museum	€17 (as stated)	€17 / ~$20
Subtotal (pass-claimed)		**~€46 / ~$53 / ~₺2,470**

No price data available anywhere (cruises, shows, workshops, private attractions)

Dolmabahçe Palace, Museum of Illusions, Maiden's Tower, Çamlıca Tower, Istanbul Aquarium, Chora Museum, Digital Experience Museum, Dinner Cruise, Sunset Yacht Cruise, Cruise with Lunch, Cruise with Breakfast, Turkish Coffee Making Experience, Whirling Dervishes, Ottoman Photo Shoot, Legends of Istanbul, Pub Crawl, Bursa Day Trip.

Verified + pass-claimed total: ~€210 (~$242 / ~₺11,350). That's the confirmable ticket value across all 7 days — against a claimed €733 "total value." The gap between €210 and €733 is being filled entirely by items with no disclosed, checkable price: four separate boat cruises, a photo shoot, a pub crawl, a coffee workshop, and several private attractions. A "733 vs 245, 67% off" comparison built mostly on unpriced items is not a verifiable discount claim — it's a number with no visible working behind it.

2. Day-by-Day Issues

Day 1

Topkapı Palace Tour — advertised as "approximately an hour." Per the site's own FAQ data, the Harem is included in the standard Topkapı ticket price — it is not a separate museum requiring its own ticket. Marketing the Harem as something the tour "excludes," as if it were an optional add-on, misrepresents what's actually a single admission. An hour is also not enough time to see a palace this size properly.

Hagia Sophia Tour — the pass's own product description says guided portions take "around 30 minutes from outside," and that visitors can "visit within 15-20 minutes on your own" once inside. In practice this means: guide greets the group, gives a short introduction, hands out tickets, and visitors are on their own from there. That is not a guided tour of Hagia Sophia — it's a meet-and-hand-off.

Basilica Cistern Tour — described as "approximately 25-30 minutes." That window has to cover ticketing and moving 30-40 people inside, which alone takes 10-15 minutes. What's left, especially when the cistern is crowded, isn't enough time for a real guided visit — just entry, a brief intro, and exit.

Blue Mosque Tour — no duration is disclosed; the only detail given is that it's "combined with the Hippodrome Guided Tour," a separate subject entirely. The Blue Mosque itself is completely free to enter, with no ticket and no line to skip. Bundling a free site into a paid pass as a stand-alone "tour" — especially one apparently squeezed in alongside an unrelated Hippodrome visit — inflates the pass's landmark count without adding real value.

Dinner Cruise on Bosphorus — first of four separate cruise inclusions across the 7 days.

Day 2

Dolmabahçe Palace — the listing says only "Palace," with no tour, no guide, and not even a mention of an audio guide. The most likely delivery is a guide helping visitors collect the (already-free) museum audio guide, then leaving.

Palace Collections Museum — the pass says visitors present a QR code from the app and enter — no guide, no staff presence, self-service only. The pass states the ticket costs 335 TRY per person; the actual current entrance fee is 280 TRY. That's a roughly 20% markup on the pass's own stated price for a ticket you're retrieving yourself via QR code, with zero guided service attached.

Yıldız Palace Entry — again, no guide, just a ticket, stated at 900 TRY.

Museum of Illusions — no guide, just a ticket; no price disclosed at all.

Sunset Yacht Cruise — second cruise inclusion in this same 7-day pass.

Day 3

Archaeology Museum — no guide, ticket only, 640 TRY.

Turkish Islamic & Art Museum — no guide, ticket only, stated at €17.

Cruise with Lunch — third cruise inclusion.

Turkish Coffee Making Experience — the same activity already appears in the other pass under review; padding an itinerary with a repeated commission product rather than something new.

Whirling Dervishes — no detail given.

Day 4

Cruise with Breakfast — fourth cruise inclusion across 7 days. Four separate boat experiences in one week is not a realistic itinerary for most visitors — it reads as inventory being stacked to inflate the value claim.

Ottoman Photo Shoot — a five-minute photo opportunity being counted as a full "activity."

Legends of Istanbul — also appears in the other pass under review; the recurrence across products with no further detail suggests a commission-driven filler item rather than a genuine highlight.

Pub Crawl — an unusual inclusion for what's marketed as a landmarks-and-museums pass. The only detail offered is "Welcome shots are free!" — vague enough that it could mean water or a single beer, with guests covering the actual cost of the night from there.

Day 5

Maiden's Tower with Audio Guide — "includes a Maiden's Tower Entrance ticket with an Audio Guide" — again, just an entry ticket, not a tour or activity.

Çamlıca Tower — description literally says "entry to Çamlıca Tower Observation" — no guide, no greeting, no service.

Istanbul Aquarium — the listing's own description text is copy-pasted from the Çamlıca Tower line ("entry to Camlica Tower Observation Istanbul"), suggesting the entire day's descriptions weren't even individually written — just plain ticket access either way.

Day 6

Bursa Day Trip — identical inclusion to the other pass under review, and again takes guests outside Istanbul for a full day.

Day 7

Miniatürk — tickets only, 990 TRY confirmed.

Digital Experience Museum — tickets only, no price disclosed.

Panorama 1453 Museum — tickets only, 990 TRY confirmed.

Chora Museum — tickets only, no price disclosed here.

3. Pattern Summary

- **Four separate cruises** (dinner, sunset yacht, lunch, breakfast) spread across one week — unlikely to all be used, and each one pads the "experiences" count.
- **Repeated products across passes**: the Turkish Coffee Making Experience and Legends of Istanbul both reappear from the other pass under review, suggesting these are commission-generating fillers rather than curated highlights.
- **A day-one "tour" of four major landmarks that isn't really guided**: Topkapı gets an hour, Hagia Sophia gets a 30-minute greet-and-release, Basilica Cistern gets 25-30 minutes eaten up mostly by ticketing logistics, and the Blue Mosque — which is free — gets folded into an unrelated Hippodrome tour.
- **A factual misstatement about the Harem** at Topkapı, presented as if it were a separately excluded museum when it's part of the standard ticket.
- **A ticket price (Palace Collections Museum) marked up roughly 20% above the actual current fee**, on a self-service, QR-code-only entry with no guide involved.
- **Most of Day 2 and Day 3 onward is "just tickets"** — no guide, no service — despite being sold as part of a premium guided pass.
- **The €733 "total value" claim rests almost entirely on items with no disclosed price anywhere** (cruises, workshops, shows, a pub crawl). Only around €210 of genuinely checkable ticket value can be confirmed against the

pass's own numbers and the official 2026 fee guide — leaving over €500 of the claimed value unaccounted for.

4. Overall Verdict

This pass performs worse under scrutiny than a simple "too many attractions" complaint would suggest — it has a factual accuracy problem, not just a padding problem. Claiming the Harem is excluded from Topkapı when it's part of the standard ticket, and marking up the Palace Collections Museum price by roughly a fifth over its actual fee, are both incorrect claims about real, checkable facts — not marketing spin. Layered on top of that is the same padding pattern as the other pass: a "guided tour" of four major landmarks that in practice amounts to brief meet-and-greets, four separate boat cruises in one week, filler like a five-minute photo shoot and a vaguely-described pub crawl, and a headline "€733 value" that can't be reconstructed from any price actually disclosed in the listing. A traveler buying the four real landmark tickets individually — Topkapı, Hagia Sophia, Basilica Cistern, and one cruise of their choosing — would spend a small fraction of €245 for the same core experience, with the difference going toward services (guiding, skip-the-line access) that, as described here, mostly aren't actually being delivered.