



Istanbul for the First Time

I came to Istanbul from Ordu, a small city on the Black Sea coast of Turkey. With its natural beauty, Ordu is a very lovely, quiet city. Compared to Istanbul, Ordu is really small, and I guess I'm a brave girl for coming to live in the megalopolis on my own. Before I came here, I never thought that it would be so easy to get used to Istanbul life. Yet I've easily adapted. Maybe it's because I love Istanbul so much. Istanbul is too big and too crowded—that scares almost everyone—but when you are cautious and know what to do in situations, it becomes easier.

My first day in the big city was unforgettable. What I most wanted to see in Istanbul was The Maiden's Tower, and I went there that first day. It was sunset when I arrived, and the view was fascinating. I just watched admiringly the sunset Istanbul panorama from the tower and said to myself, "You did the best."

Even though I didn't know anywhere in Istanbul, I went wherever I wanted on my own and surprisingly never got lost. When you follow the signs you can easily find the way. Otherwise ask peddlers in the streets.

One thing that can be hard to get used to is the expenses of Istanbul. Life is really dear for a student, but once you learn where to go and eat and enjoy, your budget can be managed. Watch this space for tips!

For a girl coming to study in our faculty from a small city, my experiences and first impressions tell me that Istanbul is a very beautiful city. If you choose Istanbul for your university years, from the beginning it will reward you. Do not hesitate if you are someone trying to decide whether it's a good move.