



Arriving in Istanbul and going to the Swedish Research Institute

General guidelines

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.

Get Turkish Liras. If you don't have Turkish liras on you, use one of the ATMs in the airports. None of the transportation options mentioned below will accept credit cards, foreign currencies or large Turkish lira notes. Make sure you have some 5, 10, 20 or maximum 50 notes handy.

Taxis are equipped with meters. Taxi drivers normally don't expect a tip, but they do appreciate a few extra lira. You can ask for a receipt (fiş), which they are obliged to give.

From Istanbul Airport

Airport Shuttle Bus

A convenient and cheap way to go downtown is to take the airport bus to Taksim, a ride of about 40 minutes. For the bus you need an Istanbul Kart, which you can buy in machines at the airport bus station. The bus currently costs 18 TL (bagage included), and the card can then be used for any public transportation during your stay – you simply recharge it with any amount of your choice.

From Taksim you can take the metro one station to Şişhane (M2, direction Yenikapı). Follow the signs towards İstiklal. The Swedish Research Institute is located inside the premises of the Swedish Consulate General, next to the İstiklal Metro station exit. If you prefer to walk from Taksim to the institute, you simply follow İstiklal, a walk of 15-20 minutes. Or you can take the nostalgic tramway to Tünel, using your Istanbul Kart.

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. If there are no traffic jams the drive from the airport to Tünel takes about 30 minutes. Right now (May 2019) the fare is c. 120 TL.

The street where the institute is located – İstiklal Caddesi, the long shopping street that stretches between Tünel and Taksim Square – is normally not accessible by car during the day, but there are different options where to ask the driver to stop:

- Sishane, the metro station
- Tünel, the end station of the subterranean funicular from Karaköy
- Richmond Hotel, which can be reached by means of Asmalımescit sokak / Kumbaracı sokak

From either of these you have to walk only around 50 meters until you see the Swedish Consulate General, the address of which is İstiklal Caddesi no. 247. The Swedish Research Institute is located inside the consulate garden and there is a guard at the entrance.

From Sabiha Gökçen International Airport

Taxi

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 Tünel may easily take one hour or more, and the fare be 150-200 TL and upwards. If you decide to go by taxi, ask the taxi driver to go to either Sishane, Tünel or Hotel Richmond in the Beyoğlu district (see above, under “From Istanbul Airport”).

Airport Shuttle Bus

You will find the airport shuttle bus Havataş outside the airport; find the one heading for Taksim. The ride costs ca 15 TL per person (luggage included) and takes approximately 90 minutes, depending on traffic.

From Taksim you can take the metro one station to Şişhane (M2, direction Yenikapı). Follow the signs towards İstiklal. The Swedish Research Institute is located inside the premises of the Swedish Consulate General, next to the İstiklal Metro station exit. If you prefer to walk from Taksim to the institute, you simply follow İstiklal, a walk of 15-20 minutes. Or you can take the nostalgic tramway to Tünel, using your Istanbul Kart.

Welcome to Istanbul!