

Symposium 2024- ICTMD Joint Study Group Meeting

Applied Ethnomusicology (AE) and the Sacred and Spiritual Sounds and Practices

Istanbul University, Turkey, 23-27 October, 2024

ADVISE

İstanbul's history

For some knowledge about the history of İstanbul, please look at this website: <https://istanbultarihi.ist/en>

The Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Grand Bazaar, Süleymaniye, Basilica Cistern, and others are within walking distance from the conference venue at the university.

Airport arrival

There are two airports in Istanbul: Istanbul Airport (IST) on the European side, and Sabiha Gökçen International Airport (SAW) in Anatolia. You can use either of them; however, we suggest that you to use Istanbul Airport (IST) due to easy transfer to the conference venue. There are shuttle buses from both airports to Taksim, then you can use a taxi from Taksim to the conference venue. Taxi costs approximately 30USD; we suggest to use Turkish Lira in any situation for the payment of shuttle buses and taxis.

Visas

For visa requirements, see: <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>

Conference venue

Conference sessions will be held at İstanbul University, Research Institute of Turkology located in Beyazıt, Fatih.

Address: İstanbul Üniversitesi, Türkiyat Araştırmaları Enstitüsü, Seyyid Hasan Paşa Medresesi Balabanağa Mah. Kimyager Derviş Paşa Sok. No:6 34080 Beyazıt/Fatih/İstanbul

For more details and images: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/cURZfhSGNzgV2DzK6>

Please find the location of the main venue of the conference:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6ERXGS62QbarwFj27>

Accommodation

Below is a list of hotels that are recommended by the Local Organizing Committee. Other options can be found by using services like [Trivago](#) and [Booking.com](#)

- [Grand Beyazıt Hotel](#) (4 Stars)

Location: Mimar Kemalettin Mh. Abu Hayat Sk No:5

Beyazıt / İstanbul

Contact Number: +90 212 638 46 41

Contact Number for Whatsapp: +90 (549) 731 2876

Email: info@hotelbeyazid.com

- [Beethoven Premium Hotel](#) (3 stars)

Location: Gençtürk Caddesi Ağa Yokuşu Sokak No:6 Fatih/İstanbul

Contact Number: +90 212 520 59 90

Contact Number for Whatsapp: +90 539 853 28 14

Email: premium@beethovenhotels.com

- [Holiday Inn Istanbul – Old City](#) (4 stars)

Location: Gencturk Caddesi Şirvanizade Sk No:5, Vezneciler Fatih-İstanbul

Contact Number: +90 (212) 528 18 65

Email: info@hiistanbuloldcity.com.

- [Hotel Grand Washington](#) (4 stars)

Location: Gencturk Cad. Agayokusu Sok. No:7 Laleli 34134 İstanbul

Contact Number: +90 2125116371

Email: info@grand-washington.com

- [Grand Hotel Gülsoy](#) (4 stars)

Location: Şehzadebaşı Caddesi No:9 Fatih/ İSTANBUL

Contact Number: +90 (212) 512 58 42

Email: info@grandhotelgulsoy.com

- [Celal Aga Konagi](#) (5 stars)

Location: Kemalpaşa Mah.Şehzadebaşı Cad. No:1, 34204 - Fatih

Contact Number: +90 212 511 15 79 or +90 212 511 15 66

Email: info@celalagakonagi.com or reservation@celalagakonagi.com

- [Crowne Plaza Istanbul – Old City](#) (5 stars)

Location: Balabanaga Mah. Fethi Bey Cad. No:2 Laleli, Fatih 34134

Contact Number: 0212 514 90 00

Email: info@cpoldcity.com

Airbnb Options in Vezneciler, Beyazıt, Fatih

Please check the options from link below and choose the one suits your preference.

https://www.airbnb.com/s/Fatih--T%C3%BCrkiye/homes?adults=1&place_id=ChIJmeP65Ym5yhQR4CKL7X6E8DQ&refinement_paths%5B%5D=%2Fhomes&property_type_id%5B%5D=1&checkin=2024-10-20&checkout=2024-10-26

Airbnb options in Balat

If you need additional assistant for Balat airbnb options please contact Olcay Muslu from the email below:

admin@mirasheritage.org

Restaurants

Below is a map that shows restaurants within reach of the conference venue:

<https://www.google.com/maps/search/Restaurants+nearby+%C4%B0stanbul+%C3%9Cniversitesi+T%C3%BCrkiyat+Ara%C5%9Ft%C4%B1rmalar%C4%B1+Enstit%C3%BCs%C3%BC/@41.0103881,28.9614955,16z/data=!3m1!4b1?hl=en-US&entry=ttu>

<https://www.google.com/maps/search/fatih+laleli+restoranlar/@41.0086208,28.9551244,16z>

Language

Turkey's official language is Turkish but at most hotels and tourist places English is also spoken.

Time zone

Turkey's time zone is GMT+03:00. The current time in Turkey can be seen at

<https://saatkac.info.tr/Istanbul>

Weather

The average temperature in İstanbul during October is 17-20 degrees Celsius. Weather is usually moderate and sunny with some possibility of rain. It is recommended to bring a raincoat, umbrella and sweater. You can check the weather forecast in <https://www.mgm.gov.tr/tahmin/il-ve-ilceler.aspx?il=%C4%B0stanbul&ilce=Fatih>

Electrical plugs

Turkey operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz. The power sockets are of type F. It is recommended to bring power plug adaptors as they aren't available everywhere.

The congress venue will have a number of charging sockets for delegates' use. However we urge everyone to fully charge their mobiles and laptops in their hotels before arriving at the conference venue, especially those that will be using their devices for presentations or for the English/Turkish translation service that we will offer on Zoom.

Health

It is recommended to get travel and medical insurance. Do not drink tap water, only drink bottled water.

The closest hospital to the venue is İstanbul Tıp Fakültesi Hastanesi <https://hastane-istanbultip.istanbul.edu.tr/tr/>

Safety considerations

Turkey's main emergency telephone numbers:

- Police: 155
- Fire: 110
- Ambulance: 112

Currency and exchange rate

The official currency in İstanbul is the Turkish Lira. You can find 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, and 200 Lira bills in circulation alongside 1, 0.01, 0.05, 0.10, 0.25, and 0.50 Lira coins. Money can be exchanged on your arrival at the airport, or anytime at banks and exchange houses. For more about currency and exchange rates, visit:

<https://www.tcmb.gov.tr/wps/wcm/connect/EN/TCMB+EN/Main+Menu/Statistics/Exchange+Rates>

Important Note: There will be Zoom meeting closer to the İstanbul Symposium dates (September and first week of October) for the conference participants to give tips, advices, and details for those who need further assistance and will be announced on the Study Group of Applied Ethnomusicology Facebook Page.