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Photograph of Istanbul, Turkey courtesy of Kara and Deniz.

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[Istanbul Film Festival](#)
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No good movies playing? Just head east!

If you ever happen to be in Turkey during April, be sure to check out the Istanbul International Film Festival, one of the most distinguished film festivals in the world. Beginning as "Film Week" in 1982, the festival was originally part of the Istanbul International Festival, screening only six films. Since then the festival has exploded in size. There are now two separate divisions (International and Turkish), and last year alone the festival screened over 175 films from around the world!

Like all forms of art, films are an effective way to challenge people to think about important social issues. Turkish films are no exception, tackling everything from historical feuds to more current issues such as women's rights. If you ever do get a chance to attend the Istanbul Film Festival, or even just watch a Turkish film, you will no doubt learn a great deal about the Turkish people and the country they call home.

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