

Worldcue[®] Alert

Severity: Critical Alert

Security: UPDATE 2: Ataturk Airport (IST) in Istanbul, Turkey, reopens early June 29. At least 36 people killed, 147 injured. No claim of responsibility.

This alert affects Turkey

This alert began 29 Jun 2016 04:54 GMT and is scheduled to expire 01 Jul 2016 23:59 GMT.

- **Incident:** Suicide bombing
- **Location:** Ataturk Airport, Istanbul
- **Time/Date:** Around 2200 June 28
- **Fatalities (Injuries):** 36+ (147+)

Updated Information

Flight operations have resumed at Istanbul's Ataturk International Airport (IST) early morning June 29 in the wake of a terror attack late June 28 that killed at least 36 people and injured another 147 ([map](#)). The casualty count could still increase. The attack caused considerable damage to the international terminal; despite resuming operations, international flights at IST could be delayed, curtailed, or even operated out of Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen Airport (SAW) due to the amount of damage sustained. Stranded passengers have been transferred to area hotels. Expect ancillary disruptions across the Turkish Airlines (TK) network, as most operations have been suspended through at least June 29.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has lifted a ground stop on all US direct flights to and from IST; however, Air Canada (AC) has canceled all direct flights to IST slated for June 29. Ten flights from IST to US destinations already in the air during the attack were isolated and searched upon landing, after which they were allowed to proceed to their gates.

Turkish police and military personnel will almost certainly mobilize a massive, nationwide security response to the incident. Expect road closures and ground transport disruptions in the vicinity of the airport. In the wake of the incident, the Turkish security apparatus is likely to crack down on groups and individuals suspected of involvement. Police will probably conduct anti-terror raids across Istanbul.

Three suicide bombers armed with suicide vests and automatic weapons attacked the departures area of the terminal around 2200 June 28. At least two of them fired on passengers and security personnel indiscriminately before reaching the first security checkpoint in the airport's international terminal, where they detonated their explosives. Though no group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, Turkish authorities said that preliminary evidence strongly suggests that Islamic State (IS) was responsible. US authorities are in agreement, and the attack bears many hallmarks of previous IS attacks.

Advice

Allow additional time for travel in Turkey due to heightened security; contact airlines for information on the status of flights to/from IST and SAW. Expect greatly increased security at other airports across Turkey. Do not check out of hotels until onward transport is confirmed. Be polite and cooperative if engaged by security personnel. Maintain contact with your diplomatic mission. Let family and trusted contacts know your itinerary and check in at regular intervals.

Resources

Ataturk Airport (Turkish): www.ataturkairport.com

Sabiha Gokcen Airport (Turkish): www.sabihagokcen.aero

Related Advice: [Recognizing suspicious objects and the threat of hidden explosives while traveling.](#)

Related Advice: [General guidance for persons living overseas or on extended visits, particularly in high risk destinations and during time of unrest or war.](#)

Related Advice: [General guidelines to protect yourself against terrorism.](#)

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