

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage is a treasure that narrates the shared past of a community, strengthening the feelings of solidarity and unity among its members. It ensures the continuation of the experiences and traditions accumulated by people throughout history, helping to build a better future. Cultural heritage provides opportunities for learning and development for younger generations, evokes unique feelings and warm memories in people, nurtures creativity and the desire to explore, adds depth to our perspective on the world and life, and reminds us that we have much to learn from our past.

Cultural heritage encompasses both tangible and intangible values related to our identity, culture, and history. It includes historical cities and structures, cultural landscapes, monumental buildings, archaeological sites, as well as living elements such as language, traditions, dance, music, and rituals.

By establishing connections between the past and the present, cultural heritage creates a foundation for the culture and world we live in, while also enriching our lives in a spiritual sense. The definition of cultural heritage has expanded and enriched over time. From a focus on tangible works, a more comprehensive understanding of cultural heritage that includes all cultural values has been reached.

Today, the emphasis on human rights, cultural diversity, and equality is fundamental to definitions and documents related to cultural heritage. Currently, categories of cultural heritage used in international legal texts prepared by organizations such as UNESCO, ICOMOS, and similar international institutions include:

1. **Tangible Cultural Heritage** (this definition may be better if directly referenced from sources like UNESCO):
 - **Movable Cultural Heritage** (statues, sculptures, coins, manuscripts, archaeological artifacts, etc.)
 - **Immovable Cultural Heritage** (cities, archaeological sites, agricultural landscapes, etc.)
2. **Underwater Cultural Heritage** (wrecks, underwater ruins, and cities)
3. **Intangible Cultural Heritage** (oral traditions, performing arts, rituals, etc.)
4. **Natural Heritage** (cultural dimensions of natural sites, cultural landscapes, physical, biological, and geological formations, etc.)

Cultural Heritage Sites in Turkey - Behavioral Rules

To enhance your experience and protect the cultural heritage sites in Turkey for future generations, please adhere to the following rules:

- In places of worship, wearing clothing that exposes the knees and shoulders, as well as speaking loudly or listening to music, is prohibited.
- Please ask for permission before taking photographs or videos with religious leaders, children, or acquaintances. Unauthorized photography is prohibited.
- Sitting or leaning on carved and fragile surfaces in sites with monuments and agricultural artifacts is prohibited.
- Altering, moving, touching archaeological artifacts, and selling these items is prohibited.
- The consumption of alcohol and smoking is prohibited in these sites.
- Encouraging children to beg or giving them money is discouraged. If you wish to help children, please do so through recognized charitable organizations.
- It is strictly prohibited to alter public spaces in a way that exposes private areas.
- Avoid purchasing souvenirs made from endangered wildlife species.
- Polluting the environment and nature is strictly prohibited. Violators will be subject to penalties.
- Do not give money directly to people begging on the street.
- Always use pedestrian crossings when crossing the road and be cautious while doing so.
- Do not disturb the natural behavior of animals. Avoid feeding, touching, or calling them.
- Do not enter their natural habitats and stay on designated paths.