

# The Antique Tram of İstiklal Caddesi

The pedestrianized shopping street of İstiklal Caddesi boasts one of modern Istanbul's most nostalgic sights: antique tram cars rattling along the mile-long street from the Tünel funicular station to Taksim Square.



The presence of the antique tram in bustling, forward-looking Taksim Square is jarring. You might initially think that it's a replica, a stationary nod to the past... but then the thing starts moving and people clamber on, fighting for seats. Puttering down the street at speeds barely eclipsing walking pace, the tram proves an irresistible lure for kids, who hop onto the back for a free ride.

These freeloaders have the tacit permission of the tram drivers, who are dressed in period gear and spend as much time waving to photo-taking bystanders as conducting. And so the tram is a curious hybrid; both a