



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Civil Society Programme 2015

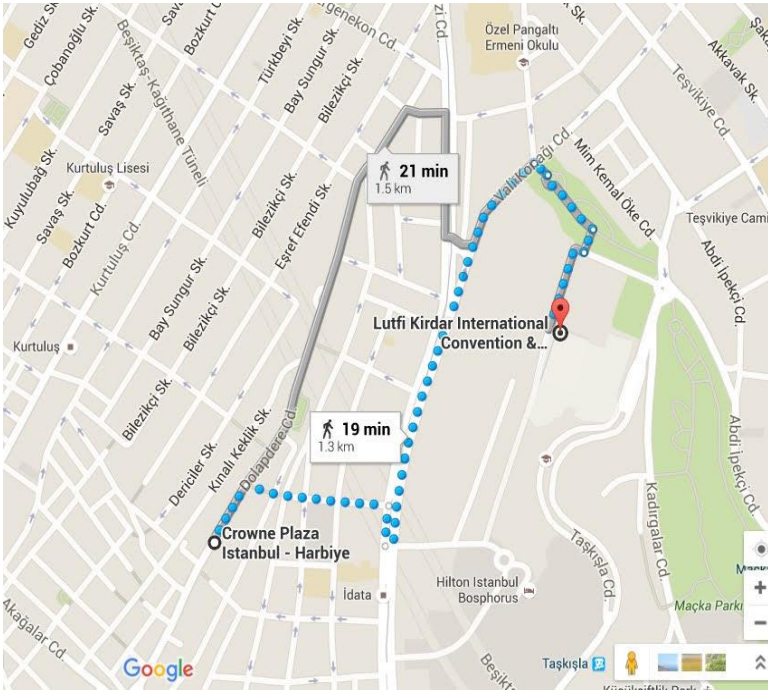
Global Forum on Migration and Development

Transportation from Istanbul airport to the centre

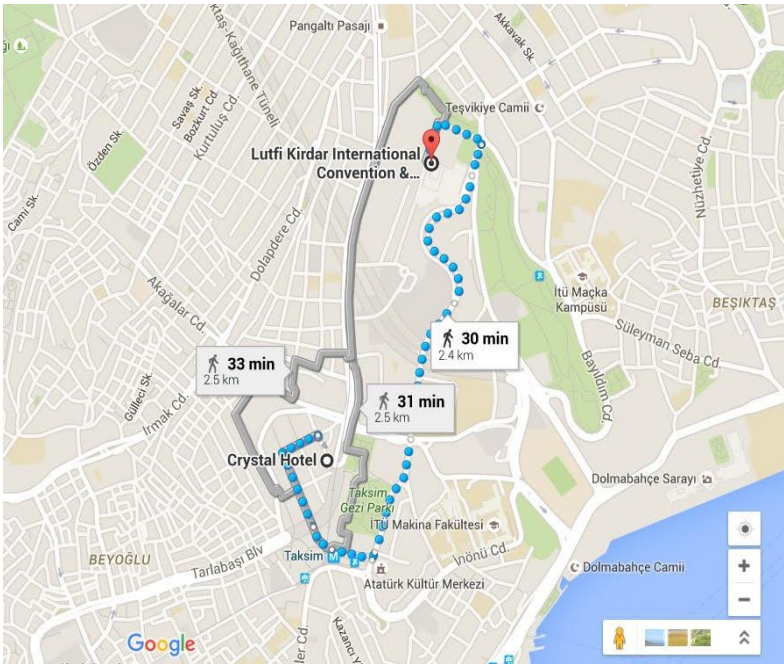
Ataturk airport is located at approximately 22km from the city centre.

There are three ways to commute from **Istanbul's Ataturk Airport** to the city centre **Taksim**, where the recommended hotels can easily be found.

1. Exit the airport and cross the road to the middle lane. A **white bus** with the company name '**Havatas**' (pronounced – Havataş) departs from here on the hour and half past the hour from 4am until 1am. A ticket salesman will walk down the bus aisle after the bus has departed, allowing you to make your cash payment. The ticket price is 11 TL. The journey will take approximately 40 minutes. The final stop is beside Taksim Square across from Divan Hotel, and in front of Point Hotel. Address: Abdülhak Hamit Street.
 - If you are staying at **Crystal Hotel Taksim** you are able to simply walk from the bus drop off point.
 - If you have chosen to stay at **Tryp or Crowne Plaza Harbiye**, a short taxi ride will deliver you to your hotels. Or alternatively you can walk down Cumhuriyet Caddesi (Street) to reach Tryp, it takes about 8 minutes. Crowne Plaza is best reached by taxi.
2. **Taxi** from outside the airport direct to your hotel. The taxi meter is in Turkish Lira. Only make your payment in the local currency. The traffic in Istanbul can get quite congested; therefore, prices may vary according to the traffic flow. A general price range is 75-80 Turkish Lira.
3. Inside the airport terminal building, follow the signs to the **metro** train system. Purchase a jeton/token from the machine and enter the metro turnstile. There is only one train line. Get off at Yenikapi. To change trains you must first exit the turnstiles and buy a new jeton/token and re-enter. Go to the platform with the train that is going to Haciosman. Get off at Taksim. Take the Gezi Park exit, which is near Divan Hotel and Point Hotel.
 - If you are staying at **Crystal Hotel Taksim** you are able to simply walk to your hotel.
 - If you have chosen to stay at **Tryp or Crowne Plaza Harbiye**, a short taxi ride will deliver you to both hotels. Or alternatively you can walk down Cumhuriyet Caddesi (Street) to reach Tryp. Crowne Plaza is best reached by car.



FROM CRYSTAL HOTEL TAKSİM



Transportation within Istanbul

Istanbul has an excellent transportation system utilizing almost all the known forms of public transit. You can pay and use almost all of them by one single payment system called ISTANBULKART which is a contactless electronic card.

The Istanbulkart is sold at ticket booths near major transportation hubs like Eminönü, Taksim and Beşiktaş. Also it is widely available at the newspaper stands and kiosks near major transit stops such as Eminönü, Sultanahmet, Sirkeci, Taksim, etc.

You pay a deposit of 6 Turkish Lira for the card itself, then you can load as much credit as you'd like on it using the self-service kiosks named as (ISTANBULKART DOLUM NOKTASI, meaning Istanbulkart refill point). You can use your Istanbulkart for more than one person..

If you will be in the city less than 4 days, maybe you will not bother having an IstanbulKart. In that case your only option is to buy "jeton" (token) or "elektronik bilet" (electronic ticket) from the vending machines clearly marked as JETONMATIK and BILETMATIK. Those machines are easy to use and accept both banknotes and coins and dispense as many units as you would like.

Currency

Turkish currency is the Turkish Lira, TL. Exchange rate was 3.30TL for 1 Euro and 2.93 TL for 1 US Dollar as of 7 October 2015

Foreign currency can be exchanged at the airport, banks, hotels and exchange offices. International Credit Cards are widely accepted. AMEX can be restricted in some places. In central places, many international and national banks operate together with an ATM where it is possible to withdraw TL. In addition, bank kiosks are available in most corners. However, banks may charge a small amount while withdrawing cash.

Banks

Banking hours are from Monday to Friday, 09:00-17:00. Banks are closed on Saturday and Sunday and public holidays. All banks have similar exchange rates. Several ATMs can be found near the Convention Center and throughout the city and most of them accept all debit cards.

Weather

In October, the weather in Istanbul is generally warm in the day and cool in the night. The average temperature in the month of October is between 15-25 Celsius. The most recent weather forecast for Istanbul may be accessed at: <http://www.meteoroloji.gov.tr>

Phone calls

Public phones operate with cards, which are sold at post offices and some newspaper kiosks. Some public phones have access to AT&T and some other telecommunication networks. Fax messages can be sent from major post offices and hotels. Cellular telephones can be hired.

International Dial Code: +90

Electricity

Turkey has 220 volts/50 Hz. electricity and socket type is European standard. (2-pin plug)

Shopping

Most shops in Istanbul are generally open from 09:00 to 21:00, Monday to Saturday. Some of the supermarkets, shopping malls, newspaper kiosks, restaurants and food shops are also open on Sunday.

Medical Services: <http://www.istanbulhastaneleri.net/>.

Emergency Servies

Police - 155

Ambulance - 112

Fire – 110

GFMD CSD contact person:

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Tryp Hotel contact person

If you have any questions regarding Tryp Hotel please contact Burak Yenen: +90 (0)53 22 88 11 01