

Spring Break is here! This long awaited week off from university is perfect for travelling somewhere new, visiting family at home, or perhaps for catching up on that pile of schoolwork. Here are some tips to follow so you can come back from spring break relaxed and ready to successfully complete the semester at KU.

- Please check our [website](#) for details on travelling while at KU.
- Check your visa type and be aware of any travel restrictions, like if you need a visa to travel to another country
- If you have a residence permit, this will allow you to travel with multiple entries for the duration of your residence permit
- Make sure your travel documents and passport are not expiring soon
- Check your insurance status and make sure you are covered for any international travel
- Have copies of any important documents - carry one set with you and leave another set with trusted family or friends
- If you have any problems or questions, contact [ICO](#) right away and do not rely on a friend's or the internet's advice
- Do not forget to carry all pertinent travel documents and identity cards etc while travelling
- Try to make your travel plans early to avoid unnecessary complications
- Research and have a plan before you leave so you are well-prepared
- Pack smart
- Stick to a planned budget to avoid financial stress
- Communicate your travel plans with friends and family
- Be aware of your surroundings and prepare for the unknown and always be safe
- Choose transportation wisely and be cautious with strangers, especially if you are alone
- Make sure you know the contact information of KU/[ICO](#), friends, family, your embassy, emergency numbers at your destination
- Ensure that your cell phone plans etc are up to date for international travel or get an international phone card
- Make sure you have your chargers with you and any electrical adaptors
- Make smart food and drink choices, and stay hydrated
- Spring break is the time to recharge, so make sure you get some sleep and rest
- Schedules and working hours will change during spring break; you can check the updated times on the KU mobile app or through KUDaily emails
- The Koç University Health Center will be working during spring break

Staying in Istanbul during spring break but not sure what to do? See below for some suggestions for activities, sightseeing, and cultural events in Istanbul.

The Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKVS) is hosting the 37th Istanbul Film Festival from April 6-17, and it's the biggest international cinema event of Turkey. For more information on the program and tickets, you can visit [Yabangee's website](#) or the official [IKVS website](#).

Celebrate spring in April with the Istanbul Tulip Festival. Planted to form beautiful designs, thousands and thousands of tulips bloom in the city's parks and public squares. Emirgan Park is the perfect place to experience this festival. Check out this [article](#) for more details. Emirgan Park is on a hill overlooking the Bosphorus and features extensive gardens and trails, as well as several restored villas and cafes. The park is also very close to Sakıp Sabancı Museum.

Take a trip to Beşiktaş and visit Dolmabahçe Palace and the nearby museums like the Naval Museum and the National Palaces Painting Museum. Don't forget to take your student or faculty ID card with you to get a discount. Beşiktaş is a great starting point for some sightseeing in Istanbul. Take a walk along the shore or take the tram to Karaköy, and maybe stop at one of the hip cafes and restaurants on Rıhtım Caddesi (street). From there it is easy to cross the Galata Bridge to Eminönü. See the fishermen on the bridge and maybe try a fish sandwich (balık ekmek). Or you can walk up the hill to the Galata Tower or take the historical funicular and then walk along İstiklal Caddesi (street) in Taksim.

If you have not already done so, spring break is a great time to finally see the attractions in Eminönü and Sultanahmet. Walk through the Spice Bazaar (Mısır Çarşısı) and the Grand Bazaar (Kapalı Çarşı). Watch out for tourist prices though. See the splendors of the old city while walking around Sultanahmet Square, such as Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, and Topkapı Palace. Maybe you can try a traditional Turkish bath (hamam) or try some traditional Turkish desserts like Turkish delight (lokum) or baklava.

Take a ferry to Üsküdar and walk along the shore. There are many places to sit by the water where you can have some simit and tea and enjoy the stunning view of the city. You can also take a boat to the Maiden's Tower and explore.

For something closer to Koç University, try out the ice skating rink on campus, or go down to Sarıyer and take a walk along the Bosphorus. There are many places to stop and have a bite to eat, like the Kireçburnu Bakery. Or take a trip to the Black Sea coast and have a traditional Turkish breakfast in Garipçe.