

The background is a watercolor wash of blue and green. The colors are blended together, with a darker blue on the left and a lighter green on the right. The texture is soft and painterly.

# CULTURAL HERITAGE OF TÜRKİYE



# PLACES

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## SELIMIYE MOSQUE

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The square Mosque with its single great dome and four slender minarets, dominates the skyline of the former Ottoman capital of Edirne. Sinan, the most famous of Ottoman architects in the 16th century, considered the complex, which includes madrasas (Islamic schools), a covered market, clock house, outer courtyard and library, to be his best work. The interior decoration using Iznik tiles from the peak period of their production testifies to an art form that remains unsurpassed in this material. The complex is considered to be the most harmonious expression ever achieved of the Ottoman külliye, a group of buildings constructed around a mosque and managed as a single institution.

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## NEMRUT MOUNTAIN

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The mausoleum of Antiochus I (69–34 B.C.), who reigned over Commagene, a kingdom founded north of Syria and the Euphrates after the breakup of Alexander's empire, is one of the most ambitious constructions of the Hellenistic period. The syncretism of its pantheon, and the lineage of its kings, which can be traced back through two sets of legends, Greek and Persian, is evidence of the dual origin of this kingdom's culture.



From the 13th century to the advent of the railway in the early 20th century, Safranbolu was an important caravan station on the main East–West trade route. The Old Mosque, Old Bath and Süleyman Pasha Medrese were built in 1322. During its apogee in the 17th century, Safranbolu's architecture influenced urban development throughout much of the Ottoman Empire.



Deriving from springs in a cliff almost 200 m high overlooking the plain, calcite-laden waters have created at Pamukkale (Cotton Palace) an unreal landscape, made up of mineral forests, petrified waterfalls and a series of terraced basins. At the end of the 2nd century B.C. the dynasty of the Attalids, the kings of Pergamon, established the thermal spa of Hierapolis. The ruins of the baths, temples and other Greek monuments can be seen at the site.

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## GOREME NATIONAL PARK AND THE ROCK SITES OF CAPPADOCIA

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In a spectacular landscape, entirely sculpted by erosion, the Göreme valley and its surroundings contain rock-hewn sanctuaries that provide unique evidence of Byzantine art in the post-Iconoclastic period. Dwellings, troglodyte villages and underground towns – the remains of a traditional human habitat dating back to the 4th century – can also be seen there.

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## GREAT MOSQUE AND HOSPITAL OF DIVRIGI

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This region of Anatolia was conquered by the Turks at the beginning of the 11th century. In 1228–29 Emir Ahmet Shah founded a mosque, with its adjoining hospital, at Divrigi. The mosque has a single prayer room and is crowned by two cupolas. The highly sophisticated technique of vault construction, and a creative, exuberant type of decorative sculpture – particularly on the three doorways, in contrast to the unadorned walls of the interior – are the unique features of this masterpiece of Islamic architecture.



# FOODS



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## YUVALAMA (LEBENIYE)

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Yuvalama or Lebeniye is a soup type dish of Gaziantep cuisine. Meatballs are prepared using minced meat, rice, flour and semolina. Meatballs combined with a mixture of shank (shin), chickpea, onion, water, black pepper and salt are cooked. Butter and yoghurt sauce is added during service.

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## SARMA

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Sarma is a food made by wrapping various internal ingredients, especially bulgur or rice, usually with white cabbage, black cabbage, mulberry leaves, cherry leaves or vine leaves.



Alinazik kebab is a home-style Turkish dish which is a specialty of the Gaziantep province of Turkey. It is made from smoked and spiced eggplant, grilled and then pureed, topped with cubes of sauteed lamb, previously seasoned and marinated. It is usually served with rice pilaf or yogurt with garlic, grilled vegetables, and melted butter.

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## LAHMACUN

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Lahmacun is a round, thin piece of dough topped with minced meat, minced vegetables, and herbs including onions, garlic, tomatoes, red peppers, and parsley, flavored with spices such as chili pepper and paprika, then baked. Lahmacun is often wrapped around vegetables, including pickles, tomatoes, peppers, onions, lettuce, parsley, and roasted eggplant.

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## BAKLAVA

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Baklava is a layered pastry dessert made of filo pastry, filled with chopped nuts, and sweetened with syrup or honey. It was one of the most popular sweet pastries of Ottoman cuisine.





April 23, 1920 is the date when the First Grand National Assembly was opened and the sovereignty of the Turkish people was declared. 4 years later, on April 23, 1924, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk wanted this important day to be celebrated as a holiday. And exactly five years later, on April 23, 1929, he dedicated this day to children. Since then, April 23 has been celebrated as the National Sovereignty and Children's Day.