

## WSEAS CONFERENCE GUIDE

### Conference Location:

**BEST WESTERN PLUS The President Hotel Istanbul**



**Address:** Tiyatro Cd No. 25, Beyazit 34126, Istanbul, Turkey

**Tel:** +90 212 516 69 80 **Fax:** +90 212 516 69 98

**Email:** [info@thepresidentialhotel.com](mailto:info@thepresidentialhotel.com)

**URL:** <http://thepresidentialhotel.com/en/home.html>

## How to get to Istanbul

### By Air:

The easiest way to get in Istanbul is to travel by airplane. Turkish Airlines and many other world airlines have regular daily flights to Istanbul. There are also local airliners that run charter flights to Istanbul especially during the summer months. There are two International Airports, **Ataturk Airport** and **Sabiha Gokcen Airport**.

**Ataturk International Airport** is located 20km west of the city center.

Address: Istanbul Ataturk Airport International Terminal, 34149 Yesilkoy, Istanbul, Turkey

**Sabiha Gokcen Airport** is located on the Anatolian shore of Istanbul at Pendik / Kurtkoy, at a distance of 40 km to Kadikoy

Address: Sabiha Gökçen Airport Terminal Building Pendik 34912 Istanbul, Turkey

#### **Ataturk Airport**

Tel.: +90 212 463 3000

URL: <http://www.ataturkairport.com>

#### **Sabiha Gokcen International (SAW)**

Tel.: +90 216 588 88 88

URL: <http://www.sabihagokcen.aero/>

### By Train:

Turkish Railways (TCDD) has regular train schedules from/to Istanbul to Budapest, Bucarest, Kishinev, Thessaloniki, Sofia, Damascus and Tehran. International trains departs/arrives at **Sirkeci Station** on the European side or **Haydarpasa Station** on the Asian side of Istanbul.

### By Bus:

Some private Turkish companies run scheduled buses to Istanbul from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Greece, Bulgaria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran, Jordan, Russia, Georgia, and Romania. You can consult your local travel agency in order to plan your trip. Note that the International Bus Station is located in the Central Bus Station of Istanbul, about 10 km West of Sultanahmet Area.

### By Car:

Istanbul is well connected to many European cities through highways. There are two borders to get into Turkey. If you are coming from Bulgaria you have to cross the borders of “**Kapikule**” in Edirne or in Ipsala. If you are coming from Greece, there is a nice highway between Edirne and Istanbul, it's about 225 kilometers (140 miles). Apart from Istanbul, you can drive anywhere in Turkey as there is an extensive road network. However, it's not recommended to drive with your own car in Istanbul due to the heavy traffic, especially in rush hours.

## How to get from the Airport to the Hotel

### By Metro:

Take the subway from the airport get at Taksim Metro (Subway) Station. The hotel is behind the station.

### By Taxi/ By Car

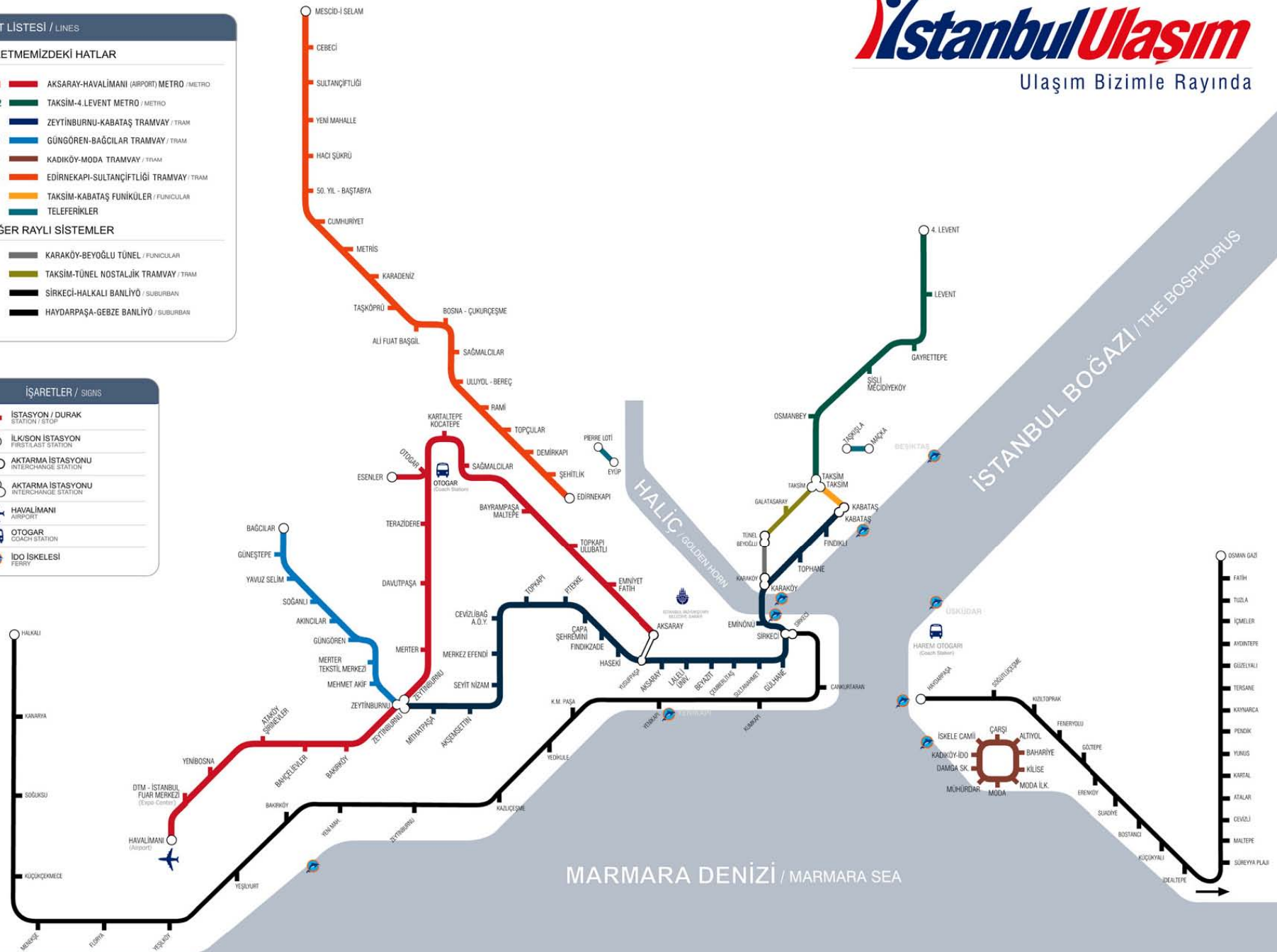
Take the airport exit, follow the Atatürk Havaalanı Yolcu Girişi and stay on the left of the road. After about 15 km you will come to roundabout of Yenikapı. Turn left from the roundabout towards the Taksim signs. Keep straight to Taksim. After approximately 5 km you will reach Taksim Square where you will be following signs towards Sisli. End of the Taksim Gezi Park, turn to first right. InterContinental Istanbul entrance is 50 meters on your right hand side.

You can take a Taxi outside of any Terminal. The distance to the hotel is 20km. and approximately cost TL30 - TL40. (13,00 €20,00 €).

Also, you can book on-line a taxi through the link; <http://www.ataturkairporttaxi.com/>

Tel.: + 90 507 229 61 92

Email: [info@ataturkairporttaxi.com](mailto:info@ataturkairporttaxi.com)



## City Map



## Istanbul

**Location:** 41.0128° North, 28.9744° East

**Population:** 13,483,052

**Area:** 5,343 km<sup>2</sup>

### History:

Istanbul is Turkey's most popular city, and its cultural and financial center. Located on both sides of Bosphorus, the narrow strait between the Black Sea and the Marmara Sea, Istanbul bridges Asia and Europe both physically and culturally. The first inhabitants of Istanbul are dating back to second millennia BC. They were settled on the Asian side of the city. Its first name comes from Megara king Byzas. Byzas established his colony in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC thus the location named Byzantium. Byzas chose this spot after consulting an oracle of Delphi who told him to settle across from the "land of the blind". In 193 AD Roman Emperor Septimus Severus conquered the city and it remained under the Roman rule until 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, when Emperor Constantine the Great made Byzantium the capital of entire Roman Empire and gave it his name Constantinople and Eastern Roman Empire was called Byzantine Empire after 5<sup>th</sup> century. The city was built on seven hills, like Rome. In 532 AC during the reign of Justinian I, the city was destroyed. It was rebuilt and outstanding structures such as Hagia Sophia stand as monuments to the golden age of Byzantines. Ottoman Turks lead by Sultan Mehmet II conquered Constantinople in 1453. Renamed Islambol, the city became the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Between 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, the sultans built many mosques and public buildings, topping the population again around half million. Istanbul was a major cultural, political, and commercial center by the mid 1500's. The name "Istanbul" was derived from a combination of "Islambol" ("city of Islam" in Turkish) and "eis tin Polin" ("to the City" in Greek) throughout the centuries. Ottoman rule lasted until World War I when Istanbul was occupied by the allied troops. After years of struggle led by Ataturk against the occupying forces, the Republic of Turkey was born in 1923 and the capital was moved to Ankara province. But Istanbul has continued to expand dramatically; today its population is over 13 million and still increases constantly. It continues to be the commercial and cultural center of Turkey.

**Official Web Page of Istanbul:** <http://english.istanbul.com/>



### Istanbul Tourist Information Centre Turizm Danisma Buros

**Address:** Sultanahmet Meydani

**Telephone:** + 90 212 518 8754 / 1802

**Web:** [www.istanbul.gov.tr](http://www.istanbul.gov.tr)

**Opening Hours:** Mon-Fri 09:00-17:00,  
Sat 09:00-13:00

## **Gala Dinner**

**The Conference Dinner will take place at  
the BEST WESTERN PLUS-The President Hotel Istanbul  
(Tiyatro Cad. No. 25, Beyazit 34126, Istanbul, Turkey)**

## Information



### Weather

The summer in Istanbul starts from July. The weather is hot and humid. In July and August the temperature reaches the 30°C degrees (86°F).



### Time

Istanbul is one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+2) - EEST - Eastern European Summer Time.



### Banks

Banks in Istanbul are open between 09.00 - 17.00 hrs during working days. Banks located in shopping districts have extended weekday hours, and many are open on Saturday morning.



### Post Office

The Post Offices are open from 8:00am to 12 am Monday to Saturday and 9:00am to 7:00 pm on Sundays.



### Shopping

Usual operating hours for shops in Istanbul are from Monday to Saturday 09:00-18:00.



### Electricity

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



### Special Needs

Delegates and accompanying persons with disabilities are invited to advise the Congress Secretariat of any special requirements.



### Pharmacy

The Pharmacies are open Monday to Saturday 09:00-19:00. There is always one open pharmacy, which is called as “**nobetci eczane**” in Turkish or “**pharmacy on duty**” on Sundays and holidays.



### Currency

Istanbul's currency is the Turkish Lira (TL). Turkish liras are divided into 100 kuruş. Coins used frequently are five, ten, 25, and 50 kuruş and one lira. Notes used are 5, 10, 20, and 50 lira bills. 100 and 200 lira notes are uncommon. When traveling to Istanbul, it is advised that you change your money at one of the many exchanges or banks in the city. They typically offer competitive rates and charge no fees.

## Place of Interest



### Hagia Sophia

Hagia Sophia is a great architectural beauty and an important monument both for Byzantine and for Ottoman Empires. This ancient basilica, now a museum, built by Constantine the Great and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, is one of the architectural marvels of all time. In the 15th century, Mehmet the Conqueror converted it from a Christian church to a mosque, adding the minarets, tombs and fountains. Turkey became a secular republic in 1923 and Hagia Sophia was established as a museum 12 years later, with many of its Byzantine mosaics revealed from underneath layers of Ottoman plaster. Its immense dome rises 55 meters above the ground and is 31 meters in diameter. The beautiful interior decorations include fine Byzantine mosaics.

**Address:** Ayasofya Meydani, Sultanahmet, Fatih, Istanbul

**Opening hours:** Monday to Sunday 09:00 - 19:00 (Closed on Mondays)

**Fees:** TL25

**URL:** <http://ayasofyamuzesi.gov.tr/en>

### Topkapi Palace Museum

Topkapi Palace was abandoned in the middle of 19th century and lost its significance as the state center. Indeed, part of a railroad was built on the outdoor garden of Topkapi Palace which was in a desolate state in the following years. Most recently in 1924 Topkapi Palace was turned into a museum and opened for exhibition.

**Address:** Sultanahmet, Eminonu, Istanbul

**Opening hours:** Monday to Sunday 09:00 - 19:00

**Fees:** TL25

**URL:** <http://www.topkapisarayi.gov.tr/>





### **Istanbul Museum of Modern Art**

Located in a restored old waterfront warehouse and opened in 2004, the huge Istanbul Modern has a fine collection of contemporary arts from Turkey and around the world. Specialising in painting and photography, with a cinema screening world films in the basement, the gallery hosts exhibitions that include 20th-century home-grown talent to try to encourage Turkish art. The entire venue is fresh, spacious and well laid-out, with a fine restaurant/café on the ground floor overlooking the Bosphorus.

**Address:** Meclis-i Mebusan Caddesi, Karaköy

**Opening hours:** Tuesday-Sunday 10:00 - 18:00, Thursdays 10:00 - 20:00

**Fees:** TL15

**URL:** [www.istanbulmodern.org](http://www.istanbulmodern.org)

### **Kapali Carsisi (Grand Bazaar)**

The famous and vast bazaar is the best known of Istanbul's markets. It was instated shortly after the 1493 Conquest and contained the slave market, as well as the hans, or caravanserais of old, where Silk Road traders could rest themselves and their camels, as well as sell their goods. While the ornate ceilings and labyrinth-like layout still hark back to the past, these days the vast number of stalls (more than 4,000 of them, in over 60 streets) sell mainly tourist-friendly goods and plasma TV screens belie any sense of a timeless atmosphere. The complex also contains two mosques, money change offices, a police station, cafes and an information point. Haggling is essential at most stalls.

**Address:** Beyazıt, Istanbul, Turkey

**Opening hours:** Monday-Saturday 09:00 - 19:00





### Sultanahmet Camii (Blue Mosque)

With its cascade of opulent domes and slender, balconied minarets soaring towards the sky, Istanbul's Blue Mosque is one of the city's most striking images. The Blue Mosque was built during the reign of Sultan Ahmet I (1603-1617), as Islam's answer to Hagia Sophia, and remains the symbol and centre of religious demonstrations and Istanbul's only mosque with six minarets. Blue Iznik tiles dominate the interior, and blue light shines through more than 250 windows. The interior is stunning, from the vast central dome designed to lift all eyes heavenward to the latticework-covered Imperial Loge and the mihrab (prayer niche) containing a piece of sacred black stone from Mecca. Hundreds of Muslims still use the mosque for daily prayer and worship. Visitors of all faiths who are modestly dressed may enter the Blue Mosque; special slippers and head and shoulder coverings are distributed at the entrance. After dusk during summer, there is

a Son et Lumière (sounds and lights) show with Turkish, English, French and German on different nights. The Imperial Pavilion also contains the state-run Vakıflar Carpet Museum with Usak, Bergama and Konya samples, dating between the 16th and 19th centuries.

**Address:** Meydani 21, Istanbul, Turkey

**Opening hours:** Daily 24 hours, except during some prayer times

**Website:** [www.sultanahmetcami.com](http://www.sultanahmetcami.com)



### Galata Mevlevi Museum

The semahane (whirling-dervish hall) at the centre of this tekke (dervish lodge) was erected in 1491 and renovated in 1608 and 2009. It's part of a complex including a meydan-ı şerif (courtyard), çeşme (drinking fountain), türbesi (tomb) and hamuşan (cemetery). The oldest of six historic Mevlevihaneleri (Mevlevi tekkes) remaining in İstanbul, the complex was converted into a museum in 1946.

**Address:** Street Galipdede Caddesi 15 Extras Tünel

**Opening hours:** Tuesday - Sunday 09:00 -16:00

**Fees:** 10 TL

**Website:** <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/turkey/istanbul/sights/museums-galleries/galata-mevlevi-museum>

## Basilica Cistern

This subterranean structure was commissioned by Emperor Justinian and built in 532. The largest surviving Byzantine cistern in İstanbul, it was constructed using 336 columns, many of which were salvaged from ruined temples and feature fine carved capitals. Its symmetry and sheer grandeur of conception are quite breathtaking, and its cavernous depths make a great retreat on summer days.

**Address:** Street **Yerebatan Caddesi 13**

**Opening hours:** Daily 24 hours, except during some prayer times

**Fees:** 20TL

**Website:** <http://yerebatan.com/%C4%B0let%C4%B0%C5%9F%C4%B0m/%C4%B0leti%C5%9Fim-bilgileri.aspx>



## Boat Tour

**The Bosphorus or *Bosphorus*, also known as the Istanbul Strait, divides the European part (Rumelia) of Turkey with its Asian part (Anatolia).**

## The Princes Islands

There are nine islands in the Princes' Islands group and the ferry stops at four of these. Year-round there are 15,000 permanent residents scattered across the six islands that are populated, but numbers swell to 100,000 or so during summer when Istanbulers - many of whom have holiday homes on the islands - escape the city heat. The small islands of Kinalıada and Burgazada are the ferry's first stops.

You can easily find around travel agencies that offers guided tours such as the Classical Old City Tour (Half / Full Day), the Byzantine and Ottoman Relics Tour, the Princess Island Tour, the Bosphorus Tour (Half / Full / Dinner Cruise), the Whirling Dervishes Performance Tour and Istanbul by Night Tour.



## Dinning in Istanbul



### **Galata Kulesi (Galata Tower)**

The balcony at the top of Galata Tower has an unforgettable view of the city. Built in 1348 by the Genoese as part of their fortifications, this distinctive 62m (205ft) tower with conical roof is visible from most of Istanbul. It was converted to cater for tourism and has a lift, a nightclub and restaurant on the top floors with a tourist-oriented cabaret that includes belly dancing. On a clear day, the view is spectacular and it is possible to see the main monuments of Istanbul and even the Princes' Islands. It's a good way for visitors to get a feel of the surroundings and there are several charming tea gardens at the foot.

**Address:** Buyuk Hendek Sokak, Istanbul, Turkey

**Opening hours:** Daily 09:00 - 20:00

**URL:** [http://www.greatistanbul.com/galata\\_tower.html](http://www.greatistanbul.com/galata_tower.html)

### **Arch Bistro**

Enjoy your local slow food in historical Byzantine arch traced back to AD 361-363.

**Address:** Kucukayasofya Mahallesi, Kadirga limani caddesino 113, 34122 Sultanahmet Istanbul

**Tel:** +905324904724

**URL:** <http://www.archbistro.com/>





### **Sunset Grill and Bar**

The indoor and outdoor dining areas have comfortable and casual seating, yet with a classic décor, offering wonderful views of Bosphorus Strait and Asian Shoreline.

**Address:** Adnan Saygun Caddesi Yol Sokak No. 2 Ulus Parki

**Opening hours:** Daily (Lunch: 12:00 - 15:00, Dinner: 19:00 - 00:00)

**URL:** <http://www.sunsetgrillbar.com>

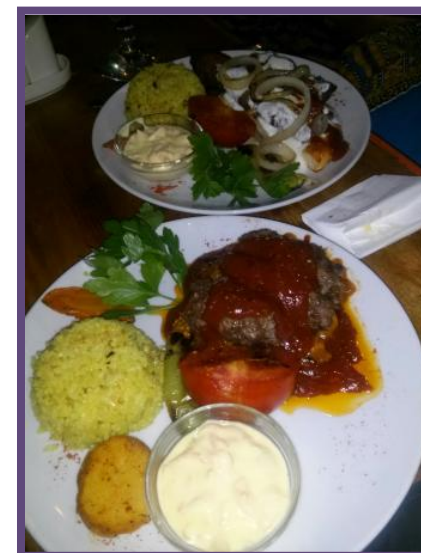
### **Vogue Restaurant**

It offers panoramic view on Bosphorus. You can choose from a variety of plates such as sushi, Mediterranean cuisine etc.

**Address:** Akaretler Spor cad. No. 92 BJK Plaza, A Blok K.13, Besiktas, Istanbul

**Opening hours:** Daily 10:00 - 02:00

**URL:** <http://www.voguerestaurant.com/>



### **Orient House Istanbul**

**Address:** Binbirdirek Mahallesi, Dostluk Yurdu, No : 1 Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Turkey

**Opening hours:** Daily 09:00 - 22:00

**Email:** [info@orienthouseistanbul.com](mailto:info@orienthouseistanbul.com)

## **Harab'be**

**Address:** Ticarethane Sk. Ticarethane Cikmazi, Istanbul 34, Turkey

**Opening hours:** Daily 10:00 - 03:00



## **Peninsula Restaurant**

**Address:** Tersane Cad. Istanbul Golden City Hotel No.111 | Beyoglu - Karakoy, Istanbul, Turkey

**Opening hours:** Daily

Sources:

<http://wikitravel.org/en/Istanbul>

<http://www.turkeytravelplanner.com/go/Istanbul/>

<http://www.archbistro.com/>

[www.voguerestaurant.com/](http://www.voguerestaurant.com/)

<http://www.sunsetgrillbar.com>

[www.galatatower.net](http://www.galatatower.net)

<http://yerebatan.com/%C4%B0let%C4%B0%C5%9F%C4%B0m/%C4%B0leti%C5%9Fim-bilgileri.aspx>

[www.sultanahmetcami.com](http://www.sultanahmetcami.com)

[www.istanbulmodern.org](http://www.istanbulmodern.org)

<http://www.topkapisarayi.gov.tr/>

<http://www.ayasofyamuzesi.gov.tr/en>

<http://english.istanbul.com/>

<http://www.ataturkairporttaxi.com/>

<http://www.ataturkairport.com>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/turkey/istanbul/sights/museums-galleries/galata-mevlevi-museum#ixzz3DNN3QoqK>