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Egyptian Spice Bazaar

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MORE INFO

Sun 9:30am - 7pm

Mon - Fri 8am - 7pm

Sat 8am - 7:30pm

Love Tea and Lokum

Istanbul's Spice Bazaar may be a global tourist trap, but isn't nearly as rage-inducing as the squawking group tours inside the Grand Bazaar. Here, a remnant of authenticity lives on in this 17th century building, created by commission for Sultana Turhan Hatice.

Visually-arresting piles of spices and Turkish delight, and rows of pushy men, make for a wild afternoon of souvenir shopping and colorful conversation. Inside the Ucuzcular stall the sellers are friendly and happy to let you browse. A bag of "love tea" ensures romance in a pot.

In that vein, on my way through the bazaar, a man trotted up to me and said, "Excuse me. I think you dropped something..." I looked puzzled. He smiled and theatrically clutched his chest, "...my heart." He probably does that for all the Westerners, but I pretended it was as real as the magic in the spices.

By [Kerri Allen](#)