

12th ASECU Conference
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1. Direct flights to Eskişehir

There are some international direct flights to Eskişehir but they are scarce and irregular. Turkish Airlines has flights from Brussels (Belgium) and Lyon (France) during the summer period (including the conference dates), so delegates who can make their way from Brussels or Lyon may consider taking a direct flight to Eskişehir. However, the flight schedule is subject to change, so it is better to check the airlines' website beforehand: <http://www.turkishairlines.com>. Air Berlin may sometimes have flights from different European cities to Eskişehir; however delegates should check for these on the airlines' website (<http://www.airberlin.com/en-TR/site/start.php>) since they are not regular flights.

2. From İstanbul to Eskişehir

The usual way to come to Eskişehir from abroad is via İstanbul. The distance between the two cities is around 330 kilometers (200 miles). There are two international airports in the larger Istanbul area: Atatürk International Airport (IST) and Sabiha Gökçen International Airport (SAW).

Attention: Beware of taxi scams in İstanbul. Always ask for the direction and fare before getting in a taxi.

If you decide to use public transportation in Istanbul (metro, ferry, tramway and buses), we recommend you use a city card instead of a one-use ticket, since each change, even between the metro tracks, requires a separate ticket. Cards are widely available in metro and bus stations.

2.1 From Atatürk International Airport (IST) to Eskişehir.

There is a metro line in the airport (M1) that goes directly to the inter-city bus station, that is, "OTOGAR" (Coach Station), which is the 7th stop from the airport (the fare is around 2 USD). From there, there are frequent buses to Eskişehir. The journey lasts approximately 5 hours, but may take longer due to traffic.

Please prefer these companies for a satisfactory price/value:

Kamil Koç (<http://www.kamilkoc.com.tr>),

Buzlu (<https://www.buzlu.com.tr/Bilet.php>),

Anadolu (<http://www.anadolubilet.com.tr/WebSatis/Bilet.php>) and

İsmail Ayaz (<http://www.ismailayaz.com.tr>).

Unfortunately, only Kamil Koç has a website in English; websites of the other companies are in Turkish only. Yet this should not be a problem: buses to Eskişehir are regular and almost

always available at the last minute, and the tickets may be purchased easily in the bus station on arrival. (However, that may not be the case between 12.00 am-06.00 am) The fare is around 15-20 USD.

The train is not a convenient option from Atatürk International Airport since the train station is located around 70 Kilometers away from the airport. Please check the following section on travel from Sabiha Gökçen Airport to Eskişehir.

2.2 From Sabiha Gökçen Airport (SAW) to Eskişehir

Participants who wish to evade the hustle-and-bustle of Istanbul and arrive directly to Eskişehir are strongly recommended to use the Sabiha Gökçen Airport. There are affordable flights from almost all points in Europe, as well as Russia, Morocco, and UAE. This is a convenient location to take a train to Eskişehir from the Pendik Train Station, which is 14 km (9 miles) away. Public bus no. 132 H goes directly to the Pendik Train Station (the fare is around 2 USD); a taxi costs around 15 USD. There are 7 high-speed trains (HST) per day running every two hours starting at 6.30, with the latest one at 19.10. The trip takes about 2 hours and 40 minutes; fares vary from 20 USD to 30 USD. Visitors are strongly advised to buy their tickets online at least one day before departure at

<https://yolcu.tcdd.gov.tr/view/eybis/tnmGenel/tcddWebContent.jsf>. (Choose departure from İstanbul (Pendik); arrival at Eskişehir). One should allow around two hours between the arrival time at the airport and the hour of train departure. The Pendik Train Station is on the eastern edge (Anatolian side) of the city. From Atatürk Airport, the Pendik station is about 60 km/40Mi and the taxi costs around 50-70 USD. The journey takes around 2 hours depending on the traffic. So the Atatürk Airport is not a suitable location for those who wish to make immediate connection to the Pendik Train Station. Either they should pay around 50-70USD for taxi and travel all the way through Istanbul, or with the public transport they should make 5 or 6 changes of ferry, metro, tramway and bus, which may possibly last more than 2 hours and cost around 10 USD.

2.3 Spending overnight in Istanbul before or after Eskişehir

Possible itineraries are given below for those who plan to spend overnight in Istanbul or take their time in and around the city on their way to or back from Eskişehir:

- Taxi to the city center from Atatürk Airport: **Taksim or Beşiktaş** costs around 40 USD. Journey takes around 1 hour.
- There are frequent express buses (HAVATAS) that go to **Taksim**. Journey takes around 1 hour. The fare: 7 USD. This is the most convenient method to go to Taksim.
- There is also the metro that goes to **Taksim**: Take the M1 Train to the terminus (Yenikapı) then Take the M2 train to the direction to *Hacıosman* Taksim is the third station. Or from Aksaray station on M1 track, there is a corresponding tramway line (T1-Yusufpaşa stop) that goes through **Kabatas**. This tramway stops at: **Sultanahmet** and **Sirkeci** and **Karaköy**. (45 minutes; 4 USD) (See the network map linked on conference website.)

Sultanahmet is one of the most popular centers of attraction.

From **Sirkeci**, there is an undersea metro line (Marmaray) that will take you to the Anatolian side: **Üsküdar**. From there the access to **Kadıköy** is about 10 minutes shuttle drive. Also the connection to HST Pendik station becomes easier. (1 hour -2 USD)

From **Karaköy** there is a funicular that goes to **Taksim**. (5 Minutes-2 USD)

From **Karaköy** and **Kabataş**, there are ferries to different parts of İstanbul. You may want to check the boats and ferries that may take you to a closer point around the HST train station.

Please check: <http://www.ido.com.tr/en>

Main Bus Lines to the Pendik Train Station

From **Üsküdar**: Bus no: 16A

From **Kadıköy**: Bus No: 222 and 16. The bus stops are quite close to Kadıköy Ferry Port.

From **Şişli** (Closest point to Taksim) 251

From **Beşiktaş**: It is recommended to take a ferry to **Üsküdar** and **Kadıköy** first, then to take the buses.

Useful websites:

<http://www.istanbul-ulasim.com.tr/en>

<http://www.iETT.gov.tr/en>

<http://wikitravel.org/en/Istanbul>

3. From Ankara to Eskişehir

An alternative route to get to Eskişehir is to fly to Ankara, the capital city of Turkey. However, please keep in mind that most of the international flights to Ankara are operated via İstanbul. Although there are various intercity bus companies operating between Ankara and Eskişehir, we strongly recommend to take the High Speed Train (HST) since it takes approximately 1:30 hour to get to Eskişehir whereas it takes approximately 3 hours to get to Eskişehir by bus. As of September 2015, there are 11 trains per day starting at 6.00 and with the latest one at 21.20. The price of the HST is around 15-20 USD. There are regular shuttles from the airport HAVAS which will take you from the airport to the train station (ULUS TCDD GAR) in 35 minutes; the fare is around 10 USD.

Useful websites:

<http://www.tcdd.gov.tr/tcdding/index.htm>

<http://www.havas.com.tr/Pages/Intro.aspx>

4. Visa

Turkish visa is easily acquired by the citizens of any country. For special visa requirements please see: <http://mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>.