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Istanbul, Turkey

American Consulate General
Üçşehitler Sok. No:2
İstinye/Sarıyer 34460



ACS News

Official Newsletter for American Citizens in Istanbul



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Dear Americans,

We hope you enjoyed a relaxing summer. One of our newsletter readers suggested we provide basic information for Americans who recently moved to Istanbul. We think this is a great idea and have provided helpful hints, "So You've Just Moved to Istanbul" for new arrivals. For those who forgot to request an absentee ballot, there is information on how to register for the next election. Finally, we want to remind everyone about our new consular fees. We wish you a festive autumn beginning with a treat-filled Halloween next week.

Best regards,

Lisa Gisvold
Chief, American Citizen Services
U.S. Consulate General
Istanbul, Turkey

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So You Just Moved to Istanbul...

Hoş Geldiniz! Welcome, and congratulations on your decision to move to Istanbul. Istanbul is an exciting city in which to live, and we want to provide some basic information to make your first few weeks a little easier.

- Register with the US Consulate. In case of an emergency, we want to reach you so please take the time to register with us via our website http://istanbul.usconsulate.gov/us_citizens_registering.html.
- Procedures for obtaining Turkish work, study and residency permits can be arduous. US citizens are advised to abide by Turkish immigration procedures. Please visit our website (http://istanbul.usconsulate.gov/long_term_stay.html) for further information. U.S. citizens planning to remain in Turkey for more than 90 days must obtain a residency permit after they have arrived here. Residency permit applications are available on the Turkish Security Directorate's website at <http://yabancilar.iem.gov.tr/ikametingilizce.html>. The Istanbul Foreigners Police can be reached at: Emniyet Bloklari, Vatan Caddesi, Aksaray, Istanbul, tel. (212) 636 1850 or 636 1862.
- If you would like to apply for a Turkish driver license, please contact the Office of Traffic Police responsible for the district of your residence. For Istanbul, the office information is Gayrettepe Mahallesi, Bulent Tercan Sok. No.7, Gayrettepe, Istanbul, Tel: 0212-214 4205. You can also go to the following link <http://trftescil.iem.gov.tr> and choose "Sürücü Belgesi İşlemleri."
- What's the Turkish equivalent of 911? If you need to reach Turkish emergency services, the following numbers are helpful:
 - Police: 155
 - Fire: 110
 - Ambulance: 112
 - AT&T Access: 00800-12277
 - Gendarmes for out of city areas: 156
 - Med-line Ambulance: 212-4441212
 - Red Star Air Ambulance: 216-5880216
 - Electricity: 186
 - Gas: 187
 - Telephone: 121
- If you miss your daily newspaper subscription from the US, you can find English language newspapers in the large Istanbul book stores, such as Remzi, and DNR. Additionally, you can contact the English language versions of Turkish newspapers (like Today's Zaman and Hurriyet) directly to arrange for delivery service.

November 2 Election: Voting Updates

Did you forget to request an absentee ballot? Most states mailed the ballots for the November 2 election in mid-September.

Want to make sure you register and request an absentee ballot for the future? Go to www.fvap.gov/FPCA, click on your state on the map, follow the instructions and be sure to specify your preferred ballot delivery option. State election officials are now required to allow you to request receipt of your blank ballot electronically. Unless you specify a delivery option preference, your state will choose to send future ballots by mail and you may not receive it in time to vote.

Did you send in your absentee ballot, but want to check its status? A number of states now provide voters with a means to check on the status of their voted absentee ballots. Go to <http://www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html#svrvw> and follow the steps for your respective state (note that some states do not participate in this program) to check your ballot's status.



American Citizen Services Fees and Appointment System

New American Citizen Services fees took effect on July 13, 2010. A full list of current fees can be found at http://turkey.usembassy.gov/pr_063010.html. As you know, if you need a routine ACS service, you'll need to make an appointment online at <http://istanbul.usconsulate.gov>