

Welcome Information Pack

MHPSS-EN Forum
14 – 17 October 2025
Şanlıurfa, Türkiye

We are delighted to welcome you to the upcoming MHPSS-EN 2025 Annual Forum that will collaboratively be hosted by the Turkish Red Crescent and MHPSS-Hub. The event will take place in Şanlıurfa, Türkiye and between 14-17 October 2025. To help make your visit as smooth and enjoyable as possible, we've prepared this guide with practical travel tips and useful information about the region. We hope this will help you feel well-prepared and comfortable during your stay. In case you need support, please contact with **Ayşe Çelik** (ayse.celik@kizilay.org.tr), **Dilek Kuş Olgun** (dilek.kus@kizilay.org.tr) or **Emre Üstdağ** (emre.ustdag@kizilay.org.tr) via e-mail.

Workshop: From 14 October 2.00pm to 15 October midday

Forum: From 15 October 1.00pm to 17 October 1.00pm

Venue: Hotel Double Tree by Hilton, Şanlıurfa



Şanlıurfa

Şanlıurfa is one of the cities located on Türkiye's southern border. It is among Türkiye's significant cities in terms of history and culture. The city has many historical landmarks that date back thousands of years. Like most cities in the Southern East of Türkiye, the city has a rich cuisine and an authentic culture.

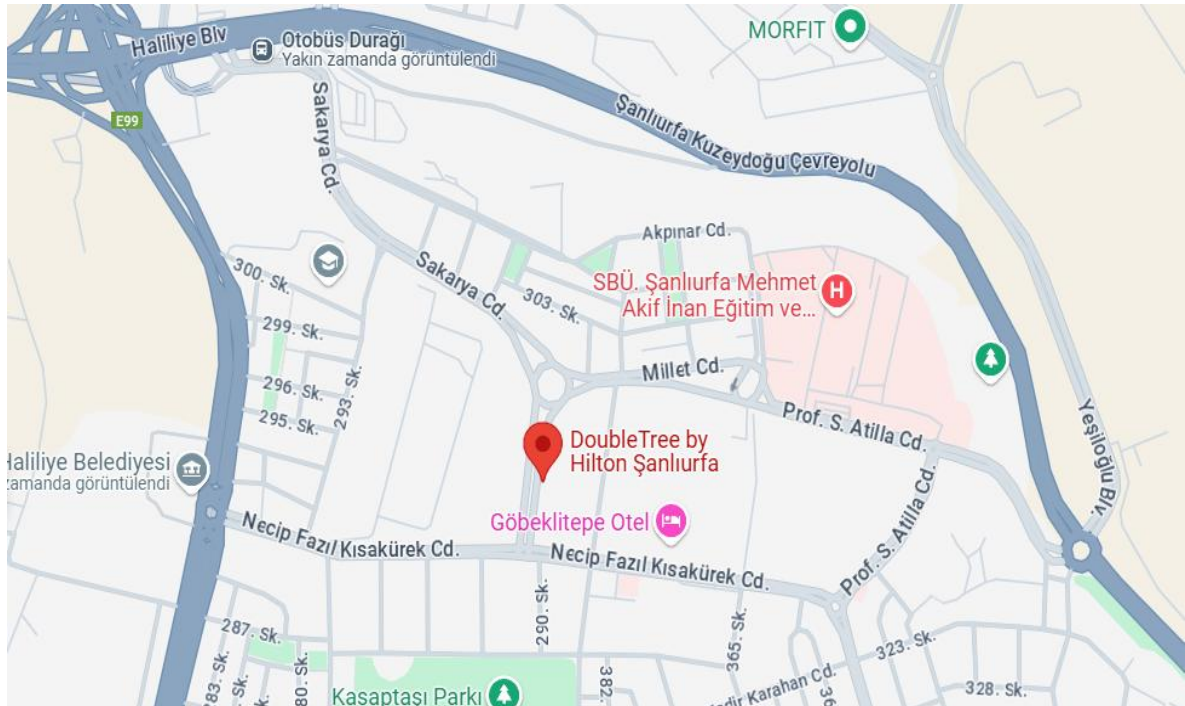
Hotel Information

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DoubleTree by Hilton, Şanlıurfa has been arranged for accommodation and meeting hall. It is located at a central location in the city, with walking distance of facilities such as mall, ATMs, hospitals, and various dining options. It is only 4 km away from the city centre.

The participants will be provided with a link that enables them to book the rooms at a discounted price. Please note that you'll need to book your accommodation within the announced dates to ensure the discounted price. The event will take place at the same location.

During your stay, the hotel price will include the breakfast while lunch, coffee and snacks will be provided during the meeting by the Turkish Red Crescent. Food for different dietary options will be available during lunch and coffee breaks. Dinner will be the responsibility of the participants. The hotel serves dinner for an additional price of 35-45 EUR, but there are many other eating options around thanks to the central location of the hotel, some of which will be included in this guide as our recommendations.



Security

Like many parts of Türkiye, the central districts of Şanlıurfa are considered relatively safe. Violent crimes are unlikely to occur and unlikely to target the foreigners. However, it is always

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safe to be careful about petty crimes such as pickpocketing and bag snatching. It is advised to be cautious when withdrawing money from ATMs. It is also not recommended to go out after dark alone and without the company of a local. In case a security-related incident happens, directly contact the police via the emergency line **112**. English language support is available with this line.

Because it is illegal to not carry an ID card in Turkey, make sure you always have your passport or a copy of it with you.

Do not accept foods or drinks, even as compliments, from strangers. Keep your bag and valuables close when using public transport. Smoking is prohibited on public transport and in all indoor spaces. Türkiye has strict laws against the use, possession or trafficking of illegal drugs.

Transportation to the City

GAP Airport enables air travel access to the city. Transfer flights from abroad are usually connected through airports in the city of Istanbul. Istanbul has two airports, which are Istanbul Airport and Sabiha Gokcen Airport. Both airports operate domestic and international flights. However, we recommend you connect your flight in the same airport and to avoid transfer options that require traveling from Istanbul Airport to Sabiha Gökçen Airport and vice versa, because you are likely to miss the transfer flight or lose time during taking the long distance between them.

Transportation to Hotel

There are two options to get from GAP Airport to your hotel:

- You can take public transportation available outside the airport terminal. These shuttles cost 160 TL (3-5 EUR) and drop you about 1 kilometer away from the hotel. You can ask to get off at the station called “Otogar Kavsagi” (Bus terminal intersection). Turkish Red Crescent teams will assist you from that point.
- You can take a taxi, but note that it can be a costly option due to the long distance between the airport and the hotel. Taxi fees may vary between 30-50 EUR. For recommended taxi companies and other transportation options, please check the following webpage: <https://www.dhmi.gov.tr/Sayfalar/Havalimani/Gap/Ulasim.aspx>

Transportation in Şanlıurfa

The main means of public transportation in the city is bus, but taxi is also common and available. To use buses, you’ll need a rechargeable travel card called Urfakart. If you use a taxi,

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try to use those recommended by the hotel, as fares are not standardized in Şanlıurfa and using a trusted taxi can help you avoid unpleasant surprises.

Weather

Thanks to the city's hot climate, the weather in October is expected to be between 20-30 °C, although it can occasionally drop to 15°C. The air is usually dry. The weather can cool down in the evenings. It is advisable to bring light clothes, light coats/jackets and sun protection such as hats or sunscreens.

Currency

Türkiye uses the Turkish Lira. While you may be able to pay in foreign currency at hotels, for shopping in the city you'll need to exchange your money for Turkish Lira at exchange offices. Exchange offices in the city centre tend to offer better rates than those in the airport. ATMs are widely available in the city.

Please be mindful that Şanlıurfa is a city where cash is used very frequently. Although card payment is also common and mostly available, carrying cash can be lifesaving.

Eating Recommendations

Because Şanlıurfa cuisine is mostly based on food of animal origin, many recommendations made here will serve meat or animal products. Although it is still possible to find vegetarian options, it may be a challenge to find vegan options with no animal products. Please note that the given prices are approximate estimations and may vary.

Urfa City Mall: The mall is the closest eating venue around the hotel. It is next to the hotel and has many eating options including fast food and home-made meals with reasonable prices. It is also possible to find vegan or vegetarian options in the mall.

Havrani Restaurant (Kurtuluş mahallesi 1009.sk 8 63210 Şanlıurfa merkez, 63210 Eyyübiye/Şanlıurfa): It is possible to find vegetarian and vegan options in this restaurant which follows the eco-friendliness principle. You can also enjoy kombucha and coffee varieties. Prices range between 4-10 EUR.

Çağdaş Ocakbaşı (Osman Gazi, 400. Sk. No:1 Tepecan Apt, Şanlıurfa Merkez/ Şanlıurfa): This restaurant serves traditional kebab-like or grilled meals. This restaurant is 15 minutes of walking distance to the hotel. It serves meat-based meals with prices between 5-10 EUR. It is

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a good place if you want to try kebab, grilled meat or *lahmacun* (a type of pastry with minced meat on), but it doesn't offer vegetarian or vegan options.

Nobel Cafe (Bamyasuyu, 126. Sk. 1 A, 63040 Haliliye/Şanlıurfa): Nobel Café can be an alternative if you do not wish to go with traditional cuisine or grilled food. Besides fast food options, it has vegetarian foods like salads, sandwiches, toasts, and pasta. The prices range between 4-10 EUR.

Gülhan Restaurant (Atatürk, Atatürk Blv 6. Sokak NO:1, 63100 Haliliye/Şanlıurfa): Apart from kebab and grills, Gülhan Restaurant has many home-made traditional options that may include vegetarian food. You can choose your meal from the showcase at the entrance that has traditional foods from Şanlıurfa cuisine and that change every day, or you can choose from a menu that shows kebab options. The prices are usually between 5-10 EUR.

Elçi Konağı (Vali Fuat Caddesi, Yeni, 1306. Sk. No:6, 63210 Şanlıurfa): Elçi Konagi is a historical building that functions as a hotel, and as a restaurant. While the menu is similar to other traditional eating venues, it offers an atmosphere of a historical and authentic building. Located in the old city, it is close to the historical bazaar, and museums like Kitchen Museum, Mosaic Museum and Archaeological Museum.

Emergency & Health

In case of an emergency, you can dial **112** to reach services like the police, medical service, or fire department. Additional contact numbers for Turkish Red Crescent staff will be provided.

In case you need medical care, the closest state hospital to the hotel is Mehmet Akif Inan Hospital while the closest private hospitals are Şanmed Hospital and Academia Hospital. There are numerous pharmacies at a walking distance. Some of them are Nur Pharmacy, Deniz Pharmacy, Çelik Pharmacy, and Seval Pharmacy.

Electronics

Türkiye uses type C, E, and F sockets. Make sure your devices are compatible.

Shopping

- *Urfa City Mall*: Located right next to the hotel, this mall has stores for clothing, cosmetics, personal care, and other needs.
- *Historic Bazaar*: A marketplace offering various souvenirs, cultural items, spices, and more. Nearby Bedesten Bazaar, Coppersmiths Bazaar Sipahi Bazaar are great for textiles like rugs, carpets or traditional clothing, and for copperwares.

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- *Gümrük Hanı*: Built as a caravan inn (an inn which trade convoys rest and accommodate during their journey on the Silk or Spice Roads), Gümrük Hanı is one of the most popular historical spots in the city. It has a traditional coffee shop and shops for souvenirs available.
- *Balıkligöl Bazaar*: Balıklıgöl is an important religious and historical landmark of the city. Again, it is a good option to look for souvenirs.
- *Museums*: Many museums in Türkiye have a coffee shop inside that can serve also as a souvenir shop and as a resting point.

Useful Turkish Phrases

It's hard to find English speakers in Şanlıurfa, so knowing these phrases can be helpful.

Turkish	English
Benim adım ...	My name is...
Sizi anlamıyorum.	I don't understand you.
...’te beni indirir misiniz?	- Can I get off at ...? (If you are using public transportation)
Nereden ... alabilirim?	Where can I get/find ...?
Lütfen polisi arayın	Please call the police
Hastaneye gitmeliyim	I need to go to a hospital
...-e nasıl giderim?	How can I get to ...?
Kayboldum, lütfen yardım edin.	I am lost, please help.
Yardım edin	Help
Bunun fiyatı nedir?	How much does it cost?
.....'ya alerjim var	I'm allergic to..
Hesap lütfen.	The bill, please.
Teşekkürler.	Thanks.



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Time Zone

Şanlıurfa follows Turkey Time (TRT, UTC+3) throughout the year, with no daylight-saving time changes. The local time remains the same in both summer and winter. Please consider this when scheduling your travel or meetings across different time zones

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Şanlıurfa.

Wishing you safe travels and a pleasant time during the forum!

**Turkish Red Crescent
Psychosocial Services**