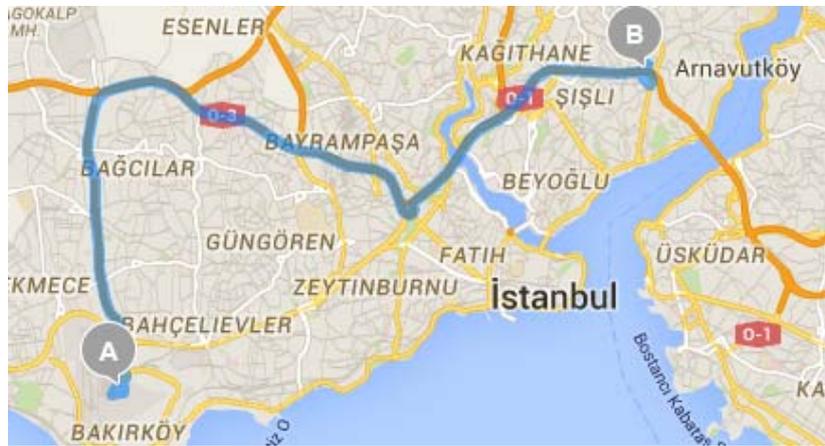


# QUICK ISTANBUL GUIDE

## Map and Directions to the Congress Venue Raffles Hotel / Zorlu Center, Istanbul

Raffles Hotel/ Zorlu Center Istanbul is 26 km away from Atatürk International Airport on the European side and 40 km away from Sabiha Gökçen International Airport on the Eastern side. It has direct connections to the public transport network (bus, subway) via Zorlu Center and the subway allows fast transfers to the airport. It is 4 km to the Bosphorus Bridge and 7 km to the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge. It also offers a heated helipad and car parking.

### From Atatürk Airport



**A:** Atatürk Airport **B:** Raffles Hotel / Zorlu Center.

### From Sabiha Gökçen Airport



**A:** Sabiha Gökçen Airport **B:** Raffles Hotel / Zorlu Center.

## Zorlu Center Complex:

Meeting point and check in for Congress participants: Raffles Hotel / Zorlu Center, -1<sup>st</sup> floor

*Please Note: Raffles Hotel is located behind the Zorlu Center. When you arrive to Raffles Hotel you will see the main entrance and after 6 meters you will arrive at the conference area entrance. The yellow line on the right side of the plan marks the taxi way.*



## Taxi

Taking a taxi to the Raffles Hotel is the most commonly used and most convenient option. If you are travelling as a party of four, the price is similar to the shuttle services. Just walk out of the airport – disregard the hustlers inside the airport trying to give you a ride – and you'll see the official taxis nicely lined up. Ask your Taxi driver to bring you to the following entrance of the Zorlu Center:

*Hotel Address: Zorlu Center Gayrettepe, Beşiktaş, 34340 İstanbul, Turkey - Phone: +90 212 924 0200*

Because of the high traffic sometimes found in Istanbul, please plan your transit with the following times and costs.

From Atatürk Airport: approx. 1 hour, costs approx. 70 TL , 30 EUR

From Sabiha Gökçen Airport: approx. 1,5 hours, costs approx. 100 TL, 40 EUR

*Please Note: Costs may vary according to the traffic density.*

## Bus Shuttle Service

Havataş is a municipality owned reliable airport shuttle service. You can find them outside the airport terminal, in the second lane. Every half hour, between 04:00 and 01:00, one of their buses heads for *Taksim*. The current pick-up and drop-off point is in front of the Taksim Metro Station Entrance, just past Taksim Square. Metro line Taksim - Haciosman Line Gayrettepe Station will bring you to the Zorlu Center.



Because of the high traffic sometimes found in Istanbul, please plan your transit with the following times and costs.

From Atatürk Airport: approx. 1 hour , costs approx. 11 EUR

From SabihaGökçen Airport: approx. 1,5 hour, costs approx. 14 EUR

*Please Note: If you wish to get a taxi from Taksim it takes approx. 15-20 minutes and taxi cost is maximum 10 EUR.*

# Congress Schedule at a Glance:

## **Monday 20 April 2015 – Excursion and Lectures**

10:00 – 12:00 Excursion Zorlu Center: Walking tour – tour guide

12:30 – 13:30 Registration, Refreshment, Exhibition

13:30 – 15:30 Lectures "Explore the Nature on Rooftops"

15:30 – 16:00 Refreshments/Exhibition

16:00 – 18:00 Lectures "Explore the Nature on Rooftops"

19:00 – 21:00 Evening Reception

## **Tuesday 21 April 2015 – Workshops and Lectures**

08:30 – 09:00 Refreshment / Exhibition

09:00 – 11:00 Workshop 1: "Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Green Roofs"

09:00 – 11:00 Workshop 2: "Green Roof Policies and Research"

11:00 – 11:30 Refreshments/Exhibition

11:30 – 13:00 Workshop 1: "Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Green Roofs"

11:30 – 13:00 Workshop 2: "Green Roof Policies and Research"

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch/Exhibition

14:00 – 15:30 Lectures "Green Roofs in Dry and Mediterranean Climates"

15:30 – 16:00 Refreshments/Exhibition

16:00 – 17:30 Lectures "Green Roofs in Dry and Mediterranean Climates" / Closing words

# Istanbul – Where East meets West

## History

Founded as Byzantium in around 660BC and renamed Constantinople in 330 AD, Istanbul has always been one of the world's most important and influential cities. It served as the capital of the Roman, Byzantine, Latin and Ottoman Empires. Its position on the Silk Road and as the only sea route between the Black Sea and Mediterranean has made it one of the world's most important centres of trade. Today visitors flock to its outstanding mosques, galleries and museums as well as to the bars, restaurants and shops that makes this ancient city one of the hippest places on the planet.

## Geography

A bridge between Europe and Asia, Istanbul straddles the Bosphorus – one of the world's busiest and most colourful waterways. It has a population of over 14 million, making it the one of largest cities in Europe, second largest in the Middle East and the third-largest city in the world. At its heart is the old city, spread over seven hills and surrounded by 22km of ancient walls.

## Time zone

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

## Climate

Its location gives Istanbul a climate that is seasonal and variable. Temperatures can fall to an average of 4°C to 11°C (39 to 53°F) in the coldest months of December and January, when cold winds from the Black Sea can blow in. In July and August – the hottest months – temperatures can rise to between 20°C and 29°C (69 to 85°F) creating a sultry heat. Therefore, a very pleasant time to travel to Istanbul is in spring, especially in April and May.

## Culture

Istanbul is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. And whilst the majority of the population is Muslim, Istanbul hosts a mix of cultures and backgrounds from around the world, accepting and embracing all nationalities.

When visiting mosques it is important to follow the dress codes posted outside each one and to avoid photographing people at prayer.

## Language

Turkish is the official language of Turkey, although English and sometimes German is spoken at tourist sites. English is becoming a second language in the city and its use is growing among young people.

## Currency and exchange

The official currency of Turkey is the Turkish Lira (TRY).

Major credit cards are widely accepted in Istanbul – but traveller's cheques are rarely accepted. ATMs providing cash in local currency are widely available throughout Istanbul – and most have a language key, so you can follow the instructions.

## Religion

Turkey is a secular state, but most Turks are Muslim.

## Driving

You can rent a car with an international driving license, but driving can be interesting and roads busy. An alternative option is to hire a car and driver. You'll also find that taxis are widely available.

## Public transport

Istanbul has a varied local public transportation system - including trams, funiculars, metro lines, buses, bus rapid transit, and ferries. The contactless Istanbulkart provides a seamless way of paying for all of these.

## Health

There is no need for special inoculations when travelling to Istanbul (unless you are coming from an endemic area). But you will find travel insurance useful – as Turkey has no reciprocal healthcare arrangements with other countries.

The health system is well developed. Istanbul has a wide range of state and private hospitals. Turkey has more hospitals accredited by the U.S.-based Joint Commission than any other country in the world.

## Electricity

Turkey operates on 220 volts, 50 Hz, typically with round-prong European-style plugs that fit into recessed wall sockets /points.

For more information please contact us.

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