

Küçük Çamlıca TV and Radio Tower

A new telecommunications tower with observation decks and restaurants.

How to Get There

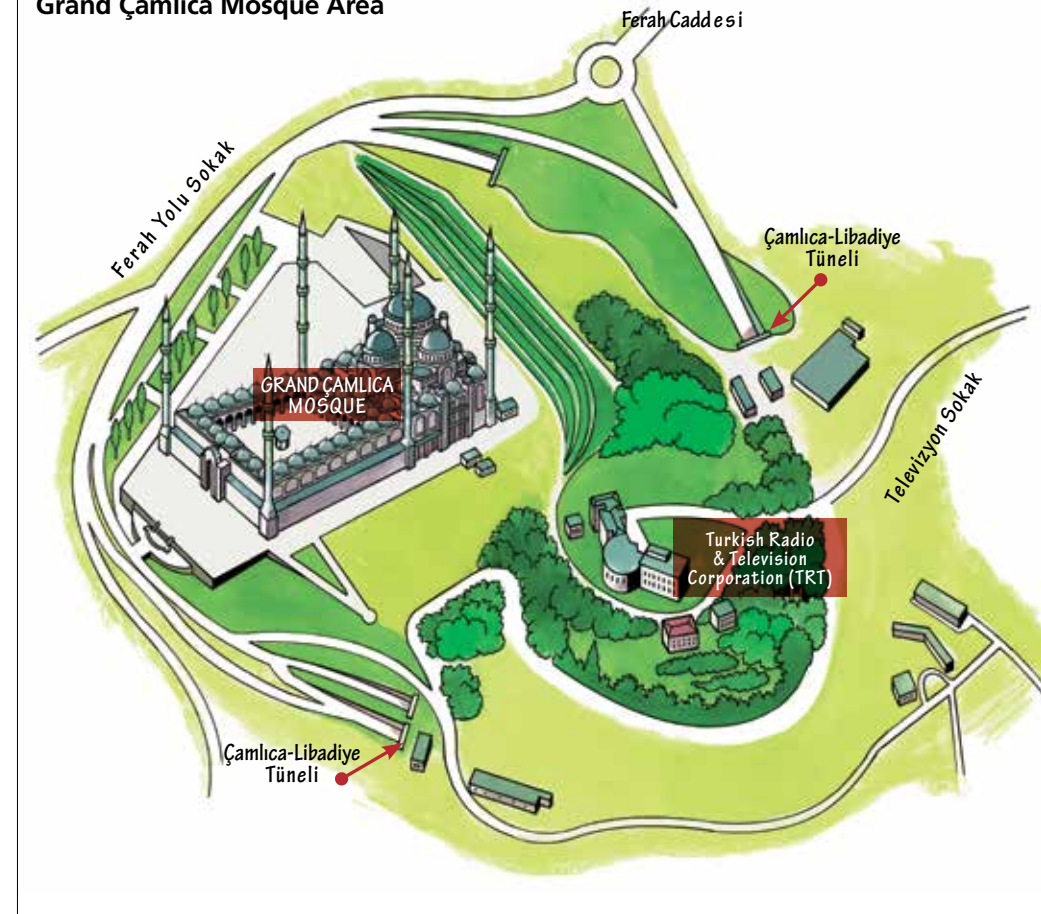
Büyük Çamlıca Mosque and Küçük Çamlıca TV Tower are a bit far flung from most of the normal tourist attractions, so it will take a bit more time and effort to reach them.

Taxi If you would like to take a taxi to either one of these places, we suggest that you

first take a boat from the European side of Istanbul to the Asian side (Üsküdar) in order to avoid traffic and have a pleasant ferry ride.

Public Transport Take the ferry to Üsküdar and then take the 15C bus for Büyük Çamlıca Mosque, 11Ü for Küçük Çamlıca TV Tower.

Grand Çamlıca Mosque Area



GRAND ÇAMLICA MOSQUE & TV TOWER

Atop a hill on the Asian side of Istanbul, six minarets silhouette the skyline. Ottoman-Seljuk style mosque is readily visible across the city. Just a little farther up is the new TV tower, which is a new landmark.

Under the shadow of tall minarets lies Turkey's biggest mosque, capable of hosting 60,000 of the faithful at the same time. Çamlıca Mosque, named after the hill on which it is located, is more like a complex than a simple place of worship.

Designed as a successor rather than a rival to grand Ottoman-era mosques like the

famed Blue Mosque or the Süleymaniye, Çamlıca incorporates the old and new in its architecture.

Küçük Çamlıca TV Tower, a 369-meter-tall new telecommunications tower with observation decks and restaurants, will be a new landmark visible from many places across the city.



Grand Çamlıca Mosque

Its Ottoman and pre-Ottoman Seljuk features are complemented with modern touches and additions not found in early mosques, from a large parking lot, a museum, and an art gallery to a workshop for artists, a library, and a conference hall. The design of the exterior was heavily inspired by the chief builder of the Ottoman classical age, architect Sinan. The interior was designed with a more minimalist architectural approach. The intention was to create a more spiritual feeling; the use of light, color, glass, ornamentation, and calligraphy was done with this in mind.



Grand Çamlıca Mosque

The pulpit is 21 meters high, and the imam can use its elevator if needed. Çamlıca Mosque has some of the largest gates for a place of worship in the world, with its main gate spanning 5 meters, 6.5 meters high and weighing 6 tons. It was built using traditional woodwork that does not include the use of nails.

Traditional tiles, carpets, stained glass, wood inlays, and Islamic calligraphy can be found throughout the structure.

The main courtyard is surrounded on three sides by arcades cascading down in accordance with the topography. This monumental composition is reminiscent of the 'Hanging Gardens of Babylon' in Mesopotamia.

The museum and art gallery are among the highlights of the mosque, distinguishing it from its modern counterparts. It has an extensive library with nearly 40,000 books.

Symbols

Çamlıca has become a symbol of modern Istanbul, with its mosque now being a major landmark of the city. Apart from six minarets representing six key aspects of Islamic belief, four of its minarets are exactly 107.1 meters tall, in a tribute to 1071 Malazgirt (Manzikert) victory of the Seljuks against the Byzantine army. Its 72-meter-high main dome represents the 72 nations who lived in the city. The secondary dome has a diameter of 34 meters, after the license plate number for the city.

The interior of the dome is inscribed with 16 names of Allah, while at the same time 16 also symbolizes the number of states founded by Turks in history. Atop the main dome is a three-piece finial that weighs 4.5 tons, and with a height of 7.77 meters, it is the largest of its kind.



Many types of stone from around Turkey were used in its construction – as a statement of Turkish unity, a powerful illustration of Turkey's respect for its Ottoman past.

Capacity

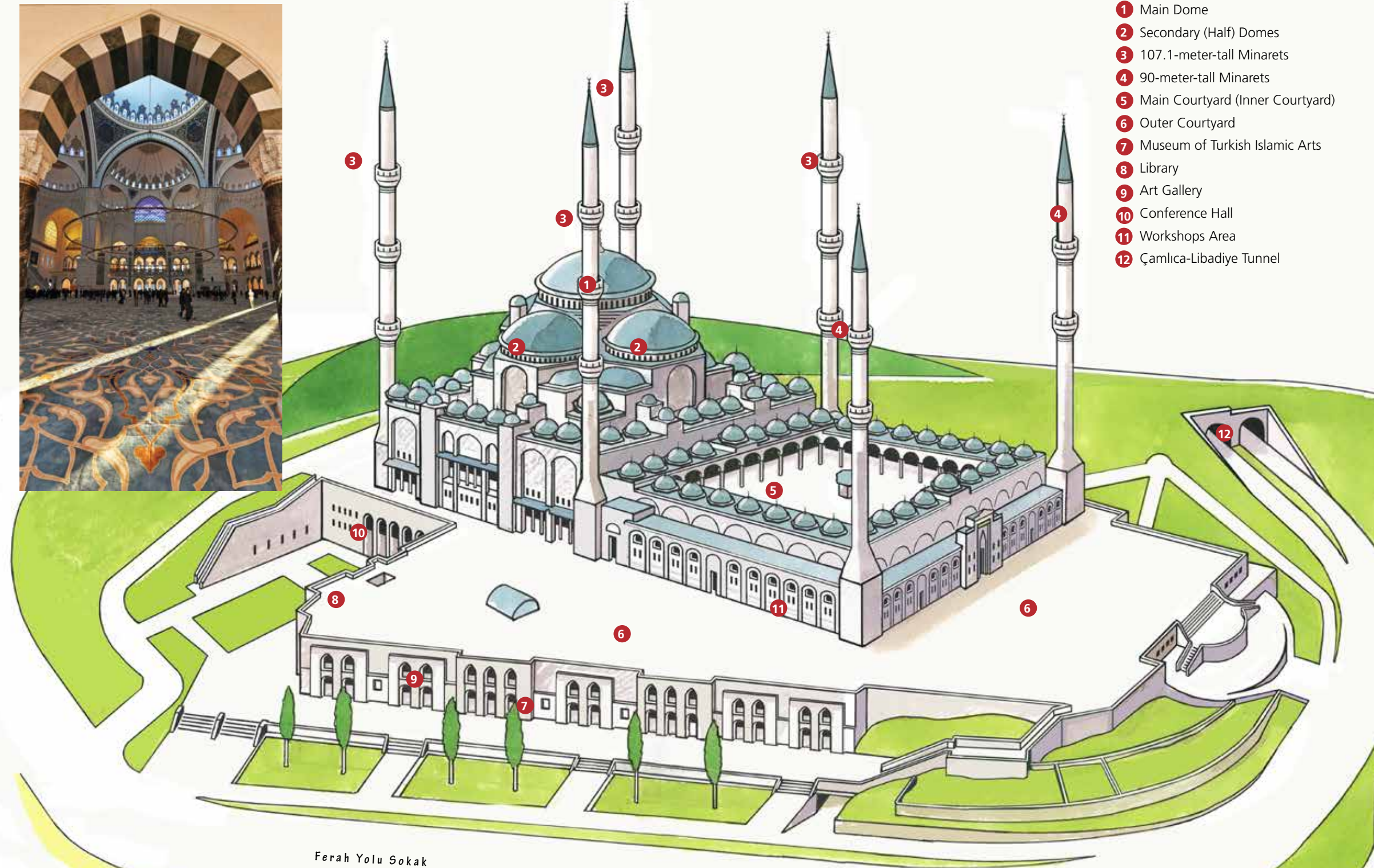
The mosque has a capacity to accommodate 25,000 people for prayers inside, another 12,500 in the spacious inner courtyard, and 22,500 in the outer courtyard. It also has a parking lot for 3,500 vehicles, a 1,000-seat conference hall and a museum that covers an area of 11,000 square meters. The mosque has a capacity to hold 8 funerals at the same time.

The designers of the project followed standards of earthquake engineering, allowing for it to accommodate 100,000 people in case of an earthquake.

Architects

The architectural design planning of Çamlıca Mosque began in the year 2000 and was led by two female architects, Bahar Mızrak and Hayriye Gül Totu. It took a total of six years to build.

The architects planned to create a 'female-friendly' mosque, to change the tradition of more men going to mosques than females. The mosque has a separate area for women to pray along with facilities for childcare.



Küçük Çamlıca TV Tower

The tower aims at replacing several outdated structures currently in use and combining an estimated 125 broadcasting transmitters in one structure.

The tower was designed to house a two-story restaurant and observation deck overlooking the Asian and European sides of Istanbul from different angles. A public foyer, cafe, exhibition areas, and a library are located at its base.

Designed by Melike Altınışık Architects, the project claims to symbolize the growth of the megacity of Istanbul. The tower's geometry was designed to change in appearance when viewed from different regions of the city.

The total height is 389 meters, consisting of 53 floors including 4 floors below ground. The observation decks have a height of between 148 and 153 meters, while the restaurant is between 175 and 180 meters.

The 13-level observation deck features 360-degree views of the city. The panorama elevators rise on both sides of the building.

