



2024
INTERNATIONAL
CORPORATE
COUNSEL
COLLEGE



26 - 27 SEPTEMBER
THE RITZ-CARLTON ISTANBUL
ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

2024 International Corporate Counsel College

The International Corporate Counsel College brings together in-house counsel and their law firm counterparts for education and discussion on the latest legal issues affecting global companies. The event is modelled on the highly successful IADC Corporate Counsel College that is held each year in the United States. This distinctive meeting format creates an intimate environment, providing the opportunity for in-house counsel and their advisors to gain knowledge together and spend time with others who face similar issues. The IADC is pleased to invite you to the annual International Corporate Counsel College in Istanbul on 26 - 27 September 2024.

Who may attend?

The event is designed primarily for in-house counsel, corporate compliance officers, and senior executives of corporations. Outside counsel also are welcome, and are encouraged to invite one or more in-house counsel.

Registration and Fees

REGISTRATION

Registration is available online only. To register for the International Corporate Counsel College: www.iadclaw.org/events/2024-international-corporate-counsel-college

FEES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Every attendee of the International Corporate Counsel College is responsible for registering themselves – Outside Counsel or In-House Counsel.

Outside Counsel: Register at the Outside Counsel rate of \$1,995 USD. You are strongly encouraged to invite in-house counsel clients and guests to register and attend.

In-House Counsel: Register yourself complimentary.

Spouse/Guest (Non-Business Related): \$185 USD

QUESTIONS?

For questions on registration and all other meeting questions, please email Melisa Maisel Vanis, Director of Meetings and Professional Development, at mmaisel@iadclaw.org.

Schedule at a Glance

25 SEPTEMBER, WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. IADC Regional Meeting Welcome Reception

26 SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions
9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Welcome Comments
10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	The Future is Now: The Intersection of AI and Legal Practice
11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Networking Coffee Break
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	A New Norm with Risk? Green Claims vs. Reporting Obligations and How to Bridge the Gap Between Green Washing and Green Hushing Luncheon and Networking
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Like Dominos Falling: The Impacts of a World in Crisis on the Global Supply Chain and the Resulting Litigation
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Networking Coffee Break
3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Sanctions, Sanctions Everywhere...GCs Must Know How to Negotiate Sanctions and Protect Corporate Interests
3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	
6:00 p.m.	Bosphorus Yacht Tour
7:30 p.m.	Dinner

27 SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Code Red: Cyber Attacks - Not a Matter of If but of When
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Networking Coffee Break
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	This Dispute Won't Go Away. Now What?
11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Networking Coffee Break
12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Lost in Translation - Cultural Differences and the Effects on Business Outcomes. Do We Really Speak the Same Language?
12:45 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks

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“OUR WORLD IN CRISIS”

Schedule

25 SEPTEMBER, WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

IADC REGIONAL MEETING WELCOME RECEPTION

26 SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

REGISTRATION

9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Donna Lamontagne, *IADC President, Lamontagne, Spaulding & Hayes, LLP, Cranston, RI USA*
Döne Yalçın, *International Corporate Counsel College Director, CMS Türkiye, Istanbul, Türkiye*

9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

WELCOME COMMENTS

Selim Yenel, *President of the Global Relations Forum and Former Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Türkiye to the European Union (2011-17), Istanbul, Türkiye*
Marina Smelyanskaya, *United Nations Development Program, Team Leader, HIV, Health and Development, Europe and Central Asia, Istanbul, Türkiye*

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

The Future is Now: The Intersection of AI and Legal Practice

There is widespread consensus that AI has only just begun to change the practice of law and that much more lies ahead. This panel will explore current AI-powered legal tools and their applications as well as future trends and their impacts on legal workflows and efficiency. Our experts will address current EU AI regulations and upcoming legislation and provide practical advice on corporate policies for AI governance and compliance strategies. We will also review what you need to know about the ethical and legal considerations raised by AI use, including algorithmic bias, informed consent in AI data usage, and privacy and data protection. For in-house counsel and external counsel alike, this is a program not to be missed!

Moderator: James F. Rogers, *Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, Columbia, SC USA*
Speakers: Oğuzhan Arslan, *Head of Commercial Legal, Microsoft, Istanbul, Türkiye*; İlkey Baruh, *Chief Legal Officer, Mikrogrup, Istanbul, Türkiye*; Osman Gazi Güçlütürk, *Legal and Regulatory Lead, Holistic AI, Istanbul, Türkiye*; Nur Yalçın Kılıç, *Legal, Risk and Compliance Director, SabancıDX, Istanbul, Türkiye*

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

A New Norm with Risk? Green Claims vs. Reporting Obligations and How to Bridge the Gap Between Green Washing and Green Hushing

The increasing consideration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) aspects has initiated a decisive change, but it is not without risks. Although the Environmental Disclosures Directive is still at the beginning of its legislative journey and will be implemented differently across the EU, it represents a significant step forward. From the EU Green Deal to the Green New Deal in the US and the efforts of the world's leading economies to rapidly move towards net zero, our future sustainability will dominate global policy making. In a landscape characterized by green claims and sustainability reporting obligations, the challenge is to bridge the gap between genuine sustainability efforts and superficial greenwashing. From claiming that a product or service is environmentally friendly or sustainable to dealing with 'environmental litigation' - court cases involving environmental issues - addressing risks within supply chains is critical. Join us as we explore the complexities of ESG implementation and avoid falling into the traps of tokenism and hidden realities.

Moderator: Döne Yalçın, *CMS Türkiye, Istanbul, Türkiye*

Speakers: Ebru Bakkaloğlu Tüzecan, *Sustainability Coordinator, Koç Holding, Istanbul, Türkiye*; Christian Murad, *Head of Legal Middle East, Associate General Counsel, Lucid Motors, Dubai, United Arab Emirates*; Kağan Öztarıkçı, *Legal Sr. Director, PepsiCo Türkiye, Istanbul, Türkiye*; Wiebke Schlömer, *International Finance Corporation, Istanbul, Türkiye*

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

LUNCHEON AND NETWORKING

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Like Dominos Falling: The Impacts of a World in Crisis on the Global Supply Chain and the Resulting Litigation

Wars. Pandemics. Economic recessions. We are or have recently experienced enormous events that not only have had significant impacts on the countries where they originated, but the entire globe. Manufacturers have had resulting struggles with production, due in part from issues with getting component parts and issues with labor during the manufacturing process. A cascade of problems ranging from a failure to meet production requirements to failures in product quality have resulted, and this has been a prevalent theme of resulting litigation. These problems in turn have negatively impacted distributors and the ultimate consumers. This panel of inside and outside counsel will address the impacts of the global supply chain on litigation across borders, and how companies are addressing protections for the global economy going forward.

Moderator: Mark R. Beebe, *Adams and Reese LLP, New Orleans, LA USA*

Speakers: Bedouin L. Joseph, *General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, SeaRiver Maritime, Inc., Spring, Texas USA*; Salem Mohamed, *GE Healthcare, Cairo, Egypt*

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Sanctions, Sanctions Everywhere...GCs Must Know How to Negotiate Sanctions and Protect Corporate Interests

Sanctions, whether trade, financial, or travel-related, cause significant business-related issues for multi-national corporations. U.S. and EU based General Counsel (GC) must know and understand bilateral and multilateral linkages between trade relations and the intricate structure of applied sanctions. For U.S. based interests, the U.S. Officer of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) maintains different sanctions programs for more than 35 countries: GCs must understand prohibited transactions and other dealings within which U.S. persons and entities may not engage or for which a license or permission must be obtained. GCs with EU-based interests must also understand and comply with massive and unprecedented sanctions against Russia and other countries which encompass restrictive, diplomatic, and visa measures in addition to economic sanctions. The breadth and impact of these sanctions are constantly changing and this panel of inside and outside counsel will address the impacts of sanctions on financial, trade, and other concerns as well as the diplomacy required to continue or to conduct business on an international scale providing meaningful examples of how to identify, assess, and resolve sanctions-related issues.

Moderator: Dixie T. Wells, *Ellis & Winters LLP, Greensboro, NC USA*

Speakers: Flavio Bertoli, *LEDVANCE GmbH, Garching, Germany*; Rana Günay Hoffman, *Deputy Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, Koç Holding, Istanbul, Türkiye*; Paul Salazar, *Siemens AG, Munich, Germany*

6:00 p.m.

BOSPHORUS YACHT TOUR

7:30 p.m.

DINNER

27 SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Code Red: Cyber Attacks - Not a Matter of If but of When

Join this interactive session to see how different participants, including in-house counsel and external counsel, work together to manage the moving parts and priorities after a data breach or cyber security incident.

Moderator: Marc Dautlich, *Bristows LLP, London, England*

Speakers: Moutasem Abu-Ghoush, *Senior Legal Counsel, Mott MacDonald, Dubai, United Arab Emirates*; Dana Haubold, *CISO Advisory, UAE, Abu Dhabi, Dubai*; Berkay Meşe, *Senior Cyber Security Consultant, Microsoft, Istanbul, Türkiye*; Kevin Wong, *Financial Services Regulatory Authority, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates*

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

This Dispute Won't Go Away. Now What?

Companies facing business to business disputes in a multinational environment want a satisfactory resolution that is quick, cost effective, sustainable, and not a distraction to their employees or a drain on resources. Is that achievable and how? Many alternatives exist – arbitration, mediation, specialized commercial courts, and traditional litigation in various forums – but, which method is the best to achieve one's goals? For example, mediation is mandatory in many cases in Turkey. Is this an early opportunity or a formality? Similarly, some countries are offering specialized forums for business disputes, such as the Paris Commercial Court. Is a specialized court a viable option? A panel of in-house counsel and other stakeholders will share their real-world experiences in the EU and beyond on what has worked and why.

Moderator: Daniela Karollus-Bruner, *CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz Rechtsanwälte GmbH, Vienna, Austria*

Speakers: Phil Busman, *Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, Washington, DC USA*; Oya Sehirlioglu, *Umur, Istanbul, Türkiye*; Katie Whang, *Johnson & Johnson, Dubai, United Arab Emirates*

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

12:00 p.m.- 12:45 p.m.

Lost in Translation - Cultural Differences and the Effects on Business Outcomes. Do We Really Speak the Same Language?

We live in a complex and interconnected world that, by definition, has a diverse cultural environment and sensitivity. This dimension requires organizations to foster an inclusive and culturally sensitive working space to properly respond to the needs of their different employees and business partners. Is your company a place where all employees feel “safe” despite their ethnicity, religious orientation, and sexual identity? Does it matter in your organization what generation your employees belong to? Does your company recognize every talent and enable the ability of all employees by breaking down visible and invisible barriers? This panel of in-house and outside professionals will go through these and other aspects of cultural diversity, its impacts and effects on the day-by-day business, and how companies must embrace diversity.

Speakers: Sena Erten, *Vice President, Middle East & Africa, Ericsson, Dubai, United Arab Emirates*; Dr. Roberto Isibor, *Hogan Lovells Milan, Milan, Italy*; Özlem Kılınç, *Head of Legal, MENAT, Kellanova, Istanbul, Türkiye*; Tommaso Scurto, *Legal Counsel, Vienna, Austria*

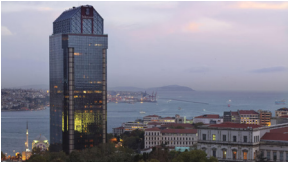
12:45 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

Döne Yalçın, *2024 International Corporate Counsel College Director, CMS Türkiye, Istanbul, Türkiye*

Anna Cook, *2025 International Corporate Counsel College Director, Bristows LLP, London, England*

General Information



LOCATION

The Ritz-Carlton Istanbul (Nobu Restaurant)
Suzer Plaza, Elmadag,
Askerocağı Caddesi, No:15

34367 Şişli/Istanbul, Türkiye

<https://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/istrz-the-ritz-carlton-istanbul/overview/>

The Ritz-Carlton Istanbul offers luxurious accommodations and stunning views of the Bosphorus. Make the most of your stay by enjoying their exceptional amenities and impeccable service.

Programming will take place in the exquisite and exclusive Nobu restaurant at The Ritz-Carlton. This will be a very unique programming venue!

HOTEL RESERVATIONS, ROOM RATES, AND HOTEL CANCELLATION POLICY

The room rate, which are exclusive of VAT and service charges, per room, per night is:

- €280.00/Single and Double Occupancy

The room block at the listed rate is now full. Please see your meeting confirmation for updated rates and other nearby hotel options.

Buffet breakfast is included in the room rate for a Single. Buffet breakfast rate is €20 for a second person in the room. In order to make your hotel reservation, you must first register for the International Corporate Counsel College through the IADC. Once registered, the IADC will send you information that will allow you to secure a hotel room at our group rate. Reservations must be made prior to Monday, 26 August 2024. Unused rooms held for this meeting will be released on this date. Any reservation requests received after 26 August 2024 will be accepted only on a space available basis at the group rate. Please note that the room block may fill before that date or the hotel may sell out, so we encourage you to register with the IADC so you can make your hotel reservation early. For cancellations of any guaranteed room reservation received less than (1) day prior to arrival, one night's room and tax will be charged. Check-in time is 15:00 and check-out time is 12:00.

TRANSPORTATION

Istanbul International Airport (IST) is Istanbul's main airport and offers the most overseas flights. It is located on the European side and is the closest to the Ritz-Carlton Istanbul (approximately 40 km). Depending on the time of day and traffic, the travel time is approximately 40 minutes. Taxis are available at the airport.

Istanbul offers various transportation options, including taxis, metro, tram, and ferries. The Ritz-Carlton concierge can assist you with arranging transportation. For personalized travel services, airport transfers, including tour guide arrangements, contact [Tourix Tourism - Hamza Ciner](#). Guests can enjoy a 10% discount with the code **CMS/IADC**. This code must be mentioned at the time of booking to receive the discount.

CLIMATE AND DRESS

Business attire is appropriate for this meeting. In September, Istanbul experiences pleasant weather as summer transitions into autumn. Here's a typical weather overview for the month:
Highs: 24-27°C (75-81°F)
Lows: 17-19°C (63-66°F)
Rain: Occasional light showers
Humidity: Moderate

Please check the weather forecast as the meeting gets closer.

CLE CREDITS

Approximately 6.5 hours of general CLE credit in 60-minute states and 7.8 hours of general CLE credit in 50-minute states will be requested for accreditation from all mandatory continuing legal education jurisdictions where registered attendees are licensed.

CPD CREDIT (CANADA)

The IADC is a Pre-Approved Provider of CPD Credit with the Law Society of British Columbia. The Quebec CPD Committee recognizes courses approved by other Canadian bars as approved in Quebec. For those in attendance at the International Corporate Counsel College, 6.5 CPD credits are available.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have any special needs during the meeting (i.e. diet or accessibility), please email Melisa Maisel Vanis, Director of Meetings and

Professional Development, at mmaisel@iadclaw.org in advance of the meeting.

DATA PRIVACY AND COLLECTION

Data is collected on attendees through registration for the purposes of executing the meeting and communicating with attendees about the meeting. Meeting sponsors have access to the registration list provided to all attendees. If any attendee has questions on data use and privacy, please contact Mary Beth Kurzak, Executive Director and CEO, at mkurzak@iadclaw.org.

CANCELLATION POLICY

A CASH REFUND, less a \$150 processing fee, will be made if a written notice of cancellation is received by the IADC office more than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the meeting. No reason for the cancellation need be provided for a timely notice of cancellation. NO CASH REFUND will be made if notice of cancellation is received by the IADC office thirty (30) days or less prior to the first day of the meeting. However, if special

circumstances arise before the meeting which prevent attendance, a member may request a future meeting credit. The request needs to be in writing and submitted to the IADC office. It should be directed to the Finance Committee's attention and note the special circumstances which caused cancellation. The credit request can only apply to meeting registration fees (not air, hotel, activity, tour, or special event fees) and, if approved, will be valid for use toward any IADC meeting for one (1) year from the date of the meeting for which credit is requested. A \$150 processing fee will be deducted from the total future meeting credit.

All future meeting credit requests will be considered by the Finance Committee and the decision of that Committee will be final.

Spouse/Guest Fee: Notice of cancellation must be received by the IADC in writing no later than 26 August 2024 in order to receive a full refund. No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellation requests received after 26 August.

INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE 26 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2024

Thank you to the members of the International Corporate Counsel College Planning Committee for their work to make this meeting possible.

INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Döne Yalçın, Director, CMS Türkiye, Istanbul, Türkiye
Michele Y. Smith, 2023-2024 IADC President, MehaffyWeber, Houston, TX USA
Donna Lamontagne, 2024-2025 IADC President, Lamontagne, Spaulding & Hayes, LLP, Cranston, RI USA
Anna Cook, Director-Elect, Bristows LLP, London, England
Heather C. Devine, IADC Vice President of International, Traffix, Toronto, ON Canada
Mark D. Hansen, IADC Vice President of Corporate, GROWMARK, Inc., Bloomington, IL USA
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Ilkay Baruh, Mikrogrup, Istanbul, Türkiye
Mark R. Beebe, Adams and Reese LLP, New Orleans, LA USA
Brittany Boykin, Brit Insurance, London, England
J. Dominic Campodonico, Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP, San Francisco, CA USA
Andrew S. Chamberlin, Ellis & Winters LLP, Greensboro, NC USA
Richard Clarke, Kobre & Kim LLP, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Mohamed Hashish, Soliman, Hashish & Partners, Cairo, Egypt
Daniela Karollus-Bruner, CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz Rechtsanwälte GmbH, Vienna, Austria
Christian Murad, Lucid Motors, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Mohammed Noaman, General Electric, Cairo, Egypt
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Tommaso Scurto, Borealis AG, Vienna, Austria
Oya Sehirlioglu, Umur, Istanbul, Türkiye
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Dixie T. Wells, Ellis & Winters LLP, Greensboro, NC USA
Jodok Wicki, CMS Von Erlach Partners Ltd., Zurich, Switzerland
Jessalyn H. Zeigler, Bass, Berry & Sims PLC, Nashville, TN USA

TURKISH TRAILS: NAVIGATING ISTANBUL GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

Istanbul, straddling Europe and Asia, is a vibrant metropolis with a rich history that dates back to ancient Byzantium and Constantinople. It's a city where East meets West, offering a unique blend of cultures, traditions, and architecture.

Neighborhood Guide

- **Sultanahmet:** Historical heart, close to major attractions.
- **Beyoğlu:** Trendy area with nightlife and shopping.
- **Kadıköy:** Vibrant, less touristy, on the Asian side.

Dining and Nightlife

RESTAURANTS

- **Fish:**
 - [Balıkçı Sabahattin](#): Fresh seafood dishes in a historic setting.
 - [Uskumru Restaurant](#): A charming spot with stunning Bosphorus views.
 - [Sur Balık](#): Renowned for its delicious seafood and scenic location.
 - [Bebek Balıkçı](#): Enjoy seafood with a view in the elegant Bebek neighborhood.
- **Traditional and Kebab:**
 - [Hamdi Restaurant](#): Enjoy traditional Turkish kebab with a view of the Golden Horn.
 - [Dönerci Serkan Usta](#): Savor delicious döner kebab at this popular spot.
 - [Çiya Sofrası](#): Traditional Anatolian cuisine.

TURKISH TRAILS: NAVIGATING ISTANBUL GUIDE

- **Italian:**
 - [Paper Moon](#) in Etiler.
 - [Da Mario](#): Offers delicious Italian dishes in a cozy atmosphere.
 - [Pinoli Kitchen](#): Another great choice for authentic Italian cuisine.
 - [Luna Rossa](#): Delight in Italian classics in a charming atmosphere.
- **Asian Cuisine:**
 - [Nobu Istanbul](#): Renowned for its fusion of traditional Japanese dishes with Peruvian ingredients.
 - [Zuma Istanbul](#): Offers a contemporary take on traditional Japanese izakaya-style dining.
 - [Inari Omakase](#): Known for its exquisite Japanese dishes and omakase experience.
 - [Banyan Ortaköy](#): Offers an Asian fusion experience with stunning views of the Bosphorus.
- **Best Cafes:**
 - [Petra Coffee](#): Renowned for its specialty coffee and chic ambiance.
 - [Bebek Baylan](#): Historic patisserie in Bebek, famous for its delicious desserts and stylish atmosphere.
 - [Karaköy Güllüoğlu](#): Famous for baklava.
- **Vegan Options:**
 - [Dose Istanbul](#): A popular spot for vegan and healthy dishes.
 - [Healin Nişantaşı](#): Offers a variety of vegan options in a stylish setting.
- **Michelin Guide Restaurants:**
 - [Mikla](#): An acclaimed venue with stunning views.
 - [Gallada Istanbul](#): A gourmet dining experience in a modern setting.
 - [Fatih Tutak Restaurant](#): Culinary journey by Michelin-starred chef Fatih Tutak.

BREAKFAST SPOTS

- [Sütiş Emirgan](#): Enjoy a traditional Turkish breakfast with beautiful Bosphorus views.
- [Beyaz Fırın Etiler](#): A great place for breakfast pastries and a variety of breakfast dishes.
- [Bebek Koru Kahvesi](#): Enjoy breakfast in a serene setting surrounded by greenery.
- [Nezih Kebap & Yuvalama](#): Known for its delightful breakfast offerings and traditional Turkish dishes.

DRINKS

- [Lucca](#): A trendy spot in Bebek known for its lively atmosphere and excellent cocktails.
- [Bebek Otel Bar by The Stay](#): Offers stunning views and a sophisticated ambiance for drinks.
- [Ulus 29](#): A stylish venue with breathtaking Bosphorus views and an extensive drinks menu.
- [Sunset Grill & Bar](#): Known for its stunning views, elegant atmosphere, and excellent cocktails.
- [Arkestra](#): A vibrant spot known for its unique cocktails and chic atmosphere.

Shopping

SHOPPING DISTRICTS

- **Grand Bazaar**: Explore one of the world's oldest and largest covered markets for unique souvenirs and traditional Turkish goods.
- **Spice Bazaar**: For spices, sweets, and local products.
- **İstiklal Avenue**: Modern shopping street with boutiques and international brands.

TURKISH TRAILS: NAVIGATING ISTANBUL GUIDE

WHERE TO SHOP

- Grand Bazaar: Explore one of the world's oldest and largest covered markets for unique souvenirs and traditional Turkish goods.
- Nişantaşı: Known as Istanbul's upscale shopping district, Nişantaşı offers designer boutiques and luxury brands.
- [İstinye Park](#): A modern shopping mall with a mix of international and local stores.
- [Zorlu Center](#): Experience luxury shopping at [Zorlu Center](#), featuring high-end fashion brands and gourmet dining options.



Things To Do and Places to Visit

HISTORICAL PLACES

- [Hagia Sophia](#): Visit this iconic landmark, once a church, then a mosque, and now a museum showcasing impressive Byzantine architecture.
- [Topkapi Palace](#): Explore the former residence of Ottoman sultans, featuring stunning courtyards, pavilions, and a vast collection of artifacts.
- [Blue Mosque](#): Admire the intricate blue tiles and grandeur of this historic mosque, a symbol of Istanbul's rich cultural heritage.
- [Basilica Cistern](#): Discover the ancient underground water reservoir with its mesmerizing Medusa heads and atmospheric lighting.
- [Galata Tower](#): Climb to the top of this medieval stone tower for a panoramic view of Istanbul's historic peninsula and skyline.

MODERN MUSEUMS

- [Istanbul Modern](#): Explore contemporary Turkish and international art.
- [Arter](#): A modern art museum showcasing contemporary works in various media.
- [Sabancı Museum](#): Located in a historic mansion, featuring a collection of fine art and temporary exhibitions.
- [Rahmi M. Koç Museum](#): Industrial museum with unique exhibits.

ASIAN SIDE

- Kadıköy: Discover the vibrant Kadıköy district on the Asian side, known for its lively markets, diverse dining scene, and waterfront promenade.

HIDDEN GEMS

- Balat: Wander through the colorful streets of Balat, known for its charming historic houses, vibrant street art, and eclectic atmosphere.
- [Chora Mosque](#): Beautiful mosaics and frescoes. Chora Church, which was used as a palace church and a chapel in important religious ceremonies, continued to function as a church for awhile. In 1511, it was converted into a Mosque.

TURKISH TRAILS: NAVIGATING ISTANBUL GUIDE

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Explore the backstreets of Sultanahmet for hidden cafés and shops.
- Take a Bosphorus cruise for stunning views.
- Visit a traditional Turkish bath (hammam) for a unique experience.

DAY TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS

- Princes' Islands: Relaxing islands with no cars allowed.
- Bursa: Historical city and thermal spas.
- Sapanca Lake: Beautiful lake ideal for nature lovers.

Practical Information

CURRENCY AND MONEY

- Currency: Turkish Lira (TRY) however some places to accept payments in USD and EUR.
- ATMs: Widely available, credit cards accepted in most places.

COMMUNICATION

- SIM Cards: Available at the airport arrivals and city kiosks.
- Internet Access: Free Wi-Fi in many cafés, hotels, and public areas.
- Emergency Numbers: Police: 155, Fire: 110, Ambulance: 112

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

- Electricity: 220V, European plug (Type C/F).
- Time Zone: GMT+3
- Packing Tips: Light layers, a jacket or sweater for evenings, and modest clothing for visiting mosques.

Maps and Navigation

CITY MAPS

- Detailed maps available at tourist information centers and hotels.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT MAPS

- Metro, tram, and bus maps available at stations and online.

TURKISH TRAILS: NAVIGATING ISTANBUL GUIDE

WALKING ROUTES

- **Sultanahmet to Galata:** Scenic walk through historic areas.
- **Istiklal Avenue:** From Taksim Square to Galata Tower.
- **Bosphorus:** Walk along the waterfront, taking in the stunning views and the iconic bridges connecting Europe and Asia.

Cultural Tips

LOCAL CUSTOMS AND ETIQUETTE

- **Greetings:** A handshake or cheek kisses among friends.
- **Tipping:** Generally 10% to 15% in restaurants and hotels.

LANGUAGE BASICS

- **Hello:** Merhaba
- **Thank you:** Teşekkür ederim / Teşekkürler
- **Please:** Lütfen
- **Yes:** Evet
- **No:** Hayır

Other

- **Traffic Hours:** Traffic in Istanbul can be heavy, especially during rush hours (8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.). Plan your travels accordingly and consider using public transportation to avoid congestion.
- **Nearest Pharmacy:** The nearest pharmacy to Ritz Carlton Istanbul is Istanbul Eczanesi Gümüşsuyu.
- **Hairdresser:** For a top-notch hairdressing experience, consider visiting [Emre Ayaksız](#) in Nişantaşı. Guests of the IADC can enjoy a 10% discount with the code **CMS/IADC**. Upon request and on an exceptional basis, a hairdresser can come to the hotel. Please note that this service is based on a separate budget. If you would like the hairdresser to come to the hotel, we recommend scheduling your appointment at least one day in advance.
- **Green Travel Tips:**
 - **Eat Local:** Support local restaurants and markets that source ingredients sustainably and locally.
 - **Reduce Plastic Use:** Carry a reusable water bottle, shopping bag, and utensils to minimize single-use plastic waste.
 - **Be Energy Conscious:** Turn off lights, air conditioning, and electronics when not in use, and take shorter showers to conserve water.

Contact for Support

If you need any consultation:

Contact Person: Aslı Üçkuzular – CMS Türkiye

Phone: +90 535 490 06 22 | Email: asli.uckuzular@cms-rrh.com

Enjoy your time in Istanbul and savor the city's rich culture, cuisine, and hospitality!