



Hagia Sophia Mosque

➤ Hagia Sophia Mosque was an Orthodox church until the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453, then a mosque until 1935, then a museum and then from 2020 a mosque again, as well as being a Roman Catholic cathedral for some decades

➤ It was formally called the Church of the Holy Wisdom.

➤ It is considered the epitome of Byzantine architecture^[7] and is said to have "changed the history of architecture"

➤ The decision to designate Hagia Sophia as a mosque was highly controversial and drew condemnation from the Turkish opposition, UNESCO, the World Council of Churches and the International Association of Byzantine Studies, as well as numerous international leaders.



Istirical areas of Istanbul, Turkey

The historical areas of Istanbul (Turkey) were included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list in 1985.

In 2017, the boundaries of the historic areas of Istanbul, as a UNESCO objective, were clearly defined, and the site was slightly expanded by 96.2 hectares, so that the cultural site currently covers 765.5 hectares.



Outstanding Universal Value

-With its strategic location on the Bosphorus peninsula, between the Balkans and Anatolia, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, Istanbul has been associated with major political, religious and artistic events for more than 2,000 years.

-His masterpieces include the ancient Hippodrome of Constantine, the 6th-century Hagia Sophia (Hagia Sophia) and the 16th-century Süleymaniye Mosque, all of which are now under threat from popular pressure, industrial pollution and uncontrolled urbanization.



Universal symbol



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-Istanbul bears unique testimony to the Byzantine and Ottoman civilizations through its large number of high quality examples of a great range of building types, some with associated artworks.

-The city is an outstanding set of monuments, architectural and technical ensembles that illustrate very distinguished phases of human history. In particular, the Palace of Topkapi and the Süleymaniye Mosque complex with its caravanserai, madrasa, medical school, library, bath building, hospice and imperial tombs, provide supreme examples of ensembles of palaces and religious complexes of the Ottoman period.

Interesting Facts You Didn't Know About Istanbul

❖ Istanbul is unprecedentedly the most exotic Mediterranean city that is known for its rich and enchanting history.

❖ Istanbul is full of undiscovered sagas and secret spots.

❖ Dynamic and bustling, majestic and magical, this huge metropolis is the only city in the world that sits between two continents.

❖ Istanbul has seven hills.

❖ Also known as Constantinople, it was earlier the capital of the Byzantium empire before the Ottomans conquered it.

❖ Istanbul alone has 3113 mosques in total including the famous historical Süleymaniye Mosque and Sultanahmet Mosque.

❖ Grand Bazaar is the most popular tourist attraction across the globe.

❖ If you want to relish the enigmatic culture of a bygone era, Aga Hamam is probably the right place for you (The oldest Turkish bath)

❖ The Topkapi palace served as the administrative headquarter and the main residence of the Ottoman sultans.