



EUROPEAN CHAPTER MEETING

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Wednesday 21 – Sunday 25 May, 2025



SOCIAL PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY

Dolmabahçe Palace Tour for All

2.30 – 5.30 pm

US \$125

An English-speaking guide will take you to the Dolmabahçe Palace, to explore one of the most opulent European-style palaces along the Bosphorus, delving into its grandeur and captivating history.

This is a 2,5 hour walk to get you familiar with all that Istanbul has to offer in the Beşiktaş area. The Dolmabahçe Palace, built between 1843 and 1856 during Sultan Abdülmecit's reign, served as the royal residence, replacing the Topkapi Palace. Renowned for its stunning architecture, the palace features exquisite ceilings and room decorations embellished with gold, French Baccarat crystals, Murano glass, and English crystals.

There is no fixed dress code that you have to follow at Dolmabahçe Palace.

Depart from the Swissôtel The Bosphorus at 2:30pm for a 20-minute walk to the Dolmabahçe Palace. Coaches will be provided for your return transportation.



WEDNESDAY 21 MAY

Welcome Reception & Dinner at the Swissôtel The Bosphorus for All

6.30 – 10.00 pm

No charge, cost included in the registration fee



THURSDAY 22 MAY

Historical Highlights Tour for All

2.00 - 5.30 pm

US \$150

Join a guided tour to explore Istanbul's rich history and iconic landmarks, including the Blue Mosque, Hippodrome and Hagia Sophia. Discover the fascinating history and culture of the Ottoman and Byzantine Empires.

The Blue Mosque, known for its stunning blue tiles, was commissioned by Sultan Ahmet and stands as an architectural marvel of the Ottoman Empire. Join a guided tour to explore its rich history and immerse yourself in its captivating atmosphere.

Explore the Hagia Sophia, a site that fascinatingly transitioned from a Greek Orthodox cathedral to a mosque following the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople. Admire the stunning fusion of mosque and church architecture, featuring magnificent domes, minarets, and intricate mosaics.

Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia are functioning mosques, strict dress code:

Women are required to wear a headscarf, while both men and women should wear clothing that covers their shoulders and knees. Shoes must be removed before entering, and shorts, sleeveless tops, and revealing attire are not allowed. Additionally, displaying religious symbols or attire is not permitted. All visitors will also go through airport-style security.

Depart from the Swissôtel The Bosphorus Hotel at 2:00pm by coach.



THURSDAY 22 MAY

**Happy Hour at the Swissôtel The Bosphorus (16 Roof Top) for All
6.30 – 7.30 pm
No charge, included in registration fee**



THURSDAY 22 MAY

Dinner at Vogue Restaurant

**for First Timer Fellows, IAFL Executive Committee and European Chapter
Management Committee**

**8.00 – 10.30 pm
US \$230**

This dinner is organised exclusively for IAFL Fellows who are attending their first meeting. The dinner provides an opportunity for our First Timers to meet the IAFL leadership in an intimate setting.

Vogue Restaurant, recognized by the prestigious culinary guides Michelin and Gault & Millau, is one of the unmissable gastronomic delights of Istanbul, where modern, elegant and sophisticated ambience meet with impressive city views.

Make your own way to and from the Vogue restaurant at 7:30pm (no transportation provided).

Vogue restaurant address: Vişnezade, BJK Plaza, Süleyman Seba Cd. No:48, 34357 Beşiktaş/İstanbul (approx. 15 minute walk from the hotel).

Dinner at Leisure

(restaurant suggestions can be found on the [IAFL Website](#))

FRIDAY 23 MAY

**Spice Market & Grand Bazaar Walking Tour
for Accompanying Guests and Non-Practising Fellows**

8.30 am – 12.30 pm

US \$100

Prepare to explore Turkey's grandest bazaar, dating back to the 16th century. Enjoy wandering the backstreet markets like a local, shopping for textiles, jewelry, toiletries, rugs, woodwork, copper items, shoes, bags, antiques, and more on your way to the Spice Market.

When you enter the colourful world of spices, the guide will explain the miracles of the herbs and it will be possible to taste delicious Turkish delights. This visit includes a two-hour walking tour with a coffee break at Beta Han Courtyard.

Depart from the Swissôtel The Bosphorus by coach at 8:30am.



FRIDAY 23 MAY

Topkapi Palace & The Basilica Cistern Tour

1.30 – 5.30 pm

US \$150

Explore the realm of Ottoman sultans at Topkapı Palace, where you'll be immersed in a world of history, luxury, and regal secrets. Topkapı Palace, with a 600-year history, functioned as the epicenter of the Ottoman Empire, accommodating sultans and their court.

There is no fixed dress code that you have to follow at Topkapı Palace.

The Basilica Cistern, originating in the 6th century, is an underground wonder. Notable features include the iconic Medusa columns, ambient illumination, and an enchanting ambiance. It formerly stored water for the Great Palace and nearby structures, exemplifying impressive ancient engineering.

The Basilica Cistern does not have any strict dress code regulations. However, it's recommended to use footwear that has enough grip, given the potential damp and slippery conditions of the subterranean chamber.

Depart the Swissôtel The Bosphorus by coach at 1:30 pm



FRIDAY 23 MAY

Evening Party at Yalcin & Toygar Law Office for All
7.00 – 11 pm
US \$ 25

Depart the Swissôtel The Bosphorus at 6.40 pm on foot for a 20 mins walk to **Principal Sponsor Yalcin & Toygar Law Office**, to enjoy the party!
Address: Inebolu Sok. No:25 Ada Apt. D.11 Kabatas-Setustu 34427, Istanbul
Return shuttle coach transportation will be provided from 9 pm.



YALÇIN & TOYGAR
LAW OFFICE

SATURDAY 24 MAY

12.15 – 1.15 pm at The Swissôtel The Bosphorus
Community Support Activity - information to follow

SATURDAY 24 MAY

President's Dinner at Sait Halim Pasa for All
6.00 – 11.30 pm
US \$299

Located in vibrant Istanbul by the Bosphorus Sea, Sait Halim Pasa Mansion is a 19th-century Ottoman mansion renowned for its exquisite Turkish cuisine, crafted by an award-winning chef. The mansion has been featured in several films, including the 1970 movie *You Can't Win 'Em All* with Tony Curtis and Charles Bronson.

After dinner, enjoy an evening of dancing!

Depart from the Swissôtel The Bosphorus at 6:00 pm by coach to the pier, where you'll take a boat cruise on the Bosphorus for dinner. Return transportation to the hotel will be provided by coach.

