



# Welcome to Istanbul!

A world center of great value in the past as well as in the present, Istanbul embraces Asia on the one hand and Europe on the other. Istanbul, with its historical peninsula, numerous scenic and historical beauties is a magnificently unique city that has been capital to many civilizations from past to present and still continues to be home to residents from all over the world. This rooted city, with a history dating back to 300 thousand years before, constitutes a mosaic of many civilizations and cultures combined.

Bridging two continents, this unique city, where one can encounter people from different countries and witness diverse cultures merging in harmony, will awaken completely different feelings in you! There is a lot to experience and share in Istanbul.

**Are you ready to explore this magic city?**



## Getting to/from the airport

**Havatas** is the Airport Shuttle Service and it is the best alternative for transportation to/from airports of Istanbul. The shuttles leave every half an hour, starting at 4:00 am and finishes at 1:00 am. Ticket fare is either 11 TL from Ataturk Airport and 14 TL from Sabiha Gokcen Airport to Taksim Square (city center); easy and economical.

**Subway** Istanbul's 3rd most used line is M1A Yenikapı - Atatürk Airport line is a good option for going to the city center from the airport. The line can be used from 6:00 am until 00:00.

**Taxi** Even though taking a cab is a costly option, it is the easiest way for sure. Atatürk International Airport is 15.5 miles/ 25 km. from Taksim and takes approximately 30 minutes by cab. However Istanbul is a big city and traffic is always an important factor to keep in mind. The cost should be around 50 TRY, however, it may also be affected by the traffic jam. Please make sure that you are taking an official (yellow) taxi and it is always a good idea to talk about the approximate price with the driver before getting in the cab.

Ataturk Airport: [www.ataturkairport.com](http://www.ataturkairport.com)

Sabiha Gokcen Airport: [www.sabihagokcen.aero](http://www.sabihagokcen.aero)



## Keeping Safe: Be Vigilant

Like many big cities around the world, Istanbul is prone to pick pocketing. Always be vigilant wherever you go. You must always carry some form of photo identification.

**Money** The Turkish Lira is the official currency of Turkey. The currency comes in with banknotes of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 TL. Also, the coins that you will get in Turkey are 1, 5, 10, 25 Kuruş and 1 TL. You can find foreign exchange bureaus especially in the airports and city center. You can also withdraw TL from ATMs all around the city. Each ATM has foreign language sections and pays out with TLs. But there may be limits for each day on the amount of withdrawal allowed.

**Credit card** All major cards (Visa, Master Card) are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops.

**Weather** In March, the weather in Istanbul averages from a low of 4 degrees to a high of 14 degrees. An umbrella or light raincoat would not go amiss. Currently we are experiencing mild days and cool nights. Istanbul has micro-climates, so it could be snowing in one area of Istanbul but be sunny in another.

**Time** Turkey is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

**Electricity** Turkey's electrical system operates on 220 volts, 50 Hz, with round-prong European-style plugs that fit into recessed wall sockets. A voltage converter and a plug adapter are required in order to use U.S. appliances.

**Food** Being in Istanbul means tasting the delicious meals, having the chance of choosing between the spicy, hot Anatolian food and Aegean dishes, freshly cooked with olive oil. Turkish cuisine is very diverse and world-renowned. Istanbul is a melting pot of cultures, and all these influences pleasantly affect the food scene. So, forget about the international (fast) food chains while you are here and experience real Turkish food.

**Afiyet Olsun  
(Bon Appetit)**

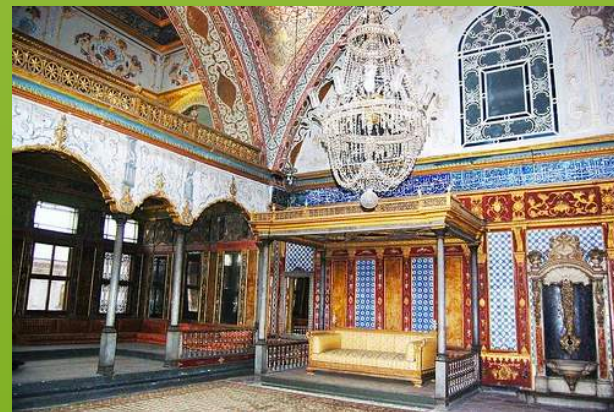


**Istanbul Classics & Ottoman Relics** Istanbul is a rich city: in traditions, history, culture, art, food and many other things. It's a city of contrasts: Byzantines and Ottomans made Istanbul the capital of their empires. Muslims, Jews and Christians live here in peace. There are buildings dating from the 6th century and modern skyscrapers. There are streets where millions of people pass every day, and little hidden corners waiting to be discovered. When it comes to Istanbul, there's so much to see and so much to be explored. But there are a few masterpieces that you can't miss when visiting:



**Blue Mosque** Imperial Mosque of Sultan Ahmet (1609-1616) is one of the great masterpieces of the world and it is the last sample of classical Ottoman architecture. The name "Blue" comes from the famous blue Iznik (Nizza) tiles which adorn the entire interior of the mosque. It is also the only Ottoman mosque with 6 minarets among the other mosques. <http://www.bluesmosque.co/>

**Hagia Sophia** Hagia Sophia (532-537) is one of the most impressive architectural samples of Byzantium Era and it is absolutely mystical unique example of art where you can see motifs and traces of Christianity and Islam together. Built in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian, it was used as a church until 1453. When Mehmed 11, the Ottoman Sultan of that period, conquered Istanbul in 1453, it was converted from a church to a mosque. In 1935, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk converted it to a museum. <http://ayasofyamuzesi.gov.tr/en>



**Topkapi Imperial Palace** Started to be built in 1460 and was finished in 1478 for Sultan Mehmet - the conqueror of Istanbul, Topkapi Palace was the primary residence of Ottoman Sultans. The palace was transformed into a museum in 1924 and was declared as a World Heritage site by Unesco in 1985. Harem Section is not included in the itinerary because it needs additional time and fee. <http://topkapisarayi.gov.tr/en>



**Grand Bazaar** The Grand Bazaar is one of the largest covered markets in the world with 60 streets and 5000 shops, and attracts between 250,000 and 400,000 visitors daily. It is well known for its jewelry, hand-painted ceramics, carpets, embroideries, spices and antique shops. The bazaar has been an important trading center since 1461 and its labyrinthine vaults feature two bedestens (domed buildings), the first of which was constructed between 1455 and 1461 by the order of Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror. The bazaar was vastly enlarged in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, during the reign of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, and in 1894 underwent a major restoration following an earthquake.  
[http://www.grandbazaaristanbul.org/Grand\\_Bazaar\\_Istanbul.html](http://www.grandbazaaristanbul.org/Grand_Bazaar_Istanbul.html)



**Basilica Cistern** The city's most unexpectedly romantic attraction, the Basilica Cistern, offers an insight into the complicated system that once brought drinking water into Istanbul from Thrace (an area of the south-east Balkans now constituting Turkish land on the European mainland, and a chunk of Bulgaria). Constructed in the sixth century and then forgotten for centuries, the cistern that once stored the water has been fitted with lights and music. Fish flitter around the bases of the 336 columns that support the ceiling. Don't miss the upside-down head of Medusa that forms the bottom of one column, proof that Byzantine builders saw Roman relics as little more than reusable rubble. Remember the scene in the old James Bond movie "From Russia With Love", when Bond is rowing in a small boat through a forest of marble columns? That scene was filmed in here!

<http://yerebatan.com/homepage>



**Galata Tower** The medieval Galata Tower adds a fairytale element to the hilly Beyoğlu district, on the north side of the Golden Horn. Capped with a conical tiled steeple and gold finial, the 67 meter (220 foot) stone tower was built by the Genoese in 1348. Visit the outdoor observation area at the top for a stunning panorama across to Sultanahmet, have dinner or a snack at the tower-top restaurant, or watch a Turkish belly-dancing show at the nightclub.

<http://www.ibb.gov.tr/sites/ks/en-us/1-places-to-go/towers/pages/galata-tower.aspx>

## Shopping in History and Modernity

East and West, tradition and modernity... Istanbul's shopping variety with its traditional and modern products makes the city an attraction center for any kind of shopping lover. Other than historical and street markets, Istanbul has almost 200 modern shopping malls. Located in Levent district; Kanyon, Metrocity, Özdilek, Zorlu Center and Akmerkez are prominent malls. Istinye Park in Maslak offers an outstanding open air experience. Cevahir İstanbul in Mecidiyeköy is one of the biggest malls in the world.



Please visit [CEESA Conference webpage](#) for more information on half and full day tours organized from Thursday through Sunday by ODS Turkey.



**ISTANBUL  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL**

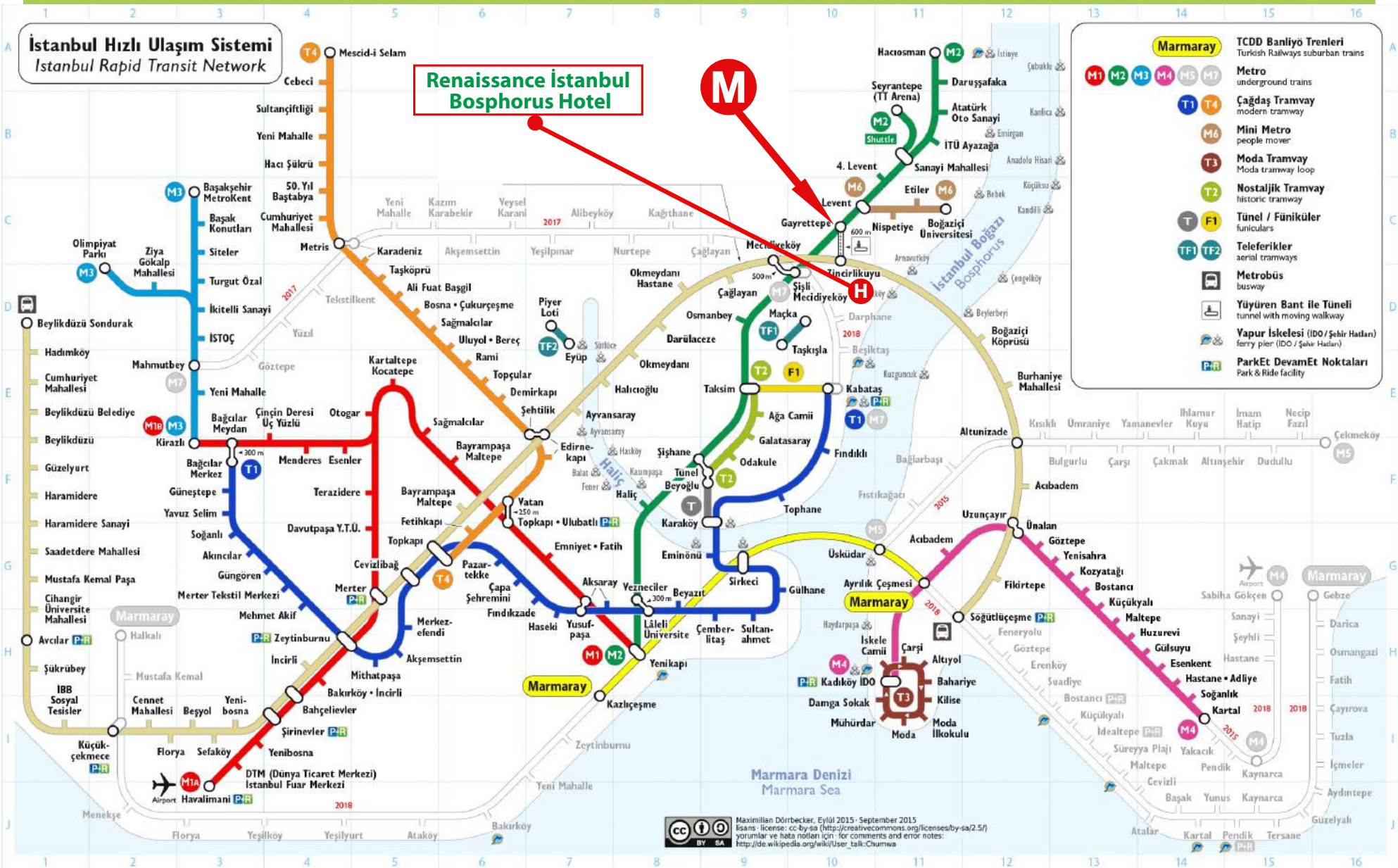
is honored to host CEESA Conference 2016, Istanbul. We are looking forward to seeing you in our beautiful city!

**Istanbul Hızlı Ulaşım Sistemi**  
Istanbul Rapid Transit Network

**Renaissance Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel**



- Marmaray** TCDD Banliyö Trenleri  
Turkish Railways suburban trains
- M1 M2 M3 M4 M5 M7** Metro  
underground trains
- T1 T4** Çağdaş Tramvay  
modern tramway
- M6** Mini Metro  
people mover
- T3** Moda Tramvay  
Moda tramway loop
- T2** Nostaljik Tramvay  
historic tramway
- T F1** Tünel / Füniküler  
funiculars
- TF1 TF2** Teleferikler  
aerial tramways
- Metrobüs**  
busway
- Yürüyen Bant ile Tüneli**  
tunnel with moving walkway
- Vapur İskelesi (IDO / Şehir Hatları)**  
ferry pier (IDO / Şehir Hatları)
- ParkEt DevamEt Noktaları**  
Park & Ride facility



Ataturk Airport to Renaissance Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel 30.2 km via D100/34.7 km via E80  
Sabiha Gokcen Airport to Renaissance Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel 41.8 km via E80  
Gayrettepe Metro Station to Renaissance Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel 1,2 km (10-15 min walk)

Maximilian Dörrbecker, Eylül 2015 - September 2015  
İlans - İcense: cc-by-sa (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/>)  
Yorumlar ve hatı notları için - for comments and error notes:  
[http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:\\_talk:\\_Cvurwa](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:_talk:_Cvurwa)