



Useful Tips for your HHK Hotel Istanbul Stay



Check your watch:

Local time is GMT+2

Electricity:

220 Volts – 50 Hz. The European two- pin plug is standard.
If you need any convertor please contact to reception desk.

Money:

The official currency is the Turkish Lira (TRY).

Currency can be exchanged at banks and exchange offices. Banks open mainly Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Dress Code:

You are in a secular country, and you can dress here like you would in London or Paris. It's only in the mosques that women are asked to wear a scarf and long sleeved clothes.

ATM & Credit Cards:

ATMs are widely available in major districts and tourist areas

Major credit cards are widely accepted; the most popular are Visa or MasterCard, but American Express is accepted in many places.



Transport:

The best and easiest way to explore **the old city** is on foot, but to get to other areas, there is a cheap public transport network consisting of tramways, taxis, busses and a new metro system that has relieved some of the pressure of Istanbul's endless traffic.

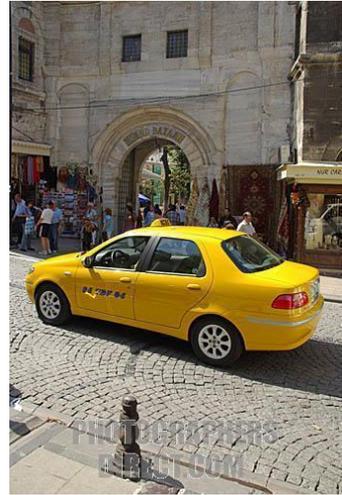
Tram:

Tram tokens are available at the front desk of HHK Hotel Istanbul and tram operates between 6 am till midnight. Please take care of your valuable belongings especially on the tram.

Please check the following link for metro and tram map;
<http://static.panoramio.com/photos/original/1601828.jpg>

Taxi:

HHK Hotel's welcome desk can arrange taxi's 24 hours. Taxis in Istanbul are yellow and the all have a taximeter. There is no price difference between day time and night time. To tip the taxi driver round up the next Lira on the fare (for a 14 Lira fare, pay 15 Lira) If you been like driven in circles or feel like ripped off, skip the tip and in case of uncomfortable circumstances please contact with our concierge desk.



Ferries:

The principal ferry docks are in Eminonu and Karakoy. Most voyages cost less than 1 Euro. Modern sea bus catamarans and traditional ferryboats travel convenient shorter routes up, down and across the Bosphorus connecting such districts as Karakoy, Eminonu and Besiktas on the European shore with Usküdar, Haydarpaşa and Kadikoy on the Asian side.

Both sea bus catamarans and ferryboats travel to the Princes Islands.

Please check the following links for detailed information;

For Ferry: <http://www.sehirhatlari.com.tr/en/>

For Fast Ferry & Sea bus: <http://www.ido.com.tr/en/index.cfm>



Public Holidays:

New Year's Day	1 Jan
National Sovereignty and Children's Day	23 Apr
May Day	1 May
Commemoration of Atatürk and Youth and Sports Day	19 May
Victory Day	30 Aug
Ramadan Month	One month starting from July 2nd
Ramadan Feast / Holiday	August 08 th & 09 th & 10 th
Eid Feast (Kurban Bayramı)	October 14 th till 18 th
Republic Day	15 Oct - 18 Oct

Weather:

The weather in summer, in Istanbul; is hot and humid, the temperature between June and September averaging 82F (28C). Summers are relatively dry, but rain does occur all year round. During winter it is cold, wet and often snowy. Snowfalls tend to be heavy, but temperatures rarely drop as low as freezing point. Istanbul also tends to be a windy city Please check the following link for current weather forecast;

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/745044>

Shopping:

Shopping in Istanbul is a mixture of old, new, antique, exotic and unadulterated kitsch. Souvenirs, spices, leather goods, carpets, kilims and earthenware are all popular buys with tourists, but the experience is more about wandering through the winding streets and markets, taking everything in and hunting for bargains.

The most notable market is the Grand Bazaar, which is just in 10 minutes walking distance to HHK Hotel boasts over 4,000 shops and, just in case that's not enough, the entire market is surrounded by a maze of streets lined with even more shops! Just about everything and anything can be found at the Grand Bazaar and haggling is an essential skill. The Spice Bazaar is also worth a visit. They are both closed on Sundays and on public holidays.

Most of modern shops in Istanbul are open from 9 am until roughly 8pm and they are open on Sundays. Big shopping malls are open from 10 am until 10 pm and they are all open on Sundays and holidays.



Non-European tourists can apply for a tax refund depending on the nature of the goods that have been purchased. In Turkey, the minimum purchase to qualify for a refund is TRY100 and visitors will need to request a VAT refund request form when making a purchase.



Restaurants in Istanbul:

Istanbul not only bridges the cultural and geographical gap between Europe and Asia, but also blends its culinary offerings. Eating out in Istanbul restaurants gives diners a taste of the splendid fusion that can be created by combining the traditional cuisine of these two vast continents.

With so many restaurants in and around the city, diners will find somewhere to eat any time of any day. Menu prices are generally quite fair and essentially you get what you pay for! In restaurants 10% tipping is customary if a service charge is not added to your bill.

At most Istanbul restaurants, reservations are either required or strongly recommended. Please contact to welcome desk for any reservation and information requires.



Demirtaş Mah. Hayriye Hanım Sk. No: 19 Süleymaniye 34116 İstanbul / Turkey

Phone: +90 212 513 00 26 ** Fax: +90 212 513 00 28

www.hkhhotel.com ** info@hkhhotel.com