

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO COUPLE & PRE-WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY IN ISTANBUL

Couple Shooting

ISTANBUL



HANDPICKED ROUTES, LOCAL SECRETS, AND STYLE TIPS FOR TIMELESS MEMORIES

WELCOME TO THE MAGIC OF ISTANBUL

Hello! I'm Nilufer Nalbantoglu, an Istanbul-based photographer who believes that the best couple photos aren't just "poses"—they are experiences.

Whether you are traveling to Turkey for your honeymoon, planning a pre-wedding shoot, or just celebrating your love, Istanbul offers a breathtaking backdrop. From ancient cobblestone streets and majestic mosques to the sparkling waters of the Bosphorus, there is magic around every corner.

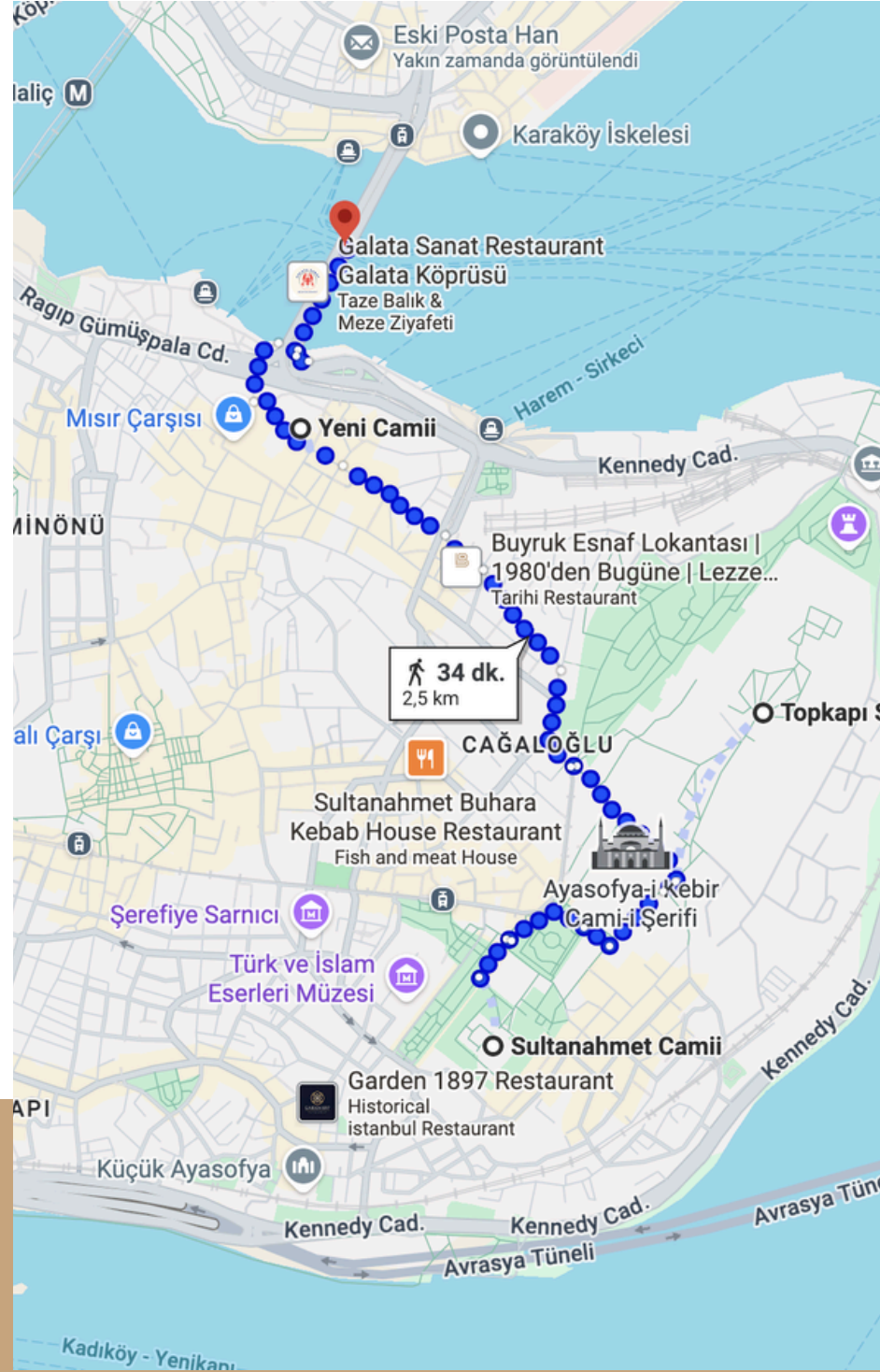
I've created this guide to share my absolute favorite shooting routes in the city, along with some tips to make your session effortless, authentic, and uniquely yours. Let's dive in!



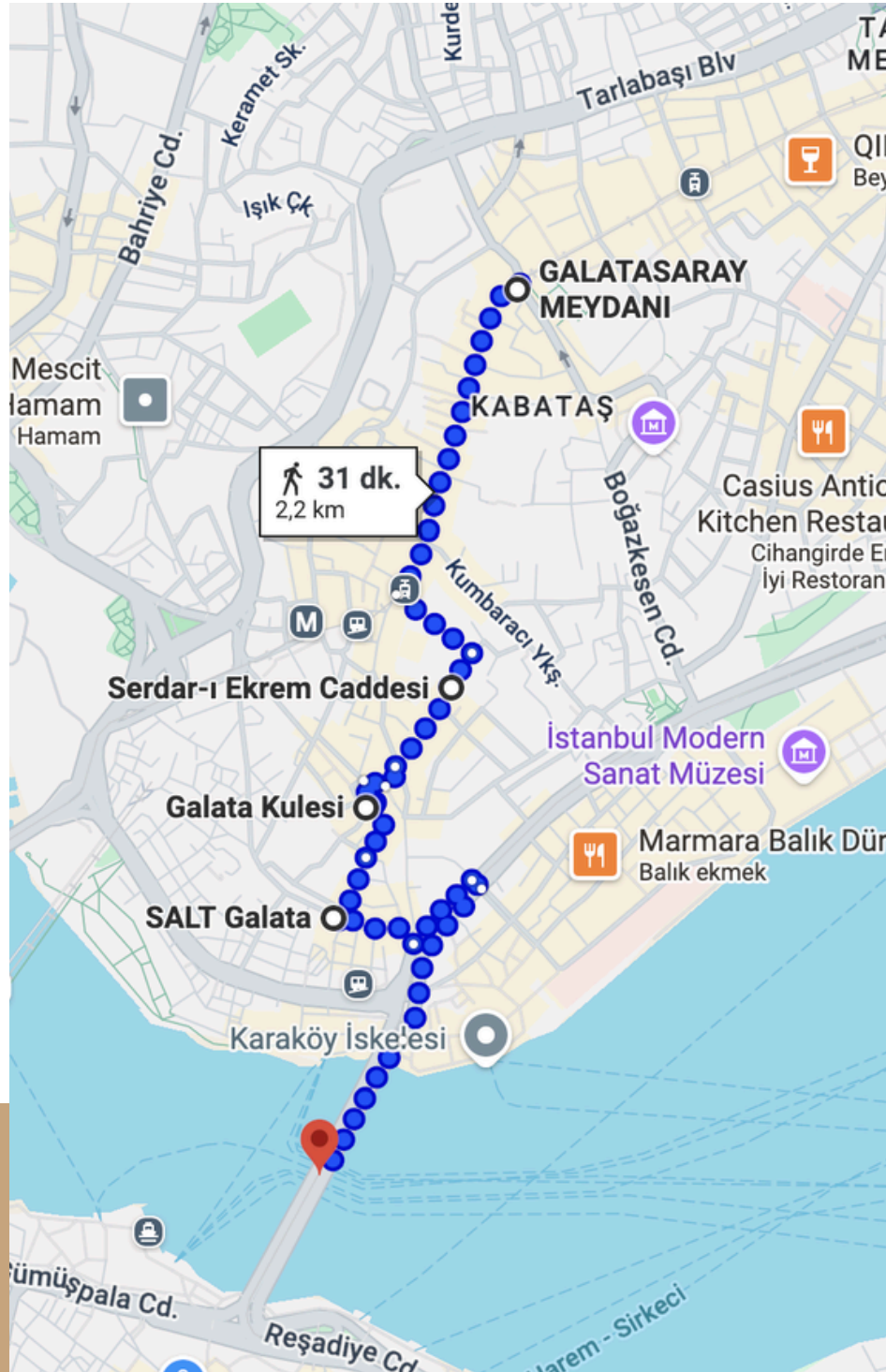
Route 1

The Journey: We begin right in the heart of the old city. This route gives you those iconic, grand Istanbul views.

- Starting Point: Sultanahmet Square & Hagia Sophia area.
- The Stroll: We'll capture the magnificent architecture in the background, walking past the historic gates of Topkapı Palace and exploring the quieter, hidden backyards of the area.
- The Grand Finale: We'll make our way down through Sirkeci to the famous Galata Bridge, capturing the beautiful chaos of the city and the ferries crossing the Golden Horn.



THE HISTORIC PENINSULA
(1-2 HOURS)



Route 2

The Journey: If you love lively streets, historic European architecture, and a modern, artsy vibe, this is your route.

- Starting Point: İstiklal Street.
- The Stroll: We dive into the charming side streets, specifically the famous Serdar-ı Ekrem cobblestone street, known for its chic boutiques and historic apartments.
- The Grand Finale: We'll shoot around the iconic Galata Tower, using the narrow alleyways to frame your photos beautifully, before walking down to the Galata Bridge where the city opens up before us.

THE BOHEMIAN HEART
(1-2 HOURS)

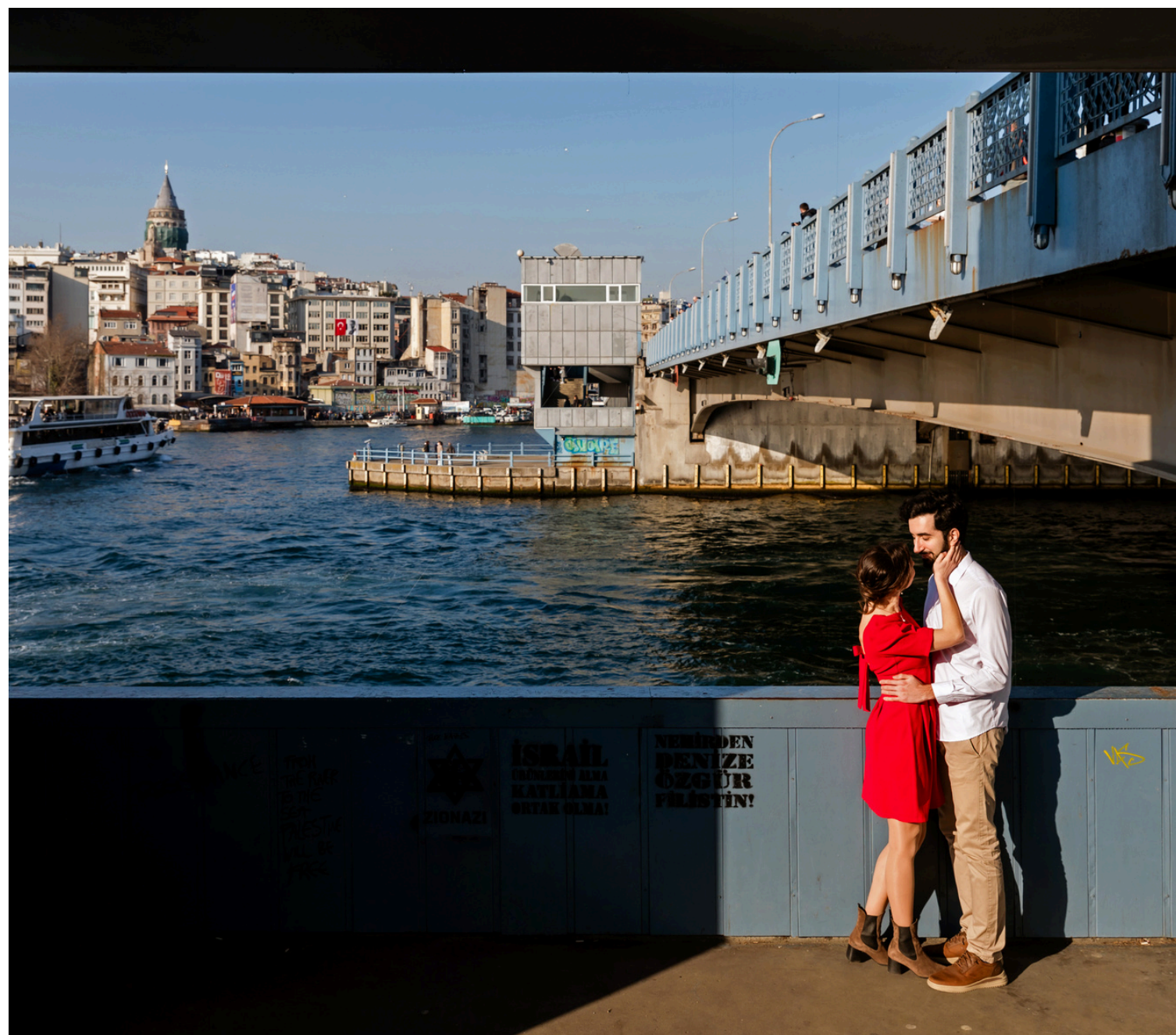


Route 3

THE FULL ISTANBUL STORY
(HALF-DAY DOCUMENTARY)

The Journey: This is more than a photoshoot; it's a cinematic documentary of a day in your life. This is my absolute favorite way to shoot because it allows your true personalities to shine through without any pressure.

- Chapter 1: Getting Ready. We meet at your hotel or Airbnb to capture the quiet, intimate moments of you starting your day together.
- Chapter 2: Turkish Breakfast. We can enjoy a traditional breakfast right where you are staying, or head to a local, aesthetic cafe. Coffee cups, laughter, and candid moments.
- Chapter 3: The Streets. We'll hit the streets for a custom walking route chosen by you (we can mix and match the Historic or Bohemian routes!).
- Chapter 4: The Bosphorus. We end the day on the water. We'll hop on a classic public ferry (or I can arrange a private boat just for you) to capture the wind in your hair and the stunning Istanbul skyline from the sea.



THE EXPERIENCE: HOW WE CAPTURE THE MAGIC

If you are worried about feeling awkward in front of the camera, take a deep breath! My approach is entirely about natural connection, not stiff, traditional posing. Think of our session as a fun date where I just happen to be tagging along with a camera.

How We Shoot: Prompts, Not Poses Instead of telling you exactly where to put your hands, I will give you actions and prompts. I might ask you to walk towards me like you're tipsy, whisper a secret in your partner's ear, or just practice your dance moves on the cobblestones. This creates genuine laughter, real movement, and authentic emotion.

The Golden Rules of Timing in Istanbul Light and crowds make or break a photo session. Here is when we should plan your shoot:

- **Sunrise (The Secret to Empty Streets):** If you want photos at iconic spots like the Hagia Sophia, Sultanahmet, or Galata Tower without hundreds of tourists in the background, early morning is a must. The light is soft, the city is waking up, and we have the streets entirely to ourselves.
- **Sunset & Golden Hour (For the Romantics):** The 1-2 hours before sunset offer that warm, cinematic, golden light. This is the absolute best time for our Bosphorus boat rides or exploring the bohemian streets before grabbing an evening cocktail.
- **A Note on Midday:** We generally avoid shooting between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. The overhead sun creates harsh shadows on your faces, and the city is at its most crowded.

The Flow of Our Session We usually start by meeting at a local spot, grabbing a quick Turkish tea or coffee, and just chatting for a few minutes. Once we are comfortable, we hit the streets, follow the good light, and let your story unfold naturally.



STYLE GUIDE: WHAT TO WEAR

Istanbul is a walking city with lots of cobblestones and wind by the water. Here are my top tips for looking stunning while staying comfortable:

- **Complement, Don't Match:** Instead of wearing the exact same colors, choose a cohesive color palette (like earth tones, pastels, or neutrals) that complement each other.
- **Movement is Magic:** Flowing dresses, wide-leg trousers, or unstructured layers look incredible when the Bosphorus breeze catches them or when you spin in front of a mosque.
- **Mind the Cobblestones:** If you want to wear heels, bring a pair of comfortable flats or sneakers to walk in between locations! Chunky heels or stylish boots are safer than stilettos.
- **Embrace the Layers:** A stylish jacket or a scarf can change up your look halfway through the shoot without needing a full outfit change. (Plus, scarves are great if we pop near a mosque!).
- **Avoid:** Heavy neon colors, massive logos, or overly formal, stiff clothing that makes it hard to walk, sit, or hug!

I'm Nilufer Nalbantoglu, and I am so passionate about capturing love in the city I call home. My style is natural, story-driven, and relaxed. I want you to look back at these photos and not just see how you looked, but remember exactly how you felt.

If you loved these ideas and want to plan your own Istanbul adventure, I would love to be your guide and photographer.



HOPE TO WORK
WITH YOU
Soon

Ready to book or have questions?

+905389896061

nilufer@nilufernalbantoglu.com

www.nilufernalbantoglu.com

[@nilufernalbantogluft](https://www.instagram.com/nilufernalbantogluft)