

SPECIALTY STORES

ANTIQUES

Antiques are a surprisingly rare commodity in this antique land, because the government, to ensure that Turkish culture is not sold to richer nations, has made it illegal to export most kinds of antiques that are more than 100 years old. The Grand Bazaar, of course, is a place to go antique hunting, but an even better option is the Çukurcuma area in Beyoğlu, which is filled with small shops carrying everything from small, Ottoman-era knickknacks to outsized antique marble

Fodor's Choice



Alaturca. Styled more like a grand private mansion than a store, Alaturca has four floors that house a carefully selected—and very high-quality—collection of antiques, including artwork, ceramics, metalwork, and Ottoman calligraphy. Just a small fraction of proprietor Erkal Hacıoğlu's collection of antique carpets is on display here. ☎ Faik Paşa Yolu Sok. 4, Çukurcuma ☎ 212/245-2933.

Artrium. Artrium is a delightful shop located in a historic 19th-century passage just off Tünel Square. It has a range of antique items, including a fascinating collection of old prints and paintings, as well as some interesting ceramics, jewelry, and other handmade crafts. ☎ Tünel Geçidi Beyoğlu ☎ 212/251-4302.

Levant Koleksiyon. The maps, engravings, calligraphic works, and changing old postcards with photographs of Ottoman-era Istanbul sold here are quite affordable. The shop sells both framed and unframed pieces, and they do professional framing on the premises. ☎ Meşrutiyet Caddesi 64/B, Beyoğlu ☎ 212/293-6333.

Fodor's Choice



Sofa. Sofa is one of Istanbul's most highly regarded antique stores, located on pedestrian-only Nuruosmaniye Caddesi. Two levels are filled with a fascinating collection of metalwork, original İznik and Kütahya ceramics, old maps and prints, textiles, vintage jewelry, artwork, and assorted other treasures. ☎ Nuruosmaniye Cad. 53A, Cağaloğlu ☎ 212/520-2850.

Tombak. In two shops around the corner from each other, Tombak offers an eclectic collection of antique metal objects, tablewares, lamps, paintings, clocks, jewelry, and other interesting finds. ☎ Faik Paşa Yolu Sok. 22/A, Çukurcuma ☎ 212/244-3681.