

# Celebrate Rice

# Istanbul

June 8-10

## A Message from Rice President David Leebron

**During the years 1908 and 1909,** Rice's founding president, Edgar Odell Lovett, embarked on a bold undertaking — a journey around the world that would culminate in a singular vision for the new institution. Today, as we celebrate Rice's centennial year and prepare to welcome a second century of achievement and progress, it seems fitting that our community encourage and embrace Lovett's spirit of exploration. Ping and I write now to extend an invitation for you to join us on a very special centennial-year trip — which will include a companion program of academic events — to Istanbul, Turkey, during the weekend of June 8-10. I am deeply indebted to Mr. Ali Koç '90, who has graciously offered to assist in hosting Rice's delegation while in the city.

Among the more unfamiliar destinations on Lovett's trip around the world, Istanbul (then Constantinople) is the largest city in Turkey, which boasts one of the world's earliest human settlements and a vibrant, blended culture that is expressed in the nation's music, literature and architecture.

With battlegrounds that shaped the world, castle ruins and the palaces of great empires, its landscape is dotted by remnants of a tumultuous history that has left a deep legacy. In Istanbul, visitors can browse lively city markets, relax at a pampering bath or savor the traditional tastes of Ottoman cuisine. Our itinerary will include something enjoyable for everyone to experience, from alternative city tours to a boat cruise along the Bosphorus Strait.

Against this stunning background, and as a prelude to the Centennial Celebration lecture series in October, we will also be featuring a distinguished panel of speakers from Rice. This will mark the first time that Rice has held a regional Alumni College event abroad, a fact made even more meaningful because it takes place during Rice's centennial year.

Ping and I would be delighted if you would join us for this unique and exciting journey.

Warm regards,



**David W. Leebron**  
President

# General Information

**CONFERENCE VENUE** The conference will be organized at the Ritz-Carlton Istanbul, with its stunning views of the Bosphorus. Superbly located at close proximity to major social, business and cultural centers, the Ritz-Carlton offers an exceptional accommodation experience.

**WEATHER** Istanbul, located in the region of transition between the Mediterranean and Black Sea climates, has hot and dry summers with pleasantly warm springs and falls. Additionally, you may follow the weather in Istanbul at [accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com).

**EATING & DRINKING** The Turkish cuisine, which is one of the richest in the world, appeals to the eye as well as the palate. Turkish food that is found today in Istanbul is truly a living synthesis of Eastern and Western cultures. In addition to the many restaurants that serve traditional and international menus to satisfy the varied tastes of their guests, many nightclubs, cafés and bars offer fine menus along with a wide range of entertainment choices.

**ELECTRICITY** The electric current in Turkey is 220V AC. Most of the hotels have 110V converters in the rooms available for guest use. You may have the chance to find and buy different types of current and plug converters at the airport and in electronics stores.

**PASSPORT & VISA** Passport and visa requirements may differ according to country of origin. Please contact your travel agent or the Turkish Consulate or Embassy in your country for further advice.

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**PASSPORT & VISA (continued)** Contact information for Turkish Embassies and Consulates abroad can be found on our website. Visa information can be found at [www.mfa.gov.tr/default.en.mfa](http://www.mfa.gov.tr/default.en.mfa). Note: For US Passport holders, a three-month visitor visa can be quickly and easily obtained upon arrival at the Istanbul airport for \$20 per person (only cash is accepted).

**BUSINESS HOURS** Most offices and stores are open from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Stores are also open on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., while most of the large shopping centers are open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Banks are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Some shops inside the malls also are open on Sundays, after 1 p.m.

**TIME** Istanbul is +2 hours of UTC/GMT

**CURRENCY & CREDIT CARDS** Turkish currency is the Turkish Lira, TL. Please visit the Personal Currency Assistant at [xe.com/pca](http://xe.com/pca) to make currency conversions on actual rates. TL is freely sold and bought in hotels, banks and special exchange offices called “doviz burosu.” Car rental offices, hotels, above average restaurants, shops, travel agencies and gas stations will accept your credit cards. You can get cash with your credit card or cash card by using cash machines (ATMs) in bank buildings or street booths. Make sure to notify your bank that you will be traveling abroad if you plan to use your credit card.

## General Information (continued)

**SHOPPING IN ISTANBUL** Once called the city of a thousand colors and fragrances, Istanbul is a paradise for shoppers. You can find a very large variation of carpets, jewels, gold, leather goods, etc. while wandering through the old monuments, or you can visit the city's modern shopping malls where Turkish goods can be found. The shops are open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Istanbul is also home to the Grand Bazaar, which dates back to the 15th century and is known as the first shopping mall in the world. It includes 18 main gates and more than 4,000 shops. The Grand Bazaar and Spice Bazaar open their gates at 8 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Big shopping malls are open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Shops do not close for lunch.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN ISTANBUL** **Taxi:** Taxis are available 24 hours, seven days a week all around the city. Taxis operate by the meter and start with an opening charge of around €1. • **Boat:** Ferry boats, small boats, fast catamarans and sea taxis operate between the two shores of Istanbul—between Europe and Asia. • **Tramway and Light Metro:** Modern tramways and light metro operate in the European suburbs of Istanbul, the airport and Aksaray, mainly in the old city. • **Metro:** An underground metro system is available between Taksim Square and Maslak. • **Bus:** Public bus transportation has a wide web of services across the city. The fare is around €1. You have to buy tickets before boarding on a bus. You can get more information by visiting [www.iett.gov.tr](http://www.iett.gov.tr).

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**TIPPING** Service charges are included in the cost of all goods and services. Although it is not mandatory, a small tip is expected for good service. As a guideline, add about 10 percent to the total bill. A cash tip is preferred when paying by credit card.

**CALLING TO AND FROM TURKEY** The international dialing code for Turkey is 90, and the code for Istanbul city is 212. • **National calls:** 0 + city code + telephone number. • **International calls:** oo + country code + city code + telephone number. • **For Istanbul phone numbers,** dial the 011 prefix if calling from a U.S. cell phone.

Pay phones (operating with tokens, prepaid cards and credit cards) are available all around the city as well as at the airport, hotels, ports, major bus stops and touristic areas. Prepaid phone cards and tokens are widely available in nearby shops. Mobile phones are widely used in Turkey. There are three operators: Turkcell, Avea and Vodafone. You may use your own mobile phone and number, or you can rent a local mobile phone with a local Turkey phone number. If you choose to bring your own phone, notify your service provider.

**ATTIRE** Feel comfortable wearing casual clothing throughout the weekend. For the Saturday evening Gala Dinner, smart casual attire is suggested.

# Program

## Friday

June 8

**8:30 – 9 a.m.**

**9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**7 – 10 p.m.**

Tour participants gather in Ritz hotel lobby

Optional Private Rice Tours will be offered (*see Tours section of this brochure*)

Welcome reception and dinner followed by opening remarks from President David Leebron and John Boles in the Glass Room of the Ritz-Carlton Istanbul Hotel

## Saturday

June 9

**7 – 8:45 a.m.**

**8:30 – 9 a.m.**

**9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**12:30 p.m.**

**1 – 2:30 p.m.**

**2:30 – 5 p.m.**

**6 – 7 p.m.**

**7 p.m.**

**7:30 p.m. – 12 a.m.**

Breakfast at the hotel with panoramic views of the Bosphorus

Rice Alumni College registration in the Glass Room foyer

Academic lectures

Departure from the hotel for lunch

Lunch at Yesil Ev Restaurant — hosted by Mr. Ali Koç

Istanbul Old Town Visit (Hagia Sophia Museum and Hippodrome) — hosted by Mr. Ali Koç

Free time

Cruise along the expansive Bosphorus Strait and into the Golden Horn along the coast of Old Istanbul while enjoying a refreshing wine reception

Gala Dinner on the waters of the Golden Horn at Halat Restaurant after a private viewing of the Rahmi M. Koç Museum

The renowned Turkish travel guide who will be Rice's lead guide is Saffet Emre Tonguç. You can learn more about his background at [saffetemretonguc.com](http://saffetemretonguc.com).

More information about the social program in the afternoon can be found on our website.

## Sunday

June 10

**7 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**8:30 – 9 a.m.**

**9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Breakfast at the hotel with panoramic views of the Bosphorus

Tour participants gather in Ritz hotel lobby

Optional Private Rice Tours will be offered (*see Tours section of this brochure*)

## **Friday evening**

# **Edgar Odell Lovett and the Creation of Rice University**

**John Boles '65** William P. Hobby Professor of History, Rice University

## **Saturday morning**

# **The Future of the University in a Global Age**

**David W. Leebron**  
President, Rice University

**Lisa Anderson**  
President, American University in Cairo

**Umran S. Inan**  
President, Koç University

# **The Arab Awakening and U.S. Policy in the Middle East**

**Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian**  
Founding Director  
James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University

## **Featured Special Guests**

**Yigit Ergecen '14** Undergraduate Student in Architecture, Rice University  
**Shirine Hamadeh** Associate Professor of Art History, Rice University  
**Kerim Miskavi '12** Graduate Student in Architecture, Rice University

# The Ritz-Carlton Istanbul Hotel

The meeting and accommodation venue of Celebrate Rice-Istanbul is the Ritz-Carlton Istanbul Hotel, which was voted Best International Business Hotel by Condé Nast Travelers Readers' Awards 2009.

Istanbul lies at the crossroads of two continents, where Asia and Europe come together along the banks of the beautiful Bosphorus Strait. The Ritz-Carlton Istanbul hotel in Taksim Square stands in the center of this fascinating city, epitomizing its welcoming spirit and the harmonic convergence between East and West, past and present.

Bathed in Ottoman-inspired splendor that pays homage to the rich historical traditions of Turkey, this stunning Bosphorus hotel features:

- 244 well-appointed guest rooms, including 23 suites and 57 Ritz-Carlton Club Level rooms.
- Exceptional restaurant and bars offering delectable experiences.
- More than 2,403 square meters / 25,866 square feet of meeting and conference space.
- Laveda Spa featuring an indoor pool, sauna, steam room, Jacuzzi, authentic Turkish Hamam, fitness center and nine treatment rooms, including two couples suites as well as an outdoor spa during summer months.
- Just minutes from the Istanbul cruise port.

## Ritz-Carlton Istanbul Hotel Accommodation Prices

|                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Single Park View Deluxe Room | <b>€325 per night</b> |
| Double Park View Deluxe Room | <b>€345 per night</b> |

Full Bosphorus-View Rooms are available for an additional €165 per night.

- Above rates are for standard rooms, including breakfast.
- Above rates include 8% VAT.
- Accommodation will only be confirmed upon full payment.
- Hotel check-in time is 2 p.m. Check-out time is 12 p.m.
- If attendees come earlier or depart later than the academic program dates, they will be able to obtain the same room rates.

# Istanbul City Tour Options – June 8 & 10

Each tour will be led by a hand-selected guide known for his deep knowledge of the historic significance of Istanbul and its fascinating history and the sites we will visit in this exclusive access opportunity.

## Rice Tour I 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**SULTANAHMET • TOPKAPI PALACE • GRAND BAZAAR**  
**FULL DAY CITY TOUR. Authentic Ottoman lunch included.**

We begin our exclusive tour at the breathtaking **Blue Mosque**, adjacent to the Hippodrome, the stadium of ancient Byzantium, which held 100,000 spectators and featured objects from all corners of the empire. Of these objects, an Egyptian obelisk and a bronze sculpture of three entwined serpents from Delphi survive.

Next we visit **Topkapı Palace**, which, from the 15th to the 19th century, was the principal residence of the Ottoman Sultans. Topkapı Palace is now a museum and has unrivalled collections of jewelry, including the Spoonmaker's Diamond, the third largest in the world, as well as Ottoman court costumes and one of the world's finest collections of early Chinese ceramics, much of it gifts from other rulers. We also visit the **Imperial Armory**,

displaying centuries of Ottoman weaponry. Perhaps the loveliest features of Topkapı Palace are its courtyards, with their ancient trees.

We will have lunch at the beautifully restored **Karakol Restaurant** inside of Topkapı Palace Garden, offering unique views of the Bosphorus and illuminated palace grounds.

Next we visit **Grand Bazaar**, the commercial heart of the old city. Its 4,000 shops are full of treasures, including carpets and kilims, silks, jewelry, ceramics, icons and leather goods. As we wander through the Grand Bazaar, indulge in some Ottoman-style shopping.

**€100 PER PERSON**



## Rice Tour 2 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM • TURKISH AND ISLAMIC ARTS MUSEUM • SPICE BAZAAR  
FULL DAY CITY TOUR. Authentic Ottoman lunch included.

We begin our exclusive tour at the **Archaeological Museum**, located in the first court of Topkapı Palace. Osman Hamdi Bey, a famous Turkish archaeologist, diplomat and painter, founded the museum in 1883 both as a museum exhibiting ancient antiquities and as a school of fine arts. Over a million objects are exhibited in twenty galleries. One of the most outstanding pieces is the Alexander Sarcophagus, which dates back to the 4th century BCE. The museum also houses the Qadesh (Kadesh) Peace Treaty from 1258 BCE, the oldest surviving written international peace treaty signed by Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses II and Hittite King Hattusili III.

Next we visit the **Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum**, located in the Sultanahmet Square in the Eminönü district of Istanbul. Constructed in 1524, the building was formerly the palace of İbrahim Pasha, the first grand vizier to Suleiman the Magnificent. The collection includes notable examples of Islamic calligraphy, tiles and rugs, as well as ethnographic displays on various

cultures in Turkey, particularly nomad groups. These displays recreate rooms or dwellings from different time periods and regions.

We will have lunch at **Hamdi Restaurant**, magnificently overlooking the harbor, Galata Bridge and the historic Eminönü district.

The final stop is the **Spice Bazaar**, one of Istanbul's most colorful and bustling attractions. The Spice Bazaar is an L-shaped building, consisting of 88 vaulted rooms, almost all of which are now divided into an upper and lower story. Monumental gateways are at the ends of both halls, with chambers above each entrance way. The main entrance is in the southwest corner, facing the Yeni Mosque.

€100 PER PERSON



## Rice Tour 3 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**TOPKAPI PALACE • BASILICA CISTERN • CHORA MUSEUM**  
**FULL DAY CITY TOUR. Authentic Ottoman lunch included.**

We begin our exclusive tour from **Topkapı Palace**, which, from the 15th to the 19th century, was the principal residence of the Ottoman Sultans.

Topkapı Palace is now a museum and has unrivaled collections of jewelry, including the Spoonmaker's Diamond, the third largest in the world, as well as Ottoman court costumes and one of the world's finest collections of early Chinese ceramics.

We also visit the **Imperial Armory**, displaying centuries of Ottoman weaponry. Perhaps the loveliest features of Topkapı Palace are its courtyards, with their ancient trees.

Next we visit the **Basilica Cistern**. It is thought to have been built after the Nika revolt in 532 CE. It was known as the Basilica Cistern during the Roman period, as there was a Stoa Basilica above the preexisting one at the time. After the conquest of the city by the Ottoman Turks, it was forgotten. Rediscovered in 1545, it was used to water the gardens of Topkapı Palace. Today it has a rather

eerie and mystical ambiance. Clever spotlighting makes the water shimmer with colored dancing lights, and the water ripples from an occasional fish swishing its tail in exuberance.

We will lunch at **Asitane Restaurant**, featuring panoramic views of the Golden Horn and historical recipes from the kitchen of the Sultans.

Finally, we visit the **Chora Museum**. The Church of the Holy Savior in Chora is considered to be one of the most beautiful examples of a Byzantine church. The church is in the Edirnekapı neighborhood, which lies in the western part of the municipality (belediye) of Fatih. In the 16th century, the church was converted into a mosque by the Ottoman rulers, and it became a secularized museum in 1948. The interior of the building is covered with fine mosaics and frescoes.

**€125 PER PERSON**



## Tour Conditions

- These will be private Rice-only tours and will include shuttle service to and from the sites departing from the Ritz-Carlton.
- Participants are highly recommended to reserve their tour before arrival, as on-site requests will be subject to availability.
- All prices are in euros, and payments are to be paid by Visa/MasterCard credit cards.

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- Registration will be completed only upon full payment.
- Official language for city tours will be English.
- Confirmation will be made upon full payment of the tour price.
- Setur reserves the right to alter, postpone or cancel a tour without any prior notice due to unforeseen circumstances or in case of low attendance (fewer than 8).
- Cancellations made 48 hours before the tour date will receive full refund. No cancellations are accepted 24 hours before the tour date.
- All refunds will be processed after the conference.
- For more information on city tour options and for reservations, email Ms. Özge Erkut at [ozgee@setur.com.tr](mailto:ozgee@setur.com.tr).



## Registration Fee: €100

- Above rates are per person and include VAT. All registration fees are quoted in Euro; any other currencies will not be accepted.
- The registration forms will not be valid unless payments are received.
- Registration fee includes the welcome dinner on June 8, 2012, and the academic programming for Celebrate Rice-Istanbul.
- Accompanying persons are required to pay the registration fee.
- Your registration will be confirmed upon payment.

## Payment, Cancellation, Modification and Refund Policy

**REGISTRATION** Full payment (by credit card or by bank transfer) is requested when registering. Confirmation will be sent after Alumni Affairs has received payment. All cancellations and changes to your original registration must be sent to Alumni Affairs. One hundred percent of the registration fee is refunded on cancellation of the registrations.

**SEND CHANGES** Please email changes to [alumadmn@rice.edu](mailto:alumadmn@rice.edu) or call (713) 348-4057.

**ACCOMMODATION** Cancellation of hotel reservations should be sent to Alumni Affairs. Refund policy for cancellations is as follows:

Before May 15  
After May 15

50% of fee is refunded.  
No refunds.