

# 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, seems 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 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 toward 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 Hatmanu:** 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 among 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 traveling museum collection has been stolen! The collection was displayed 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 armor, 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 and 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 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 could be struck during Hoca's visit to Paris.

Famous Romanian chemist Sava Hatmanu has recently been traveling in the region while taking a well-earned rest after making many recent advances in radioactive chemistry! However, we're now hearing reports that Hatmanu 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 a taste of Turkish culture to the larger world. After hearing about the tour, we spoke briefly with Fairsonne: "Sculpting is amazing. I just never get tired of sculpting!" the artist confided.

### The Istanbul Express

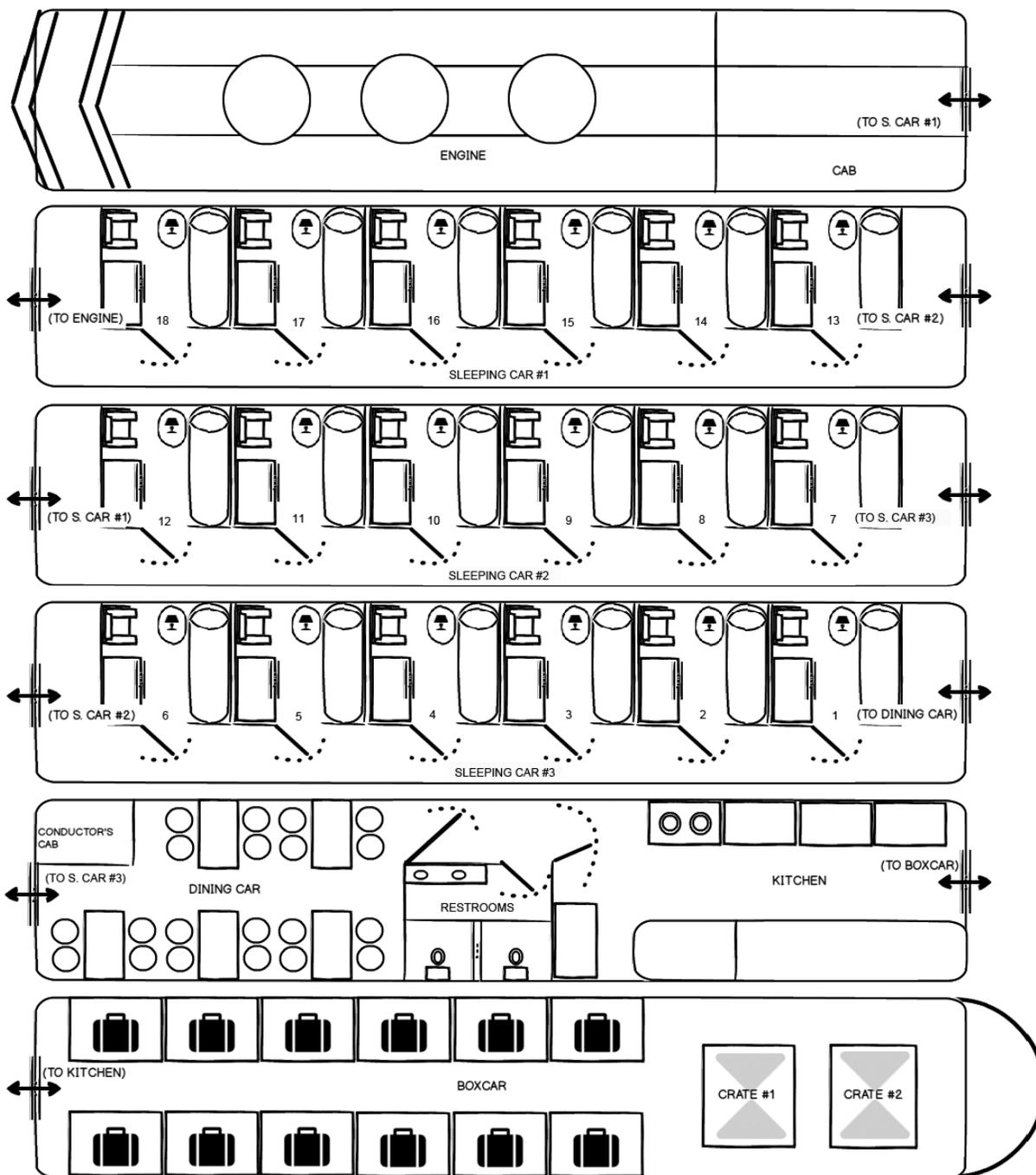
From Istanbul to Paris in just three days!

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 Hatmanu

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.



“Freeform Games will definitely be my first stop when I decide to host my next murder mystery game :) keep doing great work!” **Vlad Dogaru, Romania**

“As I've always said you guys are great!!!! You think of everything! You've found a loyal customer in me!!” **Doris Arnett-Gary, USA**

“Love you guys. Love your games. I always had them for my teenaged daughter and her friends and they were a big hit. I was often impressed with how far young minds took their characters.” **Susan Bull, California**

“You make really great games. My friends and me are fond of mystery murder games and tried quite a number of them, and yours are the most interesting and elaborate ones :)” **Lyubov Sharonova, Russia**

“I just want to say thank you for your fantastic games! We've played at least 6 of them, and every single one has been great fun. We have played a lot of murder mystery games over the past 5 years, and yours are absolutely the best.” **Mary Lantz, USA**

“Thank you again for responding to all my questions – you guys certainly know how to treat your customers – thank you!” **Laura Blakley, United Kingdom**

## **Is *Murder on the Istanbul Express* suitable for kids?**

Yes! As well as being ideal for adults, *Murder on the Istanbul Express* can be enjoyed by kids from 12 years old.

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

*Murder on the Istanbul Express* is available from <https://www.freeformgames.com/>. We accept all major credit cards and PayPal.

When you buy the game, you'll be taken to a page where you can download it immediately.

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.