

Central Bank Governors and Monetary Authorities of  
the Member Countries of the Organization  
of the Islamic Conference (OIC)



**Meeting on  
“The Impacts of the Current Crisis on OIC Member Countries”  
Four Seasons Hotel Bosphorus, İstanbul  
October 3, 2009, Saturday**

**Administration Circular**

Meeting on “The Impacts of the Current Crisis on OIC Member Countries” will be held at Four Seasons Hotel Bosphorus, Beşiktaş, İstanbul.

**Directions and map**



**Transportation**

Istanbul’s Atatürk International Airport is 25 kilometres (16 miles) and approximately 45 minutes by car from Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus. It is served by most major international airlines.

**Directions from**

Atatürk International Airport

Travel time 45 minutes

Distance 25 kilometres

**Instructions**

Note: Caddesi means "road" or "street" in Turkish.

- Leaving the airport, turn right at the first intersection and follow signs to Sirkeci/Sahilyolu Caddesi
- You will come to a roundabout with a big fountain in the middle; turn left to Kennedy Caddesi and follow the signs to Sirkeci
- Drive straight along Kennedy Caddesi for approximately 18 kilometres (11 miles); once past Sirkeci, you will see the ferry terminals on your right, and then you will come to Galata bridge
- Cross Galata bridge, then continue along Necatibey Caddesi
- Continue driving straight along Necatibey Caddesi, past Karaköy and past Findikli, to Meclisi Mebusan Caddesi; you will see the Dolmabahçe Palace on your right
- Pass Dolmabahçe Palace and continue along Meclisi Mebusan Caddesi; pass Beşiktaş and follow the signs to Ortaköy
- Once past Beşiktaş Square, you will be on Çırağan Caddesi; follow it for 200 metres (650 feet), and then you will see Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus on your right-hand side

#### Directions from

Sabiha Gökçen Airport (SAW)

Travel time 45-60 minutes

Distance 40 kilometres

#### Instructions

Note: Caddesi means "road" or "street" in Turkish, and Köprüsü means "bridge".

- After leaving the airport, drive straight along the street, then turn right at the green Istanbul sign and continue for approximately 2 kilometres (1.2 miles)
- Along the way, follow the green Istanbul signs
- After another 2 kilometres (1.2 miles), you will see the toll for the TEM highway; get your ticket and continue for approximately 25 kilometres (16 miles), until you see the blue Boğaziçi Köprüsü sign
- Cross Boğaziçi Köprüsü, then turn right at the first intersection and follow that street until Barbaros Bulvarı
- Continue along Barbaros Bulvarı, then drive straight along Eski Yıldız Caddesi
- You will be on Çırağan Caddesi; follow it past Beşiktaş Square, and then you will see Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus on your right-hand side

#### Destination highlights

Whether you need to know local public holidays or highlights through the seasons, we hope you will find the facts gathered below useful tools for your travel planning.

#### General information

A fusion of age-old glories and a cool, contemporary 21<sup>st</sup>-century culture, Istanbul has survived two millennia of extraordinary history. The city holds appeal for all interests – architecture, art, culture, nightlife, cuisine and more.

Straddling the 32-kilometre (20-mile) Bosphorus Strait, Istanbul (formerly known as Byzantium, and then as Constantinople) is frequently described as the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Fought over time and again, the city became the centre of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires. Its historic heart – Sultanahmet and the bazaar quarter, with its great

mosques, opulent palaces and Byzantine ruins – offers a fascinating glimpse into those tumultuous times.

Encompassing three land masses – two on the European side of the Bosphorus, divided by the Golden Horn, and the Asian shores – Istanbul is best explored neighbourhood by neighbourhood.

Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus basks in the coastal resort ambience of the historic strait of the Bosphorus – with its vibrant jazz clubs and designer shops, and where reflections of private palaces shimmer in the wake of passing yachts.

### **Time zone**

GMT +2 hours

Eastern Europe Time

### **Area Codes**

The three-digit area code for the European side of Istanbul is 212; for the Asian side, dial 216.

### **Attractions**

#### **Basilica Cistern**

The Basilica Cistern, or Sunken Palace, is the largest and grandest of Istanbul's system of underground cisterns, constructed as water sources for the city. Built by Emperor Justinian I in the 6th century AD, the Sunken Palace's soaring Corinthian columns divide a huge complex of ponds.

#### **Getting there**

Estimated travel time 20 minutes drive

Estimated distance from hotel 8 kilometres

5 miles

Address Sultanahmet Square

#### **Hours of operation**

Every day 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

#### **Blue Mosque**

A superb example of classical Ottoman architecture, the 17th-century Sultanahmet Mosque – commonly known as the Blue Mosque – is the last of the city's imperial mosques. Its distinctive features include a massive dome, six slender minarets and cobalt blue Iznik-tiled walls.

#### **Getting there**

Estimated travel time 20 minutes drive

Estimated distance from hotel 8 kilometres

5 miles

Address Sultanahmet Square

#### **Hours of operation**

Every day 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Except during prayer times.

### **Dolmabahçe Palace**

The 19th-century rococo Dolmabahçe Palace was the residence of the Ottoman Sultans. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Turkish Republic, died here in 1938. Visitors are admitted in groups and led by guides.

#### Getting there

Estimated travel time 10 minutes drive  
Estimated distance from hotel 2 kilometres  
1.2 miles

#### Hours of operation

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

### **Haghia Eirene Monument**

One of the oldest Byzantine churches in Istanbul, Haghia Eirene was never converted into a mosque. Due to its superb acoustics, it is now mainly used as a concert venue. It is located within the courtyard of the Topkapi Palace.

#### Getting there

Estimated travel time 20 minutes drive  
Estimated distance from hotel 8 kilometres  
5 miles  
Address Sultanahmet

### **Rumeli and Anadolu Hisar Fortresses**

These twin fortresses are located on opposite sides of the Bosphorus. Anadolu Hisar (rock of Anatolia) was built on the Asian side by Sultan Bayezit I to support his siege of Constantinople in 1396–1397. Rumeli Hisar (rock of Europe) was built on the European side by Sultan Mehmet II in 1452 to further control access to the waterway.

Rumeli Hisar is a 15-minute drive from the Hotel and is 4 kilometres (2.5 miles) away.  
Anadolu Hisar is a 30-minute drive from the Hotel and is 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) away.

#### Getting there

Estimated travel time 15 minutes drive  
Estimated distance from hotel 4 and 10 kilometres  
2.5 and 6.2 miles

#### Hours of operation

Tuesday to Sunday 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

### **Süleymaniye Mosque**

The Süleymaniye Mosque (1557) is considered one of Istanbul's most impressive imperial mosques. Built on a hill high above the Old City, its soaring central prayer hall has some 200 windows.

#### Getting there

Estimated travel time 20 minutes drive  
Estimated distance from hotel 8 kilometres  
5 miles

## **Museums**

### **Archaeological Museum**

The award-winning Archaeological Museum features an astonishing collection of antiquities from all over Turkey and the Near East, spanning some 5,000 years of history.

#### **Getting there**

Estimated travel time 20 minutes drive

Estimated distance from hotel 8 kilometres

5 miles

Address Osman Hamdi Bey Yokusu, 34400 Gülhane

Telephone +90 (212) 520 77 40

or +90 (212) 520 77 41

#### **Hours of operation**

Tuesday to Sunday 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

### **Aya Sophia (Haghia Sophia) Museum**

The Church of Haghia Sophia (Holy Wisdom) was dedicated by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian in 537 AD. It featured a dome that was the largest built for the next thousand years. When the Ottoman Turks expelled the Byzantines in 1453, the church was converted into a mosque, and four minarets were added. In 1934, the building was deconsecrated and declared a museum. Its main features are the dome and its splendid interior mosaics.

#### **Getting there**

Estimated travel time 20 minutes drive

Estimated distance from hotel 8 kilometres

5 miles

Address Sultanahmet Meydani, 34400

Telephone 90 (212) 522 09 89

or 90 (212) 522 17 50

#### **Hours of operation**

Tuesday to Sunday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

### **Mosaic Museum**

Behind the Blue Mosque, 5 metres (over 16 feet) below ground level, the Mosaic Museum features a remarkable archaeological find of the 1950's – a 6th-century ornamental pavement.

#### **Getting there**

Estimated travel time 20 minutes drive

Estimated distance from hotel 8 kilometres

5 miles

### **Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts**

The Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts, housed in a beautifully restored 16th-century palace, offers a splendid collection of Ottoman artwork ranging from the earliest period of Islam to modern times.

### Getting there

Estimated travel time 20 minutes drive  
Estimated distance from hotel 8 kilometres  
5 miles

### **Topkapi Palace Museum**

Topkapi Palace was the principal residence of the Ottoman Sultans between the mid-15th and mid-19th centuries. Must-sees within this vast, lavishly decorated, legendary complex include the Harem, the Treasury, the enormous imperial kitchens and the Sultan's pearl-and-emerald-studded throne.

### Getting there

Estimated travel time 20 minutes drive  
Estimated distance from hotel 8 kilometres  
5 miles  
Address 34400 Sultanahmet

Telephone +90 (212) 512 04 80  
or +90 (212) 512 04 84

### Hours of operation

Wednesday to Monday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

### **Weather**

Istanbul enjoys a moderate climate with four distinct seasons. Typically, springtime is short, leading the way to ideal summer temperatures. A long autumn is the prelude to winter, which can be rainy.

### Average temperatures

| MONTH     | CELSIUS |     | FAHRENHEIT |     |
|-----------|---------|-----|------------|-----|
|           | High    | Low | High       | Low |
| January   | 7       | 4   | 45         | 39  |
| February  | 7       | 3   | 45         | 37  |
| March     | 12      | 5   | 54         | 41  |
| April     | 13      | 8   | 55         | 46  |
| May       | 22      | 13  | 72         | 55  |
| June      | 26      | 17  | 79         | 63  |
| July      | 29      | 20  | 84         | 68  |
| August    | 28      | 20  | 82         | 68  |
| September | 25      | 16  | 77         | 61  |
| October   | 20      | 13  | 68         | 55  |
| November  | 15      | 8   | 59         | 46  |
| December  | 11      | 5   | 52         | 41  |

### **Language(s) spoken**

Turkish. English is widely spoken as well.

### **Electrical system**

Local voltage is 220–240 volts AC. Adapters available; please request through the Concierge.

## **Police**

To reach the police, dial tel. 155.

## **Shopping hours**

Daily 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

## **Smoking**

Smoking is prohibited on public transportation, in movie theaters, and in airports, and discussions are under way for a national law banning smoking in all public places.

## **Dentist**

Istanbul seems to have developed its own dental tourism niche. If the city's new Dentistanbul franchise is any indication, you should have little worries in an oral emergency. If Dentistanbul (tel. 0212/444-0-DIS or 0212/327-4020; [www.dentistanbul.com](http://www.dentistanbul.com)) in Besiktas can't solve your oral problems, then the Koç American Hospital in Nisantasi (tel. 0212/311-2000) and the International Hospital in Yesilyurt

## **Drugstores**

Pharmacists in Turkey are qualified to provide some medical services beyond filling prescriptions, such as administering injections, bandaging minor injuries, and suggesting medication. Local pharmacies (eczane) operate on a rotating schedule so that one is always open; each posts the address of the one whose turn it is in the window (Nöbetçi or "on night duty").

## **Time Zone**

All of Turkey adheres to Eastern European Time (EET), which is Greenwich Mean Time +2. To make it easier: When it is noon in New York, it is 7pm in Istanbul. Daylight saving time, when clocks are set 1 hour ahead of standard time, is in effect as Eastern European Summer Time (EEST), from 1am on the second Sunday in March to 1am on the first Sunday in November.

## **Working hours**

Banks are open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to noon and 1:30 to 5pm. Government offices are open Monday through Friday 8:30am to 12:30pm and 1:30 to 5:30pm. Official hours of operation for shops are Monday through Saturday 9:30am to 1pm and 2 to 7pm, but I've yet to find a store closed at lunchtime, or a shop outside of the Grand Bazaar or the Egyptian Spice Market closed on Sundays. Museums and palaces are generally open Tuesday through Sunday from 9:30am to 5 or 5:30pm, while the closing day for palaces is Tuesday, Thursday, or both. Museum opening hours are generally extended by an hour or two in summer; note that museums generally also stop selling tickets up to an hour prior to the official closing time. While most official offices close for bank and religious holidays, there is no hard and fast rule over shops closing for these holidays. During Ramadan, however, many shops and businesses close early, while many restaurants either close down completely or offer limited menus at lunchtime.

## **Time and distance to shopping**

Nişantaşı: 10 minutes/5 kilometres (3.1 miles)

Old Town: 12 kilometres (7.5 miles)

Akmerkez Shopping Mall: 20 minutes/8 kilometres (5 miles)

### **Public holidays**

Ramadan September 19 - 22, 2009

Republic Day Eve October 28, 2009

Republic Day October 29, 2009

Feast of Sacrifice November 26 - 30, 2009

New Year's Day January 1, 2010

National Sovereignty and Children's Day April 23, 2010

Day of Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports May 19, 2010

Victory Day August 30, 2010

Ramadan September 8 - 11, 2010

Republic Day Eve October 28, 2010

Republic Day October 29, 2010

Feast of Sacrifice November 15 - 19, 2010

### **Seasonal highlights**

May

The International Istanbul Theatre Festival – featuring some of the year’s best Turkish plays and performances by famous companies such as Britain’s Royal Shakespeare Company – is held every other May. Most of the plays are performed in the city’s various cultural centres, while a few are staged at venues such as the Rumeli Hisar fortress.

June–July

The International Istanbul Music Festival, the most prestigious event of the city’s cultural calendar, offers performances of orchestra and chamber music, dance and ballet in stunning venues, including Hagia Eirene. The festival runs through June and July.

July

In July, the two-week International Istanbul Jazz Festival, which has featured the likes of Keith Jarrett, Dizzy Gillespie and Wynton Marsalis, is one of the best music festivals in the country.

September–November

The International Istanbul Biennial presents more than 80 artists from over 40 countries.