

Chp # 7

SULTAN AHMAD MOSQUE

1. **Why is Sultan Ahmad Mosque also known as the Blue Mosque?**
Answer: Sultan Ahmad Mosque is also known as the Blue Mosque because blue colour dominates its interior. The upper part of its interior is painted blue while the lower part is decorated with thousands of blue coloured tiles.
2. **Who was appointed as the architect of the mosque?**
Answer: The royal architect Sedefnar Mehmet Agha was appointed by Sultan Ahmad I as in charge of the project. The construction started in 1609.
3. **Why was a heavy iron chain hung at the entrance of the court?**
Answer: A heavy iron chain was hung at the court entrance on the western side. This side was meant for the Sultan alone. The chain was put there so that the Sultan had to lower his head every time he entered the court. It symbolized his humbleness before Allah Almighty.
4. **How does the interior of the mosque look?**
Answer: The lower level of the interior of the mosque is adorned with thousands of ceramic tiles with tulips on them. In the middle the design becomes flamboyant. The upper part of the interior is painted blue.
5. **Why do you think Madrassah and hospice were a part of the mosque?**
Answer: Madrassah and hospice were a part of the mosque for two reasons. There was no formal education, so Madrassah provided the education. As mosque is believed to be the house of God, it must provide shelter to those who need it. So it had a hospice as well.
6. **Who constructed mosque Sophia?**
Answer: Hagia Sophia was constructed by a Roman emperor Justinian I in 537 as a church. In 1453 Constantinople was conquered by the Ottoman Turks who converted Hagia Sophia into a mosque. The Turk Republic secularised it in 1935 and turned it into a museum.
7. **Who started the construction of Blue Mosque?**
Answer: The Turk Sultan Ahmad I started the construction of Blue Mosque in 1609. Unfortunately he could not see its completion in 1616 and the mosque was inaugurated by his successor Mustafa I.
8. **In whose reign was the construction completed?**
Answer: The Turk Sultan Ahmad I started the construction of Blue Mosque in 1609. Unfortunately he could not see its completion in 1616 and the mosque was inaugurated by his successor Mustafa I.
9. **Where is the royal room situated?**
Answer: The royal room is situated at the south east corner. It has its own pulpit and used to be decorated with jade and roses.
10. **Why was a separate royal room attached to the mosque?**
Answer: A separate royal room was attached to the mosque for the Sultan. It had its own pulpit that was used by the Sultan to address people whenever he wished to do so. The main pulpit was used by the regular imam.

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