

# NEVMEKÂN SAHİL

## Cultural Center & Lady Sultans' Museum

**Nevmekân Sahil is an art and culture exhibition center with a very extensive library and a beautiful cafe overlooking the Bosphorus. The Lady Sultans' Museum is also a part of the same complex.**

Nevmekân Sahil opened its doors to students, youth, art and culture lovers, and those people who have a great enthusiasm for learning. In addition to having a library with around 100,000 books, Nevmekân also hosts art, culture and music activities, and art exhibitions, and students are served free soup and tea every day after midnight. It has become an important location for Istanbul's culture and art.

With a beautiful collection of sultana dolls, the Lady Sultans' Museum reflects lives of numerous Ottoman lady sultans who left indelible marks on Üsküdar and Istanbul. Ottoman Lady Sultans were more than just aristocratic women. As they were the mothers, wives, or daughters of the Ottoman sultans, they played roles that every section of society could identify with.

### Üsküdar and Lady Sultans

Üsküdar is one of Istanbul's most important districts, which excelled in trade, law, culture, arts and endowments. The interest that the Ottoman lady sultans showed in Üsküdar was also due to the special position this district occupied in the history of the city. It is thanks to this deep interest for several centuries that we are able to see beautiful monuments in numerous quarters of Üsküdar today.

A significant number of diverse works of art in Üsküdar were built by lady sultans. Often due to the patronage and charity of lady sultans, many of these structures have survived, including the following:

- **Mihrimah Sultan Mosque** was built by Mihrimah Sultan, the daughter of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent and the wife of Grand Vizier Rüstem Paşa.
- **Atik Valide Mosque** was built by Nurbanu Valide Sultan, the wife of Selim II and the mother of Murad III.
- **Çinili Mosque & Hamam** complex was built by Mahpeyker Kösem Sultan, the wife of Ahmed I and the mother of Murad IV and Ibrahim.
- **Yeni Valide Mosque** was built by Gülnuş Emetullah Sultan, the wife of Mehmed IV, the mother of Mustafa II and Ahmed III. and Ahmed III.



Mihrimah Sultan Mosque



Atik Valide Mosque



Çinili Mosque

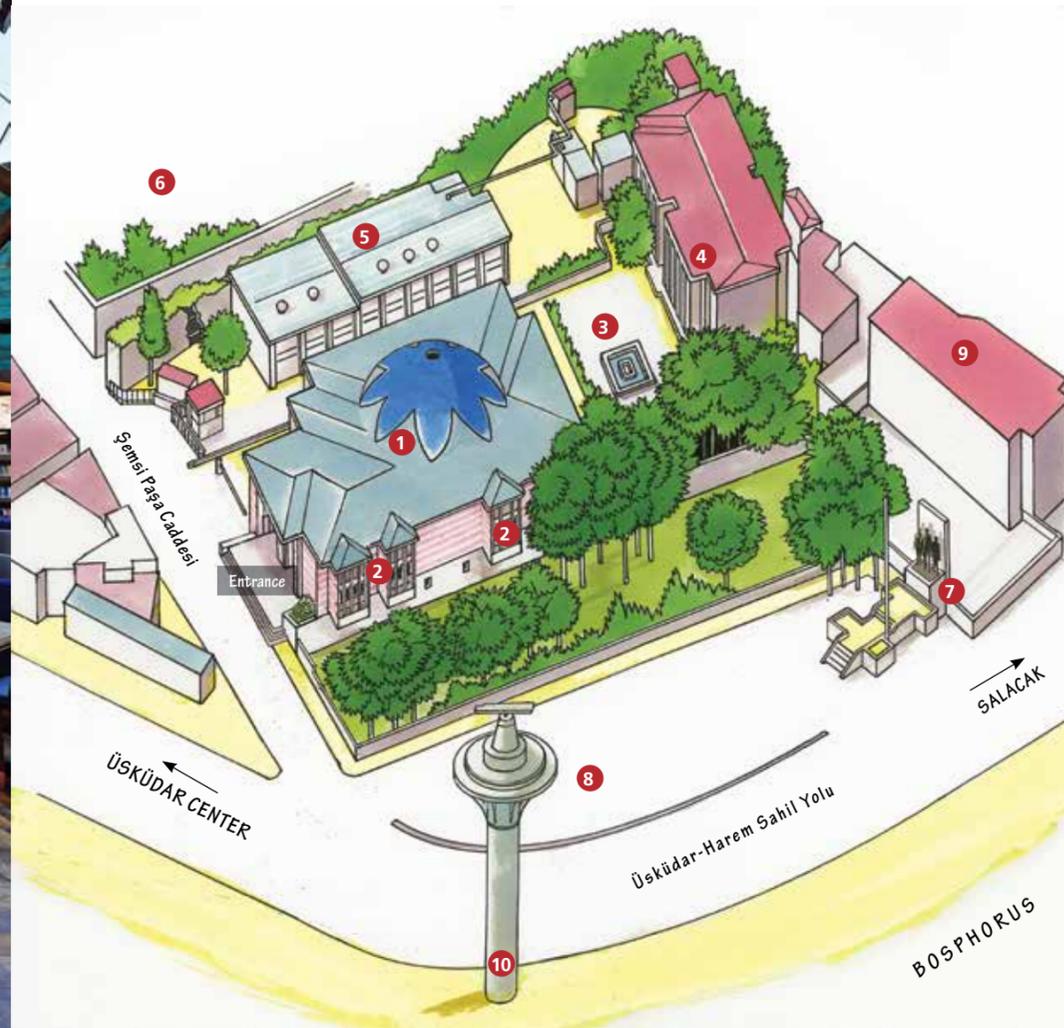


Yeni Valide Mosque





- 1 Nевmekân Sahil & Nev Gallery
- 2 Cafe with Bosphorus View
- 3 Pool & Garden
- 4 Lady Sultans' Museum
- 5 ISKI
- 6 Rum Mehmet Paşa Mosque
- 7 Atatürk Monument
- 8 Şemsipaşa Square
- 9 Navy Clubhouse
- 10 Şemsipaşa Radar Tower



### Lady Sultans' Museum

Üsküdar Municipality has been trying to better promote the Ottoman lady sultans as well as the monuments and institutions they left behind. As research into this legacy has deepened, a significant amount of historical information, in particular on the lady sultans, began to accumulate. To process this information in a way that would turn it into a tangible cultural heritage, the Lady Sultans' Museum was established.

An academic research committee under Professor Selman Can from Marmara University studied the garments of the Ottoman Harem between the 16th and 19th centuries. This research allowed for authentic dresses and jewelry to be custom made. Tragacanth, still used in Anatolia for doll making, was the main material for the dolls. The dolls are perfect imitation of their originals. They are now on display in a uniquely curated setting.



### Lady Sultans\*

The Ottomans had one of the largest and most institutionalized state traditions in world history. Women played particular roles in the palace culture that was shaped by the ruling dynasty's perception of state, conception of society, and individual wealth. The history of the Ottoman lady sultans (mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of the sultans) is virtually indistinguishable as the history of the empire itself.

The reputation and impact of the lady sultans were not limited to their life in the palace; they were also taken as role models with their acts of charity and patronage in the overall Ottoman culture. What rendered them particularly famous, though, was the education they were given, their dedication to the continuation of family life, and their individual wealth.

Dearly loved and respected by the society they lived in, lady sultans are still fondly remembered for the architectural monuments they commissioned and funded. A great many mosques, public baths, bazaars, and fountains that are still standing and open for public use in what used to be prominent Ottoman cities, especially Istanbul, were funded and established as pious endowments by the lady sultans - and a considerable portion of them are located in Üsküdar.

\*Lady Sultans are also called Sultanas in English.



Hürrem Sultan



Gülnuş Emetullah Sultan