



# İSTANBUL

LEADING  
CONGRESS  
DESTINATION





*Istanbul.*  
*The best place to connect*

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With 8,500 years of a glamorous history, İstanbul has always been an important metropolis of its days. Former capital of many empires including Roman, Byzantine and the Ottoman Empire the city holds within some of the precious ancient monuments as well as a unique beauty with the Bosphorus running across the city separating Europe and Asia. Byzantium, has been called with different names throughout history, Augusta, Antonina, Dersaadet, Asitane, and some well known names as Constantinople, Konstantiniye and finally as İstanbul since 1453

İstanbul is one of the most visited places in the world, a central hub connecting East and West, blending the past and the future, bringing together cultures and people from all over the world. As it has been in many other civilisations in the past, İstanbul is today Turkey's cultural and economic capital. Attracting millions of visitors each year İstanbul has also become an attractive destination for international meetings with its world class accommodation and convention facilities.

**YOU CAN  
DISCOVER**





## YOU CAN EXPLORE

8500 years of history  
Capital of 3 great empires  
Population of 13.9 million  
Top 10 tourism and congress destination  
World's 'Number 1' congress destination since 2011  
with more than 500 delegates  
2010 European Capital of Culture  
2012 European Capital of Sport

Connecting 2 continents - Europe and Asia  
2 intercontinental bridges  
2 international airports  
70 public and private museums  
Almost 200 shopping malls  
5 imperial palaces, dozens of summer palaces and mansions  
4 historic bazaars  
45 universities  
4 seasons throughout the year



YOU CAN  
**FLY**

Istanbul is accessible from all parts of the world, served by more than 300 international airlines. Thanks to the Turkish Airlines' massive network (flying to more countries in the world than any other airline) Istanbul became a more popular and widely used transportation hub.

With the 3rd airport to be completed in 2015, Istanbul's two international airports (the **Istanbul Atatürk Airport** on the European side and the **Sabiha Gökçen International Airport** on the Asian side) are serving more than 45 million passengers annually (2012).

YOU CAN  
**TRAVEL**

Istanbul offers a huge network of public transportation. With city busses, 'Dolmuş' yellow minibus routes and railways such as subway and tram systems, Istanbul offers plenty options to get around the city. As the Bosphorus divides the city into two parts, the ferries and sea-busses also become a practical means of daily transportation. Yet the whole system can easily be accessed with a single transportation card - Istanbulkart.



In 2013, Turkish Airlines has been named **Best Airline Europe** for third consecutive year by Skytrax. Skytrax also named Turkish Airlines as "Best Business Class Catering" for its service in 2013.

Turkish Airlines **flies to more countries in the world than any other airline** (103 countries over five continents) according to UMB's Official Airline Guide.

The global airline won the SkyTrax Award, known as the "Passengers Choice Awards," for the "Best Airline in Southern Europe" consistently in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 and was recognized and awarded **best quality in terms of in flight service in its economy class**. In 2012, Skytrax named Turkish Airlines "**Best Premium Economy Seats in the world**" for its Comfort Class seats.

## Facts & Figures

### Number of aircraft:

228 (passenger and cargo)

### Aircraft types:

A340-300, A330, A321, A320, A319, B737-400, B737-800, B777 ER

### Hubs:

Istanbul, Ankara

### Frequent flyer program:

Miles & Smiles

### Number of destinations:

239 (197 international, 42 domestic)

### Network strengths:

Europe, Russia, Central Asia, Far East Asia, the Middle East, Africa, North and South America



## YOU CAN STAY

The hub city for many cultures over the centuries İstanbul offers a variety of accommodation choices. With almost 100.000 guestrooms, 94 five-star hotels including both international and Turkish chains, a variety of deluxe hotels situated in the Bosphorus shore and ancient peninsula, including suitable lofts near the central areas. The variety of hotels and the breath-taking sites of İstanbul will turn your stay into a unique experience to never be forgotten.

İstanbul shows the country's hospitality with extensive meeting and conference facilities. Bringing together the Bosphorus, a unique cultural mix and a major history to blend with elegant ballrooms, large fairgrounds, stylish exhibition areas, many suitable conference and breakout rooms, including large auditoriums; İstanbul's leading conference hotels offer an outstanding conference and exhibition experience.





## YOU CAN MEET

As 'World's Number 1 Congress Destination' for 500 and more participants in 2011 & 2012 İstanbul is an ideal city to hold congresses with 100 to 30,000 or more participants as the city is home to 7 convention centres and 3 exhibition centres each capable of hosting major events with thousands of delegates. There are also many venues situated in historic sites and Bosphorus shores that offer unique experiences for events. Three independent meeting clusters in İstanbul are the Congress Valley, the Airport area and the Golden Horn. The Airport area offers the

İstanbul World Trade Center Complex, while the city centre features The Congress Valley with two main complexes as the İstanbul Congress Center and the İstanbul Convention & Exhibition Centre which are only a walking distance away to the hotels. The Haliç Congress Center situated on the shores of Golden Horn is another complex featuring a wide range of meeting facilities. In addition İstanbul offers several multi-purpose indoor sport arenas, theatres, cultural and show centers capable of hosting sports events as well as concerts, shows and mega events.





## YOU CAN EXPERIENCE

A wide range of historic places from Ottoman Palace's to cisterns, from modern facilities to mansions on Bosphorus shores, İstanbul awaits you with unique venues to meet a fusion of diverse cultures and a wonderful cuisine of the East and the West. Whether a gala dinner or a social event, for any programme you may conduct, 'World's Number 1 Congress Destination' İstanbul is ready for you with a promise of an unforgettable experience for your events and congresses.

One of the most prestigious capitals of the ancient and modern world, İstanbul owns both religious and cultural phenomena of centuries as it is the only city that has marked the ending of an era in history with its conquest. Including the Ottoman Sultan's main residence Topkapı Palace and the only 6 minaret mosque the Süleymanîye Complex, together with monuments of the Roman and Byzantine eras such as the Hagia Sophia. With wonderful sites such as Maiden's Tower, Dolmabahçe Palace, Basilica Cistern, Grand Bazaar, Galata Tower, Princes' Islands and many more, İstanbul is a breath taking place to visit.

## YOU CAN VISIT





## YOU CAN TASTE

The Turkish cuisine's richness of variety offers a wide choice for those who want to experience and enjoy new flavours. From exquisite pastry choices to delicious meat, fish and vegetable specialities; Turkey's gastronomic panorama reflects a remarkable culinary synthesis coming from its cultural heritage. İstanbul is the junction point of world and Turkish cuisine's multi-coloured traditional traits. Hence İstanbul provides a wide range of food choices originated from all around the world. With the magical touch of many civilizations and cultures, Turkish Cuisine offers to its visitors a very rich fusion.

There is a common saying in İstanbul that states "this city never sleeps". The hub of many different cultures living in harmony, İstanbul is the ultimate dining, shopping, music and entertainment capital of Turkey. Throughout the year in İstanbul, many events, concerts, art exhibitions and social gatherings all occur at once. Many concerts, music festivals, film festivals, performing arts events and exhibitions take place in countless halls across the city during both summer and winter seasons. Home of the world famous 'Grand Bazaar' İstanbul offers a variety of shopping opportunities of both authentic antiquities of Ottoman style to the modern multinational brands, adding up to an approximate of 200 modern shopping malls in total.

## YOU CAN ENJOY





WE CAN....

Founded in 1997 as a public private joint venture within the framework of TUGEV (the Tourism Development and Education Foundation), the İstanbul Convention & Visitors Bureau (ICVB) is the official non-profit marketing organization of İstanbul. ICVB's members consist of İstanbul's leading hotels, convention centers, DMC's, PCOs and service suppliers. ICVB is an active member of ICCA - International Congress and Conventions Association, ECM - European Cities Marketing, PCMA - Professional Convention Management Association and MPI - Meeting Professionals International.

As the destination marketing organisation and official convention bureau of İstanbul, the ICVB has been effectively representing İstanbul in the international market. ICVB has been raising the İstanbul's awareness in the worldwide market by bringing numerous successful congresses, conventions and events to the city. ICVB offers many services assisting the international organisers. These services include Bid Support, Venue Finding, Consulting & Advice, Site Inspections, Promotional Materials, İstanbul Destination Marketing - Delegate Boosting Kit and Online Congress Calendar.

The ICVB professional team is ready to bring you the best of İstanbul, including the hotels, meeting facilities, incentive ideas and the 3rd party companies to help you plan your next international congress, meeting and incentive group.

For a truly fascinating experience, the world connects in one place: İstanbul - the best place to connect.

**ICVB**

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*İstanbul.*

*The best place to connect*



# İSTANBUL CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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