

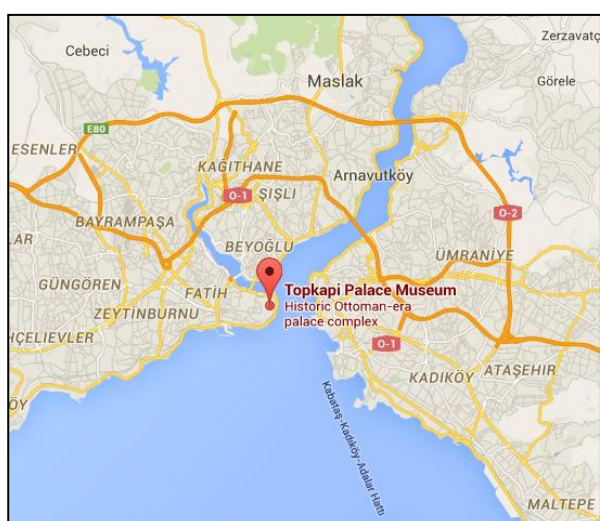
14 Topkapi Palace

Names (also known as)

Topkapi Palace
Turkish - Topkapi Sarayi

Location

The palace complex is located on the Seraglio Point (Sarayburnu), a promontory overlooking the Golden Horn and the Sea of Marmara, with a good view of the Bosphorus from many points of the palace. The site is hilly and one of the highest points close to the sea.



Brief history

Once the palace of the Ottoman Empire, it is testament to the overthrow of the Roman interests here at Istanbul in 1453 AD (previously known as Constantinople after the emperor Constantine). The palace was occupied by sultans for the period 1465-1856 AD. It consists of a large series of buildings which during its peak housed in excess of 4,000 people. Commencing from Sultan Mehmed II it remained a royal palace until 1856 AD when Abdul Mecid I moved the royal palace close to the Bosphorus at Dolmabahçe, in a quest to be identified with ever growing European interests.

The palace also practically acted as a centre for intellectual development and the promotion of artistry. Various courtyards lead to increasingly separated portions of the kings palace. The inner palace supported by the Janissary quarters and stables, the elite

mercenary forces loyal to the sultan, and responsible for the modernisation of the Turkish army until in one day in 1826, in the adjacent hippodrome, almost the whole Janissary force (30,000+) was decimated by grape shot ^(1,2,3).



Court of the Eunuchs

A courtyard named the court of the Eunuchs reminds us of the ancient tradition of emasculated men serving both the king, and the harem. This was once the tradition of greater empires such as Egypt, Assyria and Babylon. Famous eunuchs include Daniel 2 Kings 10:18; Daniel 1:3; the unnamed eunuch who was baptised by Philip - Acts 8:34. These men had no other interests than to serve their king, and Daniel and any other man or woman who had a grander purpose in life gave themselves completely to the service of deity Matt 19:12.

Other attendants were called Kalfas, a form of the word Caliphate, and as such servants of the Caliph, the representative of divine interests within the Muslim Empire.

The sword of Abu Bakur

Abu Bakur (Abd Allah - the servant of Allah) was the first man outside of the direct family of Mohammad to accept Islam. He became the first Caliph extending the influence of Mohammad by taking on two of the largest empires at the time! Most of the information about Mohammad comes from the daughter of this man. A calligraphic representation of Abu Bakur is seen also in Hagia Sophia. His campaigns led to the retreat of the Byzantine forces into central Syria and led to the emergence of the 'locusts' from the abyss - Rev. 9:1.

Creating royal appearances

The greatest of artisans were engaged in the building of the edifice. The haphazard effects of centuries of additions are noticeably

evident. Similar efforts were made in the building of the adjacent Hagia Sophia, to which the architect stated: “I have exceeded Solomon!” Almost ten years were spent in the design of a small room collecting the ash from the illumination within the domes, and converted into special inks used for the Sultan! Solomon had a completely different reputation:

“It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom. Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice” – 1 Kings 10:6-9.

Biblical Events

None

Biblical association

Capital of eastern Roman Empire

Relics of Islamic Empire

Archaeology findings

Cloak and sword of Mohammed - The figurehead of modern Islam.

Sword of Abu Bakar – General of Mohammad.

Ancient Koran(s) and manuscripts - Oldest continuing public reading of the Koran.

Other reference materials

1. This event a milestone in the ‘drying up of the Euphrates’ – the Ottoman Empire.
2. J. Thomas - Elpis Israel pg. 384.
3. This was only one event in a series of Turkish disasters - see Herald of the Kingdom and Age to come 1853 pg. 198.

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TopkapPalace>

(Compiler – Peter Boon)

