



USEFUL INFORMATION

Welcome to Istanbul!



We are excited to
host you in Istanbul,
which is a city like no other.

- **Most Visited City in the World**

Istanbul topped the list of the world's most visited cities in 2023, with over 20.2 million international arrivals, surpassing cities like London and Dubai. This growth was fueled by relaxed visa requirements, its rich cultural appeal, and its unique blend of history and modernity.

- **Cats: A Symbol of the City's Soul**

Istanbul is famous for its friendly street cats, which are deeply ingrained in the city's culture. These cats are cared for by locals and have become beloved symbols of Istanbul's charm. They are so integral to the city's identity that they even inspired the documentary Kedi, which celebrates their lives and the bond they share with Istanbul's residents.

- **Straddles Two Continents**

Istanbul is the only city in the world that spans two continents, Europe and Asia, divided by the Bosphorus Strait. This unique geographical position makes it a cultural and historical bridge between East and West, offering a fascinating mix of traditions, cuisines, and lifestyles.

- **The Most Populous City in Europe**

Istanbul is not only Turkey's largest city but also the most populous city in Europe, with over 16 million residents. One out of every five people in Turkey lives here, and the city contributes 30% of the Turkish economy, making it the country's economic powerhouse.

- **Europe's Safest Major Tourism City**

According to Numbeo, Istanbul is the safest city among Europe's five major tourism cities (London, Rome, Barcelona and Paris).

- **The Capital of Three Great Empires:**

Istanbul, formerly known as Constantinople, was the capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires and hosted different civilizations for approximately 1600 years.



- **Grand Bazaar: A Shopper's Paradise**

The Grand Bazaar, dating back to the 15th century, is one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world. With over 4,000 shops, it offers everything from spices and jewelry to textiles and antiques, making it a must-visit for shoppers.



Historic Peninsula & Basilica Cistern Guided Tour Date: Sunday, September 14 Time: 14:00 - 17:00

Tour Overview:

Join us for an unforgettable journey through Istanbul's heart — the Historic Peninsula. This guided tour will take you through the city's rich layers of history, from the Byzantine Empire to the Ottoman era, exploring iconic landmarks, hidden gems, and stories that shaped civilizations. Our day will end with a visit to the magical Basilica Cistern, a stunning underground marvel

Explore Istanbul Beyond the Classics:

5 Must-See Spots Near the Golden Horn

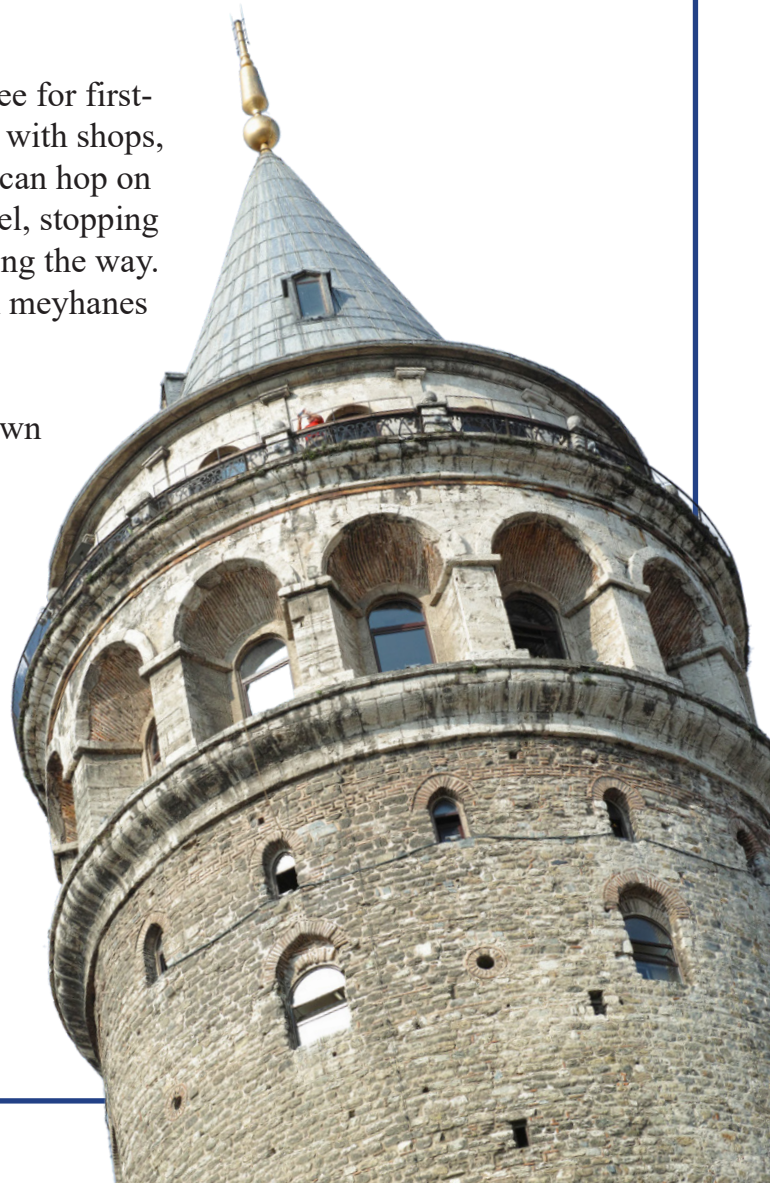
Galata Tower & Neighborhood – Just a short walk from the Golden Horn, the tower offers a stunning panoramic view of Istanbul. The surrounding streets are filled with cozy cafés, art galleries, and small boutiques, making it a great area for a relaxed afternoon stroll. Sunset from the tower is especially breathtaking.

Karaköy & Bankalar Street – A lively district blending modern cafés, street art, and historic buildings. Guests can visit cultural hubs like Salt Galata, then walk along the waterfront or across Galata Bridge for a beautiful view of the Golden Horn at sunset.

Pera Museum & Çukurcuma – Pera Museum showcases notable works, including Osman Hamdi Bey’s famous “The Tortoise Trainer.” Afterward, exploring the nearby Çukurcuma streets — filled with antique shops, vintage boutiques, and hidden gems — makes for an artistic and nostalgic walk.

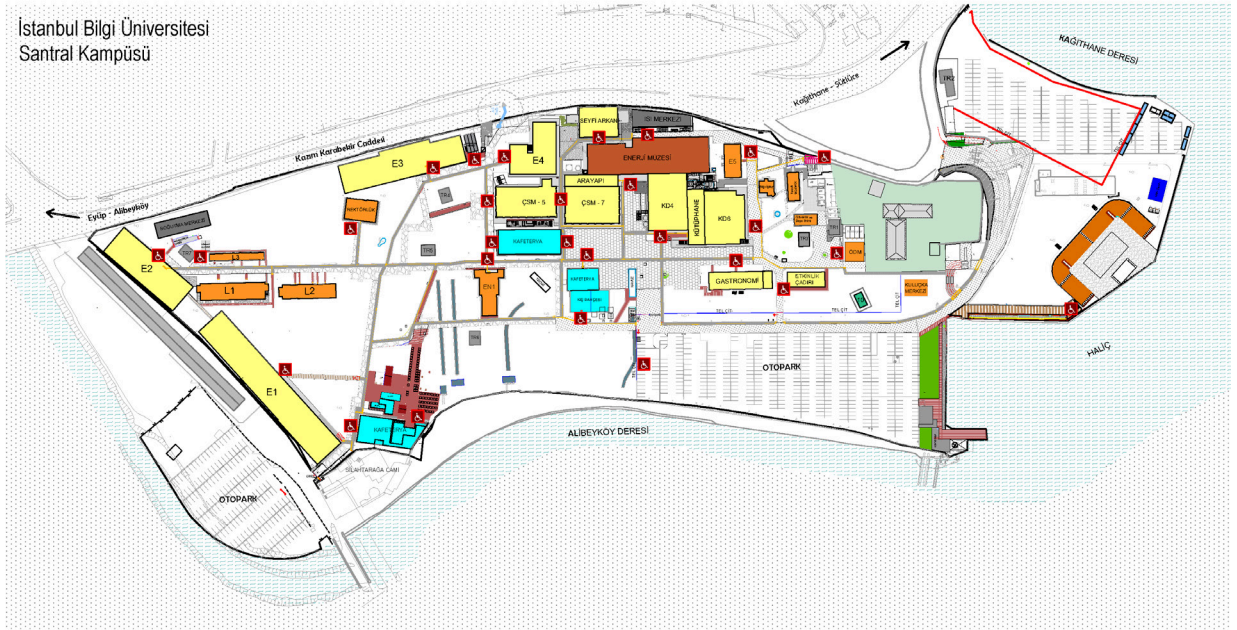
Taksim Square & Istiklal Street – A must-see for first-timers in Istanbul. The bustling street is lined with shops, restaurants, and historical landmarks. Guests can hop on the iconic nostalgic tram from Taksim to Tünel, stopping at key spots like Galatasaray High School along the way. Side streets offer great surprises, from hidden meyhanes to quirky bookshops.

Cihangir & French Street – Cihangir is known for its bohemian vibe, popular among artists and locals. Guests can enjoy the laid-back atmosphere, explore charming cafés and bookstores, and even spot a few celebrity residents. In the evening, French Street offers vibrant bars, live music, and a lively ambiance for those who want to end the day with some entertainment.



Conference Location

The CEPIUG 17th Year Anniversary Conference will take place İstanbul Bilgi University in September 14-16, 2025.



How to reach to the Conference location, Bilgi University?

European Side | From Istanbul Airport (IST):

By Taxi:

A direct taxi ride to Bilgi University (Santral Campus) takes approximately 50-70 minutes, depending on traffic, and costs around 1200-1600 TL. Make sure the driver turns on the meter, or use apps like BiTaksi or Uber for a more reliable fare estimate.

By Public Transport:

Take the M11 metro line from Istanbul Airport to Gayrettepe.

Transfer to the M2 metro line and get off at Şişhane station.

From Şişhane, take bus 50E or 50N towards Bilgi University and get off at Bilgi Üniversitesi stop. Estimated costs 100-150 TL.

By Public Transport + Taxi:

Take the Havaist shuttle to Taksim or take the M11 metro line to Gayrettepe.

From Taksim or Gayrettepe, take a taxi to Bilgi University, which takes around 20-40 minutes, depending on traffic. Estimated cost around 500-600 TL.

Asian Side | Sabiha Gökçen Airport (SAW):

By Taxi:

A direct taxi ride to Bilgi University (Santral Campus) takes approximately 45-65 minutes, depending on traffic, and cost around 1300-1600 TL. It is recommended to use BiTaksi or Uber app to avoid price negotiation issues.

By Public Transport:

Take the M4 metro line from Sabiha Gökçen Airport to Kadıköy.

Transfer to Marmaray and travel to Sirkeci.

From Eminönü, take the T5 Eminönü–Alibeyköy Cep Otogarı Tram Line and get off at Üniversite station. Estimated costs 100-200 TL.

By Public Transport + Taxi:

Take the Havabus shuttle to Taksim, which takes approximately 60-90 minutes. From Taksim, take a taxi to Bilgi University, which takes around 20-40 minutes. Estimated cost around 600-700 TL.

Getting Around Istanbul: Tips & Warnings

- **Istanbulkart is Essential:** Public transportation requires an Istanbulkart, a rechargeable travel card that can be used on buses, metro, tram, ferries, and funiculars. You can purchase and top it up at kiosks, metro stations, and convenience stores.
- **Avoid Rush Hours:** Istanbul's traffic is notoriously heavy, especially between 07:00-10:00 AM and 17:00-20:00 PM. If possible, plan your trips outside these peak hours to avoid long delays.
- **Use Official Transport Apps:** Apps like Moovit, T Rafi, or Google Maps provide real-time public transport updates and can help you navigate the city efficiently.
- **Public Transport Closes at Midnight:** Most metro and tram lines stop running around midnight, though buses and ferries may have different schedules. If you need to travel late at night, check the schedules in advance or consider alternative transportation.
- **Ferries are a Great Option:** Istanbul's ferries are not just a mode of transport but also a scenic experience. They are often faster and less crowded than road transport during peak hours, offering beautiful views of the Bosphorus.

Accommodation

We advise you to use your favorite booking source or web platform to find the best solution according to your budget and habits. Otherwise, you can take into consideration the following solutions:

Hotels near the Conference Venue

AVA Boutique Hotel

Sakarya, Silahtarağa Cd. No:155, 34050 Eyüpsultan/İstanbul

hotels.cloudbeds.com | Phone: +90 212 625 45 00

Clarion Hotel Golden Horn

Sivaseli Sokak, Sötlüce, İmrahor Cd. No:10, 34445 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

www.clariongoldenhorn.com | Phone: +90 4446610

Mövenpick Istanbul Golden Horn

Merkez, Silahtarağa Cd. No:87, 34050 Eyüpsultan/İstanbul

movenpick.accor.com | Phone: +90 212 600 16 00

Ramada by Wyndham Golden Horn

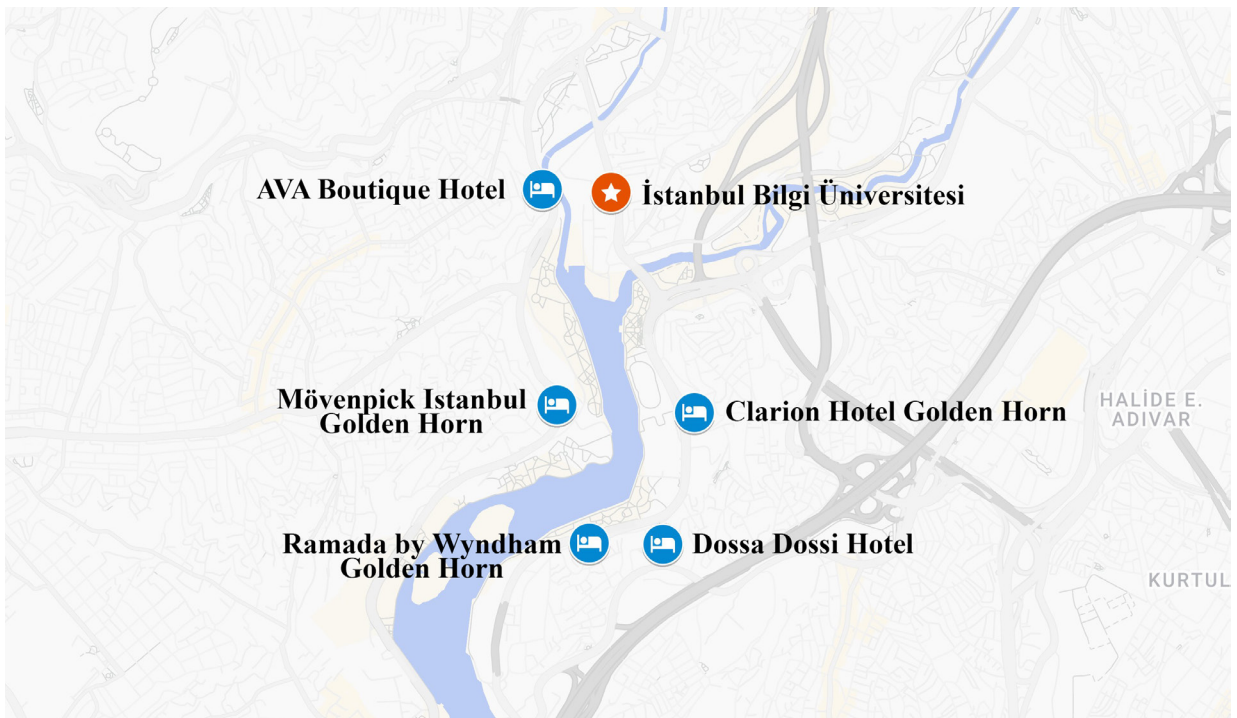
Sötlüce, İmrahor Cd. No:12, 34450 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

www.wyndhamhotels.com | Phone: +90 212 255 80 80

Dossa Dossi Hotel

Sötlüce İmrahor Cad, Sötlüce, Dutluk Sk. No:3, 34445 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

www.dossodossihotels.com | Phone: +90 212 314 50 00



Useful Information

- **Conference Program**

Welcome drinks and networking reception:

Sunday, September 14, 2025, from 18:00 to 20:00 at Istanbul Bilgi University.

CEPIUG 17th Anniversary Conference:

Monday, September 15, 2025, at 09:00 to Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 18:00.

The working language of the conference will be English. No interpretation services will be provided.

- **Travel Documents and Visas**

Ensure you have a valid passport and obtain any required visas or travel authorizations, including transit visas. Start this process early to avoid delays.

TURPIUG will provide a visa support letter upon request and coordinate with the relevant embassy or consulate.

- **Climate**

September in Istanbul typically features warm weather with an average high of 26°C (79°F) and a low of 18°C (64°F).

- **Meals**

Mid-morning and afternoon tea/coffee breaks will be provided, along with lunch on all conference days.

Drinking water will be available throughout the event.

A special conference dinner will take place on Monday, September 15, 2025, from 19:30 to 22:30 at a boat in the Bosphorus.

- **Wi-Fi**

Complimentary Wi-Fi will be available at the venue. Connection details will be shared closer to the event.

- **Time Zone**

Istanbul operates on Turkey Time (TRT), UTC/GMT+3, and does not observe daylight saving time.

- **Electricity**

Turkey uses a 230V supply voltage at 50 Hz with Type C and Type F plugs. Please bring a suitable travel adapter if needed.

- **Telephone**

The international dialing code for Turkey is +90.

Contact Persons

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