



## Arriving in Istanbul

There are two airports in Istanbul. Istanbul Airport is the largest, located on the European side. The other, Sabiha Gökçen International Airport, is on the Asian side.

### Arriving from Istanbul Airport

**Airport Shuttle Bus:** A convenient and cheap way to go downtown is to take the airport bus to Taksim, a ride that can take up to an hour depending on the traffic. The bus currently costs 25 TL, baggage included (stowed separately upon embarking the bus). **Payment is made by card, not cash.**

**Taxi:** Outside the arrival hall you will find yellow taxi cars lined up – follow the signs and don't accept taxi offers on your way out. Many taxi drivers don't speak English, but understand a little. The street where the institute is located – Istiklal Caddesi, the long shopping street that stretches between Tünel and Taksim Square – is normally not accessible by car by day but there are different options where to ask the driver to stop:

- Şişhane (pronounced Shish-hane), the metro station
- Tünel meydanı, the end station of the subterranean funicular from Karaköy
- Richmond Hotel, which can be reached by means of Asmalımescit sokak / Kumbaracı sokak

Currently (October 2020) the fare for a ride from the airport to any of the addresses above amounts to about 150 liras and takes about half an hour. **Payment is made by cash, not card.** All taxis are equipped with meters which should start counting from about 4–5 TL. If you suspect the driver of overcharging you, take the number of the cab which is written with big letters on the side of the vehicle. You can also ask for a receipt (fiş), which they are obliged to give you. The drivers normally don't expect a tip, but they do appreciate a few extra liras.

ATM machines can be found in the arrival hall of the airport and other nodes of communication.

### Arriving from Sabiha Gökçen International Airport

Since Sabiha Gökçen is located further away from the centre than Istanbul Airport, taking a taxi is much more expensive. The price can also differ a lot depending on the traffic. The ride to any of the destinations listed above may easily take more than an hour, and the fare be 200 TL and upwards. So unless money is no object, the airport shuttle bus is to prefer. The end station to look for is Taksim.

## **Getting around by other means than taxi or shuttle bus**

Depending on how much you are likely to use public transport during your stay in Istanbul it is advisable to get an Istanbul Kart, which can be used on all public transport, including the boats. An Istanbul Kart costs 6 TL and can be charged with any amount for the fares at machines at all major hubs of public transport.

## **Arriving by other means than plane**

Istanbul's old railway stations Sirkeci (on the European side) and Haydarpasa (on the Asian side) are currently not in use as such anymore. Trains from Greece and Bulgaria stop at Halkali on the western side of the city. From there, it is possible to take the Marmaray Metro line to Yenikapi and change there to the M2 metro line which stops at Şişhane, right next to the institute. The metro can be accessed with the Istanbul kart. Long-distance buses from Europe stop not far from Halkali, at the central "Otogar" which also has access to a metro line in the direction of Yenikapi and further on from there to Şişhane. A taxi from Halkali or Otogar to Şişhane would currently cost approximately 60–70 TL.

## **Finding the institute**

If you have made it to Taksim, you can take the metro one station to Şişhane (M2, direction Yenikapi). The Swedish Research Institute is located inside the premises of Swedish Consulate General, next to the uppermost Metro station exit. If you prefer to walk from Taksim to the institute, you simply follow Istiklal, a walk of 15–20 minutes. Or you can take the nostalgic tramway to Tünel, using your Istanbul Kart. From Tünel Meydan or Richmond Hotel you have to walk only around 50–100 meters until you see the white, gothic-style gate of the Swedish Consulate General, located on Istiklal Caddesi 247 opposite to a big, grey Ziraat bankasi building.

Good luck! ☺