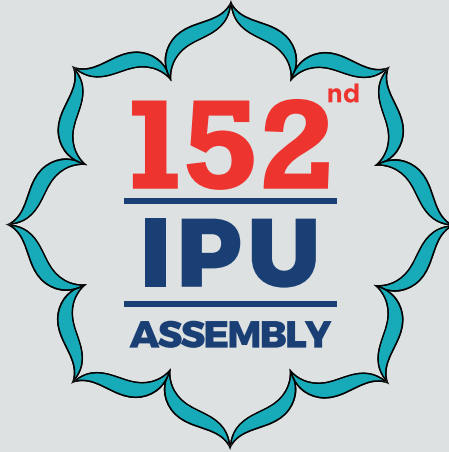




İSTANBUL, TÜRKİYE
15-19 APRIL • 2026

Museums & Historic Sites



ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE
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General Information

We are pleased to offer 152nd Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly participants complimentary access to the museums and historical sites listed in this brochure to enjoy during their stay in Istanbul.

Free admission will be available on 11-12-13 and 18-19-20 April 2026. Please present your official meeting badge at the entrance of each museum. For your convenience, a QR code featuring all museums and historical sites locations are on this page.

Locations of Museums and Historic Sites

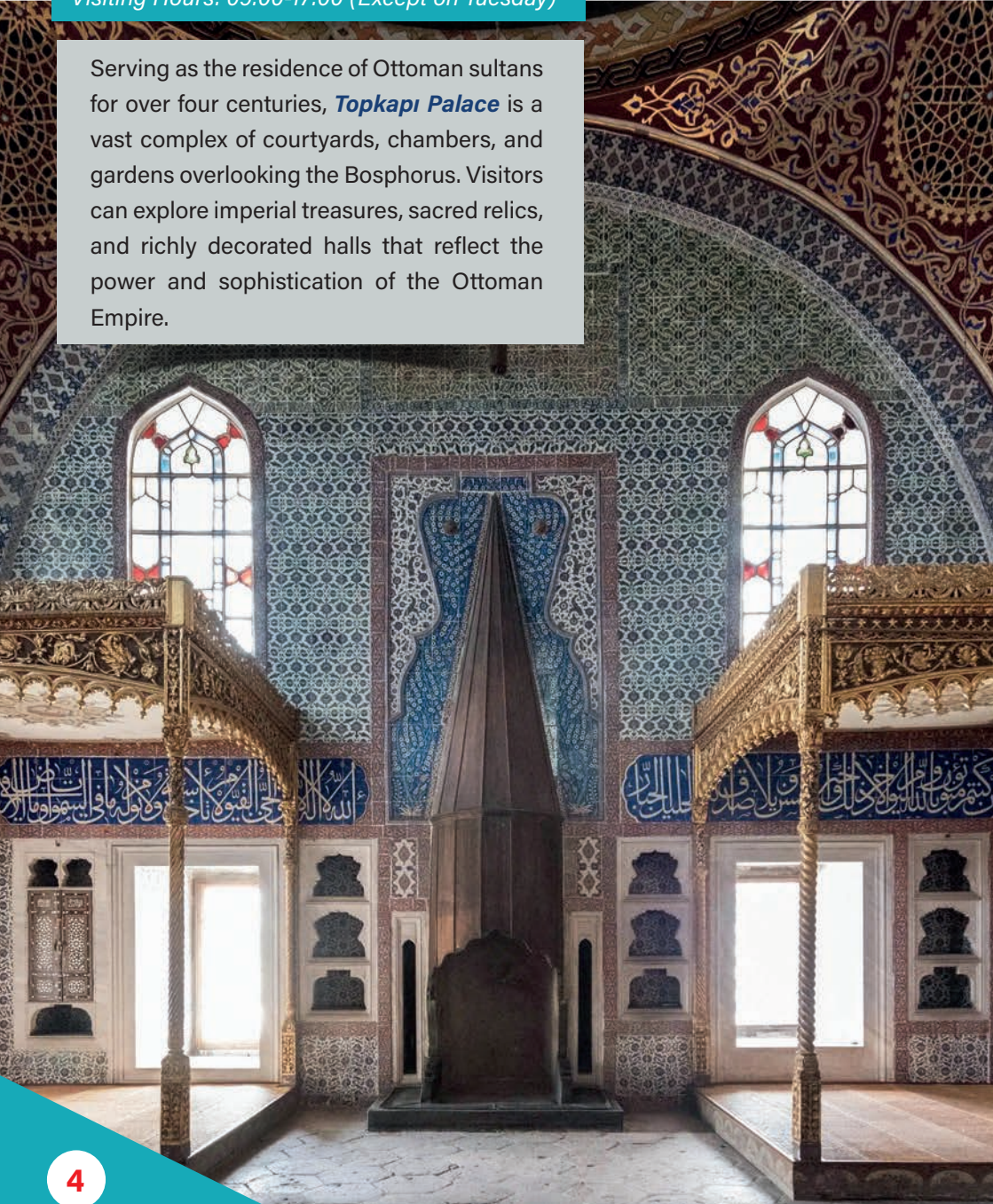


<https://maps.app.goo.gl/E2b9BN2NN22Fdww9>

Topkapı Palace Museum

Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:00 (Except on Tuesday)

Serving as the residence of Ottoman sultans for over four centuries, **Topkapı Palace** is a vast complex of courtyards, chambers, and gardens overlooking the Bosphorus. Visitors can explore imperial treasures, sacred relics, and richly decorated halls that reflect the power and sophistication of the Ottoman Empire.



Dolmabahçe Palace Museum



Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:00

Visit ***Dolmabahçe Palace***, the magnificent 19th-century marvel on the Bosphorus, famed for its glamorous European architecture and the breathtaking ceremonial hall with the world's largest crystal chandelier.



Hagia Sophia



Visiting Hours: 09:00–19:30 (Some areas close during prayer time)

For 1,500 years, **Hagia Sophia** has defined Istanbul's skyline. Built as the world's largest cathedral in 537 AD, it became an imperial mosque in 1453 and later a museum. Now the Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque, it uniquely blends Byzantine mosaics and Ottoman calligraphy, symbolizing the city's complex heritage.

Hagia Sophia History and Experience Museum

Visiting Hours: 09:00-18:30

The Hagia Sophia Experience Museum is a modern, immersive space that presents the rich history of Hagia Sophia through advanced digital technologies, offering visitors an engaging and interactive cultural experience.

1935 yılında Ayasofya'nın batı cephesinde Alfons Maria Schneider başkanlığında yapılan kazılarda ortaya çıkan frizlerin taşınması (German Arkeolojî Enst. Arşivi İst- KB120 1 1935)

The transportation of the friezes unearthed during the excavations led by Alfons Maria Schneider on the western facade of Hagia Sophia in 1935. (German Archaeological Institute, Istanbul, Turkey, KB120 1 1935)

Galata Tower



Dating back to the medieval period, **Galata Tower** offers one of the best panoramic views of Istanbul. It has served various purposes throughout history, including as a watchtower and fire lookout point.



Visiting Hours: 08:30-18:14

Istanbul Museum of the History of Science and Technology in Islam

Journey through the Islamic Golden Age at the *Museum of the History of Science and Technology in Islam*. Located in Gülhane Park, this fascinating museum showcases hundreds of replicas of ground breaking inventions in astronomy, engineering, and medicine.

Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:30

Basilica Cistern



Visiting Hours: 09:00-22:00

Descend into the mysterious world beneath Istanbul at the **Basilica Cistern** (*Yerebatan Sarnıcı*). Built in the 6th century, this underground marvel features towering columns, soft lighting, and the iconic Medusa heads—creating a truly unforgettable atmosphere.



Beylerbeyi Palace Museum

A wide-angle photograph of the Beylerbeyi Palace Museum's exterior. The building is a grand, multi-story structure with classical architectural features, including numerous columns, arched windows, and a central entrance with a red door. The sky is clear and blue.

Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:00 (Except on Monday)

Situated on the Asian shore of the Bosphorus, **Beylerbeyi Palace** was used as a summer residence and hosted distinguished foreign guests. Its elegant interiors and scenic waterfront location make it one of the most refined Ottoman palaces.





Yıldız Palace Museum

Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:00 (Except on Wednesday)

Yıldız Palace is a large complex of pavilions, gardens, and administrative buildings that served as the imperial residence during the late Ottoman period. It offers a glimpse into the private life and political atmosphere of the empire's final years.



Maslak Pavilion

Maslak Pavilions were originally used by Ottoman sultans as hunting lodges and countryside retreats. Surrounded by nature, they provide a peaceful setting combined with elegant imperial architecture.



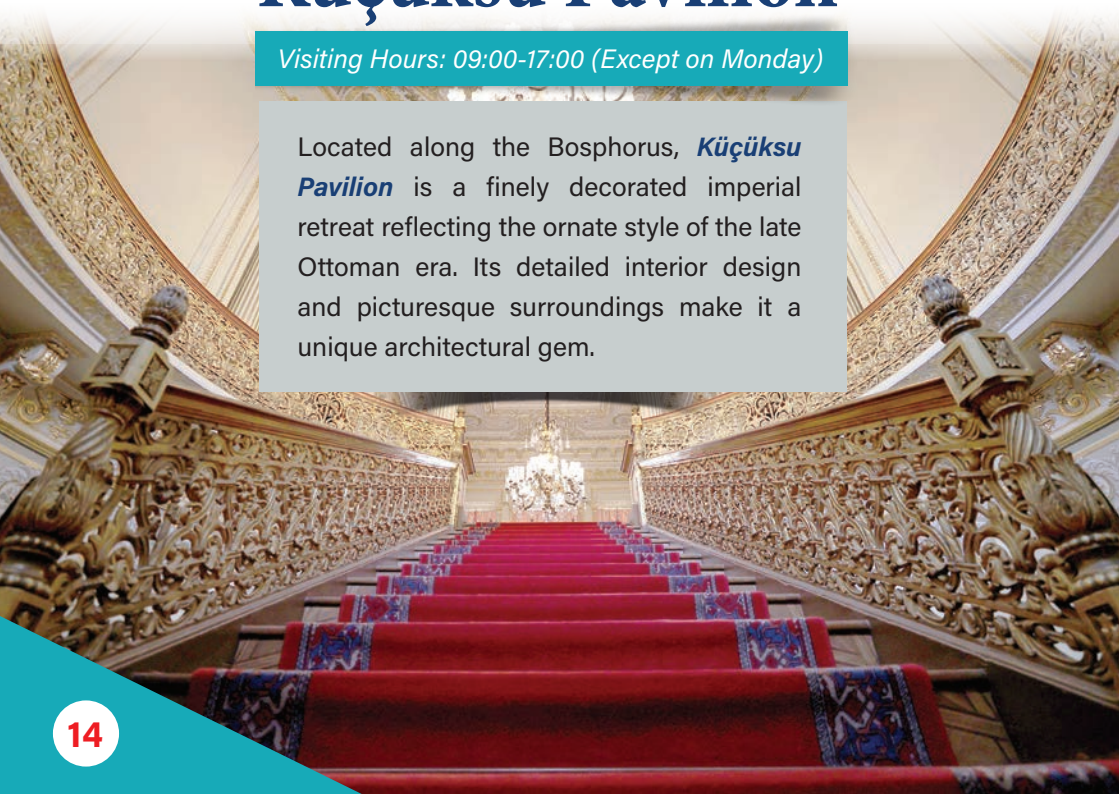
Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:00 (Except on Monday)



Küçüksu Pavilion

Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:00 (Except on Monday)

Located along the Bosphorus, *Küçüksu Pavilion* is a finely decorated imperial retreat reflecting the ornate style of the late Ottoman era. Its detailed interior design and picturesque surroundings make it a unique architectural gem.





Aynalıkavak Pavilion

Explore *Aynalıkavak Pavilion*, the last surviving traditional Ottoman pavilion on the Golden Horn, celebrated for its unique architecture and its grand "Mirrored Hall".

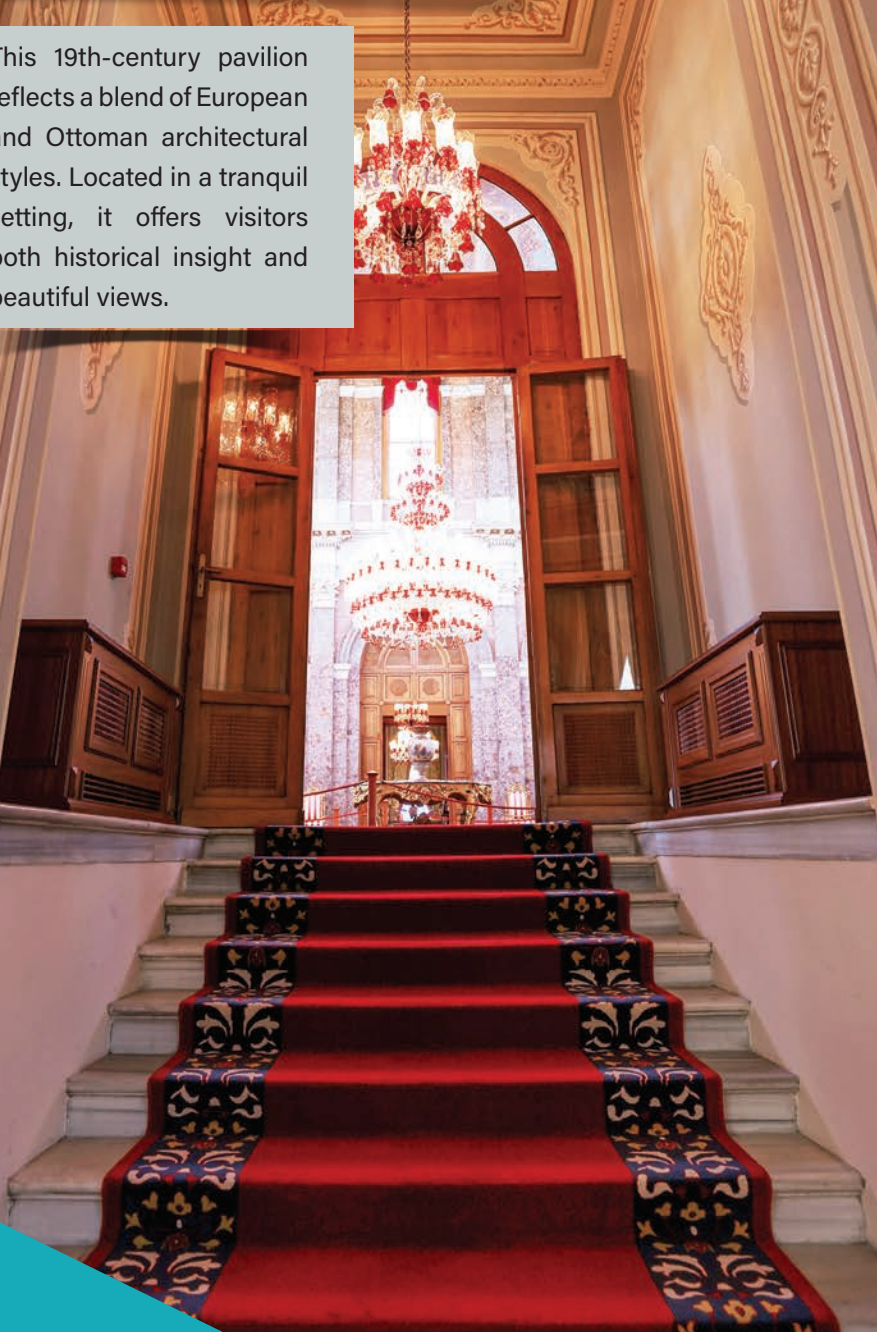
Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:00 (Except on Monday)



Beykoz Mecidiye Pavilion

Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:00 (Except on Monday)

This 19th-century pavilion reflects a blend of European and Ottoman architectural styles. Located in a tranquil setting, it offers visitors both historical insight and beautiful views.





Ihlamur Pavilion

Ihlamur Pavilion is a charming 19th-century imperial retreat set within landscaped gardens. It was used by Ottoman sultans for rest and hosting guests, combining elegance with a relaxed atmosphere.



Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:00 (Except on Monday)

Istanbul Archaeological Museums



This complex houses one of the world's most significant collections of ancient artifacts. Visitors can explore treasures from civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Anatolia, spanning thousands of years.

Visiting Hours: 09:00-18:00



Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts

Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:30

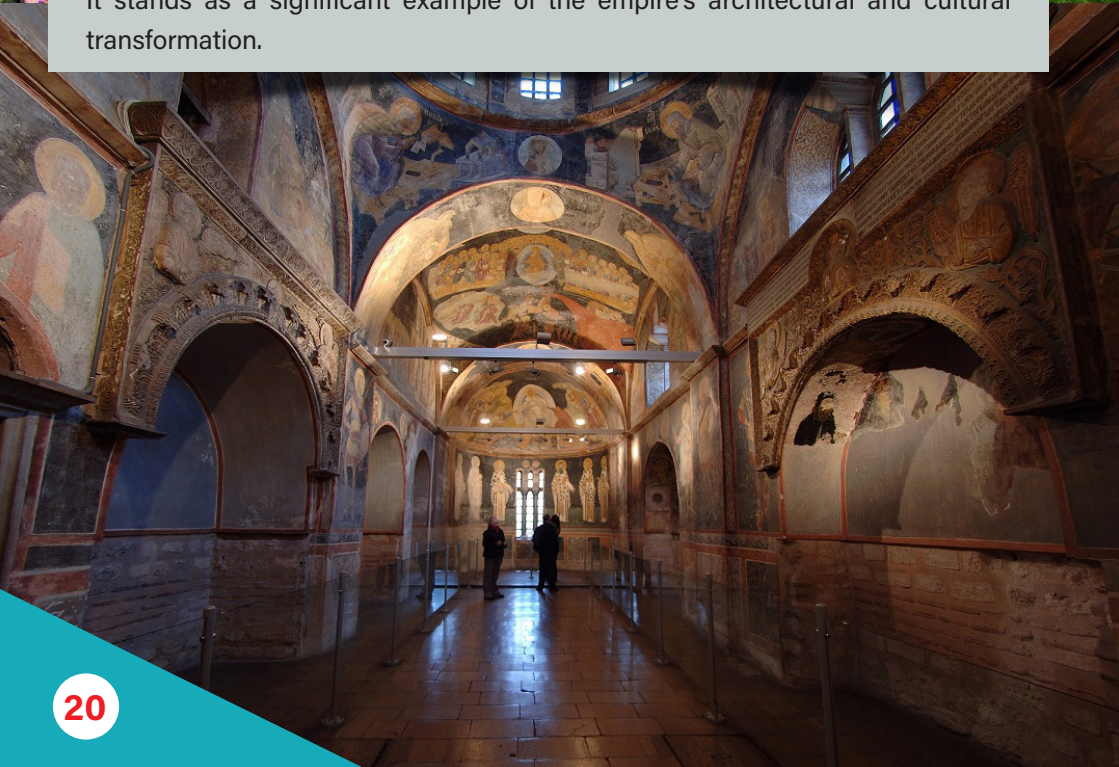
Located in a historic Ottoman building, this museum presents an outstanding collection of Islamic art. It includes calligraphy, carpets, manuscripts, and ethnographic works from across the Islamic world.



Kariye Mosque

Visiting Hours: 09:00-18:00 (Except on Friday)

Converted into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople, **Kariye Mosque** reflects the Ottoman adaptation of a Byzantine structure. It stands as a significant example of the empire's architectural and cultural transformation.



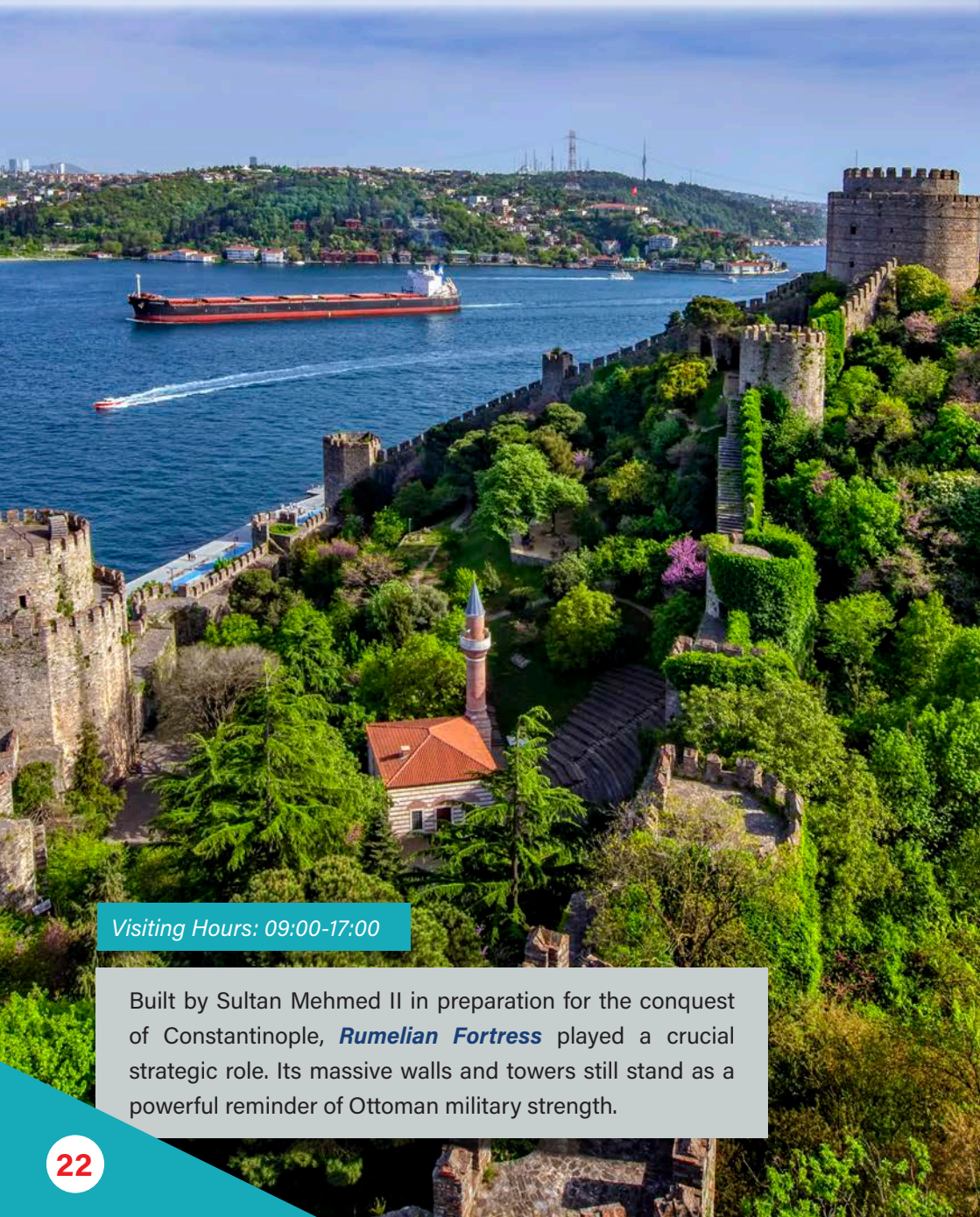
Maiden's Tower

Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:00

Located on a small islet in the Bosphorus, the **Maiden's Tower (Kız Kulesi)** is surrounded by legends and history. It has functioned as a lighthouse, fortress, and symbol of romance in Istanbul.



Rumelian Fortress



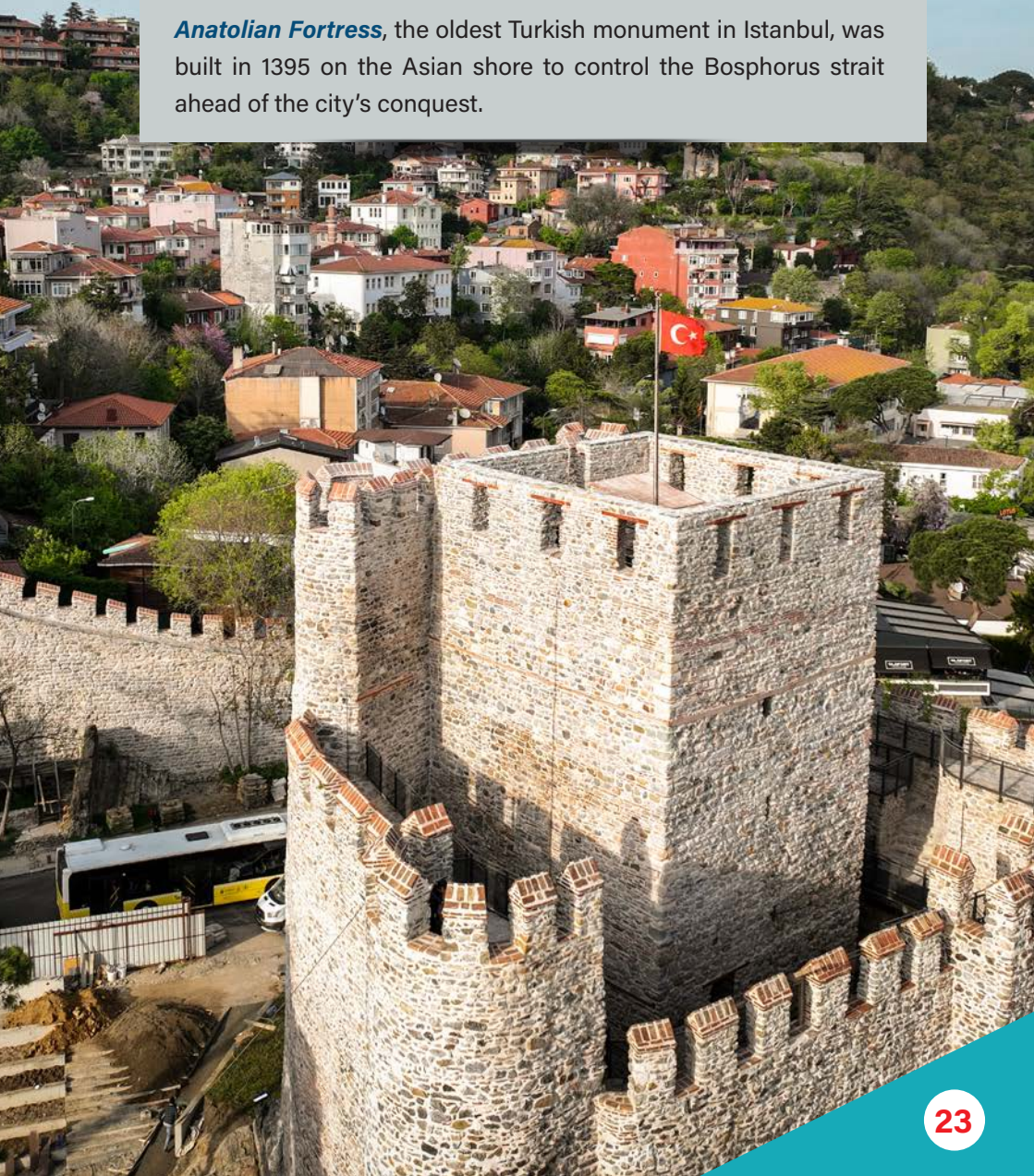
Visiting Hours: 09:00-17:00

Built by Sultan Mehmed II in preparation for the conquest of Constantinople, **Rumelian Fortress** played a crucial strategic role. Its massive walls and towers still stand as a powerful reminder of Ottoman military strength.

Anatolian Fortress (Fortress Museum)

Visiting Hours: 10:00-17:30 (Except on Monday)

Anatolian Fortress, the oldest Turkish monument in Istanbul, was built in 1395 on the Asian shore to control the Bosphorus strait ahead of the city's conquest.



Panorama 1453 History Museum



Visiting Hours: 08:30-16:30 (Except on Monday)

Panorama 1453 offers a unique 360-degree visual experience of the conquest of Constantinople. Through immersive displays, visitors can feel the atmosphere of this historic event.

Şerefiye Cistern

Visiting Hours: 10:00-18:00

Also known as the *Theodosius Cistern* (*Şerefiye Sarnıcı*), this underground structure dates back to the Byzantine period. Today, it combines historical architecture with modern light and sound installations.

Tekfur Palace (Porfirogennetos Palace)

Visiting Hours: 09:00-16:30 (Except on Monday)

Tekfur Palace (*Porfirogennetos Palace*) is one of the few surviving Byzantine palaces in Istanbul. It later became associated with Ottoman tile production and now serves as a museum showcasing its layered history.





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