

Banker Han, Hotel by the Sofa, Karakoy, Istanbul

Banker Han, Hotel by the Sofa offers 36 luxurious, stylish rooms and a fabulous Cafe to lounge, relax, play meet and have fun. Located in the heart of Gay Friendly Karaköy, Istanbul's buzzing new hip urban playground and creative and culinary hub.

Stunning architectural and historical monuments blended with art galleries, trendy boutiques and quirky cafés have given this area its cosmopolitan charm and character and it has become Istanbul's coolest new hot spot. Karakoy is ever so gay friendly and you will find its rainbow flags in pretty much all of the cafe's and bars.

Banker Han, Hotel by the Sofa offers free exhibition space for up and coming artists, giving them an opportunity to showcase their works. They have an amazing events program, inspired by the local area and local artists, to showcase the good and the great of Istanbul.

We recommend the following hot spots;

GAY & LESBIAN FRIENDLY RESTAURANTS

Ops Cafe Karakoy

Cute and quaint cafe in the heart of Karakoy, serving the most gorgeous coffees and cakes, warm, welcoming and service with a beautiful smile from the gorgeous staff.

Colonie Karakoy

From the creators of Topaz, Colonie is a modern restaurant in one of Istanbul's trendiest neighborhoods bringing a Meatpacking District vibe from lunch to dinner as well as drinks. The menu features international classics from carpaccio to pizza, salads to burgers as well as some Turkish classics like köfte. On weekends, the space fills up with cocktail sipping crowds and DJ music.

For Delicious Cocktails: Gaspar

The two-floored Gaspar, set inside a beautiful renovated neoclassical building, has plenty of room to dance with the bar greeting you as soon as you walk in through the french doors. Upstairs, a lounge area is present and the windows are always open for those who want to spy on the crowd that has spilled into the street moving to the beat of loud house music on weekend nights.

Fosil

A much welcomed nightlife spot in the heart of the trendiest neighborhood of Istanbul, Fosil is reached by walking down a black corridor and taking the elevator to the third floor. From there a beautiful view of the Bosphorus faces a big bar and several balconies allow patrons to step outside and gaze at the water and the view of Sultanahmet and the Asian side. The music here is strictly rock and roll and different flavored shots are popular.

Unter

With its three floors with different concepts, Unter houses a restaurant, a lounge and a loft which is perfect for private parties. From Thursday through Saturday night, the place turns into a fully fledged bar with loud DJ music and big crowds where dancing is definitely encouraged.

Klup Külah

Klup Külah is a project and art space tucked away in an alleyway off Karaköy's Mumhane Caddesi. Host to selected exhibitions and performances as well as concerts and the occasional private events.

DESIGNER WEAR at BEY

Bey is the collective love-child of Bulut Dur, Nil Ertürk and Ozan Ertürk. Fantastic fashion designer wear and unique gifts in this perfect little boutique in Karakoy.

GAY & LESBIAN NIGHT CLUBS AND PARTIES

Çanta: Fun and Fabulous, mixed crowd and fantastic entertainment with Fabulous Gogo boys and seriously talented Drag Queens. Located in Taksim, 5 minutes by taxi from The Sofa Hotel.

NEO: One of the legendary clubs of Istanbul's gay life, Neo, is now back to bring a fresh breeze. NeoIstanbul is glamorous with its 19 meters long huge led screens, delicious go-go boys, highly entertaining drag dancer team, most popular DJs and jaw-dropping surprises.

X Large: Mixed crowd but mostly visited by the gay community, also hosts fabulous live entertainment shows. Located in Maslak.

Tekyon: Gay crowd located in Taksim, open for 7 days where about a 1000 people visit on Fridays and 3000 on Saturdays, get there early!

Eglen-C: Mixed crowd but mostly visited by gay community. Great Turkish music from the 90s, located in Taksim.

Love Dance Point: Gay crowd with amazing DJ performances, Gogo boy shows. Opened on Friday and Saturday only. Located in Harbiye.

GAY & LESBIAN FRIENDLY GYM

Mac Gmall: GYM predominantly mix and very gay friendly work out place, located in Macka, 5 minutes by taxi from The Sofa Hotel.

Mac Kanyon: GYM predominantly mix and very gay friendly work out place, located in Levent, 15 minutes by taxi from The Sofa Hotel.