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From the airports

Istanbul is served by two International airports: Istanbul Atatürk Airport and Sabiha Gökçen Airport. For airport transfers, please check with your hotel first. Some hotels offer free transfers while some others offer this service at a specific rate. Apart from transfers handled by the hotels, the most recommended option is to use the HAVAŞ Airport shuttles from both airports.

Istanbul Atatürk Airport

We recommend that you take the HAVAŞ shuttle bus from İstanbul Atatürk Airport to Taksim. Once in Taksim, you can either use a taxi or the main metro line (green line) to get to your hotel. The metro on this line operates until midnight.

The journey from the airport to Taksim takes about 30-45 minutes by taxi or by shuttle bus, depending on traffic. The shuttle busses to and from the airport are operated by HAVAŞ. You can find the shuttle busses at the airport by following the HAVAŞ signs. Taxi to Taksim costs about 40 TL (~20 Euros). HAVAŞ shuttles cost about 10 TL (~5 Euros) per person.

You can also use the metro to get to your hotels from the airport, however, you will have to change trains several times to get to Taksim and this may be difficult with luggage, especially during rush hours. So we do not recommend this. (Metro stations: Airport to Zeytinburnu (use red line) - change to navy blue line at Zeytinburnu - Zeytinburnu to Kabataş (use navy blue line) - change to the funicular (yellow line) at Kabataş - Kabataş to Taksim (use yellow line) – change to green line at Taksim – use green line to get to the hotels).

Sabiha Gökçen Airport

We recommend that you take the HAVAŞ shuttle bus from Sabiha Gökçen airport located at Pendik / Kurtköy to Taksim. It will take approximately an hour by taxi or by bus to get to Taksim from this airport. Once in Taksim, you can either use a taxi or the main metro line to get to your hotel. The metro on this line operates until midnight.

From Taksim to the Recommended Hotels by Metro

At the Taksim metro station get on the train (green line) that goes in the direction of 4th Levent and Atatürk Oto Sanayi (AOS) for all recommended hotels. The trains on this line operate until midnight.

To the Nil Hotel

Get off the metro at the Osmanbey station. Follow the signs to the Pangaltı exit. Once you are at street level, you will see the Ramada Hotel ahead of you. Face the Ramada hotel, turn to your right and walk up the hill. Turn right at the second street on the right. Walk a couple of minutes and you will see the Nil hotel on your left.

To the Villa Blanche and the Niza Park Hotels

Get off the train at the Gayrettepe/Esentepe metro station. Follow the signs to the Esentepe exit. Also the signs which say Astoria AVM (shopping mall) lead to the same exit. Once you are at street level:

- For Villa Blanche, turn right and head towards the tall modern building, which is the Astoria shopping mall. After walking 3-4 minutes you will see a street that leads downhill on your right, between a building that says "Kuveyt Türk bank" (the building right before the shopping mall) and Fatih University. When you reach the street, look to your right down the street and you will see a red building right in front of you. That is the Villa Blanche hotel.
- For Niza Park, turn left and walk approximately 3-4 minutes. You will come to a large kebab restaurant that is called "Bursa İskender Kebapçısı". Turn left to the street right before the restaurant. This street is called the "Kore şehitleri" street. After you walk a few meters turn again left on the first street on your left. Walk about 3-4 minutes. As you near the end of the street, you will see the hotel on your left.

To the Bilek Hotel

Get off the train at 4th Levent station. Follow the signs to Emniyetevleri exit (Do not follow those that say 4th Levent). Once you are at street level, locate the tall Mövenpick hotel towards your back. Have the hotel on your back left side, walk away from the hotel for about 4 minutes. You will see the Bilek Hotel on your left.

To the Maslak Sheraton Hotel

Get off the train at Istanbul Technical University station. You can use any exit. They all lead to the same place. Once you are at street level, you will see the tall Sheraton building ahead of you on the other side of the street. This is a major street so you have to cross it using the overhead pass. Walk towards the Istanbul Technical University campus entrance. There you will see the stairs leading up to the overhead pass. Go up and all the way across the overhead pass. This will take you away from the Sheraton hotel, so you have to turn and walk back towards the hotel.

Getting to the Venue by Metro

A metro line (green line) connects the recommended hotels to the venue. To get to the venue, get off the train at the Istanbul Technical University station. The metro on this line operates until midnight. Once you are in the station, you can use any exit as they all lead to the same place. Once you are at street level the university campus will be to your right. Walk along the university wall in the same direction as the traffic on your side of the road. After a couple of minutes, you will see the university entrance to your right. There will be security at the gate, checking for identification. Tell them that you are coming for "the EvoStar conference at the Suleyman Demirel Cultural Center".

From Taksim

Get on the train (green line) that goes in the direction of Atatürk Oto Sanayi (AOS). Then follow the instructions in the above paragraph.

From the Bilek Hotel

When you get out of the hotel, turn right and walk about 3-4 minutes to the 4th Levent metro station entrance. Go inside and get on the train that goes in the direction of Atatürk Oto Sanayii (AOS). Then follow the instructions in the above paragraph.

From the Niza Park Hotel

When you get out of the hotel, turn right and walk about 4 minutes until you get to a larger street called the "Kore Şehitleri" street which is perpendicular to the street you are on. When you reach the street, turn right and walk a few meters to the main street. Once you reach the main street, turn right, walk about 3-4 minutes to get to the Gayrettepe/Esentepe metro station. Once inside the station, get on the train going in the direction of Atatürk Oto Sanayii (AOS). Then follow the instructions in the above paragraph.

From the Villa Blance Hotel

When you get out of the hotel, walk straight up the small hill right across from the hotel entrance. When you reach the main street, turn left and walk about 3-4 minutes until you get to the Gayrettepe/Esentepe metro station. Once inside the station, get on the train going in the direction of Atatürk Oto Sanayii (AOS). Then follow the instructions in the above paragraph.

From the Nil Hotel

When you get out of the hotel, turn right and walk to the end of the street. When you come to the larger street, turn left and walk down to the main street. On your right you will see the Ramada hotel and on your left is the entrance to the Osmanbey metro station. Once inside, get on the train going in the direction of Atatürk Oto Sanayii (AOS). Then follow the instructions in the above paragraph.

Getting to the Old City from the Hotels

From your hotel, go to the nearest metro station as explained in the above paragraphs. Get on the train towards Taksim (green line). In Taksim (end of line), get off the metro (but do NOT go out of the station). Follow the signs inside the station that says "funicular". Get on the funicular (yellow line). It only works between two stations (Taksim and Kabatas). Get off the funicular at Kabatas (end of line). Inside the station follow the signs to the tram to Zeytinburnu. You will get outside to the surface to get to the tram but still it is within the limits of the station surrounded by railings, so practically you will not leave the station. You will, however, use a new token. There you will get on the tram going towards Zeytinburnu (navy blue line). Get off the tram at the Sultanahmet station (7th station on this line). You are now in the Sultanahmet square where you can find the Blue Mosque, the Topkapı Palace and the Hagia Sophia museums.

Transportation payment

Each transportation system (metro, tram, bus, boat) has its own tickets or tokens which are usually available at their stations. There is also a prepaid "touch memory" available (called "Akbiil", short for "smart ticket") which can be used on all of the public transportation options listed below. This is a small electronic device which can be loaded with an arbitrary amount of credit and the fare will be deducted on each use.

Modes of Transportation

Rail System

The rail system consists of metro, light rail and trams. The rail system network covers a large portion of Istanbul. You can see a map of the rail system network of Istanbul at the end of this document.

The main metro line (green line) connects the Taksim Square to Ayazağa (the conference venue location). You can buy tokens at every metro station. Most stations have an automatic token dispenser which accepts cash and coins. A token costs 1.5 TL. The metro is the best option if your destination is on or near this line.

Bus

There are publicly and privately operated busses in Istanbul. You can buy your tickets from ticket booths located in major bus stops. In private busses tickets may also be purchased on the bus.

Taxi

The taxis are yellow in color and have a sign at the top that reads "Taksi". The taximeter starts with around 2 TL which is approximately 1,2 Euros and adds 1,3 TL for every km. Make sure that the driver turns the meter on before he starts driving.

