



Visiting Hours

October 01 - April 01

Opening Time: 09:00
Closing Time: 19:00
Ticket Office Closing Time: 18:30

April 31 - October 02

Opening Time: 09:00
Closing Time: 17:00
Ticket Office Closing Time: 16:30

Closed on Mondays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Address: Kuruköprü Mah. Ziyapaşa Cd.No:7 Seyhan/ADANA • **Phone:** 0322 363 37 17

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GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS



KURUKÖPRÜ MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND TRADITIONAL ADANA HOUSES

JOURNEY TO THE RECENT HISTORY OF ADANA



Throughout its 600-year history, Muslims, Christians, and Jews lived together and in peace in the Ottoman Empire. Mosques, churches, and synagogues can be seen side by side in different parts of Turkey, even nowadays. The fact that members of different religions had lived in a peaceful environment on the Ottoman lands for many years despite the fact that they represented minority groups is the reflection of Ottoman tolerance.

During the Ottoman Period, there were members of different religions in Adana, as in almost every point where the empire spread. Situated in Kuruköprü, one of the oldest districts of Adana, and used as a museum today, the building is once a church that served as a place of worship for Greeks for 80 years and is still standing as a symbol of respect shown to different religions.

In the Ottoman Empire, Christians and Jews were forbidden to build religious buildings, although no interference was in question regarding their worshipping. This situation changed with the Edict of Gülhane in 1839, when new rights were given to them, and after this date, new churches and synagogues were built in different parts of the empire. The Kuruköprü Church is an example of many religious buildings constructed in these years and has similar architectural features to other churches. The church, which has a rectangular plan, basilica type and three-nave structure, is dated 1845, as learned from the inscription on the western entrance. Although it is known as the Kuruköprü Church today, it is possible to read from this inscription that its real name is Aya Nikolaos. What is written in the inscription is as follows:



The Inscription Enlightening the History of the Museum

TRANSLITERATION:

Bi abni huda rahim u rahman Ba emri ali sultan Mahmut Han Nikolas azize kelise rumiyan İtti bina Spür kalfa kamilan Antiokheias Methodios ruhban Papazi u khrysanthos çoban Ukaftei milleti Hristiyan Oldu bunda mahsus u şazıman

1845 Ocak 1

ENGLISH:

Master builder Spür (?) has constructed this building from head to toe with the help of the Allah the compassionate and the merciful and the order of the great Sultan Mahmut Han. It is reserved and şazıman (?) for the Methodius, the clergyman of Antiocheia, and the shepherd Khrystantos and the whole Christian nation.

1 January 1845



Today, the Church hosts its visitors under the name of “Kuruköprü Memorial Museum and Traditional Adana House Museum” with a mansion next to it. Besides the church from where you can have idea about the Greek community that was a part of the rich social fabric of Adana during Ottoman Empire, as well as the architectural features of that period, you can also see a traditional Adana house and closely witness the lives of people of that time accompanied by the animations and models displayed. It is possible to visit the museum, where you can get to know different aspects of Adana folk culture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, free of charge.

After the Turkish victory of the War of Independence the non-Muslims were exchanged with the Muslim population in other countries according to the treaties. During this period, the church, which was non-functional for a while because the Christians living in Adana went to different countries, started to be used as a museum in 1950. When the Archaeology Museum was moved to the new museum in 1972, this time it served as the museum warehouse. Although it was converted into the Ethnography Museum in 1983, it once again assumed a different function when the artefacts were moved to the new museum. The museum has been serving as a Memorial Museum since 2015.

