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## The historical tokat city in turkeye

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### Article Info

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### Abstract

The author's visits to Türkiye were numerous, and took place from 2005 to 2014. They mostly related to visits to Istanbul, but also to cities in the Asian part of Türkiye. Apart from Istanbul, which is located in both the European and Asian parts of Türkiye, the author visited the city of Çanakkale, which, like Istanbul, was developed in both the European and Asian parts of Türkiye. The visits to Istanbul had different reasons: a visit to Yıldız Technical University as part of the inter-faculty cooperation between the two faculties (when the author was the dean of the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Sarajevo), a visit to the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) at a large number of scientific conferences (and participation in summer schools organized by IRCICA throughout Türkiye) and rest and leisure. The visit to the city of Çanakkale took place from November 3 to 5, 2010, when the author participated in an international scientific symposium (with the theme "Bosnia and Herzegovina's Architectural Tradition: Bosnian Mosques"). The visit to the city of Tokat took place as part of the "Summer School, June 20 - July 17, 2012".

**Keywords:** Türkiye, Tokat, Synergy of natural environment, social environment and man

### 1. Introduction

The author's visits to Türkiye were numerous, and took place from 2005 to 2014 (Figure 1). They mostly related to visits to Istanbul, but also to cities in the Asian part of Türkiye. Apart from Istanbul, which is located in both the European and Asian parts of Türkiye, the author visited the city of Çanakkale, which, like Istanbul, was developed in both the European and Asian parts of Türkiye. The visits to Istanbul had different reasons: a visit to Yıldız Technical University as part of the inter-faculty cooperation of the two faculties (when the author was the dean of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sarajevo), a visit to the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) at a large number of scientific conferences (and participation in summer schools organized by IRCICA throughout Türkiye). The visit to the city of Tokat was part of the "Summer School, June 20 - July 17, 2012" (Figure 1).



**Source:** Hadrovic, A. (2018). Architecture in the travelogues of an architect. Book 3: Asia, Faculty of Architecture University in Sarajevo, Sarajevo, pp. 1119 - 1189 (in Bosnian)

**Fig 1:** Map of Türkiye. (The places the author visited (the European part of Türkiye) are marked with red squares, and the places the author visited (the Asian part of Türkiye) with yellow squares.

This work is the result of a series of study trips in Türkiye. The aim of the study trips was to get to know the cities on the spot and through their analysis (through 'cabinet work') to contribute to the author's theory of "Architecturally defined space" <sup>[1,2,3,4,5]</sup> (Figure 1).

Tokat is a city (with about 140,000 inhabitants) <sup>[6]</sup> and the capital of Tokat province in the central part of the Black Sea region of Anatolia, 106 km from the Black Sea, 278 km from Trabzon, 317 km from Ankara, 645 km from Istanbul (Figure 2). It is located at the confluence of the Tokat Suyu River with the Yeşilırmak River (Geographic coordinates: 40°19'24.15"N, 36°33'07.53"E, elevation: 609).



Source: Google Earth. Accessed: August 7, 2024.

Fig 2: Tokat. Location

The Tokat city was founded by the Hittites (the Hittite Empire lasted from 1600-1178 BC). In the period from the 6th to the 4th century BC, this area was ruled by Persia. After Persia, this area became part of the Empire of Alexander the Great (333-323 BC). After the collapse of the Empire of Alexander the Great, Tokat and its surroundings became part of the post-Hellenistic kingdom of Pontus, when Mithridates VI (Mithridates VI of Pontus, 134-64 BC), king of Pontus, built the Tokat fortress. The Roman Empire became the master of this area in the 1st century, until its disintegration (395), when it became part of Byzantium. After the Battle of Manzikert (The Battle of Manzikert, August 26, 1071) between the Seljuk Empire and Byzantium, where the Seljuks won, capturing the Byzantine Emperor Romanos IV Diogenes (1030-1072), there was a period in which Anatolia would enter the territory of a new culture, as a precursor to the Ottoman Empire, entered the historical scene. After the death (1086) of the Seljuk sultan Suleiman ibn Qutulmish (reigned 1077-1086), Malik Dānishmand Ahmād Ghāzī (?-1104), the founder of the Danishmend dynasty, took his place and chose the city of Sivas as his capital. During the reign of Kilij Arslan II ('Izz ad-Dīn Qilij Arslān bin Mas'ūd, ruled 1156-1192), the Seljuks regained control of this area. Even under Seljuk Muslim rule, Tokat remained the center of Pontic Greek culture and the Greek Orthodox Church. After the Battle of Köse Dağ (The Battle of Köse Dağ, 26.06.1243) between the Sultanate of Rum (ruled by the Seljuk dynasty) and the Mongol Empire, the Seljuks lost control over this area <sup>[7]</sup>. From the time of the Ottoman administration (1392), Tokat (then under the new name Darun Nasr) became an

important trade center and caravan station on the roads that stretched in the East-West direction (parallel to the southern coast of the Black Wall) and the roads that transversely connected the coast of the Black Sea with a long southern longitudinal route (Mediterranean Sea-Antakya-Sanliurfa-Gaziantep-Mardin-Diyarbakir-and further towards Persia). Shortly after the invasion of the Mongols under the leadership of Taimur Khan (Tamerlane, 1336-1405), a good part of the urban structure of the city was demolished and burned. Prince Mehmet Çelebi (later Sultan Mehmed I, 1386-1421) soon returned Tokat to the Ottoman Empire, where it remained continuously until 1922, when it became part of the modern Republic of Turkey. In the composition of the Republic of Turkey, Tokat developed into a modern city, and as the capital of Tokat province. Tokat has its own airport (Turkish: Tokat Havalimanı, opened in 1993) through which the city is connected to major centers in Turkey. The closest seaport to Tokat on the Black Sea is Ünye Limani. The railway station in Tokat (Turkish: Tokat Gazi İstasyonu) was built in 1926 <sup>[8]</sup>.

## 2. Natural resources and sights

Climatic conditions in Tokat are characterized by a warm and moderate atmosphere. In winter, there is much more precipitation in Tokat than in summer. According to the Köppen-Geiger classification, the prevailing weather conditions in this region are categorized under Csb. In Tokat, the average annual temperature is 9.3 °C. About 778 mm of precipitation falls annually. Tokat is located in the northern hemisphere. Summer here starts at the end of June and ends in September. There are months of summer: June, July, August and September <sup>[9]</sup>. The Tokat city is located between the Black Sea and the hinterland of Anatolia. Due to the proximity of the Black Sea, the mountains are an area with abundant rainfall, which results in numerous water sources and smaller and larger watercourses, where the rivers Tokat Suyu and Yeşilırmak are the most significant. The biggest mountains are: Canik in the north, Kosedag and Mount Asmalıdag in the east, Deveci and Camlibel, Buzluk and Sakarat in the west, Yaylacık and Memo Mountains in the middle. The mountains are covered with rich forests of beech and pine and abound with natural phenomena such as caves and waterfalls (Figures 3-7). There are numerous pastures on the mountains, a traditional place of rich cattle breeding. Along the rivers, there are spacious and fertile plains suitable for agricultural production (farming, fruit growing, vine growing, intensive animal husbandry). The favorable Mediterranean climate gives all these riches additional value. The geographical position of the city of Tokat has made this city an important stop on the trade route that connects numerous cities in the East-West direction, parallel to the Black Sea coast. Tokat is the intersection of these roads for the transversal road that connects Tokat with the rich area of Upper Mesopotamia. Tokat has a Mediterranean climate (type Csa, according to the Köppen climate classification) with hot summers and moderate winters, where the proximity of the Black Sea and the continental hinterland of Anatolia are equally important. The highest summer temperature is 29.5 °C (August), and the lowest is 13 °C (June), while the highest winter temperature is 8.1 °C (February), and the lowest is -1.8 °C (January).



**Source:** <http://gorkorg.blogspot.com/2011/02/urfanin-ortasi-carsi.html>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.



**Source:** <http://www.urfanatik.com/yerel/bakircilar-carsisinda-cekic-sesleri-susmuyor-h69051.html>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Fig 3:** Fertile fields in the vicinity of the Tokat city

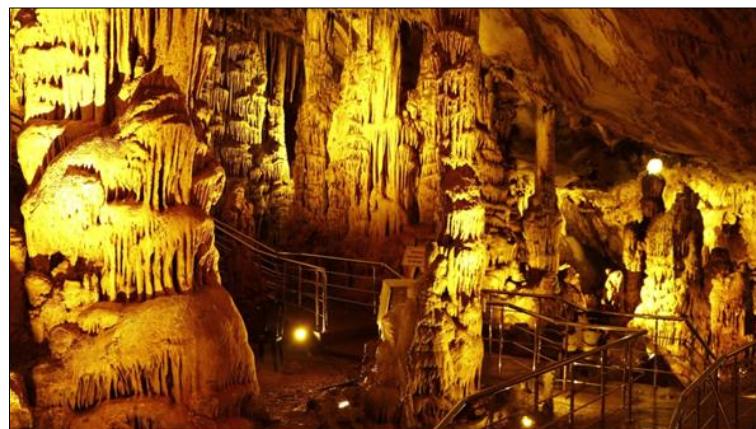




**Source:** <http://trip-suggest.com/turkey/tokat/catalan/>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Fig 4:** Vast forests in the vicinity of the Tokat city

Balıca Cave (Turkish: Balıca Mağarası) is located about 6 km southeast of Pazar, in Tokat province (Figure 5).



**Source:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yY0MRjJ2QyU>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Fig 5:** Balıca Cave (Turkish: Balıca Mağarası)





**Fig 6:** Waterfall near Tokat (Selale Mesire Yeri)

**Source:** <https://plus.google.com/photos/photo/106090452345848777443/6441470687900582130>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Source:** <https://placesmap.net/TR/Selale-Mesire-Yeri-716032/>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Source:** <https://plus.google.com/photos/photo/118142576596956838460/6571136951510213810>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

Sulusaray thermal spring (Tokat Sulusaray Kaplıcaları) has sulfated and slightly bitter water with a temperature of 55 °C. Pensions with restaurants and camping grounds for numerous guests were built next to this thermal spring (Figure 7).





**Source:** <http://yigm.kulturturizm.gov.tr/TR,11367/tesis-bilgileri.html>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Source:** <https://emlakkulisi.com/tokat-sulusaray-kaplicalar-49-yilligina-ihale-edildi/450231>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Fig 7:** Sulusaray thermal spring (Tokat Sulusaray Kaplicaları)

### 3. Architectural cultural and historical heritage

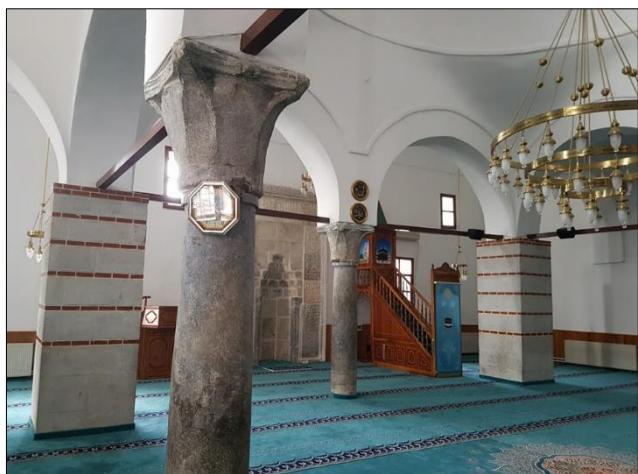
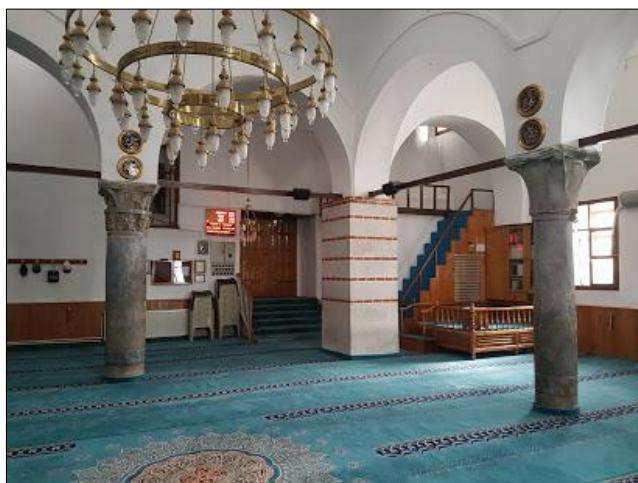
Tokat Fortress (Turkish: Tokat Kalesi) was built during the time of Mithridates VI (Mithridates VI of Pontus, 134-64 BC), king of Pontus. The fortress was extended by the later lords of Tokat and today it has 28 defensive towers (Figure 8).



**Source:** Author (July 9, 2012)

**Fig 8:** Tokat Fortress (Turkish: Tokat Kalesi)

The Garipler Mosque (Turkish: Garipler Camii) was built in the 12th century (Figure 9).



**Fig 9:** The Garipler Mosque (Turkish: Garipler Camii)

**Source:** <https://plus.google.com/photos/photo/114017149722577180147/6586063903686115490>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

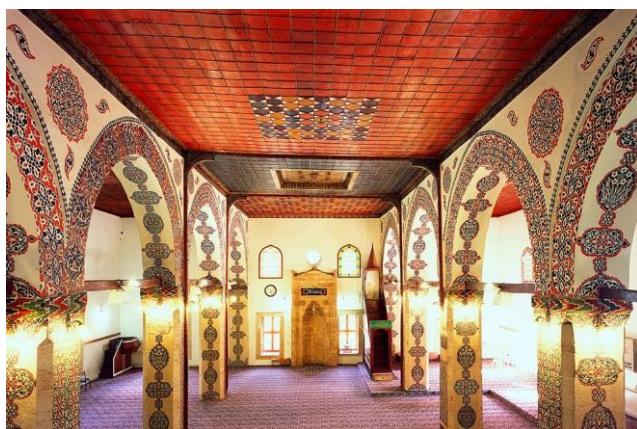
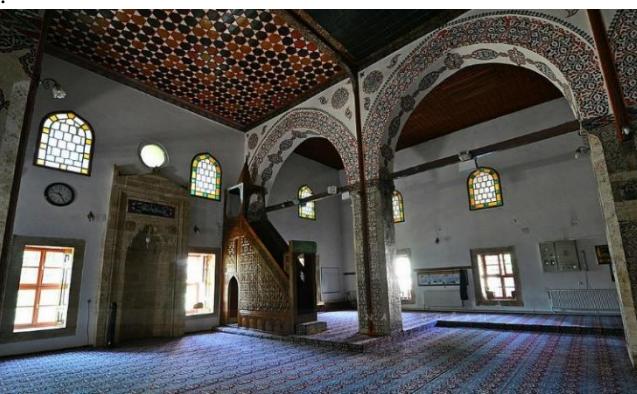
**Source:** [https://twitter.com/Turk\\_Elli/status/789198517575127042](https://twitter.com/Turk_Elli/status/789198517575127042), Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Source:** [http://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-63MalWLZdWo/W2ZmsFOWoZl/AAAAAAAEEtI/CF0QKZYRt\\_QdJNp9Nj1OY8Y1MEEacVvQLIBAYYCw/w408-h306-k-no/](http://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-63MalWLZdWo/W2ZmsFOWoZl/AAAAAAAEEtI/CF0QKZYRt_QdJNp9Nj1OY8Y1MEEacVvQLIBAYYCw/w408-h306-k-no/)

Accessed: August 7, 2024.

The Great Mosque (Turkish: Ulu Camii) was built in the 12th century, during the reign of the Danishmend dynasty. The mosque was rebuilt (with significant changes) in 1678. The

mosque is famous for its small bird cages, especially designed in its stone walls<sup>[10]</sup> (Figure 10).



**Fig 10:** The Great Mosque (Turkish: Ulu Camii)

**Source:**

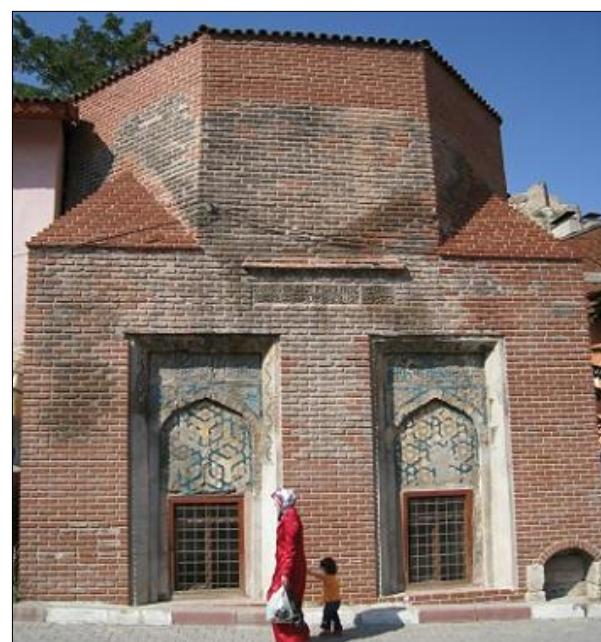
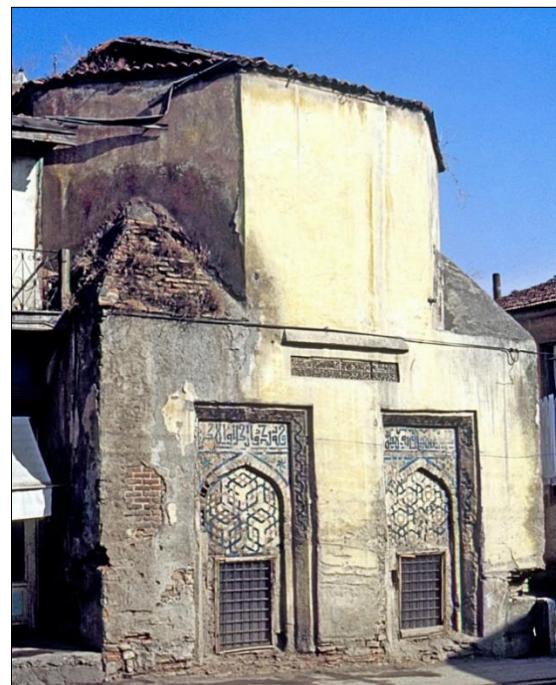
<https://plus.google.com/photos/photo/103496455848967893518/6504897863062687394>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Source:** <http://4.bp.blogspot.com/Z0MhAQvKd7g/VLFJ9eYa8wI/AAAAAAAABwY/VX9CUQLaKBc/s1600/tokatulucamii1.jpg>  
Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Source:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sinandogan/15235314008>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Source:** <http://neredenegezilir.blogspot.com/2015/01/tokat-ulu-camii.html>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

Ebul Kasim bin Ali Tusi's turbe (Turkish: Ebul Kasim bin Ali Tusi Turbesi) is the burial place of Ebulkasim bin Ali Tusi, the governor of Tokat during the Seljuk administration, built in 1233. It is a Seljuk construction with a square base that turns into an eight-sided tambour and a high pyramidal roof. Turbe was built of red brick (Figure 11).



Tomb before renovation Tomb after renovation

**Fig 11:** Ebul Kasim bin Ali Tusi's tomb (Turkish: Ebul Kasim bin Ali Tusi Turbesi)

**Source:** <https://islamansiklopedisi.org.tr/ebul-kasim-i-tusi-turbesi>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Source:** <https://www.romeartlover.it/Tokat1.html>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

The Seljuk Bridge (Turkish: Selçuklu Köprüsü) was built (1250) across the Yesilirmak River in Tokat. The bridge is a stable stone construction with five arches of different spans (Figure 12).

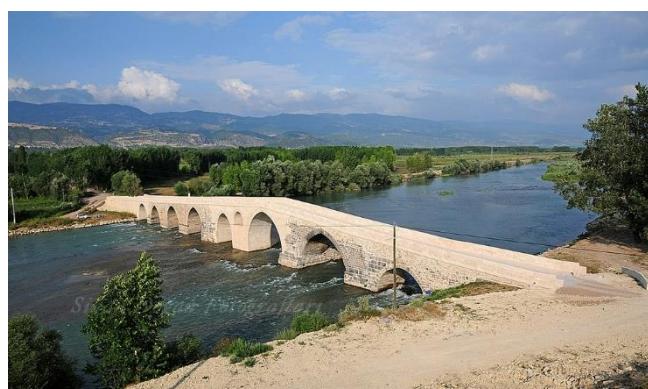


Figure 12. The Seljuk Bridge (Turkish: Selçuklu Köprüsü)

Source:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/sinandogan/9588243833>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

Gök Medrese in Tokat (Turkish: Gök Medresesi) is an old educational institution in Tokat founded (1270) by Pervane Bey Darussifasi. Today, this madrasa houses the Tokat archaeological museum. The museum exhibits artifacts that bear witness to the history of the city and its surroundings from its founding to the present day (Figure 13).

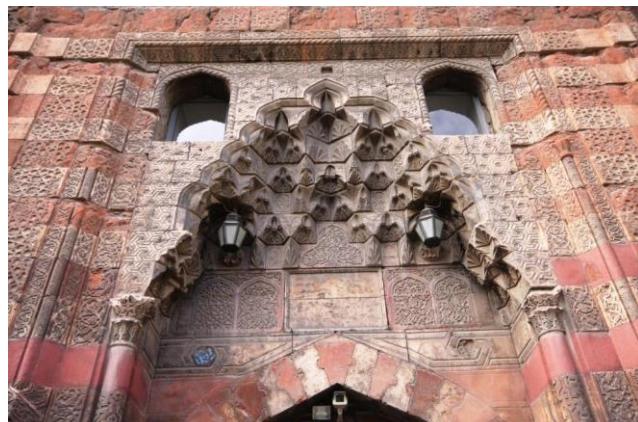
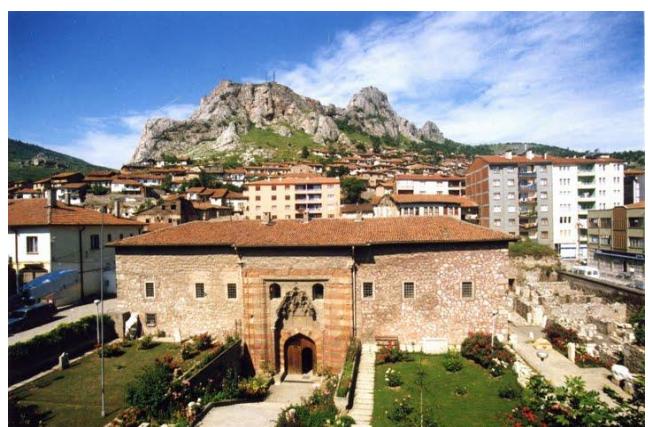


Fig 13: Gök Medrese in Tokat (Turkish: Gök Medresesi)

**Source:**

<https://www.kulturportali.gov.tr/turkiye/tokat/gezilecekyer/gokmedrese>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

Alaça Masjid (Turkish: Alaça Masjid) is a small mosque in terms of its physical dimensions, but in terms of its architecture and construction time (1301), it is an extremely valuable architectural monument built during the administration of the Mongolian Ilkhanate in Tokat (Figure 14).



Fig 14: Alaça Masjid (Turkish: Alaça Masjid)

**Source:** Author (July 9, 2012)

Nur-ad-din Sentimur turbe (Turkish: Nur-ad-din Sentimur Turbesi) was built (1314) during the Ilkhanate period (Mongol rule). It is an unusual building with a square base that turns into an octagonal tambour and a high pyramidal roof. The ground floor of the turbet is made of stone, and the

tambour and roof are made of red brick (Figure 15).



Figure 15. Nur-ad-din Sentimur tomb (Turkish: Nur-ad-din Sentimur Turbesi)

Source: <https://www.romeartlover.it/Tokat1.html>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

Hatuniye Medrese (Turkish: Hatuniye Medresesi) is part of a complex (külliye) built (1382) by Sultan Hatun, daughter of Sultan Murat I (1326-1389). The architect of the madrasa is Numanoglu Hoca Ahmed (Figure 16).



**Fig 16:** Hatuniye Medrese (Turkish: Hatuniye Medresesi)

**Source:**  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/86263262@N03/8032057261>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

The Hamza Bey Mosque (Turkish: Hamza Bey Camii) was built (1411) during the Interregnum (1402-1413), i.e. the time of the struggle of the three sons (İsa Çelebi, Musa Çelebi, Süleyman Çelebi) of Sultan Bayazit I (1354-1403) for the sultanate throne. Above the central part of the mosque rises a cubic structure that ends with an octagonal tambour and a pyramidal roof (paradome) covered with red tiles (Figure 17).



**Fig 17:** The Hamza Bey Mosque (Turkish: Hamza Bey Camii)

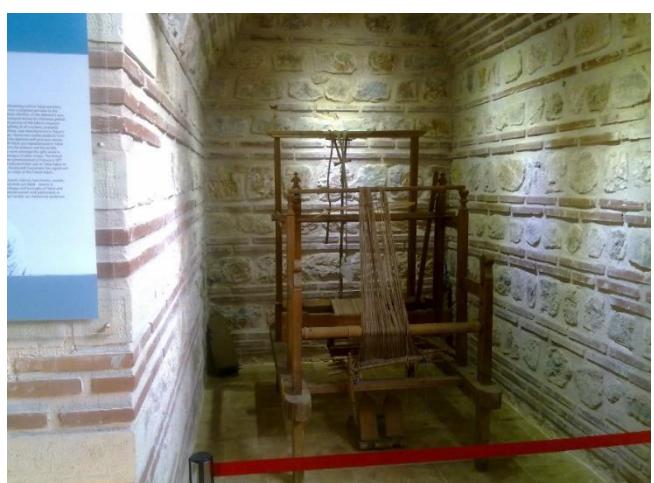
**Source:**  
[http://www.mustafacambaz.com/details.php?image\\_id=29896&sessionid=5b489b469aabb](http://www.mustafacambaz.com/details.php?image_id=29896&sessionid=5b489b469aabb), Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Source:**  
<https://plus.google.com/photos/photo/107617923954980670631/6532466787956663586>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Source:**  
[http://www.mustafacambaz.com/details.php?image\\_id=29902](http://www.mustafacambaz.com/details.php?image_id=29902), Accessed: August 7, 2024.

Tokat Museum (Turkish: Tokat Muzesi) is a historical-ethnographic museum located in Sulhisak Street, Camii Kebir district in Tokat. The museum exhibits exhibits that testify to the city's rich history. Particularly valuable are exhibits from the ancient Greek and Roman times and exhibits from the Seljuk era, among which is a copy of the Qur'an from 1191 (Figure 18). The museum is arranged in the building of the former Bezistan from the reign (1413-1421) of the Ottoman Sultan Mehmed I (1379-1421).





**Fig 18:** Tokat Museum (Turkish: Tokat Muzesi)

**Source:** Author (July 9, 2012)

Takyeciler Mosque (Turkish: Takyeciler Camii) is located near Bezistan in Tokat. The mosque was built in the 16th century <sup>[10]</sup> (Figure 19).



**Fig 19:** Takyeciler Mosque (Turkish: Takyeçiler Camii)

**Source:** Author (July 9, 2012)

Ali Pasha Mosque (Turkish: Ali Paşa Camii) is located in the center of the city of Tokat. The mosque was built (1572) during the reign of Sultan Selim II (1524-1574). The mosque is part of the complex (külliye) in which there are also the hammam and turbes of Ali Pasha and his son Mastaf Bey<sup>[11]</sup> (Figure 20).



**Fig 20:** Ali Pasha Mosque (Turkish: Ali Paşa Camii)

**Source:** Author (July 9, 2012)

Ali Pasha Hammam (Turkish: Ali Paşa Hammam) is located next to the Ali Pasha Mosque as part of a unique complex (külliye). It is a developed type of hammam with differentiated sections for men and women. The central areas of the hammam are covered with domes. The hammam was built in 1572 (Figure 21).

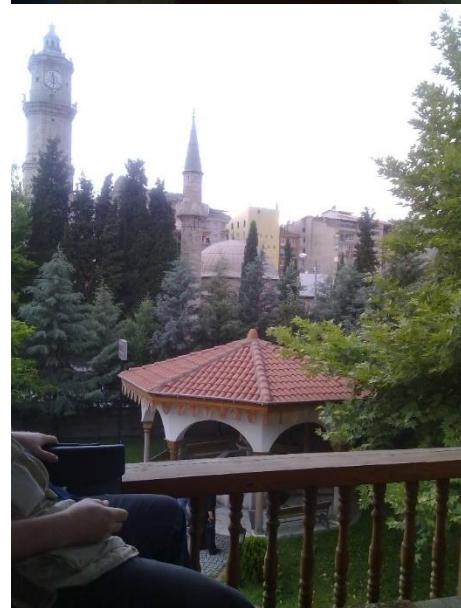


**Fig 21:** Ali Pasha Hammam (Turkish: Ali Paşa Hammam)

**Source:** Author (July 9, 2012)

Mevlevi tekke (Turkish: Mevlevihane) is located in Sogukpinar Mahallesi, Tokat. It was built in 1618, after which it was renovated several times, the last time in 2005, when it was converted into a Mevlevi museum (Figure 22).



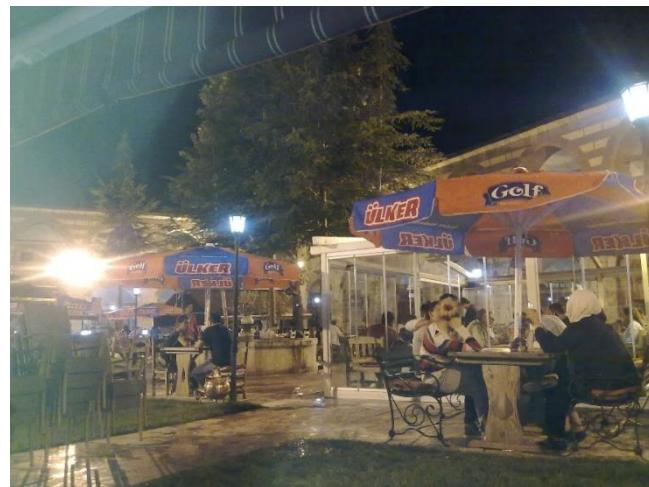




**Fig 22:** Mevlevi tekke (Turkish: Mevlevihane)

**Source:** Author (July 9, 2012)

The Stone Inn (Turkish: Taşhan) is located on Gaziosmanpaşa Boulevard in Tokat. This is a classic Ottoman type of han, which, as a two-story building, was developed around an inner courtyard. The inn was built (1626-1632) as the largest inn in Anatolia. Today, the inn has been converted into a series of business premises and restaurants (Figure 23).



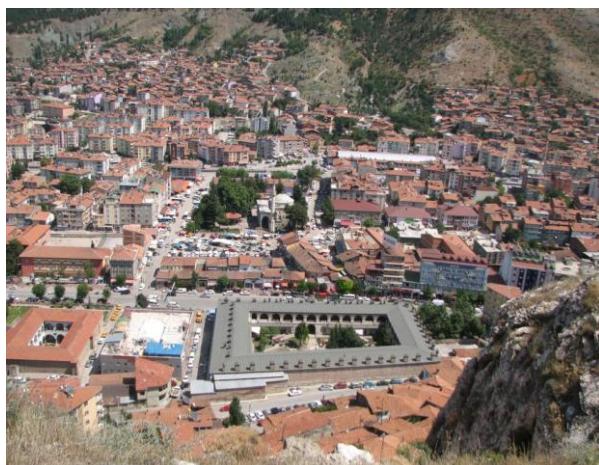
**Fig 23:** The Stone Inn (Turkish: Taşhan)

**Source:**

<https://www.kulturportali.gov.tr/turkiye/tokat/gezilecekyer/tashan>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Source:** Author (July 9, 2012)

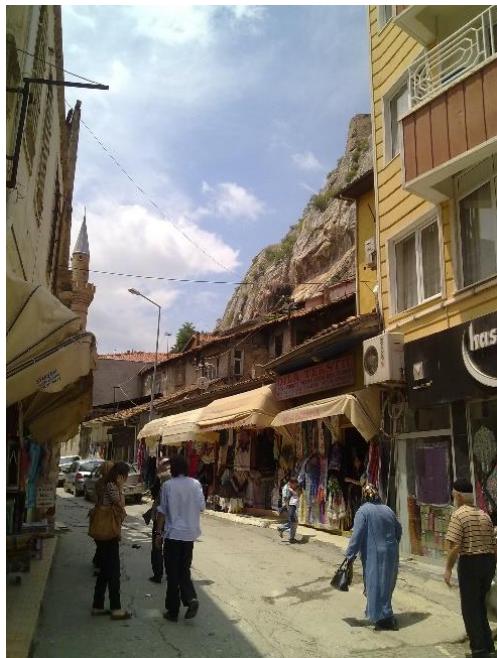
Latifoğlu Konak Museum (Turkish: Latifoğlu Konağı Müze Evi) is a rich residence built at the end of the 18th century. This residence is an example of Ottoman Baroque architecture. Most of the home furniture is original, which has been there since the construction of the building (Figure 24).



Bazaar-mahale-fortress



View from the bazaar to the mahalas



## Mahales



The entrance to the house is accentuated by design and materialization



Mahale: office space on the ground floor of the house, and housing on the first floor



Mejdan: square in the mahal - multi-purpose open space



A house in the contact zone of the bazaar-mahale  
Figure 24. Residential architecture in Tokat

Source: Author (July 9, 2012)

The Latifoğlu House (Turkish: Latifoğlu Konağı) is an example of a rich town house from the late period (end of the 19th century) of the Ottoman Empire. The base of the house is in the form of the letter "L", with its concave facing the inner courtyard (courtyard), and its convex facing the street. The central rooms of the house (halvat and large çardak) are emphasized with doxats. Today, the house has been converted into an ethnographic museum (Figure 25).



View of the house from the street



View of the house from the inner courtyard (courtyard)



Horizontal house plans



Kitchen (mutvak)





**Fig 25:** The Latifoglu House (Turkish: Latifoglu Konağı)

**Source:** Author (July 9, 2012)

The clock tower (Turkish: Saat kulesi) was built in 1902 from stone. The height of the clock tower is 33 meters and is visible from all parts of the city (Figure 26).



**Fig 26:** The clock tower (Turkish: Saat kulesi)

**Source:** Author (July 9, 2012)

Gaziosmanpaşa University in Tokat (Turkish: Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa Üniversitesi) is a public institution, founded in 1992. The university was named after Gazi Osman Pasha (Osman Nuri Pasha, 1832-1900), a great general of the Ottoman Empire who became famous in the Battle of Plevna (1877), where he withstood the months-long siege of Plevna by Russian-Romanian forces. The university has the following active faculties: Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Natural Sciences, Faculty of Education, Academy of Fine Arts, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Geology and Faculty of Theology. About 28,000 students study at the university <sup>[12]</sup> (Figure 27).



**Fig 27:** Author visiting Gaziosmanpaşa University in Tokat

**Source:** Prof. dr Amir Pasic (July 9, 2012)

Football is the most popular sport in Tokat. Tokatspor is a football club whose home is Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa Stadium. In addition to football, other sports are popular in Tokat: basketball, volleyball, tennis, swimming, water skiing (in summer), horseback riding, martial arts...

The Gaziosmanpaşa Stadium in Tokat (Turkish: Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa Stadyum) was built in 1984 with a capacity of 7,500 spectators <sup>[13]</sup>. A project for a modern stadium has been completed, the construction of which will begin soon (Figure 28).



**Fig 28:** The Gaziosmanpaşa Stadium in Tokat (Turkish: Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa Stadyum)

**Source:** <http://wikimapia.org/8420367/Tokat-Gaziosmanpasa-Stadium>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

**Source:** <http://www.yalovagazetesi.com/spor/ataturk-stadyumunda-oynamak-hayal-mi-oldu-h5345.html>, Accessed: August 7, 2024.

### Conclusion

The author's visits to Turkey were numerous. They mostly related to visits to Istanbul, but also to cities in the Asian part of Turkey. Apart from Istanbul, which is located in both the European and Asian parts of Turkey, the author visited the city of Çanakkale, which, like Istanbul, was developed in both the European and Asian parts of Turkey. The visits had different reasons: the visits to Yildiz Technical University, Karadeniz Technical University, Tokat Gaziosmanpasa University, for example, took place within the framework of the inter-faculty cooperation of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sarajevo (when the author was the dean of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sarajevo) with the aforementioned universities. , with the coordination of the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) and Professor Amir Pasic. The visit to the city of Tokato took place as part of the "Summer School, June 20 - July 17, 2012". The modern Republic of Turkey is a geographical space on which rich layers of material culture have been "stacked" (and preserved), from the earliest prehistory to the present day. It is safe to say that 'Turkey is the world museum of culture'. Professors from Turkey and all over the world, as well as students, participated in the mentioned summer schools as lecturers. What the professors and students saw on the spot greatly enriched their knowledge

that they acquired at 'their faculties', to their own benefit and to the benefit of the new generations that they will teach.

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