

# WELCOME TO THE ISTANBUL WE WANT TO SHOW YOU

For many years, Istanbul has had a strong position in the international arena, strengthening its recognizable image. As an emerging city with high rates of economic activity and significant investment in infrastructure, Istanbul became an engine for development of Turkey.

We've prepared a special guide on how to make the most of your visit to the Traffic Summit conference so you can fully enjoy Istanbul in between networking.



## DISCOUNT HOTELS



**Mövenpick Istanbul  
Hotel Golden Horn**  
★★★★★

Mövenpick Golden Horn is not just a hotel: this is where exclusive life begins. The spacious Deluxe and Classic rooms are designed for a luxurious stay with all the necessary amenities.

**Tip:**

Use the promo code **TRAFFICSUMMIT2022** to book a room with a pleasant discount!



**Holiday Inn Istanbul  
Old City**  
★★★★★

Located in Old City Istanbul, Holiday Inn Istanbul Old City is a 12 minutes' walk from the Grand Bazaar, historical Istanbul University, and many other must-have experiences in Istanbul.

**Tip:**

Use the promo code **OLDCITY000** to book a room with a pleasant discount!



**Clarion Hotel  
Golden Horn**  
★★★★★

One of the successful hotel chains with more than 6,500 hotels all over the world, Clarion Hotel Golden Horn is located on the shore of the Golden Horn with its modern design and central location in the Beyoğlu region.

**Tip:**

Follow the link to book a room with a pleasant discount!

## TAXI

By far the most convenient (but not always the quickest) way to get around in Istanbul is by taxi. They are plentiful, operate day & night, take up to 4 persons, when compared to the US or Europe fairly cheap, and they can be easily hailed on the street or found at taxi ranks.

**Only take official taxis.** They are bright yellow and have digital taximeters as well as a sign on the roof with the word "taksi" on it. Furthermore, their taxi plate number and company logo are clearly visible on the front doors and the roof

**Always insist on switching on the meter.** Some of the taxi drivers may come up with an excuse that the meter is broken or offer to drive for a flat fee

In case you take a taxi to cross either of the Bosphorus bridges or drive on the TEM highway, a toll has to be paid

**No tipping** unless the taxi driver helped you to load and unload your luggage. If you're happy with his performance, you can round up the fare to the nearest convenient figure

**Say what?** Most taxi drivers speak very little to no English at all. It's therefore not a bad idea to have the exact name and street of your destination written down on a piece of paper

**Prevent unsafe driving.** If at any time you feel unsafe, you can tell the driver «yavaş gidi» or just «daha yavaş lütfen». Both mean more or less the same and instruct him to slow down.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

There are several types of public transportation in Istanbul. The best part is that most of them are connected to one another. And you can use them all with a single transportation card (**IstanbulKart**) that can be purchased from major hubs like Taskim and Besiktas.

You can fund the card from the self-service kiosks named IstanbulKart Dolum Noktasi. It also provides discounts for each independent and every connecting ride within a two hours span.

### Metro

The metro is divided into several main lines. First is the Yenikapi-Ataturk Havalimani line (M1A) which takes you through Aksaray, Fatih, and Forum Istanbul Mall. On the other hand you have the Haciosman-Yenikapi Metro line (M2) which takes you to Besiktas from Zincirlikuyu.

### Buses

The buses in Istanbul are in different colors, but don't worry about it or get confused. They can be green which means they are environment friendly, purple, yellow which means they are furnished specially for the disabled people, turquoise meaning they are being run by private companies. The buses are really efficient to use in Istanbul since they are cheaper and can go through any area.

### Ferries and sea taxis

Istanbul is a city which has two seas so having ferries for transportation purposes is very common. The ferries are an inseparable part of urban life, they are a clean, comfortable, and inexpensive way of crossing to the other side of the city. The Sea Taxis are a very convenient way to go from one shore to the other just using these motorboats which provide a fast, customized and private journey around the clock.

## DINING

Istanbul is a real mosaic of both culture and cuisine. If you want to have a special dinner or breakfast experience, you can have all your dreams come true in Istanbul restaurants like Roof Mezze 360, **Fuego Restaurant**, and **1924 Istanbul**. Whether your sweet tooth needs to be overwhelmed or whether you need a more refined taste, be sure to try **baklava**, **künefe**, and **lokum**.

*P.S. If you like fresh fish, we recommend one of Istanbul's favorite lunchtime street foods to munch on – **balık ekmek** or 'fish sandwich'. The fish is grilled with herbs and crushed red pepper, before being placed inside bread with a nice squeeze of lemon, and the eater's choice of lettuce, tomato, onion, and even peppers. Sellers are aplenty on both the Eminönü and Karaköy sides of the Galata Bridge.*

## ISTANBUL TOURIST PASS

All of your sightseeing plans, sorted! The Pass will let you skip ticket lines, guide you around all the best attractions in the city, and what's far more fantastic — save you **up to 75% off** normal ticket prices. Airport transfers, guided tours of the top museums and palaces in Istanbul and access to 60+ attractions, experiences and services included.

## NIGHTLIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

Welcome to Sin City! Istanbul is the right place to go if you are a nighthawk. One of the oldest meeting points; bars have always been marvelous places to socialize and kick off adventures. Grab your old friends and the new acquaintances you just met at Traffic Summit and hit the town.

Here is a list of bars that have proven to be fun: **Ayi Pub** (Moda), **Sponge Pub** (Levent), **360 Istanbul** (Beyoğlu).

## USEFUL APPS

We've put together the must-have apps that will guide you while you're visiting Istanbul.

– **Moovit** is one of the most useful Istanbul apps designed to help you know which public transport to use for any particular journey. It gives you step-by-step directions from where you are to where you want to go. Download for **iOS** and **Android**.

– **Yemeksepeti**. With this app, you can order the desired food from any restaurant in Istanbul as well as to get information about the nearest restaurants, popular dishes, and how long it will take for your order to arrive. Download it on **iOS** or **Android** and sign up.

– **Citymapper** will help you with exploring Istanbul by providing the best route to your destination point with all the costs and transportation arrival time. Download Citymapper on **App Store** or **Google Play**.

## SIM CARDS

Are you going to stay in Istanbul for at least 1 week, 10 days or more, and need to make and receive local calls? Then we recommend you buy Turkey SIM cards. There are two good options for travelers:



### Pay-as-you-go

If you want to use your phone only for emergency calls, then we recommend Pay-as-you-go (the cheapest option but only for calls, no data/internet;



### Prepaid SIM Card

If you are a heavy phone user (calls, SMS, internet/ data), we recommend the Prepaid SIM Card (price is per month) plan.

You can purchase both Pay-as-you-go and Prepaid Turkey SIM cards from the Turkish GSM Operators' official stores located at the Istanbul Airports on arrival floors, the major transport stations, major streets and neighborhoods of Istanbul.

You can **top up your SIM card** from the official GSM stores, Post Offices, or online by your credit card. Foreign bank credit cards can only be used if your credit card supports 3D secure applications.

The tourist packages at the airports may cost more than the standard local rates in the downtown. If you have a local friend, or have enough skills and power to make negotiations with the store sellers, you can try purchasing your Prepaid Turkey SIM card with the best package that suits your needs downtown.

# HAVE A NICE TRIP!