



Last updated 2024-08-28.

Because of the high inflation price are subject to change sometimes on weekly basis.

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. The bus currently costs 170 TL, baggage included (stowed separately upon embarking the bus). To catch the Havaist Istanbul Airport Shuttle bus you need to go down to -2 level of the Istanbul Airport arrivals hall. Before you jump on the bus, you'll need to buy your ticket from the Havaist ticket office which is near the largest public transportation map. The ticket office accepts credit cards and cash in TL.

The HVIST-16 bus to Taksim makes three to four stops and at the time of writing costs 170TL. In our experience, if there isn't much traffic you can get into the city center in 30-40 minutes. However, during rush hour, everything crawls to a stop and the journey has sometimes taken two hours.

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 (September 2024) the fare for a ride from the airport to any of the addresses above amounts to about 1000 liras and takes about 40-50 minute. **Payment is made by cash (or in most**

taxi card). All taxis are equipped with meters make sure they are used. 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.

Metro: From Istanbul Airport metro station take the M11 line (purple line on the rail map) six stops to Gayrettepe station. (Note that the train does not stop at 'Terminal 2' of Istanbul Airport - this station is currently under construction.) At the M11 Gayrettepe station, you will see signs for the escalators, the lift and the exits. You need to follow the signs for Çıkış 3 (Exit 3) as this will lead you to the M2 metro line (the green line on the Istanbul metro map). From here take the M2 line travelling in the direction of Yenikapı and ride four stops, getting off at Şişhane station. Follow the exit signs for Istiklal Street which will bring you out at the top of Galata near the end of Istiklal Street next to the SRII.

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 SRII easily take more than an hour, and the fare be 1200-1500 TL and upwards. So, unless money is no object, the airport shuttle bus is to prefer. The end station to look for is Taksim.

Access to the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul from Sabiha Gökçen can be seamlessly achieved through a combination of public transport options. Begin with the Metro line M4, which provides direct connectivity from Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen Airport to the bustling hub of Kadıköy, with a journey time of approximately 46 minutes. Upon arrival in Kadıköy, a short ferry ride across the Bosphorus takes you to Karaköy, where the historical Tünel — a brief two-station underground train — awaits. This ride will transport you from Karaköy Square to Tünel Square. Upon exiting Tünel, a brief walk of 50 to 100 meters will bring you to the doorstep of the SRII, making your transit smooth and straightforward.

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 50 TL and can be charged with any amount for the fares at machines at all major hubs of public transport. A single ride costs between 20-25 TL.

Uber operates in Istanbul. You can use the Uber app to request rides in the city, which offers a convenient option for transportation. As with any location, the availability and type of Uber services can vary, so it's advisable to check the app for the most current information when you are in Istanbul. **Please note that you can use Uber to get from any of the airports.**

Arriving by other means than plane

Istanbul's old railway stations Sirkeci (on the European side) and Haydarpaşa (on the Asian side) are currently not in use as such anymore. Trains from Greece and Bulgaria stop at Halkalı on the western side of the city. From there, it is possible to take the Marmaray Metro line to Yenikapı 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 Halkalı, at the central "Otogar" which also has access to a metro line in the direction of Yenikapı and further on from there to Şişhane. A taxi from Halkalı or Otogar to Şişhane would currently cost approximately 300 TL.

Finding the institute

If you have made it to Taksim, you can take the metro one station to Şişhane (M2, direction Yenikapı). 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 İstiklal, 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 İstiklal Caddesi 247 opposite to a big, grey Ziraat bankasi building.

Good luck! 😊