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## The Historical Çanakkale City in Türkiye

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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 and cities in the Asian part of Türkiye with a rich architectural, cultural and historical heritage. The visits to Istanbul had different reasons: vacation, visits to Yildiz Technic Universty within the framework of interfaculty cooperation between the Faculty of Architecture in Sarajevo and the Faculty of Architecture of Yildiz Technic Universty, visits to the Research Center For Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) within the framework of the cooperation between this institution and the Faculty of Architecture in Sarajevo, and the Author's participation in summer schools organized by IRCICA and the Al Turath Institute from Riyadh. The author's first visit to Üsküdar (the Asian part of Istanbul) took place in 2007, within the framework of the international workshop of the Faculty of Architecture in Sarajevo and the Faculty of Architecture of Yildiz Technic Universty. Later, during each visit to Istanbul, the Author also visited Üsküdar, focusing his attention on some of the most important examples of architectural cultural and historical heritage. The second (and most important) reason for the Author's visits to Üsküdar was curiosity, that is, the wealth of visual scenes offered by the Bosphorus cruise, from where the most beautiful views of the European and Asian parts of Istanbul were offered. The author visited the city of Bursa twice (2007), each time on the occasion of work on the study "Architecture in the travelogues of an architect". The visit to the Çanakkale city 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")

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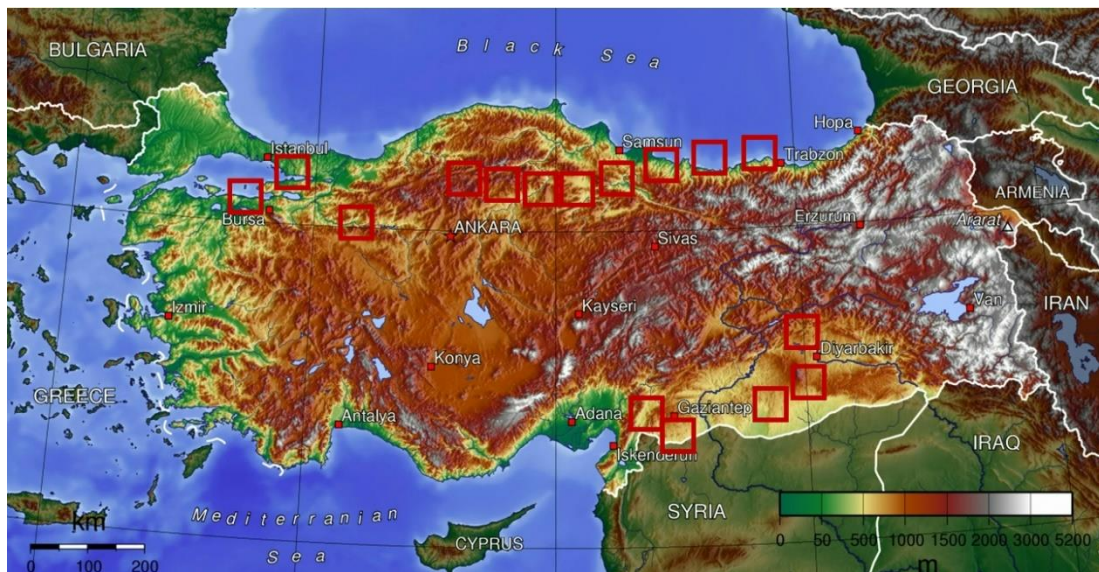
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### 1. Introduction

The Author's visits to Türkiye were numerous, and took place from 2005 to 2014 (Fig 1). They mostly related to visits to Istanbul and cities in the Asian part of Türkiye with a rich architectural, cultural and historical heritage. The visits to Istanbul had different reasons: vacation, visits to Yildiz Technic Universty within the framework of inter-faculty cooperation between the Faculty of Architecture in Sarajevo and the Faculty of Architecture of Yildiz Technic Universty, visits to the Research Center For Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) within the framework of cooperation between this institution and the Faculty of Architecture in Sarajevo, and the Author's participation in summer schools organized by IRCICA and the Al Turath Institute from Riyadh. The author's first visit to Üsküdar (the Asian part of Istanbul) took place in 2007, within the framework of the international workshop of the Faculty of Architecture in Sarajevo and the Faculty of Architecture of Yildiz Technic Universty. Later, during each visit to Istanbul, the Author also visited Üsküdar, focusing his attention on some of the most important examples of architectural cultural and historical heritage (Fig 2).

The second (and most important) reason for the Author's visits to Üsküdar was curiosity, that is, the wealth of visual scenes offered by the Bosphorus cruise, from where the most

beautiful views of the European and Asian parts of Istanbul were offered.



Source: Author's application on Google Earth base. Accessed: April 18, 2026.

Fig 1: Map of Turkiye. (The places the Author visited, the Asian part of Turkiye, are marked with red squares)



Source: Author's personal photo archive

Fig 2: Autor na znanstvenom simpoziju "Balkan i islam" (2010) na Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart Üniversitesi

The aim of the study trips was to get to know cities on the spot and through their analysis (through 'cabinet work') to contribute to the Author's theory of "Architecturally defined space" [1,2,3,4,5, 6,7,8,9,10,11, 12,13]. With the same goal, the author visited many cities: in the Balkans [14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36], in Europe [37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45], in the Mediterranean [46,47,48,49,50,51] and in Asia [52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66]. When he was in his second year of studies (1978), the Author came across a book by Kevin Andrew Lynch (1918-1984) entitled "The Image of the City" (1960) and was delighted with its contents. At that time, he also wrote a student paper entitled "Image of the Sarajevo City" which delighted his professor Aleksander

Trumic. Since the Author traveled a lot, he always tried to "capture" an image of a city and memorize it.

Çanakkale is a city and port (with about 143,622 inhabitants, 2021 census) located in the southern part of the Dardanelles sea passage, in the west of Turkiye. It is believed that the ancient Greek city of Troy was in its vicinity. The current name of the city has been used since 1890, instead of the previous name Kale-I-Sultaniye (old Ottoman: هيناطلس دعلق), or Sultaniye kalesi (Fortress of the Sultan). The Greek-Byzantine name for this city is Dardanellia (Δαρδανέλλια), from which the English name Dardanelles is derived. North of this city was located the city of Abydos known for the story of Hero and Leander. Since the 17th century, the city has been

known for the production of famous ceramic tiles (Çanakkale ceramics). Traces of material culture found on the nearby Biga peninsula testify to the presence of people in this area as early as 6000 BC. The nearby settlement of Kumkale was founded in 4000 BC, and the settlement of Troy in the period (3500-3000) BC. Aeolian Greeks settled here in the 8th century BC and established trading colonies in the region called Aeolis. The area then came under the control of the Lydians in the 7th century BC and then under the control of the Persians in the 6th century BC. Aeolis was then again under the control of the ancient Macedonian army after Alexander the Great defeated the Persians at the Battle of Granicus on the way to his conquests in Asia. The area of Çanakkale became part of the Kingdom of Pergamon in the 2nd century BC. The Çanakkale Fortress was built (1462) by Sultan Mehmed II Fatih the Conqueror (1432-1481) when this fortress-city was named Kale-I Sultaniye. The fortress secured the southern entrance to the Dardanelles Strait. After being expelled from Spain (1492), Jews settled en masse in the Çanakkale area, where they developed their community. They retained the Spanish language as their own until the 19th century. The western part of the Bige Peninsula is called Troa, according to the belief that the ancient city of Troy was located here. The settlement of Alexandria Troas, one of the settlements in the Çanakkale region, was a free trading port founded by the ancient Romans. This settlement was under frequent attacks by the Goths from the direction of Thrace in the 2nd century, and during the 7th and 8th centuries, under attack by the Arabs in their attempts to conquer Constantinople. At the beginning of the 14th century, the Karasids dominated here. The Ottomans achieved their

dominance here in 1367. On the territory of Çanakkale, during the First World War (1915), a large-scale battle took place (from April 25, 1915 to January 6, 1916) (the Gallipoli Campaign or the Dardanelles campaign) between the combined forces of Great Britain and France, on the one hand, and Turkey on the other, where Great Britain and France intended to conquer the Dardanelles Strait on the way to capture Constantinople (Istanbul). In this battle of epic proportions, the forces of Great Britain and France suffered a heavy defeat (with an estimated 131,000 dead and 262,000 wounded soldiers). Since the end of the First World War until today, Çanakkale has been developing in every way, thanks to its strategic location. The Port of Çanakkale is known for the export of products from the region, primarily for the export of ceramic tiles and other ceramic products, fur, wine and grain. An airport has been built near the city (3 km from its center), which strongly connects this city with other parts of modern Türkiye and the world as a whole. The city is connected by land to the rest of Türkiye by modern highways.

## 2. Natural resources and sights

The most important resource of the city of Çanakkale is its geopolitical position on the Dardanelles Passage, which was further strengthened by the Turkish victory over the forces of Great Britain and France in the First World War. In the vast hinterland of Çanakkale, in the Asian part of Turkey, are vast fertile fields where grains, vegetables, fruits and vines are grown. Since this area has a Mediterranean climate, its agricultural potential has reached its full potential (Figs 3, 4, 5).



Source: <http://www.bigazete.com.tr/2016/1/canakkale-havalimani-israf-mi-h20503.html>, Accessed: April 18, 2026.

Fig 3: The Çanakkale city on the Dardanelles



*Source:* <http://www.irisotel.com/irisotel/page/en/14/discovering-canakkale.aspx>, **Accessed:** April 18, 2026.

*Source:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWpxDU9H-zo>, **Accessed:** April 18, 2026.

*Source:* <https://bleon1.wordpress.com/category/turkey/page/2/>, **Accessed:** April 18, 2026

**Fig 4:** Cultivation of various agricultural crops in the fields around Çanakkale



*Source:* <http://www.irisotel.com/irisotel/page/en/14/discovering-canakkale.aspx>, **Accessed:** April 18, 2026.

**Fig 5:** Çanakkale as a tourist seaside destination

### 3. Architectural cultural and historical heritage

Çanakkale inherits the civilizational heritage of many peoples, from prehistory to the present day. The stormy history of this city is a magnet that attracts many visitors from all over the world, who with their visits revive and value the cultural and historical heritage of this city (Figs 6-22).

Troy is one of the most famous ancient cities in the world. The ten layers visible in Troy show more than 3000 years without interruption and allow us to trace the civilizations inhabited in this unique area where Anatolia, the Aegean and the Balkans meet<sup>[67]</sup>. The earliest level of settlement in Troy is in the Early Bronze Age, 3000-2500 BC. Troy, which was continuously inhabited after that, dates back to 85 BC and 500 BC. After the settlement of Troy in the 4th Roman period, it was inhabited as a Byzantine settlement in Troy V from the 12th to the 13th century. After that date, it lost its former importance as a result of the great political changes of its period. Due to its geographical location, Troy has always played a very important role in terms of commercial and cultural connections of the civilizations that ruled here with other regions. Troy also serves as a reference for other archaeological sites in Europe and the Aegean with its continuous stratification. As a port city, Troy developed rapidly due to its role in maritime trade throughout history and became a strategic settlement that controlled the passage from the Aegean to the Black Sea. The city, which lost its

importance in the historical process and was even forgotten, became the focus of attention of European intellectuals, especially from the 17th century, because it was the scene of the Trojan War, which Homer told about in the Epic Iliad. It was first excavated in 1871 by Heinrich Schliemann, and later by W. Dörpfeld and C.W. Blegen. Later, in this magnificent archaeological city, an international team led by Manfred O. Korfmann resumed excavations at Troy after a 50-year hiatus in 1988. Then, until 2005, excavations were continued by Manfred O. Korfmann. The archaeological site of Troy, currently being excavated by Professor Dr. Rüstem Aslan of Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, is located within the boundaries of the village of Tevfikiye in the province of Çanakkale. Due to its mythological, historical and archaeological importance, Troy and its surroundings were declared a historical national park in 1996, and in 1998 the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism declared 2018 the "Year of Troy" to mark the 20th anniversary of its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List<sup>[67]</sup>. The ruins of Troy are located 30 km from the city centre of Çanakkale. Located in the south, about 4.5 km from the coast, the ancient city was declared a national park in 1996 and in 1998 it was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List<sup>[68]</sup> (Fig 6).

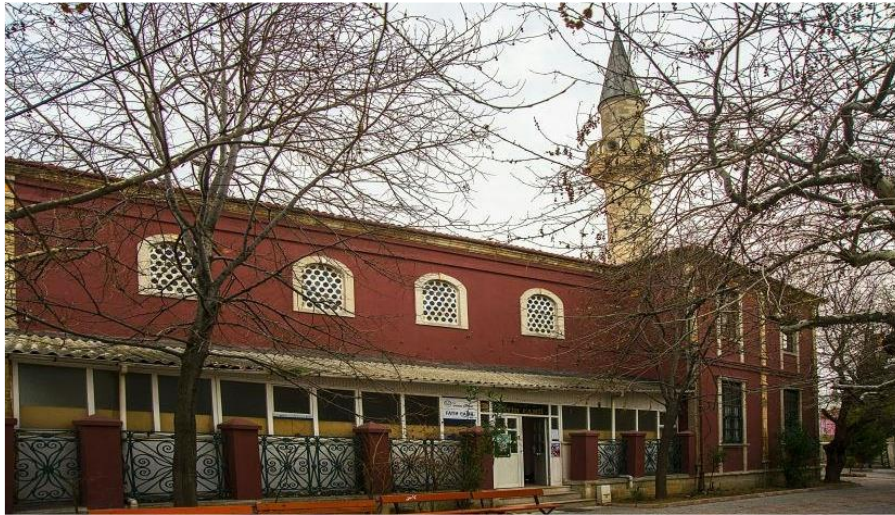


Source: <http://www.wacana.co/2017/01/naskah-dansejarah-kota-troya-dan-wiracarita-india/>, Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 6:** Remains of the Troy city near Çanakkale

The Sultan Mehmed II Fatih Mosque in Çanakkale is a historical site located within the 15th-century Sultaniye (Çimenlik) fortress in the city center. It was built (c. 1463–

1464) by Mehmed II to secure the Dardanelles. The mosque serves as a testament to early Ottoman naval strategy, and the fortress now houses maritime exhibitions (Fig 7).



Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tccanakkalevaliligi/15428655709/>, Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 7:** Sultan Mehmed II Fatih Mosque

Yalı Hamam was built in 1969. What makes Yalı Hamam so special is not its age. While many 500-600 year old baths still operate today using modern heating techniques, Yalı Hamam, despite its relatively young age, continues to heat the water

with wood and coal. This perfectly reflects the feeling of bathing in ancient times. The hamam is located on Çarşı Street. The bath attracts many domestic and foreign tourists visiting Çanakkale every year (Fig 8).



Source: <http://www.hamamguide.com/?p=284>, Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 8:** Yalı Hamam

The Yalı Hamı Caravanserai was built in the 19th century and served as such until the end of the 20th century. Today it has been adapted into a cultural center (Fig 9).

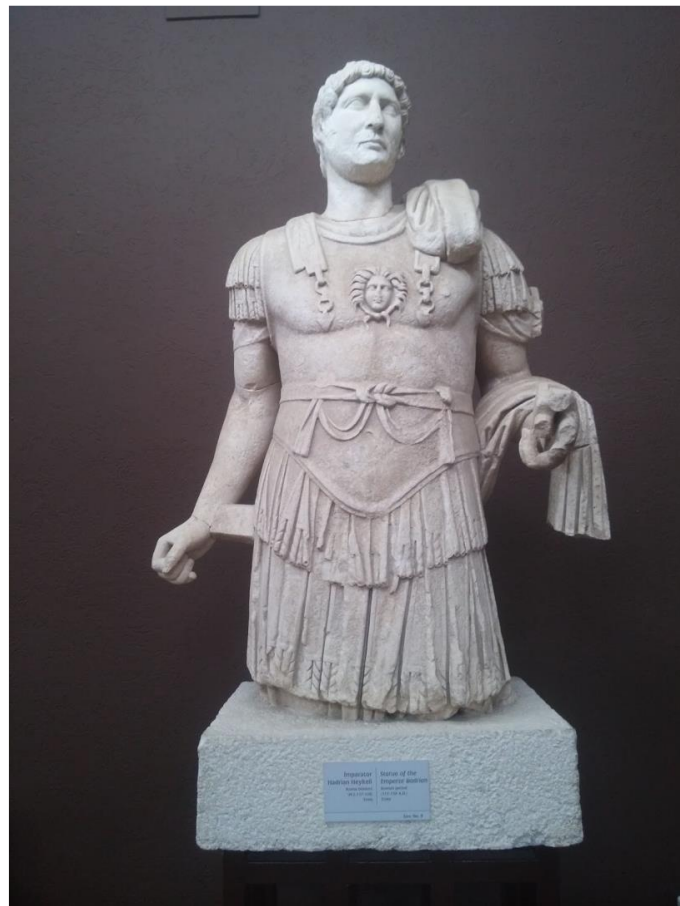


Source: <http://www.canakkaletravel.com/galeri/yalihani.html>, Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 9:** Yalı Hanı Caravanserai

Statue of Emperor Hadrian found in the Odeon (Troy, Illon) near Çanakkale. The statue dates from the 5th century. The

statue is kept in the Canakkale Museum Turkey (Fig 10).



Source: <https://obaskin.blogspot.com/2017/08/canakkale-arkeoloji-muzesi-gezisi.html>, Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 10:** Statue of Emperor Hadrian

The huge wooden sculpture of the Trojan Horse (made by Turkish artist İzzet Senemoğlu, 12.5 meters high) was a gift to the city after the filming of the film (2004) by Wolfgang Petersen “Troy” (starring Brad Pitt – as Achilles in the main role). The large wooden horse is described in Homer’s epics Iliad and Odyssey. Namely, the Greek commander Odysseus

gave it to the Trojans, who accepted it as a victory trophy. In fact, the best Greek soldiers were hiding inside it. Taking advantage of the Trojans’ carelessness, they jumped out during the night, surprised the rival army, opened the gates of the fortress to their comrades and conquered the city of Troy, according to one of the most famous world myths (Fig 11).



Source: <https://steemkr.com/photography/@efesnby/troy-horse-natural-photo>, Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 11:** The Trojan horse sculpture in the center of Çanakkale

Bozcaada Castle (turkish: Bozcaada kalesi). The castle is located on the island of Bozcaada (Tenedos, 15th century), about 48 km southwest of the city of Çanakkale. On the site of the castle there was a castle in the 14th century, built by the Phoenicians, Romans or Venetians. Sultan Mehmed II the Conqueror captured (1455) the site and rebuilt the castle

there. After the castle was conquered (1656) and briefly held by the Crusaders under Giacomo Loredano, the Ottomans led by Köprülü Mehmet Pasha reconquered it (1657). A major renovation of the castle took place in 1857 during the reign of Sultan Mahmut II (1785-1839), (Fig 12).



Source: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8d/Bozcaada%2C\\_%C3%87anakkale\\_Province.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8d/Bozcaada%2C_%C3%87anakkale_Province.jpg), Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 12:** Bozcaada Castle (turkish: Bozcaada kalesi)

Aynali Bazaar (Haliio Bazar). This is a covered bazaar (bezistan) built (1890) by Eliau Hallio, one of the elders of the Jewish community in Çanakkale (Fig 13).



Source: <http://www.mindap.org/?p=13364>, Accessed: April 18, 2026.

Source: [https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aynal%C4%B1\\_%C3%87ar%C5%9F%C4%B1#/media/File:Aynali-carsi.jpg](https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aynal%C4%B1_%C3%87ar%C5%9F%C4%B1#/media/File:Aynali-carsi.jpg)

Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 13:** Aynali Bazaar (Haliio Bazar)

According to the inscription, the Children's Mosque (turkish: Tıflı Cami) was built in 1891 during the reign of Sultan Abdülhamid. The mosque was named after the Ottoman Turkish word "Tıfl", meaning "child". This word was later pronounced as "Tıflı". The mosque served as a mosque for the nearby primary school (Sıbyan Mektebi). The school's

inscription, which has now completely disappeared, was located above the western entrance to the mosque's garden. The inscription indicates that the school was built in 1870 during the reign of Sultan Abdülaziz, by the then governor Ahmet Pasha of Kayseri (Fig 14).



Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tcanakkalevaliligi/16299638350>, Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 14:** Children's Mosque (turkish: Tıflı Cami)

The Clock Tower in the city center of Çanakkale, built in 1897 during the reign of Abdulhamid II (1842-1918). It consists of four floors that taper through the upper floors and the villas on the fourth floor. The Clock Tower, which has a

clock face on each facade of the fourth floor, gives its name to the square on which it is located and stands out as an important historical value where many visitors will be able to take a short break and take beautiful photos (Fig 15).



**Source:** [https://www.tripadvisor.com.tr/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g297979-d1989320-i70298498-Grand\\_Anzac\\_Hotel-Canakkale\\_Canakkale\\_Province\\_Turkish\\_Aegean\\_Coast.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com.tr/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g297979-d1989320-i70298498-Grand_Anzac_Hotel-Canakkale_Canakkale_Province_Turkish_Aegean_Coast.html), Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 15:** The Clock Tower

The Church of St. George (turkish: Surp Kevork Kilisesi) is located in the Fevzipaşa district of Çanakkale. It dates back to 1669, when 83 Armenian families settled in the area. This rectangular building, a historical and cultural heritage, was

destroyed in 1691 and rebuilt in 1718 by decree of Ahmed III. Currently without worshipers, the church is occasionally used for cultural events (Fig 16).



**Source:** <http://www.agos.com.tr/tr/yazi/687/bu-kilisecanakkaleye-yakisir>, Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 16:** The Church of St. George (turkish: Surp Kevork Kilisesi)

The Mekor Haim Synagogue (turkish: Mekor Hayim Sinagogu) is located in the city center of Canakkale. The synagogue is a reminder of the city's rich Jewish heritage. Built in the 19th century, this historical gem reflects a time

when Canakkale was home to a thriving Jewish community that played a key role in local trade and culture. Although no longer actively used for worship, its architectural beauty and serene atmosphere continue to captivate visitors (Fig 17).



**Source:** <http://turkisharchaeonews.net/city/%C3%A7anakkale>, Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 17:** The Mekor Haim Synagogue (turkish: Mekor Hayim Sinagogu)

The casualties of French troops in the battles of Gallipoli are often underestimated and forgotten. Some 27,000 men died, almost three times the Anzac casualties (fewer than 10,000, out of a total of around 115,000 British Empire casualties). The French successfully staged a false landing at Kum Kale on the Turkish Asiatic coast on 25 April 1915, but began the landings on Beach V on the evening of the 26th and took over the right flank of the Allied line. The French advanced along the eastern side of the Gallipoli Peninsula (on the shores of the Dardanelles). The French dead were buried in six cemeteries, but after the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 they were concentrated in one large cemetery at Morto Bay

(although a few bodies were subsequently returned to France). The Morto Bay French National Cemetery and Memorial in Gallipoli contains 2,240 identified graves, with details (including the place of original burial) listed in the caretaker's cottage just inside the door on the left. On the right is the small Kilitbahir ossuary, which contains the remains of 22 soldiers and sailors. The impressive (15m high) memorial lantern tower is itself an ossuary, with four more sarcophagus mass graves around it, containing the remains of around 15,000 French dead in total (many of them colonial soldiers). The memorial wall contains plaques from the original cemeteries, regimental and naval plaques (Fig 18).



**Source:** <https://www.dreamstime.com/stock-photofrench-military-cemetery-seddulbahirgallipoli-canakkale-turkey-image78308897>  
**Accessed:** April 18, 2026.

**Fig 18:** Memorial cemetery for French soldiers killed (1915) in the Battle of Gallipoli

The main memorial and cemetery for British soldiers killed in the 1915 Battle of Gallipoli is the Helles Memorial, located at the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. It serves as the main memorial to the Commonwealth battles throughout the

campaign, with an obelisk over 30 metres high commemorating the nearly 21,000 British and Indian soldiers who died there and have no known grave (Fig 19).



**Source:** <https://www.nnwfhs.org.uk/catch-all/firstworld-war-centenary-2/men-of-ww1-members-detailed-pages/1453-smaj-jepartridge> **Accessed:** April 18, 2026.

**Fig 19:** Memorial cemetery for British soldiers killed (1915) in the Battle of Gallipoli

The Çanakkale Martyrs' Monument (Çanakkale Şehitleri Anıtı) is a 41.7 meter tall monument in Gallipoli, Turkey, erected to honor the more than 253,000 Turkish soldiers who died during the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915–1916. Located

on Hisarlık Hill in Morto Bay, it is a key site within the Gallipoli Peninsula National Historical Park, with a symbolic cemetery, museum and memorial wall (Fig 20).



**Source:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%87anakkale\\_Martyrs%27\\_Memorial#/media/File:Canakkales\\_ehitleriabidesi.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%87anakkale_Martyrs%27_Memorial#/media/File:Canakkales_ehitleriabidesi.jpg) **Accessed:** April 18, 2026.

**Fig 20:** Çanakkale Memorial to Turkish Fallen Soldiers (turkish: Çanakkale Şehitleri Anıtı) in Gallipoli

The Çanakkale Naval Museum is a military museum established to inform visitors about the naval battle and campaign at Çanakkale. In the museum complex, one can find numerous cannons and objects used during the battles of

Çanakkale, the Çimenlik fortress, the Nusret minesweeper, a German submarine, the ACAR museum ship used by ATATÜRK, and a library (Fig 21).



**Source:** <http://www.liz.net/wallpaper-canakkalekilitbahir-763.htm>, **Accessed:** April 18, 2026.

**Fig 21:** The Çanakkale Naval Museum

Çanakkale Archaeological Museum (turkish: Çanakkale Arkeoloji Müzesi) was a museum in Çanakkale, Turkey. Its contents were moved to the Troy Museum (Turkish: Troya Müzesi or Truva Müzesi), founded in 2018, near the excavation site of the ancient Greek city of Troy. The location of the museum now houses the Mehmet Akif Ersoy Provincial Public Library. The main objects in the exhibition

halls are artifacts from various ruins around Çanakkale, such as Troy, Assos, Apollo, Smintheion, Tenedos and Alexandria Troas. Some of the objects are marble sculptures, stelae, lighting fixtures, terracotta and bronze kitchenware, glassware and ornaments. The painted sarcophagus from the Achaemenid Empire and the sarcophagus of Polixenes are among the significant objects (Fig 22).



**Source:** <https://obaskin.blogspot.com/2017/08/canakkale-arkeoloji-muzesi-gezisi.html>, **Accessed:** April 18, 2026.

**Fig 22:** Çanakkale Archaeological Museum (turkish: Çanakkele Arkeoloji Müzesi)

Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University (informally ÇOMÜ) is located in Çanakkale Province, near Gallipoli and the surrounding towns. It is a member of the Balkan Universities Network, the European University Association (EUA), the International Association of Universities (IAU) and the Union of Thrace Universities. Some of ÇOMÜ's faculties were part of Thrace University (Thrace) before 1992. The Faculty of Education has its roots in the 1950s. Çanakkale Vocational School was also part of Thrace University (Edirne). ÇOMÜ was established in 1992 on the basis of the Faculty of Education on the Anafartalar Campus by a law of

the Turkish Parliament. Before that, the facilities housed a teacher training institute that was a branch of Thrace University. In the academic year 2005–2006, there were over 19,000 students, with 960 academic staff in two postgraduate programs, nine faculties, two polytechnic faculties (four-year programs) and 11 vocational faculties (two-year programs). From 20 to 24 October 2010, the university hosted the World University Congress, which focused on addressing the question “What can the world's universities do to prevent global problems?” (Fig 23).



Source: <https://www.unibilgi.net/138-canakkale-on-sekiz-mart-universitesi-seyahat-isletmeciligi/>,  
Accessed: April 18, 2026.

**Fig 23:** Çanakkale University (turkish: Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart Üniversitesi)

### Conclusion

Similar to Istanbul (which is located on the Bosphorus strait, which connects the Marmara and Black Seas), the city of Çanakkale is located on the Dardanelles strait, which connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Sea of Marmara. From a geopolitical point of view, it is an extremely strategically important location where the vast area of the Mediterranean, on the one hand, and the vast area around the Black Sea face each other. It was here that the epochal Battle of Gallipoli (Turkish: Çanakkale Savaşları) took place, one of the bloodiest battles of the First World War. It was fought from April 25, 1915, to January 6, 1916, between the Atanta forces, which consisted largely of the troops of the British Empire outside England (Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand), which consisted of volunteers and the irregular army. The Turkish army was led by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938), the later founder of the Republic of Turkey and its first president, who gained his military reputation precisely on the battlefield near Gallipoli. Human life in this area dates back to the distant past. The first inhabitants lived on the Biga Peninsula in the Late Chalcolithic period, around 6,000 years ago. Very little is known about their identity and way of life. According to some excavations and research, the earliest settlements in the area were established in Kumtepe. It is believed that Kumkale was founded in 4000 BC, and Troy between 3500 and 3000 BC. Aeolian Greeks settled here in the 8th century BC and quickly established trading colonies. The region came under the control of the Lydians

in the 7th century BC, and under the control of the Persians in the 6th century BC. Aeolis fell under the control of the ancient Macedonian army after Alexander the Great defeated the Persians at the Battle of Granicus on his way to Asia in 334 BC. The region came under the rule of the Pergamon Kingdom in the 2nd century BC. The western part of the Biga peninsula, where ancient Troy is located, was once called Troa (Troada). The settlement of Alexandria Troas was an important free port and trade center in Roman times. In the 2nd century AD, the region was invaded by the Goths from Thrace. During the 7th and 8th centuries, Arabs hoping to attack Constantinople passed through the strait several times and reached Sesto.

Today, Çanakkale is a modern city with 13 high schools and Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, which consists of 12 faculties, four institutes, nine four-year college programs and 14 vocational schools, with about 52,000 students.

The 1915 Çanakkale Bridge (turkish: 1915 Çanakkale Köprüsü) is a recently new, impressive, landmark of the city of Çanakkale (Fig 24). It is a suspension bridge located south of the coastal towns of Lapseki and Gelibolu, spanning the Dardanelles, about ten kilometers south of the Marmara Sea. It is the longest suspension bridge in the world with a main span of 2,023 meters, surpassing the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge (1998) in Japan by 32 meters. The bridge was officially opened by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on 18 March 2022 after approximately five years of construction.



Source: <https://www.thetravel.com/worlds-longest-suspension-bridge-in-turkey/>, Accessed: April 19, 2026.

**Fig 24:** The 1915 Çanakkale Bridge (Turkish: 1915 Çanakkale Köprüsü)

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