



Info Before Arrival for Incoming Staff

METU 7th International Staff Week

12-16 June, 2023

TÜRKİYE: QUICK FACTS & FIGURES



Formal Name:
Republic of Türkiye

Working Hours: From Monday to Friday,
9.00-17.00 (mostly)

Declaration of the Republic: October 29,
1923

Official Holidays: January 1, April 23, May
1, May 19, August 30, October 29,
Kurban/Sacrifice and Ramadan Holidays

Capital: Ankara

Date Format: dd/mm/yyyy

Large Cities: Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Bursa
(four most populated cities)

International Phone Code: +90

Government: Unitary Parliamentary
Republic

Internet TLD: .tr

Official Language: Turkish

Electricity: 220 volts, 50 Hz, with round-
prong European-style plugs

Total Area: 814,578 km²



Population: 86,076, 722

Currency: Turkish Lira (TL); 1 Euro= around
21 TL

Type F, also works with plug C and E.

Time Zone: EET (UTC+2)



Türkiye is located between Europe and Asia as a peninsula surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Aegean Sea. On the Bosphorus bridge, which binds the continents of Europe and Asia, it is possible to see the phrases “Welcome to Asia” on one side and “Welcome to Europe” on the other side. Its diverse nature, history, archaeological treasures, and heritage are worth seeing. It is one of the unique locations around the globe where one can experience four seasons in one day. There are many reputable universities and technology zones as well as amazing beaches, spectacular mountains, skiing resorts, great museums, famous “Turkish Baths” and much more. Turkish people are best known for their hospitality, friendly nature, strong-mindedness and good humor.

ABOUT ANKARA

Ankara has been the capital of Türkiye since October 13, 1923. The city center of Ankara is the second most crowded area of Türkiye and among the first 40 of the world. It can be considered as the heart of Türkiye due to its proximity to Türkiye's geographical center and its function in Türkiye's progress. On the other hand, Ankara is one of the places in Türkiye where on which several civilizations in history lived, such as the Hittites, Phrygians, Lydians, and Persians. Ankara is famous with its very own breed of cat (Turkish Angora with one blue and one green eye), angora goat, rabbit, pear, honey, and its grape called "Misket Üzüümü".

Important Notes about Ankara:

Region: Central Anatolia, Upper Sakarya

Official Units: 18 districts within city limits and 25 total in the province

Total Area: 2.516 km²

Elevation: 938m

Population: 5,445,026 (2017 census)

Time Zone: EET (UTC+3)

Postal Code: 06xxx

Area Code(s): 312

License Plate: 06



Weather Conditions:

Ankara has a continental climate with cold snowy winters due to its altitude and inland location, and hot, dry summers. Spring and autumn are generally mild, but during both seasons sudden hot and cold spells frequently occur in the region. Rainfall occurs mostly during the spring and autumn. Because of Ankara's high altitude and its dry summers, night temperatures in summer months are not so high. Ankara's annual average precipitation is fairly low at 415 mm (16 in), nevertheless has rains fall during the whole year. The monthly mean temperature ranges from 23.6 °C in July to 1°C in January, with an annual mean of 11.7 °C. Average highest temperature is measured generally in July and August with 30.3 °C and the average lowest temperature is measured generally in January and February with -3 °C.

ABOUT METU

As a leading international research university, Middle East Technical University (METU) (www.metu.edu.tr) was founded under the name of "Orta Doğu İleri Teknoloji Enstitüsü" (Middle East High Technology Institute) on November 15th, 1956 to contribute to the development of Türkiye and Middle East countries and especially to train people so as to create a skilled workforce in the fields of natural and social sciences. METU's presence brought about new methods and introduced innovations to the Turkish higher education system manifesting METU as a pioneer of innovative education nationwide.

In 1956, the first academic program to initiate education was the Department of Architecture. Then in the spring semester of 1957, the Department of Mechanical Engineering launched its academic program. At the onset of 1957-1958 Academic Year, the Faculty of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Administrative Sciences were established. In 1959, the tasks undertaken to establish the Faculty of Arts and Sciences were completed. The Faculty of Education launched its academic programs in 1982.

Today, METU has 3 campuses with the Ankara campus covering 45^{km²} of land. There are a total of 41 undergraduate degrees offered in the five faculties of the METU main campus, and 176 graduate programs offered in the Graduate Schools of Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Informatics, Applied Mathematics and Marine Sciences. Marine Sciences conducts their academic programs at the Mersin-Erdemli campus.

Owing to the quality academic education that emphasizes merit and excellence in scientific, cultural and intellectual studies as well as the well-accomplished and qualified METU graduates, the University has become one of the most distinguished and respectable institutions of Türkiye. Today, the University is proud to employ about 760+ faculty (professors, associates professors etc.), 340 academic instructors and 1,160 research assistants, and have 29,800 students enrolled in its many programs. The total number of the alumni now is well over 145,000.



ACCOMMODATION

The following hotels are located in the city center and nearby METU main campus, from where you can reach METU campus by public transportation or taxi. As METU ICO, we are not liable of the facilities/features of the hotels and we strongly suggest our participants arrange their own accommodation and cover their accommodation expenses according to their needs and expectations.

- Dafne Hotel-<http://www.dafnehotel.com.tr/index.asp>
- Point Hotel (Ankara branch)-<https://www.ankara.pointhotel.com/?lang=en>
- Green Park Hotel-<https://www.thegreenparkankara.com/tr>
- Mövenpick:<http://www.movenpick.com/en/europe/Türkiye/ankara/hotel-ankara/overview/>

ARRIVAL

Depending on your flight, you may have to go through PASSPORT CONTROL and CUSTOMS INSPECTION in Istanbul or Ankara. If you go through customs in Istanbul, you will need to transfer from International Flights Terminal to Domestic Flights Terminal. Please ask before you exit. Airport personnel can direct you to the domestic flights terminal when requested. Check the direction signs.

You may need to exchange some of your foreign currency for Turkish Lira as soon as you arrive in Türkiye. Bank windows are available in both airports immediately before or after passport control. Exchanging money also can be done at the PTT, open 24 hours, at both airports. METU campus also houses a number of banks where currency exchange might be possible.

1. How to Come to METU Campus from Ankara Esenboga Airport

Ankara International Airport (Esenboğa) is about 35-40 km away from METU Campus. From Ankara airport to city center, means of transportation are below (e.g. taxi or airport shuttle buses called HAVAS or BELKO).



1.1. Taxi



If you wish to take a taxi the whole way, metered taxis are available from the airport to the city. In Ankara Esenboga Airport, there is taxi service for passenger transport 24 hours a day. More information can be found at: <https://esenbogaairport.com/en-EN/to-from-the-airport/airport-transportation/page/taxi>

Contact:

Tel: +90 (312) 398 0000/ext. 1258

Tel: +90 (312) 398 08 9798

One way taxi fares to central locations in the city are approximately 25-30 Euros (e.g. from the airport your hotel) and the ride will take around 30 minutes. By law, all taxis in Türkiye are metered. You pay what is on the meter; tipping is optional. If you use the airport shuttle service, from the drop off location, as drivers usually do not speak English, you should have your destination address on a paper to show the driver.

1.2. Airport Shuttle Buses

If you want to take shuttle buses from the Airport, we suggest you to get off at ASTI Coach Station (Main Bus Station from where the local buses for other cities leave). If you get off at ASTI Coach Station, you may want to take a taxi to METU Campus, which is about 3-4 km away from ASTI. Taxi fares from ASTI are approximately 100 TL. There are two shuttles that you can use:

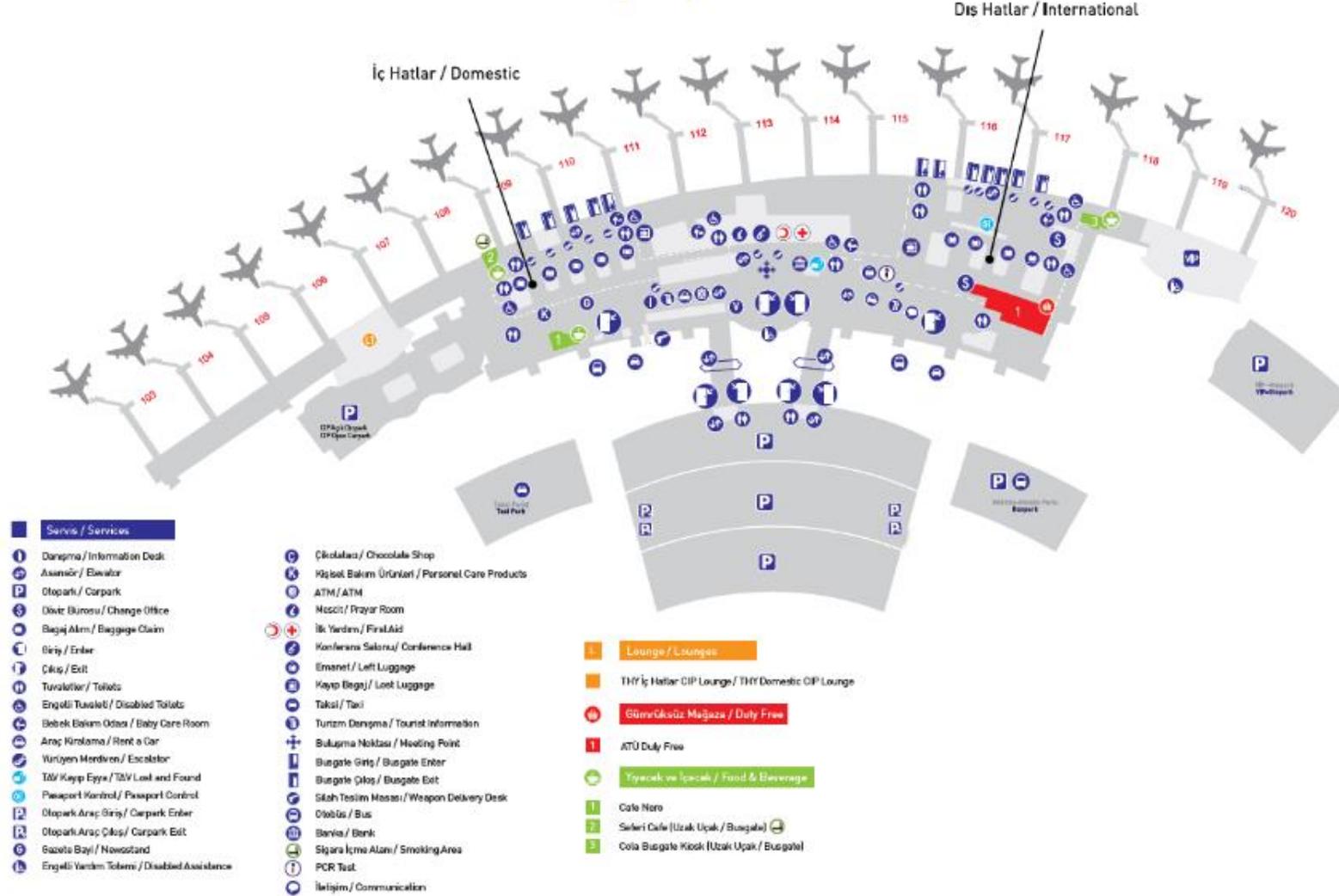
a. HAVAS Buses (more recommended)

b. BelkoAir Buses

Services between airport and the city terminal are scheduled according to the arrival times of domestic and international flights. In general, the buses offer services every 30 minutes from 05:00 a.m to 00:00; and every 60 minutes from 00:00 to 05.00 a.m. It gets approximately 45 minutes to arrive in ASTI Coach Station. (It may change depending the traffic and weather conditions). The ticket fees of the services are around 30-40 Turkish Liras (VAT incl.).



Ankara Esenboğa Havalimanı - Geliş Katı Ankara Esenboğa Airport - Arrival Level



2. How to come to METU Campus

METU is located about 7 kilometers from the center of the city. Transportation to and from METU campus is frequent and convenient. City buses (EGO buses), HALK buses and private minibuses (Dolmuş) have regular services from Kızılay (Güvenpark), Ulus (opposite the Radisson SAS Hotel and across from Gençlik Park) and Ayrancı (Portakalçiçeği Sokak) to METU campus.

Bus cards are required for EGO city buses and must be purchased before boarding the bus. City bus cards are in unit format. You can buy one-, ten- or twenty-unit cards. There are EGO booths at Kızılay and Ulus near the bus stops and on the main boulevard (Atatürk Boulevard) and at the Magazine Shop around dormitories area where you can purchase bus cards. You have to buy a ticket on the buses for HALK and double-decker buses. But you have to pay the driver the fare in cash on the “Dolmuş” (minibus transportation).

It is also possible to reach the campus easily in 10-15 minutes by taxi from the hotels that METU ICO recommends and taxis can be asked by the Hotel Reception desks.

3. Campus Transportation

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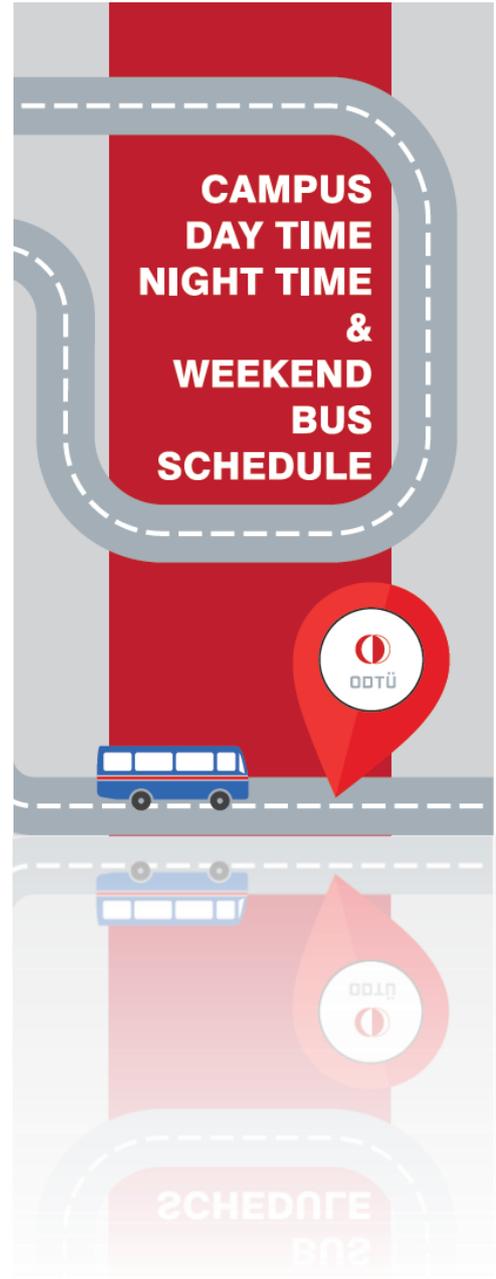
The main entrance to the ODTÜ Campus, 7 km. to the city center, is Gate A1 on the Eskişehir highway. In addition to A1, the gates A4, at the “100. Yıl” District end of campus, and A7, on the Bilkent road, can be used to enter and exit Campus. Access to the city is possible via the Ayrancı-ODTÜ, Ulus-ODTÜ and Kızılay-ODTÜ shuttle routes. There is also a shuttle bus between campus stops and A2 entrance where there is a metro stop. The shuttles stop in front of the Cafeteria until 18:00 hrs. on week days; after 18:00 hrs. and on weekends they stop in the East Dormitories zone.

Ankara Municipality’s bus services (EGO) and **subway (Metro) system** can be used for intra-city transportation. Detailed information about the routes and hours of EGO buses is available at the URLs <http://www.ego.gov.tr/EN/indexEN.asp> and <http://www.tim.metu.edu.tr/ego-hat-bilgisi>. EGO no. 133 bus can be used for transportation between ODTÜ metro station and campus center.

Campus-City ring bus services are scheduled to run at certain times of the day and frequent in-Campus ring bus services (approx. every 15 min.) are available for students and staff. There are also offices of certain intercity bus companies in the East Dormitories zone.

Campus Ring Bus Services

- Departure times of the ring bus services are listed at the URL: <http://tim.metu.edu.tr/en/kampus-ringleri>
- There is also a real-time interactive METU service which show rings at the time of the query: www.ring.metu.edu.tr
- You can find a printed campus map of METU in the METU bags you have. For electronic version, you may visit: <https://www.metu.edu.tr/system/files/odtu-kampus-haritasi.pdf>.
- For an interactive METU Ankara Campus Map, please check: <http://map.metu.edu.tr/>

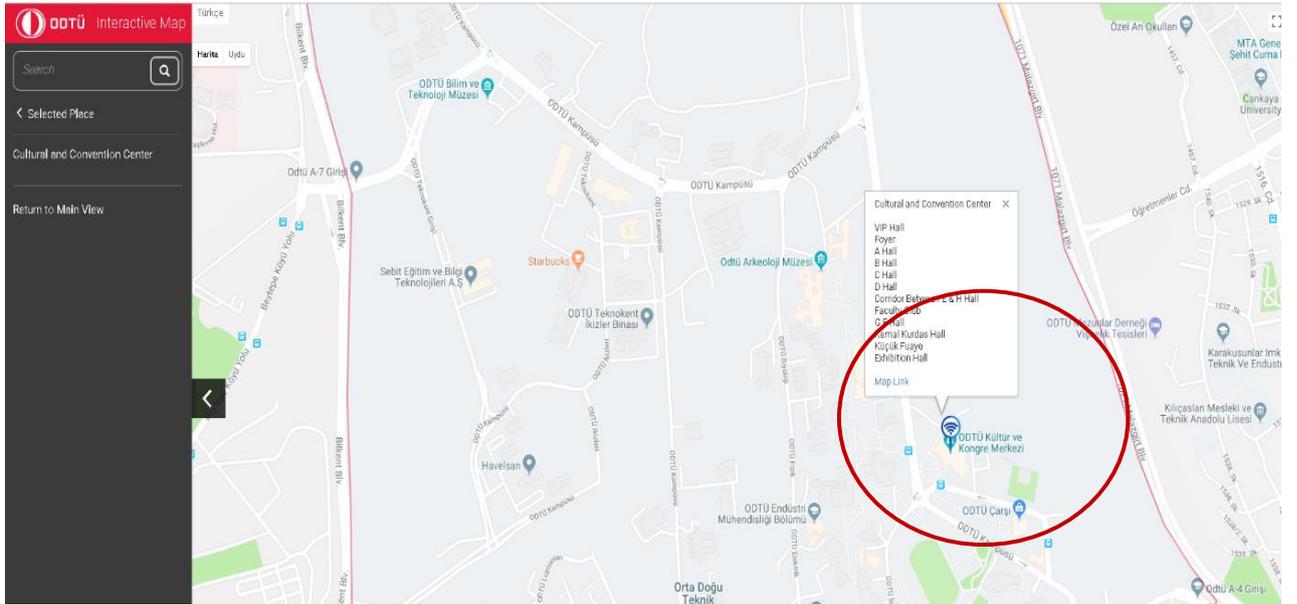


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STAFF WEEK CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP VENUES

- All of the sessions will be organized at METU, Culture and Convention Center (CCM). The exact location of Culture and Convention Center can be found in the below METU map:

<https://map.metu.edu.tr/place/262/cultural-and-convention-center>



USEFUL INFORMATION

a. Embassies

The contact information of the embassies in Türkiye can be accessed via: <https://diplomatic.mfa.gov.tr/missions.aspx?selMenuId=4>

b. Banks

There are branches of 3 banks, namely Türkiye İş Bank, VakıfBank and Ziraat Bank, in the Campus shopping zone. There are also ATMs of different banks at various locations of the campus. The banks on Campus operate during working hours throughout the week and their phone numbers are as follows:

Bank Phone:

- Türkiye İş Bank ODTÜ Branch +90 (312) 210 38 91-92/210 2774/210 11 94
- Vakıfbank ODTÜ Branch +90 (312) 210 10 57-58/210 38 99
- Ziraat Bank ODTÜ Branch +90 (312) 210 27 62/210 11 72/210 38 94

c. Post Office

The Post Office is near Türkiye İş Bank on the campus. Working hours for the post office is 08:30-12.00 and 13:30-17:00. All the telephone booths on ODTÜ Campus are card phones. These cards are available at the ODTÜ Post Office. The card phones can be found at the entrance of all the buildings of the university and at the post office. Students cannot make local, intercity or international calls via the ODTÜ telephone central. When necessary, they can use the ODTÜ telephone central only for in-campus calls.

The telephone number of the post office is +90 (312) 210 27 76.

d. Unit of Currency in Türkiye

The currency unit of Türkiye is Türk Lirası (Turkish Liras, TL), and other currencies are not often used in Türkiye. It is suggested Staff Week participants to carry TL with them at all times. The symbol of TL is as in the following:



METU 7th International Staff Week, 12-16 June, 2023

1 Turkish Lira is subdivided into 100 Kuruş (kr). 1 USD & Euro is around 20 TL (these figures may fluctuate daily). Most updated information can be found on the following link: <http://www.tcmb.gov.tr/wps/wcm/connect/tr/tcmb+tr/main+page+site+area/bugun>

Coins and banknotes are demonstrated as follows:

Coins: 5 kr, 10 kr, 25 kr, 50 kr, 1,

Banknotes: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 TL.

e. Medical Services

1. METU Medical Center

METU has a fully staffed (about 27 doctors on duty during working hours) Medical Center on campus that provides medical assistance, lab services and emergency ambulance service.

Medical Center Contact Info:

Tel: + (90) (312)210 49 68 ;

Emergency Hotline: + (90) (312) 210 49 60 i

Ambulance Call Center: + (90) (312) 210 41 42

<http://srm.metu.edu.tr/en>



In situations requiring further examination and treatment, patients may be directed to another hospital. There are many hospitals around METU.

2. 100. YIL (Private Hospital)

100. Yil Hospital is located within the 5-10 minutes distance to the METU Campus. In case of emergencies, it is advised for Staff Week participants to visit 100. Yil Hospital. Medical examinations are subject to some amount of fee. In order to learn about the fees, please check the website below.

Contact Info:

Address: Balgat Mahallesi, Muhsin Yazıcıoğlu Cad. No:54, 06530 Çankaya/Ankara

Website: <http://100yilhastanesi.com.tr>

Telephone: +90 312 284 08 08

3. KORU (Private Hospital)

KORU Hospital is located close to the METU Campus. In case of emergencies, Staff Week participants may also visit the KORU Hospital. Medical examinations are subject to some amount of fee. In order to learn about the fees, please check the website below.



Contact Info:

Address: Kızılırmak Mahallesi, 1450. Sk. No:13,
06510 Çankaya/Ankara

Website: <http://koruhastanesi.com>

Telephone: +90 850 307 0724



Other private hospitals in the neighborhood:

Bayındır Hospital-<https://www.bayindirhospitals.com/>

Medicana Ankara-<https://www.medicanainternational.com/en>

Memorial Ankara- <https://www.memorialhospitalsgroup.com/>

SOCIAL LIFE

a. Where to Eat?

1. Eating Places on Campus

The Shopping Mall in the campus-shopping district (called as “Çarşı”) has a wide variety of eating-places, open from 8:30 to 23:30, to suit everyone’s taste and pocketbook. For those who can spend a day at METU’s lake, Eymir Lake, there are also restaurants and fast-food kiosks.

2. Eating Places in the City

- Çukurambar District

Taurus Shopping Centre has a big variety of shops from clothing to sports, from jewelry to food courts. Moreover, it is located next to the Çukurambar district, which has a variety of eating-places. This district is pretty lively, and most famous places are Huqqa, Liva, Marco Pascha, Mado, Öküz, and so on.



- Söğütözü District



METU Campus is also closely located to the Söğütözü district Armada Shopping Centre, which has a variety of eating-places. The Armada Shopping Centre is open from 10:00 a.m. to 22:00 p.m and has a food court on the top floor. Between the two shopping blocks at Armada Mall, there is a well-known restaurant area, which is called “Armada Hayat Sokağı” in Turkish. In “Armada Hayat Sokağı”, there are a plenty of good restaurants, cafeterias and coffee houses (e.g. Timboo, Downtown). You can get a nice filling lunch or dinner here.

- **Bahçelievler District**

7. Cadde (7th Street) is the major shopping street in Bahçelievler and has a wide variety of inexpensive to moderate restaurants and sidewalk cafes and pastry shops. One should also look on the side streets of 7. Cadde, especially for small home-style restaurants that serve inexpensive and tasty Turkish dishes.

- **Kızılay District**

Sakarya Caddesi (Street) between Selanik Caddesi and Atatürk Blvd. is famous for its “Döner” (Meat roasted on a revolving vertical spit). This meat, or chicken, fish or meat balls if preferred, is put in a half loaf of bread with onions. There are eating places in this district with other types of food, also inexpensive and to be recommended. Yüksel Caddesi (Street) is a street with many inexpensive and good restaurants, cafeterias and pastry shops. On Kumrular Sokak (Street), behind YKM Department Store near the ODTÜ Dolmuş stop, there are small eateries. On Olgunlar Sokak (Street), running from Atatürk Blvd. to Kocatepe Cami (Mosque), there are also several restaurants, kebab restaurants, and sandwich and snack bars. Nearby on Konur Sokak, there are inexpensive restaurants frequented by students. Some of them are not open on Sundays.



- **Kavaklıdere District**

Tunus Caddesi (Street) is another inexpensive, convenient district for eating. Near the ODTÜ Bus Stop on Tunus Caddesi there are small kebab restaurants, cafes and sandwich shops. Prices here are moderate to moderately expensive. Arjantin Caddesi (Street) houses a number of good coffee shops that are worth stopping by.

b. Where to Shop?

1. Shopping Centers on Campus

The Shopping Mall across from the Tennis Courts has a number of shops, including a variety of clothing shops, stationary shops, bookstores and pharmacy as well as a variety of fast food eateries. Next to this mall is a Super Market where participants can buy a variety of personal needs and a small selection of groceries. In this general business area, there are hairdressers for men and women, a tailor and a shoe repairman.



2. Shopping Centers in the City

Some of the centers listed below are arcades (pasaj or çarşı) which are located on the ground and basement floors of buildings. These collections of shops are convenient and often inexpensive places to buy clothing, personal needs and household goods. Additionally, some of the major inexpensive and moderately priced department stores and malls are listed below:



- Taurus Alışveriş Merkezi (Konya Highway): Clothing, cosmetics, grocery, electronic equipment, movie theatre, restaurants, dry cleaning.
- Armada (Eskişehir Highway, Söğütözü): Shoes, bags, underclothing, clothing, cosmetics.
- Next Level (Eskişehir Highway, Söğütözü): Shoes, bags, underclothing, clothing, cosmetics.
- Real Center (Bilkent): Home equipment, clothing, shoes, restaurants, movie theatres, dry cleaning, grocery.
- CEPA Alışveriş Merkezi (Eskişehir Highway): Clothing, cosmetics, grocery, electronic equipment, movie theatre, restaurants, dry cleaning.
- Kentpark Alışveriş Merkezi (Eskişehir Highway): Clothing, cosmetics, grocery, electronic equipment, movie theatre, restaurants, dry cleaning.
- Panora Alışveriş Merkezi (Oran): Clothing, cosmetics, grocery, electronic equipment, movie theatre, restaurants, dry cleaning.
- Kızılay (Soysal, Kocabeyoğlu, Ülküalan Pasajı, etc.): Clothing and shoes
- Tunalı Hilmi Çarşısı (Kavaklıdere): Clothing, personal and household needs



c. Where to Go?

In Ankara, there are many attractive historic landmarks, museums, mosques, etc. Some attractive sightseeing locations are listed below:

- **Ankara Castle (Citadel):** Ankara castle whose exact construction date is unknown is as old as the city itself. It is a must see in Ankara since it is so alive in spite of its old history. There are a lot of amazing antique and souvenir shops and a museum.

- **Anıtkabir:** It is the mausoleum of the leader of the Turkish War of Independence and the founder of the Republic of Türkiye, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (aka. Father of the Turks). Anıtkabir features Turkish as well as Seljuk and Ottoman architectural and ornamental features. There are many statues, paintings, relics, towers and a museum.



- **Hamamönü:** The Hamamönü district, which is a place reflecting traditions of both the Ottoman Empire and Republic of Türkiye, is a unique place worth seeing. There are mosques, Turkish baths, museums, and parks.

- **Beypazarı:** Beypazarı is a town located about 100 km west of Ankara. In the Ottoman period, Beypazarı was a military base and was important for the local economy. Its carrots and mineral water are very famous. There are some museums, old buildings and many places to walk and picnic.



1. Cinemas

Following are the names and locations of some popular cinemas nearby. When screening world cinema, these cinemas show films in their original language with Turkish subtitles:

- AFM CEPA, CEPA Shopping Center, Eskişehir Yolu
- Armada Movie Theatres, Eskişehir Yolu No : 6/B Blok No: 188
- Prestige Bilkent, Bilkent Shopping Center No: 5
- Kentpark Prestige, Kentpark Shopping Center, Eskişehir Yolu
- Cinemaximum, Next Level Shopping Center, Eskişehir Yolu

2. Music

- Presidential Symphony Orchestra Hall: Talatpaşa Blvd 38/A Sıhhiye
- State Opera and Ballet: Atatürk Blvd, Opera Meydanı, Ulus
- Bilkent Symphony Hall: Bilkent University (Buses leave from the bus stop at Tunus cad. and pass by the National Library Bus Stop at Bahçelievler 30 minutes before the concerts and return to these places after the concerts.)
- For a list of places with live music (bars, eateries, concert halls, etc.):
<https://foursquare.com/top-places/ankara/best-places-live-music>

3. Museums nearby

- Museum of Anatolian Civilization: Ankara's most famous museum is located at Hisarpark Cad. Ulus. It is open daily from 8:30 to 17:30
- Atatürk's Mausoleum (Anıttepe Cad. Tandoğan): Open daily from 9:00 to 17:00, the grounds are a pleasant place for walking and resting
- METU Archeology Museum: Located near the Faculty of Architecture, the museum is open weekdays from 08.30 until 17.30 and exhibits items discovered from METU's own territories.

4. Art Galleries/Event venues nearby

- Cer Modern: It is a center in which you can find one of the most precious presentations of modern art with several exhibitions and activities in Ankara.
- ATO: ATO Congressium & Exhibiton Center host year round exhibitions and activities and worth to see.
- Kültür ve Kongre Merkezi (KKM): The Cultural and Convention Center of METU, which encompasses the most recent technological facilities, is designed to host local and international conventions, seminars, meetings, conferences, concerts, other cultural activities and related services. The center consists of nine halls, two foyers, a restaurant, support and service units and benefits from the rich facilities and resources of METU campus.
- Ankara has a great number of Art Galleries featuring Turkish artists. Here is an online list: <http://www.turizm.net/cities/ankara/artgalleries.html>

CONTACT DETAILS

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- Tolga Berk Koçak (berkk@metu.edu.tr)



Emergency Contact Numbers

In case of an emergency, you may use the relevant phone number from the following list:

- Police **112**
- Ambulance **112**
- Fire Station **112**
- Traffic **112**

Prepared by

Middle East Technical University
International Cooperations Office
ico.metu.edu.tr



Co-funded by
the European Union

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