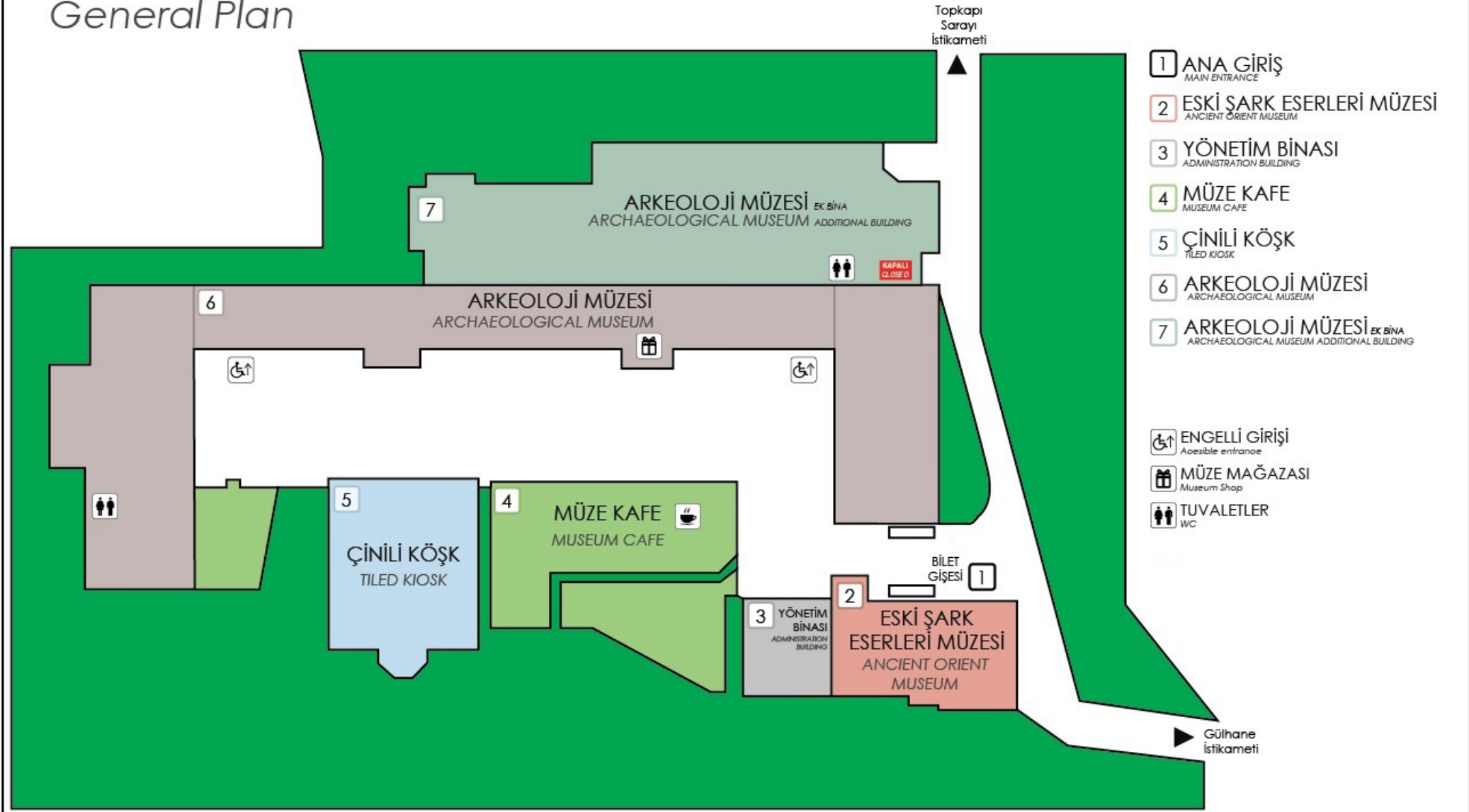


# GENEL PLAN

## General Plan



### Visiting Hours

April 15 - October 2

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

October 3 - April 14

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

Closed on Monday.

Address: Address: Cankurtaran Mh, 34122, Fatih, İstanbul • Phone: 0212 520 77 40-41-42

Please visit the web site for up-to-date information.

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GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR  
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS



# İSTANBUL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUMS

A JOURNEY IN THE HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION



Istanbul Archeological Museums consists of three separate museums where unique and priceless works that illuminate history are exhibited. Located in the same garden, the Archaeological Museum, the Ancient Orient Museum and the Tiled Kiosk Museum each contain artefacts from different periods and cultures, created by humanity in its thousands of years of adventure. Istanbul Archaeological Museums, which hosts various artistic and cultural events in addition to these artefacts, whose total number exceeds 1 million, is one of the most important and richest museums in the world. The fact that it was awarded the "Museum of the Year in Europe" award by the Council of Europe in 1993 and that it is visited by millions of people every year is proof that its importance is recognized by the whole world.



Although Hagia Irene was the first building of the Istanbul Archeological Museums, which was founded in 1869 under the name of Muze-i Hümayun, the Istanbul Archeology Museum is the first place in Turkey to be built as a museum and where modern museum activities are carried out and is also one of the top ten museums in the world designed and used as a museum building. The Archeology Museum, designed by Alexandre Vallaury, one of the famous architects of the period, is one of the most important steps taken in the history of Turkish museums. The building, which also attracts the attention of the visitors with its monumental appearance and the façade arrangement, was opened in 1891, and served as the place where the artefacts discovered in very wide lands such as Anatolia, North Africa, the Middle East and the Arabian Peninsula, the Balkans, which were dominated by the Ottoman Empire during these years, were brought together. In this respect, it is not too much to say that it is a gateway to the history of civilization as a whole, not just Anatolia and Turkey. The fact that it continues to be on the list of must-see museums is an indication of this fact.



The Ancient Orient Museum was commissioned by Osman Hamdi Bey to be designed by Architect Alexander Vallaury in 1883 as Sanayi-i Nefise Mektebi/Academy of Fine Arts. The Ancient Orient Museum, where artefacts from Anatolia and Mesopotamia before the Greek domination, and Egypt and the Arabian Peninsula before the Islamic period are exhibited with regional classification; is a place where you can see how geography can influence art and culture. Among the 75,000 pieces of cuneiform tablets which made a great contribution to the illumination of the periods in the dark, the most important is the Kadesh Agreement, which is accepted as the world's first known written peace agreement.



A new museum building was planned to be built following Hagia Irene, but due to financial difficulties, the works were moved to the Tiled Kiosk, which was built by Fatih Sultan Mehmet in 1472. It is the earliest and only example of Ottoman civil architecture in Istanbul, decorated with mosaic tiles in the Seljuk tradition. The Tiled Kiosk, where the Surre Regiment carrying the gifts sent to Mecca and Medina during the pilgrimage season is sent off and sports competitions are watched, started to serve as a museum in 1880. After remaining dysfunctional for a while, it was opened as the Fatih Museum in 1953 and affiliated to the Istanbul Archaeological Museums in 1981. The museum, where you can see examples of Turkish tiles and ceramics from the Seljuk and Ottoman Periods, from the 11th century to the beginning of the 20th century, attracts attention with its architecture as well as the artefacts it hosts.