

Europe  
**Rotaract**  
Mediterranean



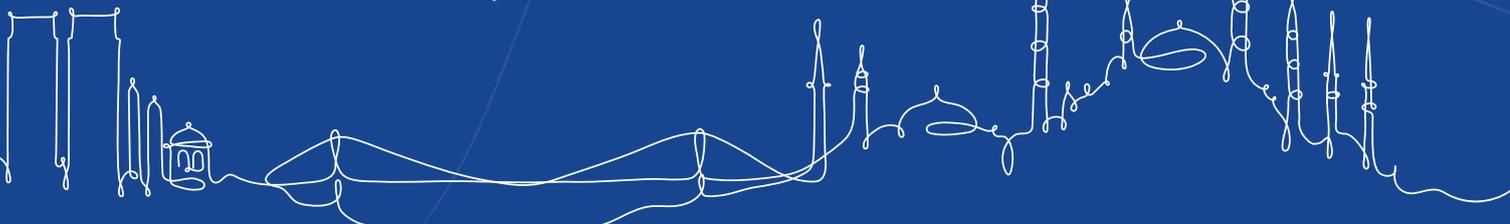
**Rotaract**  
District 2420



# Peace Conference Istanbul 2026 6-7-8 March



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## Table of Contents

WHY ISTANBUL?

Theme

Hotel

Important Tips

Agenda: 6th March

Agenda: 7th March

Agenda: 8th March

Workshops

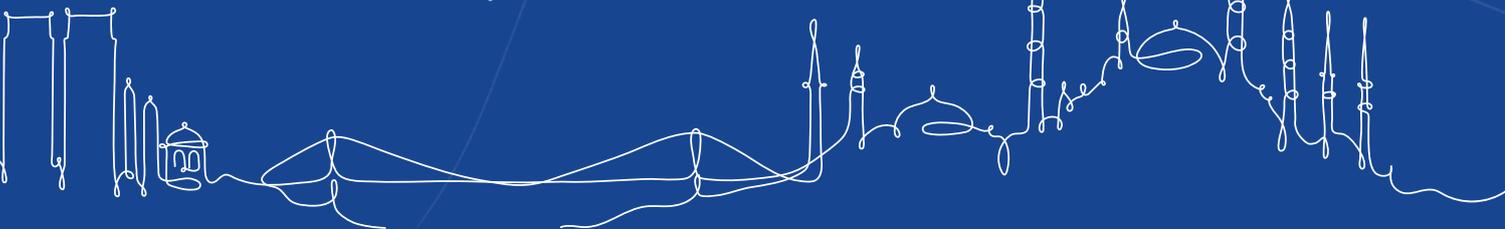
ShelterBox Stand

Useful Turkish Words

Recommendations



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## WHY ISTANBUL?

Istanbul is where continents, cultures, and ideas meet. As a bridge between East and West, it represents dialogue, diversity, and unity. It is also home to the Otto & Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center, one of Rotary's seven Peace Centers worldwide, located at Bahçeşehir University.

For centuries, Istanbul has been a center of diplomacy and coexistence.

Today, it continues to inspire young leaders and peacebuilders. Hosting the Peace Conference 2026 in Istanbul is a message: Peace grows where differences come together. This is why Istanbul. This is where peace begins.



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## Theme: Water & Peace

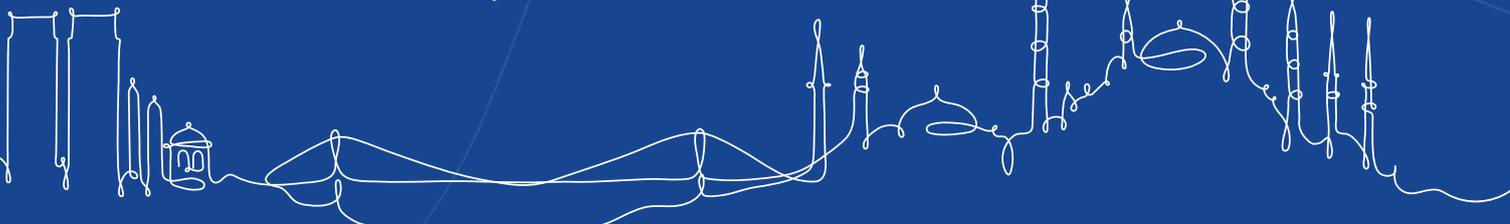
Water is the source of life, connection, and balance. It flows beyond borders, cultures, and differences. Where water is shared with justice, peace grows. Where it is protected, communities thrive.

In a world facing climate change and water scarcity, cooperation over water is no longer a choice. It is a necessity. Water teaches us that we are all connected. Every river, every sea, every drop carries a shared responsibility. Through dialogue, sustainability, and collective action, we can transform water into a bridge for peace.

Because when we protect water, we protect our future. Water connects us, peace unites us.



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## Hotel: Taksim Gönen Hotel / Istanbul



## Transport to the Hotel

### From IST Airport

- Direct Shuttle Bus From Airport to Taksim - HAVAIST (-2 floor at the Airport)
- For guests who wish to use the metro: Take the M11 metro from the airport and get off at Gayrettepe station, then transfer to the M2 metro station. Taksim station on the M2 metro line is within walking distance of the hotel.

( If you take the M2 metro line to Taksim Station, please exit via Taksim Square / AKM (Atatürk Cultural Center) exit. From there, you can easily walk to the hotel.)

### From SAW Airport

- Direct Shuttle Bus From SAW Airport to Taksim - HAVABÜS (Just outside at the Airport)



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## IMPORTANT TIPS

**Public transport payment:** You can use contactless Mastercard or Visa cards directly on public transport in Istanbul (metro, tram, bus, ferry).

Alternatively, you can purchase 1 / 3 / 5-ride cards from the ticket machines at stations.

**Taxi:** If you plan to use a taxi, you can request one via Uber for a smoother pick-up experience.



## Emergency Contacts

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March 2026, Friday

Friday, 6 March 2026	Arrival and Welcome	
14:00	Hotel Check In	
16:00	City Tour	
19:30	Welcome Dinner	A casual dinner for early arrivals to connect and network.
00:00	Return to Hotel	Evening at leisure.



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March 2026, Saturday

Saturday, 7 March 2026	Peace Conference Main Programme	
Early Morning	Early Breakfast (Suhoor)	Early breakfast provided for participants observing Ramadan prior to fasting.
08:00 - 09:00	Breakfast at Hotel	Breakfast for all participants.
09:00 - 09:30	Opening Speeches	Warm Welcome From Team
09:30 - 10:30	Opening Plenary	Peace, Foundations, and Ataturk Peace Fund



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March 2026, Saturday

10:30-10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45–13:00	Workshop I	Peacebuilding Leadership and Practice. Facilitated by Patricia Shafer.
13:00–14:30	Lunch	Countless options to choose from around the hotel
14:30–16:30	Workshop II	Tools for Peacebuilding: Introducing Systems Thinking. Facilitated by Bilal Al Ayoubi.



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March 2026, Saturday

16:30-16:45	Rotaract UN Days Presentation	
16:45-17:30	Peace Booth Walk	Showcasing Rotaractors' peace projects from across regions.
17:30-19:30	Free Time	
20:00	Gala Dinner	Participants observing Ramadan will be supported during iftar.



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March 2026, Sunday

Sunday, 8 March 2026	Departuress	Breakfast at the hotel and departures throughout the day.
Early Morning	Early Breakfast (Suhoor)	Early breakfast provided for participants observing Ramadan prior to fasting.
08:00 - 09:00	Breakfast at Hotel	Breakfast for all participants.
12:00	Hotel Check Out	



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# Workshops

## 1. Water & Peace Workshop



### **Patricia Shafer**

Executive Director, NewGen Peacebuilders

Patricia Shafer is an internationally recognized peacebuilding leader, specializing in youth engagement, conflict transformation, and sustainable peace initiatives. During the first half of the day, she will guide participants through a powerful and interactive workshop focused on the role of water as a catalyst for peace, cooperation, and resilience.

## 2. Tools for Peacebuilding: Introducing Systems Thinking Workshop



### **Bilal Al Ayoubi**

President & CEO of SHIFT Social Innovation Hub and Interim CEO of Bassme and Zeituneh NGO

A Paul Harris (+1) Fellow, he has held senior Rotaract leadership roles, including District Rotaract Representative (2011/12), leading 85 clubs in 10 countries. He is also a co-founder of Rotaract Mediterranean and served on the International Rotaract–Interact Committee. He will guide a practical workshop that introduces systems thinking as a tool to better understand complex conflicts and design more effective interventions.



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# Shelter Box Stand

ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that supports families with emergency shelter and essential aid items after disasters and conflicts. When homes are damaged or destroyed, ShelterBox helps people rebuild a sense of safety and stability by providing items such as tents, solar lights, water filters, blankets, and other life-saving essentials tailored to each community's needs.

📍 Visit the ShelterBox stand at the Peace Conference; don't forget to stop by!

You can explore our latest Rotary Impact Report (including the Rotaract section), watch our newest ShelterBox Impact Video on loop, and sign up via our QR code for email updates and the Global Ambassador programme.



**TENT**

PAKISTAN

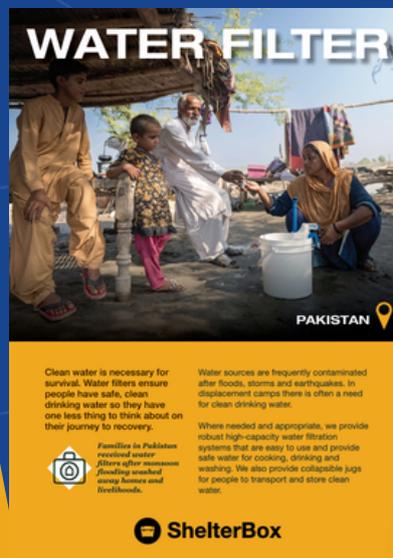
When building materials aren't available yet or land isn't ready to start rebuilding, tents are the best shelter option to give people their own space and privacy.

ShelterBox uses different types of tents depending on the climate, amount of time tents will likely be needed, and the average family size.

After disaster strikes, people often take shelter in collective centers like schools or community centres. Providing families with tents gives them a private space to begin their recovery and keeps vulnerable populations safer.

With the help of our partner *Islamic Relief*, ShelterBox tents were distributed to the South region of Pakistan.

ShelterBox



**WATER FILTER**

PAKISTAN

Clean water is necessary for survival. Water filters ensure people have safe, clean drinking water so they have one less thing to think about on their journey to recovery.

Water sources are frequently contaminated after floods, storms and earthquakes. In displacement camps there is often a need for clean drinking water.

Where needed and appropriate, we provide robust high-capacity water filtration systems that are easy to use and provide safe water for cooking, drinking and washing. We also provide collapsible jugs for people to transport and store clean water.

Families in Pakistan received water filters after massive flooding washed away homes and livelihoods.

ShelterBox



**THERMAL BLANKET**

MOROCCO

Whether high thermal blankets or lighter throws, ShelterBox provides thermal blankets with a sense of security after people have been displaced by disaster or conflict.

In colder environments, ShelterBox provides thermal blankets with a higher GSM (grams per square meter), designed to retain warmth and offer comfort during harsh nights.

In hotter climates, we may locally procure lighter blankets that are more breathable and culturally appropriate. This approach ensures people receive aid that suits their environment and daily needs, while also supporting local suppliers and economies.

Volunteers from Rotary and local groups provided ShelterBox aid items, including blankets, in Morocco after the earthquake.

ShelterBox



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# Useful Turkish Words & Phrases for Your Istanbul Adventure

## Selamlaşma / Greetings

Hello! – Merhaba!

Welcome – Hoşgeldiniz

Goodbye – Hoşçakal

See you – Görüşürüz

How are you? – Nasılsınız?



## Nezaket ifadeleri / Politeness

Please – Lütfen

Thank you – Teşekkür ederim

Thanks – Sağol

You're welcome – Rica ederim

Excuse me – Pardon



## Restoranda / In a Restaurant

Menu – Menü

Appetizers – Mezeler / Başlangıçlar

Main Dish – Ana Yemek

Dessert – Tatlı

Water – Su

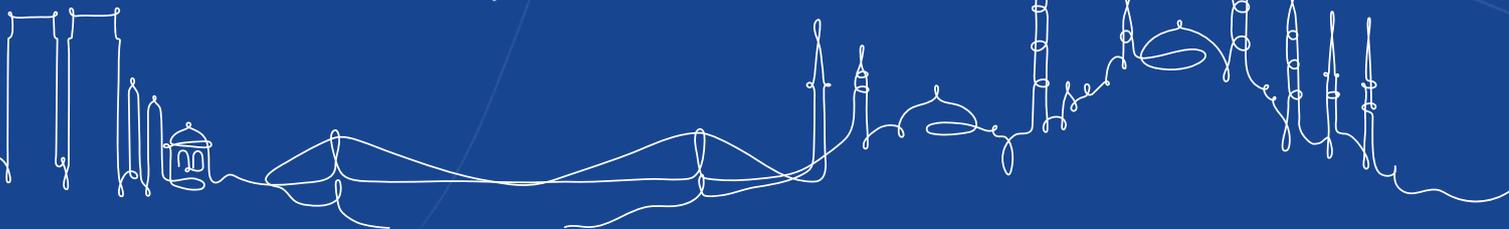
Coffee – Kahve

Tea – Çay

Bill, please – Hesap lütfen



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## Cafe Recommendations (Beyoğlu – Taksim – Karaköy)

- Mahir Lokantası — Classic Turkish home-style cooking
- Hacı Abdullah Lokantası — Historic Ottoman cuisine
- Beyoğlu Şaraphanesi — Local wines
- Gün Lokantası — Daily changing Turkish dishes
- Tomtom Kebap — Refined kebab restaurant
- Napoli Gusto Tomtom — Italian-style pizza
- Parole Cafe Restaurant — Italian-inspired café dining
- Bağ Pera — Winehouse
- Asmalı Cavit — Classic meyhane atmosphere
- Yakup 2 Restaurant — Old-school meyhane & seafood
- Mahkeme Lokantası — Local restaurant
- Fasuli Kurufasulye — Famous Turkish bean dishes
- Çok Çok Thai — Authentic Thai cuisine
  - İnci Patisserie — Classic patisserie, famous for its profiteroles
  - Müz — A botanical café offering specialty coffee in a calm setting
  - Baylan Patisserie — A historic dessert shop, iconic for traditional sweets
  - Karabatak — Popular local café with good coffee and a relaxed vibe
  - Postane Cafe — Cozy café inside a former post office, ideal for a break
  - Chado Tea — A refined tea house specializing in premium teas
  - Petra Roasting Co. Şişhane — One of Istanbul's leading specialty coffee roasters



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## Entertainment, Music & Cocktail Bar Recommendations

- Tavern — Classic cocktails in an intimate, old-school atmosphere
  - Comedus — Wine, cheese & charcuterie bar
  - L'Orient Birahanesi — Historic beer hall known for its timeless vibe
    - Sponeck Beer House (est. 1870) — One of Istanbul's oldest beer houses
    - TaproomX — Live music venue with craft beer and a casual, social atmosphere
    - Upperist — Panoramic cocktail bar with views over Istanbul and the Bosphorus
    - Mini Müzikhol — Late-night spot for music and DJ sets
  - Moretenders — Craft cocktails
  - Flekk — Alternative bar scene
  - Popstel — Social bar & events
  - Geyik Cocktail Bar — Creative cocktails in an intimate atmosphere



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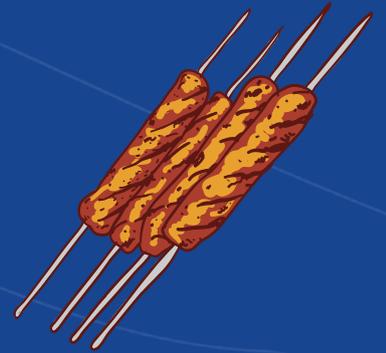


## Restaurants / Food Spots

- Mahir Lokantası — Classic Turkish home-style cooking
- Hacı Abdullah Lokantası — Historic Ottoman cuisine
- Beyoğlu Şaraphanesi — Local wines
- Gün Lokantası — Daily changing Turkish dishes
- Tomtom Kebap — Refined kebab restaurant
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- Parole Cafe Restaurant — Italian-inspired café dining
- Bağ Pera — Winehouse
- Asmalı Cavit — Classic meyhane atmosphere
- Yakup 2 Restaurant — Old-school meyhane & seafood
- Mahkeme Lokantası — Local restaurant
- Fasuli Kurufasulye — Famous Turkish bean dishes
- Çok Çok Thai — Authentic Thai cuisine
- Olea Pizzeria — Artisan pizzas with a Mediterranean touch
- Ficcın — Traditional Circassian dishes in a warm setting
- Pandeli — A historic restaurant serving classic Ottoman flavors
- 1924 İstanbul — A legendary venue offering Russian and Eastern European cuisine
- Çiya Sofrası — Anatolian home-style cooking (Asian side)
- Çiya Kebap — Regional kebabs from across Anatolia (Asian side)
- Yanyalı Fehmi Lokantası — A classic Anatolian restaurant with a long-standing tradition (Asian side)
- Aralık Kadıköy — Seasonal, modern meze and small plates (Asian side)
- Konyalı Restaurant — Refined Turkish cuisine with historic surroundings
- Zübeyir Ocakbaşı — Traditional Turkish grill and ocakbaşı experience
- Yetimhane 1867 Ocakbaşı by Giardin — Contemporary ocakbaşı inspired by heritage flavors
- Lokanta 1741 — Modern interpretations of Turkish classics
- Biz İstanbul — Contemporary fine dining with panoramic Bosphorus views
- Sen'den Karaköy — Seasonal cuisine with a creative, local approach



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# Shopping & Neighborhood Suggestions for Exploring

- Hafız Mustafa 1864 — Turkish sweets & desserts
- Galataport — Modern shopping & dining complex
- Ali Muhiddin Hacı Bekir — Historic Turkish delight shop
  - Tarihi Beyoğlu Çikolatası — Handmade chocolates
  - Mavi — Turkish denim & fashion brand
  - Şekerci Cafer Erol — Traditional confectionery
  - Çiçek Pasajı — Cicek (Flower) Passage — The most iconic passage of Beyoğlu, known for its lively atmosphere and traditional taverns
  - Hazzopulo Pasajı — Hazzopulo Passage — A quiet and elegant passage with cafés and small local shops
  - Atlas Pasajı — Atlas Passage — A cultural hub featuring cinemas, bookshops, and a strong sense of urban memory
  - Avrupa Pasajı — European Passage — Known for antiques, second-hand bookshops, and art-related stores
  - Suriye Pasajı — Syrian Passage — A reflection of Beyoğlu's multicultural past, now home to local trades
  - Aznavur Pasajı — Aznavur Passage — A lesser-known, quiet passage ideal for discovery
- Fener & Balat — Colorful streets & layered history
  - Cihangir, Beyoğlu, Galata — Passages, boutiques, bars & cafés
  - Kadıköy, Yeldeğirmeni, Moda — Seaside walks & local life
  - Arnavutköy, Bebek — Wooden houses & Bosphorus views
  - Nişantaşı, Teşvikiye, Topağacı — Elegant streets, boutiques, cafés & everyday city life
  - Kuzguncuk, Çengelköy — Bosphorus villages & waterfront strolls



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You don't just visit İstanbul  
you feel it, taste it, and find a  
sense of belonging. We hope  
it becomes part of your story,  
too and you'll love İstanbul  
as much as we do.

