Beneath its inimitable skyline Istanbul is a teeming, triumphant metropolis with imperial history, intrigue and entrepreneurial zeal written into its streets. It’s a city constantly being remade and reimagined, and the resulting sense of opportunity and vigour is palpable. From the domes of its mosques to the frantic pace of its traffic, Istanbul is awe-inspiring, unflinchingly and gregariously urban.

**First impressions:** On a daily basis both men and women greet each other with a kiss to each cheek; male friends will hug. If you’re invited into a more traditional home you should kiss the hands of the elderly members. Men will kiss the hand of a lady, and women greet each other with a kiss to each cheek; male friends will hug. If you’re invited into a more traditional home you will kiss the hands of the elderly members. Male friends will hug.

**Blows away:** Locals have names for the winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffet the city: the Lodos, a southwesterly force, can bring balmy warm winds that buffe