

Istanbul's Cultural and Natural Assets to be Preserved

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Istanbul has natural and cultural values that give the city its identity. The city of Istanbul, once the capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, reflects the unique values of these cultures through urban, historical, archeological and natural sites and numerous monuments and examples of civilian architecture.

According to the decrees of Law No. 2863 for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets, the responsible and authorized body for conserving the cultural heritage and cultural and natural assets in Turkey is the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The unit charged with the conservation of cultural and natural assets within the Ministry of Culture and Tourism is the General Directorate of Cultural Assets and Museums. Although the Ministry of Culture and Tourism is the highest-ranking body with respect to authority and responsibility, it has turned over the responsibility for some of the movable and immovable assets to other bodies and organizations. These are: the Turkish National Assembly, Ministry of Defense, and Directorate of Foundations. According to the decrees of Law No. 2873 for National Parks, the authority for the preservation and planning of areas evaluated as parts of nature having characteristic flora and fauna, and integrated with the scenery and are suitable for the recreation and entertainment of the public is given to the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry.

All listed cultural and natural assets that need to be preserved and all immovable assets built before the end of the 19th century, whether officially registered or not, are subject to Law No. 2863 dated 21.07.1983, amended through Law No.3386 dated 17.6.1987 and No. 5226 dated 14.7.2004. Law No. 2863 has definitions of movable and immovable cultural and natural assets that need to be preserved, and defines the laws and regulations, conservation principles, and the bodies and organizations responsible for their preservation. According to the law, historical sites, natural sites, archeological sites, urban sites, combined sites and immovable cultural and natural assets (Monuments, examples of civil architecture, religious, cultural, industrial and commercial buildings, streets, citadels, cemeteries, ruins, natural formations [caves, beaches, fairy chimneys, lakes, waterfalls], tumuli etc.) are defined as cultural and natural assets that must be preserved.

Law No. 2873 for National Parks also defines natural areas that must be conserved. This law, put into effect in 1983, defines national parks, natural protection areas, nature parks and nature monuments as four areas to be preserved.

natural sites are areas belonging to geological eras, prehistoric and historical eras or areas that should be preserved because of their characteristics and beauty.

Historical sites are areas where important historical events have taken place.

Urban sites are areas to be preserved because they contain cultural and natural assets belonging to different civilizations, which constitute the identity of the city.

Archeological sites are areas that must be conserved with remains of ancient civilizations above ground, underground or underwater, already known or to be excavated.

Mixed sites are areas having more than one cultural, historical, archeological, urban and natural value that form the identity of a city.

National parks are parts of nature that are valued from the scientific or aesthetic point of view with rare national or international natural and cultural resource value and contain areas of preservation, recreation and tourism.

Natural parks are parts of nature having areas of preservation, recreation and tourism with rare national and international natural resources.

Nature monuments are pieces of nature that have characteristics caused by natural effects or phenomena and scientific value, and are protected by the regulations of the national parks. These may sometimes be just a piece of a rock, or a waterfall.

Natural protection areas are pieces of nature, which have ecosystems, species and selected examples formed by natural phenomenon that have scientific and educational importance, which are chosen to be used only for scientific and educational purposes and cannot be used for touristic purposes.

Natural, Historic, Urban, Archeological and Mixed Sites in Istanbul

The city of Istanbul is divided into three regions in which areas of responsibilities and duties with respect to conservation are defined. Among the Regional Commissions for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets defined as the Regional Units of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Commission No.1 is authorized and responsible for the preservation of Cultural and Natural Assets in the Historic Peninsula and the European side, Commission No. 2 for the preservation of Cultural and Natural Asset on the Asian side, Commission No. 3 is authorized and responsible for the preservation of Cultural and Natural Assets on the Princes' Islands, the Bosphorus coastline, and its front view and rear view areas.

In Istanbul, monuments, examples of civil architecture, regions and areas, archeological remains and natural assets that have historic and cultural value are officially registered as "Cultural Heritage" and/or are declared as 'Conservation Sites'. All cultural and natural assets are subject to Law No. 2863 for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets, amended through Law No. 3386 and Law No. 5226. However, the Bosphorus is an exception that is protected according to the articles of Law No. 2960, which is a special law for the Preservation of the Bosphorus.

The Topkapı Palace, Yıldız Palace, Süleymaniye Mosque and surroundings, Zeyrek Mosque (Pantocrator Church) and surroundings, the Land Walls, Bozdoğan Aqueduct and Golden Horn, which are among the historical sites that must be conserved in Istanbul, were included in the UNESCO List of World Heritage in 1985.

The most important sites of Istanbul are located in the Historic Peninsula, the Bosphorus, Beyoğlu, Eyüp, Kadıköy, Üsküdar and the Princes' Islands. Besides these, there are other smaller sites in and outside the city. According to the data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, there are 19,512 individual buildings officially registered as cultural assets.

The Bosphorus Preservation Areas, which have a special importance with their natural and historic values, cover a large part of the Sarıyer and Beşiktaş districts on the European side and the Beykoz and Üsküdar districts on the Asian side. The Bosphorus and the historic Ottoman settlements, fishing villages and waterside palaces on and around the Bosphorus with its unique topographical formations, offer the most attractive view of Istanbul's silhouette when combined with cypress, Judas, wisteria and pine trees.

The Bosphorus is under protection by a special law, the Bosphorus Law No. 2960. With this law, the Bosphorus is divided into four areas: "Bosphorus Area Coastal Strip" located along the coast line, "Front View Area" (4300 ha overall) connected to the coast line and comprising the most beautiful scenery of the Bosphorus as well as the inland sites of the Bosphorus settlement to be protected, the "Rear View Area" (1000 ha) that is located between the front view area and the influence area forming the inlands of the Bosphorus settlement, and the "Influence Area" (5300 ha) defined as the area connected to the rural area and the city center. This law and its appendices evaluate the Bosphorus area as a recreation, tourism and housing area, and protects its green belt formed by groves, recreation areas, also prohibits the construction of new buildings on the front view area with the exception of houses in private grove areas.

The areas within the boundaries of the Bosphorus Beykoz and Sarıyer districts and neighboring areas that are not covered by the Bosphorus Law No. 2960 and are under the threat of dense settlements have been

declared Natural Sites by the Istanbul Commission for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Assets No. 3 on 15.11.1995 and by decision No. 7755.

Designated in 1995, the Historic Peninsula Urban and Archeological conservation site can be divided into three different areas with consideration to their level of protection and the density of historical buildings. The Topkapı Palace, where central functions are gathered, and the surroundings of the 1st Degree Archeological Site make up the first priority area, the area composed of 14 neighborhoods with a dense historic fabric is the second priority area, and the rest of the Historic Peninsula forms the third priority area. The Historic Peninsula forming a large part of the historical city center of Istanbul has an approximate population of 500,000. Efforts to conserve this area, whose protection development plan was approved in 2005 and which incorporates important historic buildings and areas included in the World Heritage List, are continuing.

Another important urban conservation site in Istanbul is the Beyoğlu Urban Conservation Site, which was designated in 1993, has an area of 360 ha with an approximate population of 77,000. There are many churches and monasteries in this area where Levantines used to live during the Ottoman period. Rural migrants and people with low income now live in this area which was abandoned by its first owners. Work on the development plan for the protection of this area is continuing.

Another area in Istanbul which contains numerous historical assets is Eyüp, declared an Urban Conservation Site in 1977, and measuring 180 ha with an approximate population of 30,000. Eyüp, which developed around the complex commissioned by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror, plays an important role in the cultural life of Istanbul.

Kadıköy and the Princes' Islands have important features as natural and urban sites.

The Princes' Islands were a summer resort in the 19th century. The Adalar district comprising of nine islands called Büyükada, Heybeliada, Burgazadası, Kınalıada, Sedefadası, Yassıada, Kaşıkadası, Sivriada and Tavşanadası, has a total population of 17,750. However, it is estimated that during the summer season the population reaches almost 100,000. In Büyükada, Heybeliada, Burgazadası, Kınalıada and Sedefadası, which were designated as a Natural Conservation Site in 1984, one can still enjoy the magical atmosphere of the previous century.

The Kadıköy Urban Conservation Site with a very old history is important as it contains numerous late 19th and early 20th century examples of timber and masonry architecture. There are large and small natural, urban and urban-natural conservation sites of city block scale in various locations in Kadıköy.

Üsküdar, another urban site on the Asian Side of the city, is an impor-

tant settlement with monumental complexes like Mihrimah Sultan, Atik Valide, Sultan Selim, timber houses, *tekkes* and *türbes*. The Büyük and Küçük Çamlıca Natural and Urban Conservation sites and the historical Karacaahmet Cemetery are also in Üsküdar.

In addition to these, Bakırköy, Silivri, Küçükçekmece, Avcılar on the European side, Kartal, Pendik, Şile and Tuzla on the Asian side have conservation sites with important features. Conservation sites in Istanbul are listed in Table 1 according to their special features and locations.

Natural Conservation Areas in Istanbul

There are no national parks within the limits of Istanbul province. There are two Nature Parks, one on each side of the Bosphorus, one Natural Monument and one Natural Protection Area.

Istanbul - Polonezköy Nature Park is within the boundaries of Beykoz district. In spite of the industrial developments around Polonezköy, it maintains its natural flora, which has characteristics of the western Mediterranean region.

Türkmenbaşı Nature Park is within the Hacıosman area of the Şişli district. It meets the entertainment, recreation and sports needs of the Istanbul public with its flora similar to that of the Belgrade Forest and has superior aesthetic assets integrating with the scenery.

Designated in 1995, the Istanbul - Subaşı Havuzlar Pınarı Natural Monuments Area is located in Çatalca, Istanbul. It is a special area with 900-1000 year old plane trees that are 15 m tall, with radii of 3.5 m and circumferences of 17 m.

Istanbul – Göknelik Nature Preservation Area is within the boundaries of the Tokat village in the Beykoz district of the Istanbul, covering an area of 46.5 ha. It has the characteristics of a rare and threatened ecosystem where the only naturally propagated fir stock is located.

Sources:

- Archives of Ministry of Culture and Tourism.
- Archives of the Istanbul Commissions No. 1, 2, 3 for the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Assets.
- Archives of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality.
- Archives of Environment and Urban Planning Appl-Res Center, ITU

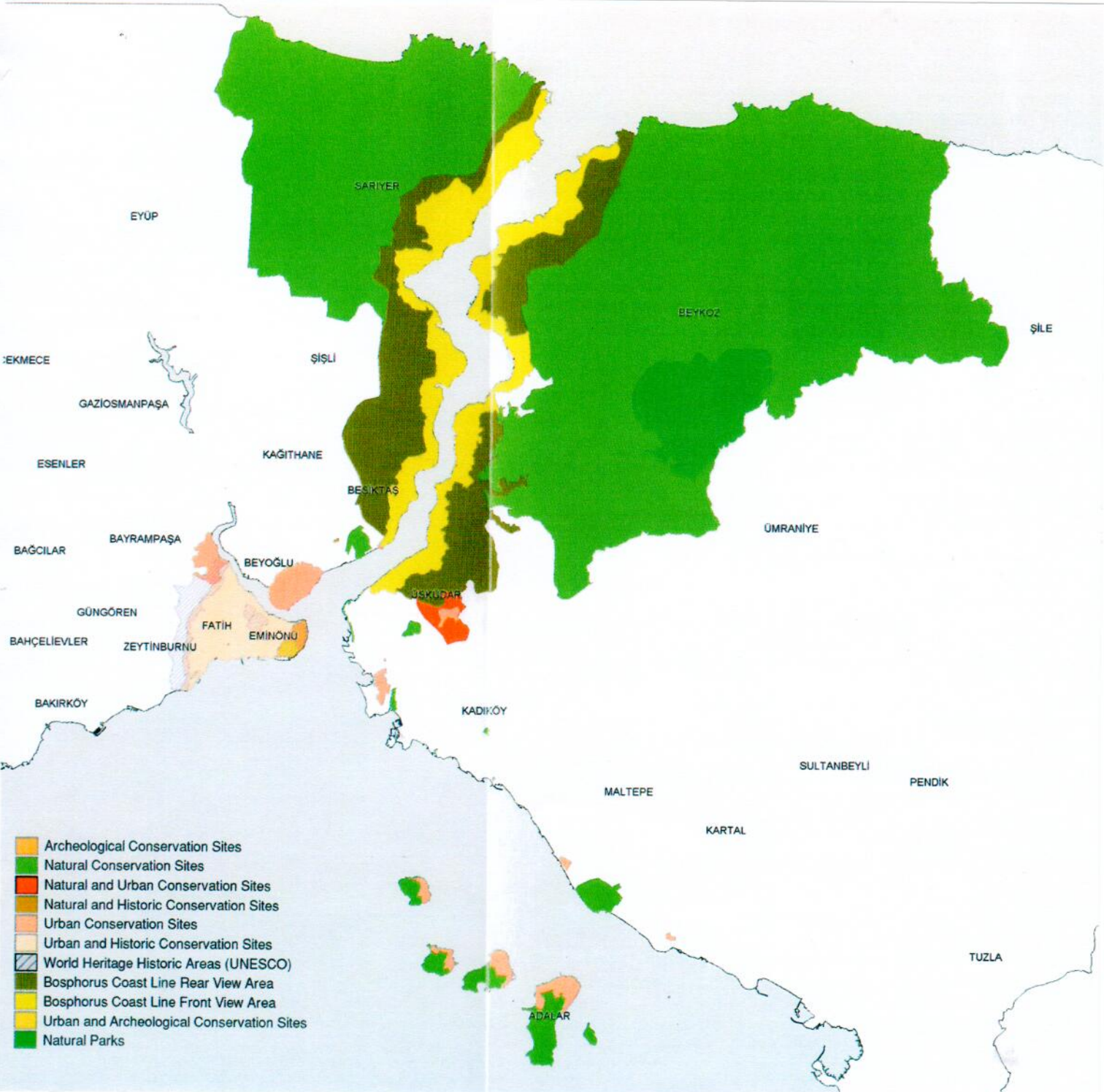
Natural Historical, Urban, Archeological and Mixed Sites in İstanbul

(Source: Commissions no's. 1.2.3 for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets of İstanbul)

Type of Site	Name of Place City, Town, Location	Designation Date and Number
Natural Site		
Istanbul Northern Region, Karadeniz Belt, Natural Site	Sarıyer and Beykoz Çavuşköy and Bahçeköy Neighborhood	15.11.1995 / 7755
Abbasağa Park	Beşiktaş	01.03.2000 / 11484
Florya Atatürk Forest	Bakırköy	01.09.1999 / 11103
Inner and outer beaches and the Soğuksu Farm	Küçükçekmece and Avcılar	13.11.1976 / 9509
Büyük and Küçük Kokmuş Lakes	Silivri	14.10.1999 / 5349
Kadıköy, a309, p2	Kadıköy	20.12.1975 / 8781
Kadıköy, pf172, a 620, p39		13.05.1977 / 9780
Kadıköy, pf106, a380, p1-6		20.10.1979 / 11458
Kadıköy, a1149, p8		27.04.2000 / 5589
Kadıköy-Acıbadem, a1340, p4, 5, 6		16.10.2002 / 6470
Kadıköy, pf9, a5, p1. Yoğurtçu Green Belt		25.12.2002 / 6529
Harem, Salacak and Şemsi Paşa Validebağ, Natural Site	Üsküdar	12.03.1977 / 9728 12.03.1977 / 9728
Dragos Hill and Surroundings	Kartal	11.11.1999 / 5385
Kartal-Yakacık, pf 109/2, p7; pf109, a2576, p2 DDY Hospital	Kartal-Yakacık	26.09.2002 / 6451
Pendik, pf93, a673, p1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; a 868, p 2 I; a775, p1, 2, 3	Pendik	07.10.1999 / 5346
Aydos Mountain, Büyük and Küçük İçmeler	Pendik-Kartal-Sultanbeyli	14.10.1999 / 5348 16.06.2000 / 5670
Kamil Abduş Lake and Surroundings	Tuzla	14.01.1992 / 2787 26.01.1993 / 3019-
Büyük İçmeler, Northern Region		16.07.1997 / 4535 30.09.1999 / 5317
Historical Site		
Atatürk Cultural Center Preservation Area	Beyoğlu	22.03.1995 / 6482
Archeological Site		
Eminönü Archeological Conservation Site	Eminönü	12.07.1995 / 6848
Rheigon Site	Küçükçekmece	15.09.1973 / 3212
Altınşehir, İspartakule- Firuzköy-Kayabaşı Area		10.07.1991 / 2700 16.07.1991 / 2700
Yarımburgaz Cave, Baruthane and Resneli Osman Farm Area Center		01.03.1994 / 3387
Necropolis Area	Silivri, Center	18.09.1997 / 4593
Anastasias Walls	Silivri	06.04.2000 / 5558
Kurtallı Village		16.01.2002 / 6254
Mimar Sinan Bridge and Surroundings	Silivri, Selimpaşa neighborhood	21.03.2002 / 6311 07.04.2004 / 6920
Selimpaşa Tumulus	Çatalca, Inceğiz Village	10.05.1994 / 3456
Maltepe Necropolis	Çatalca	24.11.1995 / 39928
Anastasius Walls	Maltepe, Başbüyük, Samandıra	29.11.1994/3616-3617 26.07.1996 / 4226
Mağarabayır and Fındıkbayır Hill Ruins of Damatris Palace and bath Pendik Tumulus	Pendik, Kaynarca	06.04.1993 / 3054

Tepecik Hill Area, Höyük	Pendik-Kurna Village	06.11.2002 / 6484
Göztepe Area	Şile-Domalı (Sahilköy)	07.02.2001 / 5950- 28.06.2001 / 6098
Urban Site		
Beyoğlu Urban Conservation Site	Beyoğlu	07.07.1993 / 4720
Eyüp Urban Conservation Site	Eyüp	15.01.1977 / 9591
Ortaköy Mosque and Surroundings	Beşiktaş	25.07.1986 / 2447
Selimpaşa	Silivri	10.12.1991 / 2773
Antik Selymbria, District Center		28.09.1993 / 3216
Kaleiçi Neighborhood	Çatalca	14.11.1995 / 1566
Historical Bazaar Center	Kadıköy	13.09.1991 / 3623
Rasimpaşa		19.04.1994 / 3436
Ibrahimağa		21.03.1995 / 3721
Valide-i Atik Mosque and Surroundings	Üsküdar	02.04.1992 / 4462
Urban Site		
Rum-i Mehmed Paşa Mosque and Surroundings		22.08.1996 / 8587
Ayazma Mosque and Surroundings		
Urban Site		
Balıkçı Village	Maltepe	26.03.1991 / 2640
District Center	Kartal	10.04.1997 / 4469
Natural and Historic Conservation Site		
Bosphorus Natural and Historical Site	Beşiktaş, Üsküdar, Sarıyer, Beykoz	14.12.1974 / 8172 24.06.1983 / 15175
Ihlamur Pavilion and Surroundings	Beşiktaş	13.02.1976 / 8913 11.06.1985 / 1152
Yıldız Palace		09.02.1995 / 7296
Karacaahmet Cemetery	Üsküdar	03.05.1991 / 3180
Natural and Urban Conservation Site		
Hasanpaşa	Kadıköy	19.04.1994 / 3437
Büyük and Küçük Çamlıca	Üsküdar	11.01.1991 / 2759
Natural and Urban Site		16.01.1998 / 9665
Karacaahmet Cemetery		03.05.1991 / 3180
District Center	Şile	28.01.1992 / 2796
Marmara (Princes') Islands	Büyükdada, Heybeliada, Burgazada, Kınalıada, Sedef Island	31.03.1984 / 234
Natural and Archeological Conservation Site		
Ferhatpaşa Farm	Bayrampaşa	19.11.1994 / 3603 - 02.02.1996 / 4025
İkigöz and Kocakuyu Caves	Çatalca	24.11.1995 / 3928
Inceğiz Village, Umurtepe Area		21.08.1997 / 4540- 05.02.1998 / 4701
Keçikalesi, remains on the Sultanbeyli side of the Aydos Mountain	Within the boundaries of Pendik-Kartal-Sultanbeyli	16.06.2000 / 5670
Sakız Island, p4709		17.11.1992 / 2972- 26.01.1993 / 3019
Incirli (Glykeria) Island	Tuzla	27.12.1994 / 3642
Ancient Harbour and Surroundings		16.04.1998 / 4761
Doğancılı and Alacalı	Şile	11.12.1997 / 4667
Ağva District		13.04.2001 / 5572
Urban and Historic Conservation Site		
Istanbul Historic Peninsula Fatih	Fatih	12.07.1995 / 6848
Istanbul Historic Peninsula Eminönü	Eminönü	12.07.1995 / 6848
Urban and Archeological Conservation Site		
Istanbul Historic Peninsula	Fatih, Eminönü	12.07.1995 / 6848
Tuzla District Center	Tuzla	23.02.1993 / 3022- 16.04.1998 / 4762

pf: section, a: block, p: lot



- Archeological Conservation Sites
- Natural Conservation Sites
- Natural and Urban Conservation Sites
- Natural and Historic Conservation Sites
- Urban Conservation Sites
- Urban and Historic Conservation Sites
- World Heritage Historic Areas (UNESCO)
- Bosphorus Coast Line Rear View Area
- Bosphorus Coast Line Front View Area
- Urban and Archeological Conservation Sites
- Natural Parks