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International Conference on Oriental Carpets, Istanbul

ICOC-XV, the 15th edition of the **International Conference on Oriental Carpets**, held in partnership with the Istanbul Carpet Exporters' Association (IHIB), will take place from **6–9 June 2024** at **The Marmara Taksim** in Istanbul.

Academic sessions, exploring the oriental carpets of yesterday and today and the future of tradition, will

be held within The Marmara. This five-star hotel will also host a dealer's fair, featuring exhibitors selected by the organisation team.

Exhibitions including works from public and private collections will showcase the variety of techniques and materials used in rugs throughout the ages. Rugs from the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum, the magnificent rug collection of Topkapi Palace and kilims, flatweaves and textiles from private collections will be displayed at the historic Tophane during the conference. Several other exhibitions are planned, including a contemporary exhibition that relates to 'The Future of Tradition'. In addition, some dealers will organise private exhibitions at their showrooms. The programme will be available in March 2024.

A registration pass will grant visitors to ICOC-XV access to the entire spectrum of events, including the opening gala, exhibition openings and academic sessions, as well as entry to certain museums.

Pre- and Post-Conference Tours: Exploring Anatolia

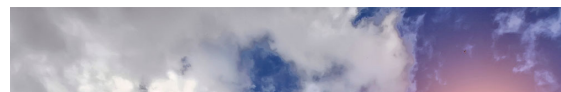
Turkey has been the home of weaving for many centuries and has much to offer in the way of cultural heritage. Pre- and post-conference tours have been scheduled to grant conference attendees the opportunity to see a range of collections from the museums, workshops and villages of Turkey.

From 1–6 June 2024, there will be a tour around Central Anatolia which will take visitors from Ankara to Konya, concluding in magnificent Cappadocia. Participants will have chance to stop at the 13th-century Sultanhani Caravanserai, built during the Seljuk period and the mayor of Sultanhani is planning to hold an exhibition of the rugs from the region.

There are two choices of post-conference tours. The first visits west Anatolian, leaving Istanbul for Izmir on 9 June. After visiting the Arkas Art Bornova—a cultural centre which recently opened to showcase the Arkas Collection of classical period Ottoman rugs—the tour will continue to Bergama, a trade centre known as Pergamon in 281 BC, which still has weaving workshops in the city centre and in neighbouring villages.

The second option will depart Istanbul for Gaziantep on 9 June to explore the latest excavations in the southeast of Anatolia. Participants will have a chance to see the renowned Zeugma Mosaic Museum, before travelling on to Şanlıurfa to see the Neolithic archaeological site of Göbekli Tepe, home to the oldest man-made place of worship yet discovered, dating to 10,000 BCE.

Find out more and register





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