

The Yavuz Selim Mosque, also known as the Selim I Mosque and the Yavuz Sultan Selim Mosque (Turkish: Yavuz Selim Camii) is a 16th-century Ottoman imperial mosque located at the top of the 5th Hill of Istanbul, Turkey, in the neighborhood of Çukurbostan, overlooking the Golden Horn. Its size and geographic position make it a familiar landmark on the Istanbul skyline.

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History[edit]

The Yavuz Selim Mosque is the second oldest extant imperial mosque in Istanbul. It was commissioned by the Ottoman sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in memory of his father Selim I who died in 1520. The architect was Alaüddin (Acem Alisi).[1] The mosque was completed in 1527/8. Attempts have been made to associate the structure with the famous imperial architect Mimar Sinan, but there is no supporting documentary evidence, and the date of the mosque is too early. However, one of the türbe in the garden of the mosque is a work of Sinan (see below).

Architecture[edit]

Exterior[edit]

The mosque was built on a terrace overlooking the Cistern of Aspar, the largest of the three Roman reservoirs in Constantinople. The large courtyard (avlu) has a colonnaded portico with columns of various types of marble and granite. The mosque has panels of coloured tiles that were decorated using the cuerda seca technique. These are similar to the lunette panels above the windows on either side of the fireplace in the Circumcision Room (Sünnet Odası) of the Topkapı Palace and were almost certainly made by the same group of Iranian craftsmen working for the Ottoman court.[2][3] The mosque is flanked by twin minarets.

Interior[edit]

The interior plan of the mosque is a simple square room, 24.5 metres (80 ft) on each side, covered by a shallow dome 32.5 metres (107 ft) in height.[4] As with the Hagia Sophia, the dome is much shallower than a full hemisphere. The windows are decorated with lunette panels of polychrome cuerda seca tiles. To the north and south of the main room, domed passages led to four small domed rooms, which were intended to function as hospices for traveling dervishes.

Tombs[edit]

Located in the garden behind the mosque and overlooking the Golden Horn is the türbe of

Sultan Selim I which was completed in 1523. The building is externally octagonal, and has a porch decorated with panels of tiles of unique design.[5]

A second octagonal türbe with a long inscription carved into the stonework of the exterior contains the tombs of four children of Suleiman the Magnificent. It dates from 1556, and is attributed to Mimar Sinan. The third türbe in the garden is that of Sultan Abdülmecid I, built shortly before his death in 1861.

[Gallery](#)[\[edit\]](#)

One of the twin minarets

Inscription at the entrance

The ablution fountain in the courtyard

Side entrance door

[Yavuz Selim Sultan Mosque 9489 01](#)

[Yavuz Selim Sultan Mosque 9489 02](#)

[Mausoleum of Yavuz Selim Sultan Mosque 9495](#)

The entrance for the türbes of Yavuz Sultan Selim, Hafsa Sultan and Sultan Abdülmecid

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