

Dear visitor,

welcome to Istanbul, the gateway to 8.000 years of history and culture.

In order to make your stay as comfortable as possible and to be able to experience the city like a local, we have put together some useful information on the megacity on two continents especially for you.

We hope that you will leave Istanbul with unforgettable memories...

Kindest regards,



MEGA METROPOLIS ISTANBUL



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About Istanbul

Istanbul is host to many different cultures and civilizations at the intersection of the European and Asian continents and protects the cosmopolitan and metropolitan structure of various languages, religions and races. In 1985, Istanbul's 'historical peninsula' was named as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In 2010, Istanbul was accepted as World Cultural Capital.

The Bosphorus is connecting the Black Sea to the Marmara Sea and separates the city into an European and an Anatolian side.

A short history of Istanbul

As a result of the excavations made in Yenikapi Port region during the metro construction in 2004, the archaeological studies indicate that the history of Istanbul is dated back to B.C. 8.000s.

Neolithic Period B.C. 8.000 - B.C. 5.500

Chalcolithic Period B.C. 5.500 - B.C. 3.000

Prehistory Period B.C. 3.000 - B.C. 667

Ancient Greek Period B.C. 667 - B.C. 196

Roman Period B.C. 196 - 395

Byzantine Empire Period >> 395 - 1453

Ottoman Empire Period >> 1453 - 1923

Republic of Turkey 1923 -

Istanbul today

Istanbul has various historic and cultural districts. Taksim is the heart of the city that lives 24/7. The population of Istanbul is increasing day by day, and its importance from the point of culture and commercial aspects becomes more important each day. Istanbul continues to be the cradle of cultures and civilizations for 8.000 years.

•• Population: Istanbul 14,8 Million From one end to the other: 180 km



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PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND TAXI INFORMATION





The Princes' Islands

In the times of Eastern Roman Empire, the islands were used as exile sites. Today only 4 of the total 9 Princes Islands are open to public settlement. These are Büyükada, Kinaliada, Heybeliada and Burgazada.

How to get to there _____



By ferry from Kabatas, Eminönü or Kadiköy piers.

From Kabatas Pier		From Eminönü Pier		From Kadiköy Pier	
Büyükada	95 min	Büyükada	90 min	Büyükada	75 min
Heybeliada	80 min	Heybelida	80 min	Heybelida	60 min
Kinaliada	50 min	Kinaliada	50 min	Kinaliada	30 min
Burgazada	65 min	Burgazada	60 min	Burgazada	45 min

Public transportation <a>_



Istanbul has a well developed public transportation network. Get around fast and economically just like a resident by using metro, bus, metrobus, funicular, tram, ship or ferry.

Your ISTANBUL WELCOME CARD includes the public transportation card with a preloaded balance for your prompt use, as soon as you arrive in Istanbul. After using your free rides, you can reload the card at any vending machine.

Taxi information

Taximeter opening fee	▶ 5,00 TL
Per KM	→
Minimum fee	▶ 10,00 TL

In case of any problem with a taxi driver, call the **Taxi** Complaint Hot Line at 444 15 23 immediately.



USEFUL INFORMATION

Country and Area Codes 🐴



For International Calls

>> 00+country code+phone number

For Local Calls

> 0+area code+phone number

Important telephone numbers



112	AMBULANCE
155	POLICE
156	GENDARME

Average temperatures



MON	ſΗ	M	ONTH	MONTH	
January	9°C	May	23°C	September	26°C
February	10°C	June	27°C	October	21°C
March	13°C	July	30°C	November	16°C
April	18°C	Augus	s t 30°C	December	11°C

Currency exchange



- The currency in Turkey is the Turkish Lira (七, TL, TRY).
- You can change your money at exchange offices at the airports and in city centers.
- There are ATMs at the airports and all over the city to withdraw cash.
- In Turkey credit card use is very commonly. Except for taxis and public transportation, you can use your credit cards everywhere and for everything, even if you spend a small amount of money.



How to leave a tip (Baksheesh)



Taxi	>>	No tip needed
Luxury Restaurant	>>	10% - 15%
Standart Restaurant	>>	5% - 10%
Guide	>>	As much as you wish
Hotel / Bellboy	>>	As much as you wish

Tax free shopping / Tax refund



If you have no residence permit in Turkey, you can require a tax-free-invoice for your purchase of minimum 100 TL + VAT to obtain VAT return.

Tax Free Approval Offices are located at the International Departure Terminals of airports.

First, you have to go with the product and invoice to the Tax Free Approval Office to get a customs approval (clearance stamp). After the approval process, the relative tax (particular amount of VAT of the product) will be paid as TL, EURO or USD from the Tax Return Office according to the type of the tax-freeinvoice.

Tax free procedures are time-taking processes. Therefore, please arrive at the airport early.

Official holidays in Turkey



In Turkey there are national and religious celebration days. These days are official holidays. Government offices and banks are closed. On the first day of religious holidays, museums and shopping malls open at 13:00.

The annual national holidays are on the same date, however the religious holidays are on different dates as they are determined on the Hijri (Islamic) calendar.

DATE	TITLE	DURATION
01.01.2020	New Year	1 Day
23.04.2020 N	National Sovereignty and Children's	s Day1 Day
01.05.2020	Labor and Solidarity Day	1 Day
19.05.2020Con	nmemoration of Atatürk-Youth and S	ports Day1 Day
23.05.2020	Ramadan's Eve	Half a day
24-26.05.2020	Ramadan	3 Days
15.07.2020	Democracy and Resistance Da	y1 Day
30.07.2020 .*	Sacrifice Eid's Eve	Half a day
31.07-03.08.2020	**Sacrifice Eid	4 Days
30.08.2020	Victory Day	1 Day
28-29.10.2020	Republic Day	1,5 Days

🙀 Hijri Calendar is a lunar calendar system starting on the emigration day of Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina.





Shopping in Istanbul - An Overview

Istanbul is the shopping paradise par excellence! You can shop till you drop in the Grand Bazaar, the Egyptian Bazaar, the tens of thousands of shops scattered all over the city, the impressive shopping malls, the many antique shops and the weekly district and flea markets. Everywhere you will find something suitable for your budget.

The Grand Bazaar

Here you can enjoy a very special shopping experience. Built in the 15th century, the world-famous bazaar is not only one of the oldest covered markets in the world, but also one of the largest with 3,600 shops. Here you can feel the gate to the Orient close up! You get there with the tram T1 (Beyazit stop).

The Egyptian Bazaar

Here you dive into a sea of scents and colors. This bazaar is also covered. You can especially buy spices and Turkish delicacies in about 100 shops. You get there with the tram T1 (Eminönü stop).

Shopping malls (AVM)

In Istanbul there are over 40 partly huge shopping centers, in Turkish shortly called AVM. The largest ones are also among the largest in Europe.

Most of the shopping malls are located central and can be reached by metro easily.

Antique shops

The antique dealers focus on Cukurcuma below Taksim Square in Beyoglu district and in the center of Kadiköy district on the Asian side.

District and flea markets

These markets are very popular with the local population. They are off the beaten path and open once or twice a week. Since you can experience the true city life, we recommend you to visit one of them.