

BUYUKADA

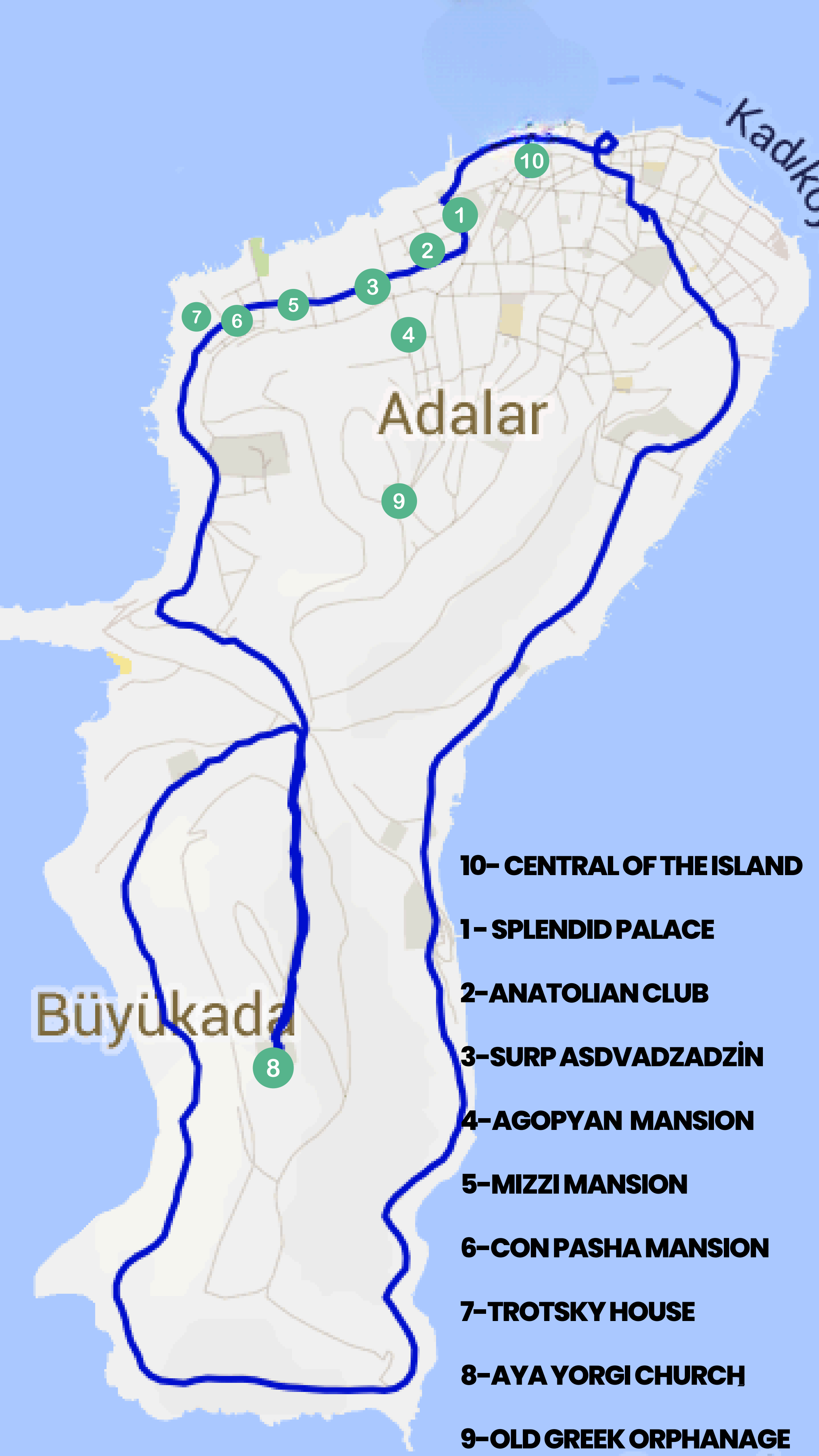
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# PRINCES ISLANDS TOUR BUYUKADA TRAVEL GUIDE

Bring together for you some of the historical mansions that have left their mark on the history of Büyükada.

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Kadıköy

Büyükada

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# PRINCES ISLANDS

Known as the Prince Islands or Islands, this archipelago is a fascinating island group located off the coast of Istanbul. Geologically, it emerged in the fourth period, approximately 10,000 – 6,500 years ago, as a result of the melting of glaciers and the rise in sea level. This process created this unique archipelago of nine islands. Throughout history, the Prince Islands have hosted different civilizations. These islands, which have been inhabited since the Hellenistic period, also played an important role during the Eastern Roman Empire. The islands, which were used as places of exile especially during the Byzantine period, continue to fascinate visitors with their historical structures, natural beauties and peaceful environment. The islands are a refuge for those who want to escape from the crowds of Istanbul.

**The largest and central of the Prince Islands is Büyükada, and the smallest is Sedef Island. The winter population of the 4 islands, where settlements are abundant, is around 20,000. In summer, the population increases by 10–15.**



# SPLENDID PALACE

In 1911, Sakızlı Musir/Meraşel Mehmet Kazım Pasha purchased the land on which the hotel's building is located and built the current Splendid Hotel, similar to the hotel named Splendid, which he saw in the Cannes Vieux Port region of France. The hotel has been welcoming its guests for 113 years, with its architecture in particular (The New York Times referred to the hotel architecture as a "New Art-flavored wedding cake" in an article), the paintings of famous painters adorning the walls, and its luxurious furniture and decorative products. The hotel served as a hospital for approximately 200 injured soldiers for a while during the 1912 Balkan War.

Beyond being a commercial establishment, the hotel is operated as a family heirloom and cultural heritage. Gazi Mustafa Kemal visited it twice, in 1929 and 1934. After the Atatürk era, the address of the Republic Ball in 1996 was again the Splendid Hotel. Splendid Hotel hosted many important figures other than Gazi. Some of these are Wallis Simpson and Her Husband King Edward VIII, Yahya Kemal, Halit Fahri Ozansoy...



# ANATOLIAN CLUB

The Anatolian Club building and facilities served as the British Yacht Club between 1906 and 1928. These buildings, which were transformed into the Anatolian Club by the Council of Ministers of that day in order to contribute to social development during the founding years of the Republic, bear some features of the British-origin colonial and Victorian styles. The ground floor of the Yellow House, the fifth and oldest building of the complex that hosts the biennial, is used as a game hall.

The club, which changed its name and owner several times, was transformed into the Büyükada branch of the Anatolian Club in Ankara in 1937 by the order of Atatürk.

The club's first buildings, whose architect is unknown, are typical examples of late 19th-century Islands architecture with their neo-classical and eclectic (combined) styles.

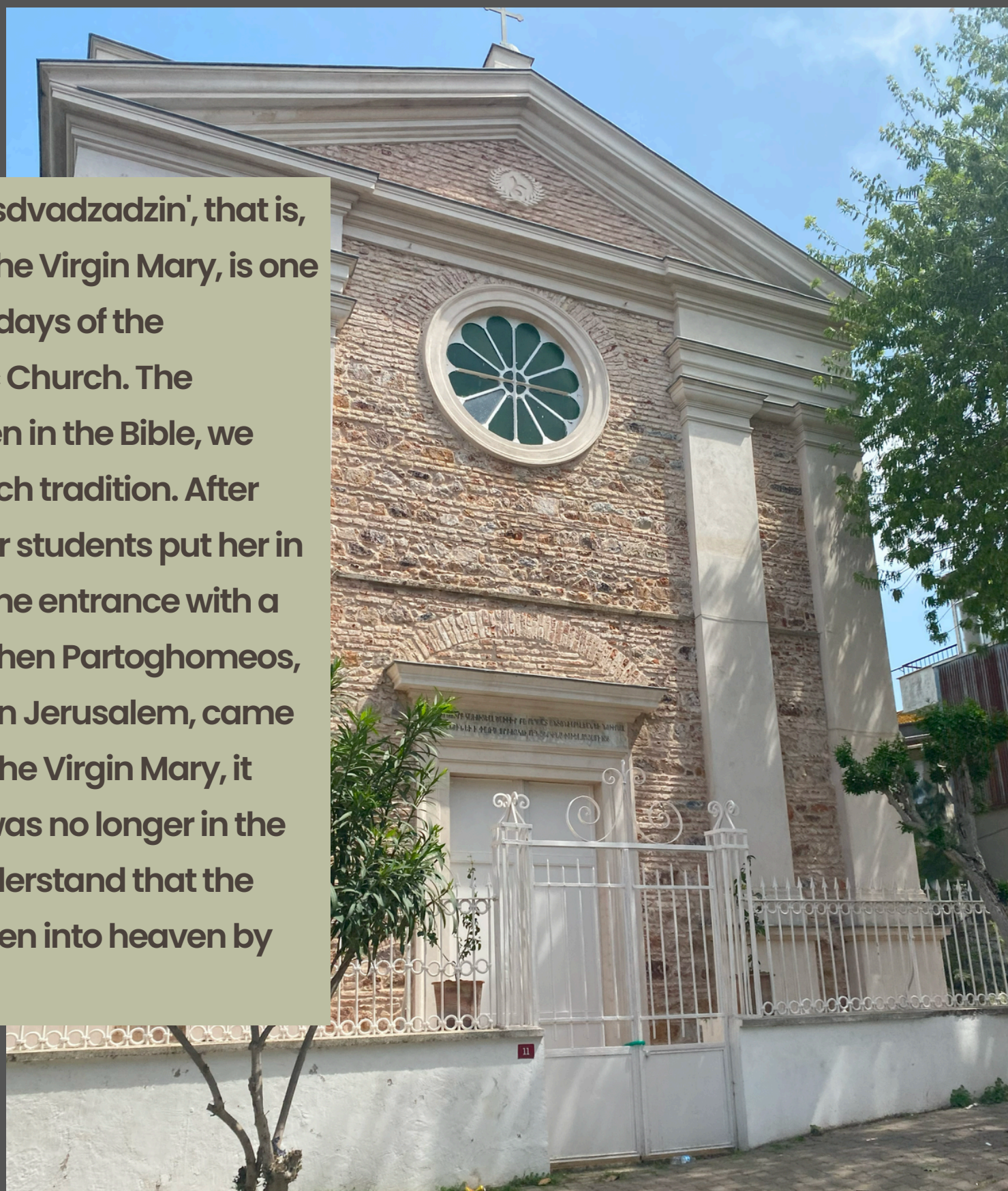
**Among the most important guests of the Anatolian Club, in addition to Atatürk and İsmet İnönü, there are also foreign heads of state: Elefterios Venizelos, Prime Minister of Greece (1924); Afghan King Amanullah Khan (1930); Romanian King Carol and Madam Lupescu (1933)... When Atatürk came to the club, he stayed in room 25, this room has been preserved as it was then.**



# ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Surp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Catholic Church; It was built in 1858 in Istanbul Büyükdada Mehmetçik Street. The church is the only Armenian Catholic Church on the islands. It is known that the church was built by an Armenian named Andon Apelyan. The life tower of the building, located in a garden on the street, is noteworthy. A composition with two half arches is seen with brick material. It ends with a half-round pediment and a cross on it. The exterior of the building is plastered. The roof of the church is in the form of a hipped roof and is covered with traditional materials. Naos is a single-nave space. (house of the god – temple – Cella or naos (Greek: ναός), an architectural section in pagan temples and Christian places of worship. While it was first seen in Greek temples and was a sacred area that only the clergy could enter, it has come to characterize the main part where the public worships in Christian places of worship.)

**Verapohum Surp Asdvadzadzin', that is, the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, is one of the five great holidays of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The incident is not written in the Bible, we learn this from church tradition. After Virgin Mary died, her students put her in a cave and closed the entrance with a rock. 4 days later, when Partoghomeos, one of his students in Jerusalem, came and wanted to see the Virgin Mary, it was seen that she was no longer in the cave. Then they understand that the Virgin Mary was taken into heaven by her son, Christ.**



# AGOPYAN MANSION

It was built by Marten Agopyan in the early 1900s on Büyükkada Nizam Çankaya Street in Adalar district of Istanbul. Marten Agopyan, who ran Ankara's most important restaurants such as Ankara Palas, was also the manager of the Beler Hotel on Istiklal Street, which does not exist anymore. Agopyan Inn, located in Eminönü Bahçekapı today, was also his property.

Büyükkada Agopyan Mansion was converted into a hotel in 1918 and over time it was named Hotel des Princes, Hotel Beler and Hotel Çankaya. The building was later demolished because it was too damaged and was rebuilt out of masonry. The architectural structure of the mansion is built as 3 wooden floors on a stone ground floor and has 22 rooms. The semicircular pediment on the top floor of the building is the most beautiful detail of the building.

**The building in Çankaya Square was a wooden structure decorated with horseshoe arches on the outside and interlaced stars inspired by Seljuk decorative art. The building in Ottoman Neo Classical style is symmetrical with respect to the entrance axis and has an inner hall plan.**

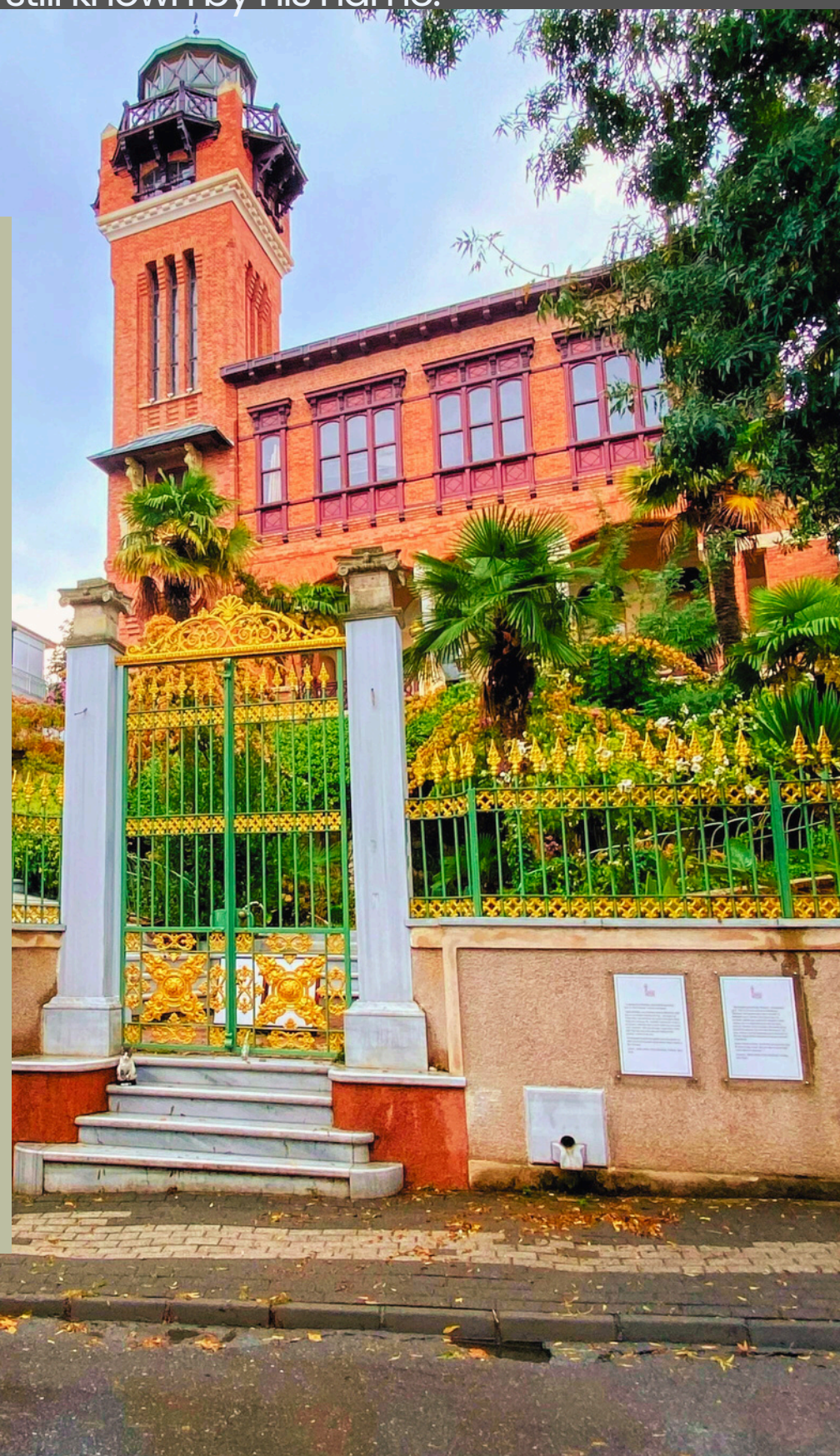


# MIZZI MANSION

Built as a home by George Mizzi at the end of the nineteenth century, Mizzi Mansion, also known as Al Palas, was used as the San Remo Hotel between 1930 and 1940. Its façade and monumental corner tower, made of compressed red brick, were designed by Italian architect Raimondo D'Aronco in 1894. The famous lawyer (Lewis Mizzi) is also a fanatic astronomy lover. He locks himself in this tower for hours and watches the planets through a telescope. Perhaps he hopes to catch Halley's comet.

Evgenios Andoniadis, one of the famous scientists and astronomers, was born in 1870 in the Tatavla district of Constantinople, and later worked in England and Paris. He is the founder of the British Astronomical Society and is famous as the director of its Mars section, for which he was awarded the Order of the National Legion of Honor (French Legion D'Honneur) of the French republic. When he was little, he watched and named the craters of Mars at Lewis Mizzi's house in this observatory on Büyükada. Craters, which until then were known as valleys. One of the craters of both Mars and the moon are still known by his name.

**Rumor has it that a mosaic icon was found here on the site of Kamares in 1863: Mr. Haritidis repeated to us by heart the words written on the back of the icon, as far as he remembered: This icon tells of the birth of the Virgin Mary, and this is where they wanted to hide it from the enemies, which were written on the icon. There are monograms on two Byzantine ancient capitals, a lawyer moved into the garden of Mizzi's house on Rue Giacomo.**





# CON PASHA MANSION

Con Pasha Mansion or John Avrimidis Mansion; The mansion was built in 1880 by Con Pasha, who was born on Lesbos Island. The architect of the mansion is Achileus Policis. Con Pasha actually comes from a Venetian family. His real name is Trasiolos Yannaros. The Special Administration, headed by Con Pasha, initiated the first Kadıköy Islands expeditions. The ferries of that period were Baghdad, Basra and İhsan. It is located on an area of 2010 square meters. It is an eclectic or eclectic building with exterior decorations in different styles that combine the architectural features of its era and is unique. When Con Pasha died, his house was left to his Austrian wife and children. Osman Nizami Pasha, the Ottoman Ambassador to Berlin, was married to Con Pasha's daughter Alice. When World War I started, Con Pasha was in Germany and his children were in Austria. When there was no news from the family after the war, the mansion was transferred to the finance department and was put up for sale. (adalar.gov.tr). Lucien Arkas, owner of Arkas Holding, purchased and renovated it. It is still the house where he lives from time to time.

**There is a winter garden and three round garden pools in the garden of Büyükada Con Pasha Mansion. The mansion consists of five towers in total. There are two main towers at each corner, one in the main center and one on the front of the mansion. The mansion has two floors in total, excluding the ground floor. He has a small hut in his garden. The exterior patterns of the hut are the same as the patterns of the mansion. In addition to the stairs, there is also a slightly sloping ramp on the way from the garden to the mansion.**



# TROTSKY HOUSE

Yanaros Mansion, its garden and pier were built by Nikola Demades on the western side of Büyükada in the 1850s. Leon Trotsky lived in this house between 1929 and 1933, towards the end of his four-year exile on the island.

During his time in Büyükada, Istanbul, he was also allowed to publish his books. The place where he stayed was protected by very tight security measures. He went fishing regularly, was not a picky eater, did not smoke, and did not allow drinking near him. He lived a quiet life, during which he wrote and published some of his memories and thoughts.

**The books he wrote in Istanbul;  
Permanent Revolution, The Mistake  
of the Stalin Group, History of the  
Russian Revolution, Problems of the  
Chinese Revolution, My Life and  
some other works.**



# AYA YORGI CHURCH

According to the information obtained from the Patriarchate records, the construction date of the Hagia Yorgi Monastery is 1751. The small church, chapel and prayer hall built on this date is known as the old church and is a small two-storey building covered with tiles. The church made of cut stone behind the bell tower on the hill is the new Aya Yorgi Church and was built in 1905 and opened for use in 1909.

Hagia Yorgi Church, which has a history of thousands of years, is located on Yüce Hill, at an altitude of 204 meters, at one of the points close to the sky on Büyükada. Named after M.S. Named after St. George of Cappadocia, who was killed for his Christian faith in the 3rd century, Hagia Yorgi Church is said to have been built in the 3rd century AD. It was built in 963 during the reign of Byzantine Emperor Nikephoros Phocas.

**This church, along with the House of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus, is one of the two pilgrimage points in Turkey by Christians. For this reason, this place is flooded with visitors every year on April 23 and September 24.**



# OLD GREEK ORPHANAGE

It was built as a hotel by a French company in 1898-1899 on Büyükada's Monastery Hill (formerly known as Hristos Hill, which means Jesus in Greek). The architect of the building is Alexandre Vallaury, one of the famous architects of the period. The building, which is empty today, is under the administration of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate.

This building, which was designed and built to be operated as a hotel under the name "Prinkipo Palas", was purchased and changed hands by a Greek woman named Eleni Zarifi, who was persuaded by the patriarch of that period, Yoakim III, after the necessary permission was not obtained from the management of the period. Eleni Zarifi spent 1000 gold on the building, which was purchased from a French company for 3700 gold, and made additions to the building in line with the needs of an orphanage. The tower with marble stairs built to protect against fire danger is one of them.

**Büyükada Greek Orphanage (or Prinkipo Greek Orphanage) is an orphanage located in Büyükada. The orphanage, which served between 1903 and 1964, is considered the largest wooden structure in Europe and the second largest in the world.**

