

Murder on the Istanbul Express

The luxurious *Istanbul Express* takes three days to travel between Istanbul, Turkey and Paris, France. The train line is lavishly opulent and has a glowing reputation. Tonight, some of Europe's most notable citizens and travelers (and some who are not so notable) are journeying in style through the European countryside.

Two days ago (June 29, 1914), just before the train left Istanbul, newspapers announced that Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, had been assassinated in neighboring Bosnia. Everyone is now on edge—this could be the start of a great war.

A further trouble is the discovery of a dead body in the kitchen car this evening. Selda Zaim, the maid of Turkish merchant Esra Hoca, appears to have been bludgeoned over the head with a cooking pot.

It is now midnight and only a few hours until the *Istanbul Express* arrives in Paris and the proper authorities can investigate the crime. But until then, there are many mysteries to unfold...

Who murdered Selda Zaim?

What do you get with *Murder on the Istanbul Express*?

- A step-by-step guide on how to run the game.
- Character booklets for each guest, including background, goals and objectives, rules, and special abilities.
- Item cards for each guest.
- Handouts and other essential items.
- The solution!

How many people are needed for *Murder on the Istanbul Express*?

Murder on the Istanbul Express is for 7 to 11 guests—plus one host (the game coordinator). The step-by-step guide explains which characters to omit if you have fewer than 11 guests (you do need at least 7, however).

The characters may be played by anyone of any gender.

And if you have even more guests, we have a few free extra characters for *Murder on the Istanbul Express* available on our website.

How does *Murder on the Istanbul Express* work?

Murder on the Istanbul Express runs for three or four hours and suits a buffet meal. The host acts as organizer, responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly. The host does not count towards the maximum or minimum number of players.

The guests are all present aboard the *Istanbul Express*, either as passengers or crew. They each have their own goals, and how they achieve these goals is up to them. *Murder on the Istanbul Express* is an evening of intrigue and murder!

Cast list

Passengers

- **Pat Dijon:** Police inspector from Paris
- **Max Fairsonne:** Turkish sculptor
- **Esra Hoca:** Turkish merchant who sells luxurious cashmere
- **Sava Hodgekiss:** Famous chemist from Romania
- **Sam Lively:** American inventor
- **Jay Middleton:** British professor of archaeology, based in Budapest
- **Hersch Muller:** German attorney
- **Alexe Petrescu:** Romanian tourist and museum fanatic

Train crew

- **Marin Aromblast:** Bulgarian waiter
- **Lou Gardet:** French conductor
- **Battista Giovanni:** Italian cook



Istanbul Gazette

June 29, 1914

WAR IS COMING!

Breaking news! The Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated yesterday while visiting the neighboring country of Bosnia. Ferdinand was inspecting the imperial armed forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but the inspection was unfortunately cut short by this very grave incident. Serbian nationalists are likely behind this assassination.

This puts an already tense situation amongst our European nations ever nearer its breaking point. As we are sure our readers are aware, Serbia appears to have Russia's support along with (most likely) France, Belgium, and Great Britain. Moreover, if Austria-Hungary is pushed to the edge by this incident and comes into conflict with Serbia, Germany will likely soon follow. Thus, it would appear that a great war is almost inevitable now.

MUSEUM THIEF AT LARGE

Regrettably, more bad news has been discovered by reporters here at the *Istanbul Gazette*; we must inform our readers that the extraordinary Alexander the Great travelling museum collection has been stolen! The collection had been on display in the National Museum of Romania in Bucharest. But a thief, perhaps aided by one or more accomplices, has made off with the entire collection. Among the artifacts were silver weapons, clothing, and other adornments owned by the ancient conqueror of this region who lived over 2000 years ago.

THE FUTURE OF RADIO

Experts at the University of Istanbul have been excited to spend the last six months conducting research and development with American inventor Sam Lively. According to Dean Alkan Koz at the School of Technology, "Sam has been invaluable to advancing Turkish understanding of radio technology. I only hope that our help in developing the new carbon transmitter coil, which will be a key component in long-distance radio, was of as great a value as the

knowledge and experience that Sam Lively shared with us. We will be forever grateful for this extended visit."

Dean Koz assured us that Sam Lively's new carbon transmitter coil will carry the radio industry forward for the coming decade. Sam Lively will travel to Paris on the Istanbul Express, then back to the United States by steamship.

THE GOSSIP COLUMN

Turkish merchant Esra Hoca (of the famous Hoca brand of cashmere sweaters) will be taking an upcoming trip to visit Paris hoping to market the Hoca sweater in the finest Parisian boutiques. This would be a great boon to the Turkish economy in terms of export and trade if a deal can be struck during Hoca's visit to Paris.

Famous Romanian chemist Sava Hodgekiss has recently been travelling in the region while taking a well-earned rest, after making many recent advances in radioactive chemistry! However, we're now hearing reports that Hodgekiss will be touring other European cities on our very own Istanbul Express.

Nationally-renowned sculptor from Turkey, Max Fairsonne, is touring Europe. Chisel in hand, Fairsonne plans to reveal just a taste of Turkish culture to the larger world. We spoke briefly with Fairsonne after hearing about the tour: "Sculpting is amazing. I just never get tired of sculpting!" the artist confided.

The Istanbul Express

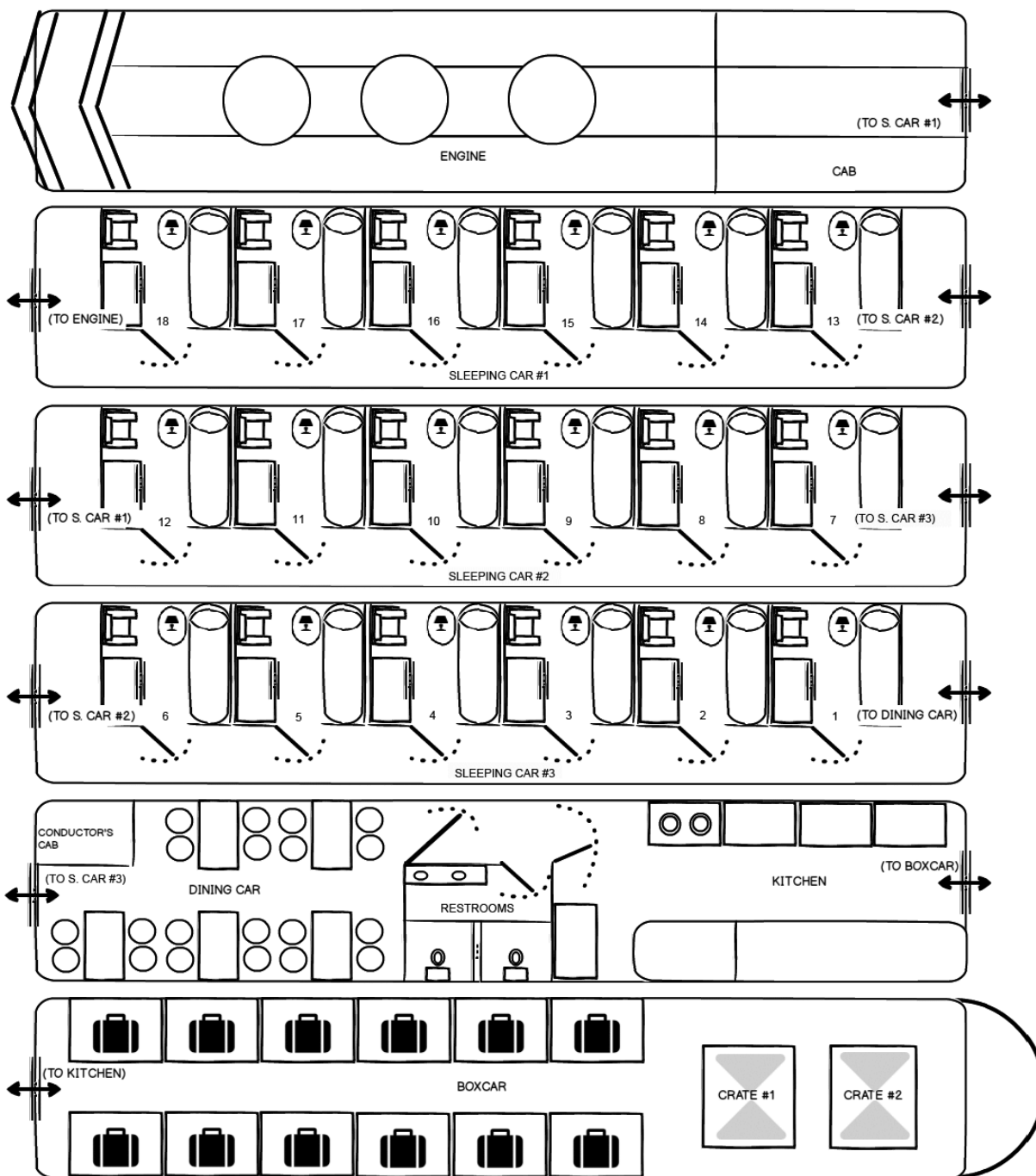
From Istanbul to Paris in just three days!

Istanbul-Bucharest-Budapest-Vienna-Munich-Paris

Travel in style and comfort!

Contact your travel agent and book now!

Istanbul Express train layout



Sleeping compartments

1 – Pat Dijon

3 – Max Fairsonne

5 – Alexe Petrescu

6 – Selda Zaim

7 – Esra Hoca

8 – Hersch Muller

9 – Sam Lively

11 – Jay Middleton

12 – Sava Hodgekiss

16 – Lou Gardet

17 – Marin Aromblast

18 – Battista Giovanni

Istanbul Express route of travel



1914 politics: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) formed one power bloc, while the other powers (France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Romania and others) opposed them.

Where can I purchase *Murder on the Istanbul Express*?

Murder on the Istanbul Express is available from <https://www.freeformgames.com/> and costs \$29.99 (US dollars). We accept all major credit cards and PayPal.

When you purchase the game, you'll be taken to a page where you can download it right away.

We will also email you a download link and password, so you can collect your game later if that's more convenient.

What if I don't like *Murder on the Istanbul Express*?

We offer a cast-iron, no quibble guarantee. If you're not completely satisfied with *Murder on the Istanbul Express*, let us know within 30 days and we will refund you.

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