

A Historical and Culturel District  
*Küçükçekmece*

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Our city, Istanbul which is rooted in the past, is one of the most important cities as for its history and its cultural texture. It has been a centre of attraction with its speciality of being the meeting point between East and West through past till nowadays.

Always being a capital, Istanbul has caused an understanding of a new civilization which is centred in Turkish and Islamic ideology. This civilisation style has given way to tolerance in diversities and opportunity for sustaining life as knowing how to utilize these diversities on track of self improvement. The city has formed a refined civilization which is a mixture formed of different cultural colours that spread through a wide area living from north to south and a east to west and differs from many ways.

Every title having history in it has great importance for the people living in this city. Because we have a mission of protecting this national heritage and bearing it to the future.

It's really very lucky of us that we live in one of the most rooted districts of Istanbul. In Kucukcekmece, you can see every value and colour of Istanbul. Thus we have worked with a great effort to provide all the needs of the public without hesitating and getting tired. While we were realising the cultural investments in the district our goal was to bring in an awareness of urban life conscious and thus form a city of comfort and life.

We wish to implement sustainable projects as we are protecting our social and cultural heritage which comes from the past till today with a very long history. We hope we build a better and more comfortable Kucukcekmece together.

# A “Küçükçekmece” Anatomy



Shores of Küçükçekmece

İstanbul has always been apple of eye of all communities and eras and this situation has never changed through the ages.

The first signs of life within the boundaries of today's İstanbul are seen in Küçükçekmece according to the results obtained in consequence of archeological excavations. As a result of researches and examinations made by many archeologists, geologists and anthropologists in our district, it was revealed that the region has pretty old history and people have existed in this region during prehistoric ages as well.

Küçükçekmece which separated from İstanbul's Bakırköy district in 1986 and became a detached district is situated at the western part of the European side of the city and on Çatalca Peninsula of Marmara Region as well.

Surrounded by the districts of Bakırköy, Bahçelievler, Bağcılar, Esenler, Başakşehir and Avcılar, the

distance of Küçükçekmece from city center is 17 kilometers and its surface area is around 37.75 km<sup>2</sup> and its peripheral length is 47.33 kilometers. In this framework, the district lies to D100-TEM link road in the east, Küçükçekmece Lake in the west, Marmara Sea in the south and TEM (80) motorway in the north.

At the same time, the district is situated on the important motorways like TEM-E80 (Transit European Motorway) and E-5 which provide Asia-Europe link with its location and also railway network starting from Sirkeci and going to Europe.

On the top this convenience of the district in terms of location, it is at the distance of 2 kilometers from Atatürk Airport which is one of the most important airports of both Turkey and World. The population in Küçükçekmece that has exceedingly vibrant and strategic place in terms of location is 722,315 as of 2013 and there are 21 neighborhoods and 51,088 buildings in the district.



In terms of district's geographical characteristics, it is a gently rolling plateau reflecting characteristic features of Çatalca-Kocaeli peneplain in the form of slightly sloping plane. On this plateau whose height is not much, small hills are available and the highest point of the district is 124 meters altitude above the sea level. Therefore, it is possible to say that the district is so close to the sea level.

Küçükçekmece lagoon is fed from short streams and underground waters. The main streams whose flow rates and flow changes mostly continue in irregular way are as follows: Topçular Stream, Hasan Stream, Karanlık Stream, Selim Stream ve Azaklı Stream. Küçükçekmece lagoon which has 15.93 km<sup>2</sup> surface area and 20 meter in depth is another hydrographic element that should be talked about regarding the district. Küçükçekmece Lake has obtained a

lagoon feature by separating from sea by a sandbar.

Because of this "Bay Barrier" Soğuksu Farm locating beside the lake has been assigned as Natural Protected Area in 1976. However, some problems have emerged as a result of uncontrolled housing in spite of this.

Halkalı Stream and its branches Hasanoğlu and Menekşe Stream, Nakkaş Stream, Sazlıdere Stream, Eşkinöz Stream and Ayamama Stream with their branches which are flowed into Küçükçekmece Lake are the main streams in this region.

Küçükçekmece district has a climate which is dominated by sea-related conditions because of its boundary with Marmara Sea. In terms of geographical formations, there is wavy relief which constitutes a water part but its altitude value is not high.

### Canal of Küçükçekmece

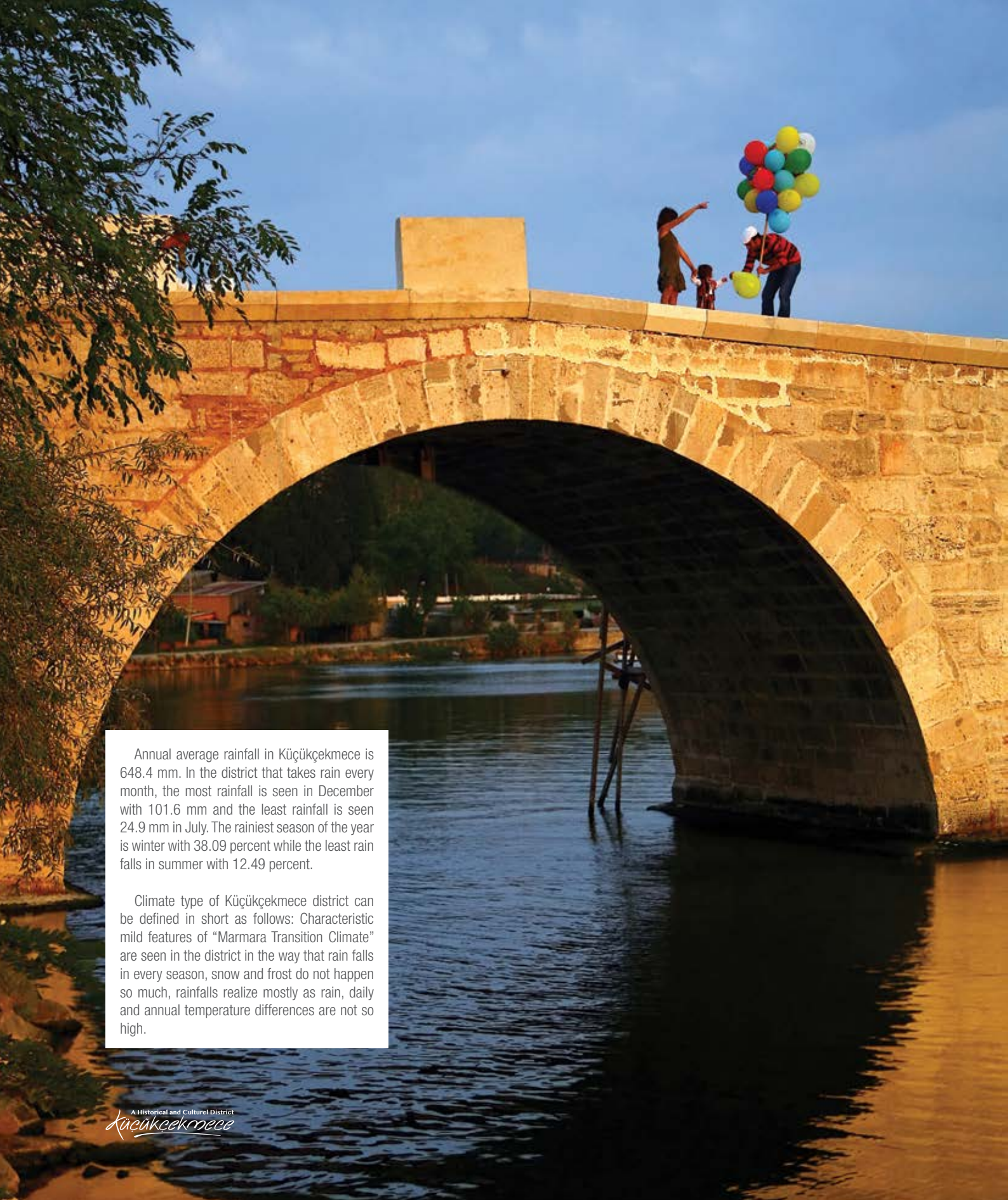












Annual average rainfall in Küçükçekmece is 648.4 mm. In the district that takes rain every month, the most rainfall is seen in December with 101.6 mm and the least rainfall is seen 24.9 mm in July. The rainiest season of the year is winter with 38.09 percent while the least rain falls in summer with 12.49 percent.

Climate type of Küçükçekmece district can be defined in short as follows: Characteristic mild features of "Marmara Transition Climate" are seen in the district in the way that rain falls in every season, snow and frost do not happen so much, rainfalls realize mostly as rain, daily and annual temperature differences are not so high.

# Famous Things of Küçükçekmece



Saffran

Canary bred with extremely hard breeding in the process of production is a bird type which can reproduce in the regions where sensitive climate balances are available. Because daily humidity and temperature rates have great effect on breeding, the only area in İstanbul where this bird type is bred coastal area of Küçükçekmece. The area has become the center for lots of important canary breeding since the Ottoman age and canary production has been made until recently in the suitable area in terms of humidity rate in the coast. Also, Kanarya Neighborhood which is a neighborhood in the coastal part named after this feature of the area. One another branch of the canary culture in the area is that white bean which turns into a special food is called as "Kanarya" by the local community. In the old times, people living in İstanbul knew

that meat sold in Çekmece was quality one. Sheep race which is called as "Çekmece Sheep" also represents the importance of the area in terms of animal breeding at the times. However, farms have disappeared at the time and a result of it, meat breeding in the area finished as well.

Even if the lake is an accommodation place for wildfowls at the same time, it cannot keep its old richness because of over-hunting. Saffron which grows pretty sparsely in Anatolia geography has also too much importance in terms of both medical and food culture of East. The only area in İstanbul where saffron grew was Küçükçekmece. However, saffron cultivation in any place of the area vanished due to flora change today.













Moreover, it was stated that lake's famous snakefish, scald fish and ылarya fish were so delicious. Today, none of these fish species are seen in the lake which was polluted with residential and industrial wastes after 1970s.

There were very rare and valuable fish species in Küçükçekmece Lake at one time. As a matter of fact, according to narration by Evliya Çelebi in his famous Seyahatname, cod, sturgeon and çıka fishes which are special to Danube River were caught from the lake at the time.

When Republic period came, Küçükçekmece where had continued its quality to be one of the important summer resorts and trip destination had gained its fame with its meat, yogurt, butchers and kebab restaurants. The families residing at İstanbul came to Küçükçekmece at the weekends and had picnic, while returning in the evenings, they have bought meat from open butchers and came back to their home.

Küçükçekmece has continued to increase its quality further to be an attraction every passing day. The reason for this is district own strategic location and the construction and public works activities made suitable for its "ancient city" identity taken from the history. Especially social areas at lake and its surroundings are the continuance of the culture for picnic areas in the history.



# To be a Local of Küçükçekmece in Modern Times

All the works done in Küçükçekmece in 2000s from transport to environmental planning, from health to culture-art, from sports to education, from infrastructure to upper structure have turned the district into an attraction center and this is going on. As a result of this development, it becomes inevitable for the important investors to prefer Küçükçekmece. In this regard, the most modern and special residence projects are realized in various areas of Küçükçekmece district and the locals of Küçükçekmece find the opportunity to benefit from all facilities that modern life brings.

Sports investments have very significant share within the works carried out by Küçükçekmece Municipality. In this regard, infrastructure for many branches of sports like streetball, wrestling and karate are being developed.

Services from which a local of Küçükçekmece will benefit are not limited to sports as well. Until today, art and vocational courses have been given in culture and art centers (CKSM-HKSM-SKSM) and the people who graduated from these courses successfully have taken their certificates.

'International Children Festival' arranged every year by Küçükçekmece Municipality with the cooperation of District National Education Directorate and CIOFF is carried out within the scope of April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day. In the festival, the children from Küçükçekmece are coming together with other children coming from various countries and they are both making new friends and having fun in the fullest during the activities.

Küçükçekmece Lake which is situated at the distance of 15 kilometers west from İstanbul and covers 16 thousand kilometers area has been formed as a result of melting glaciers and rising of sea levels at the last geological period around 18 thousand years ago.



## One of the art education students

In our Culture and Art Centers there are in 35 branch 55.923 Students.

Even though the lake's mouth is closed with sandbar, its relationship with the sea is ensured with a pass which has 1.5 meter depth. Therefore, its water is semi-salty.

The shape of the lake shows forking structure suitable to the lying of hillsides between the valleys and this bay has then turned into a lagoon upon the closure of its mouth part by a sandbar. The barrier that creates the lagoon by separating the old bay from the sea is a sandbar which has formed firstly from west starting at Soğuksu Cape in Ambarlı and gone to the east. A relatively deep pass at the end of sandbar ensure the relationship of lake and sea.









Küçükçekmece Lake which is said by the scientists that it was a deep bay open to sea a few thousand years ago can be said that it is essentially a part and bay of Marmara Sea. Thus, the lake has the feature that allows restructure it as a bay and it is known that works toward this purpose has been done in the Ottoman Empire period. And today, the lake coast of Küçükçekmece which is about 7 kilometers long has been turned into sports and stroll area by İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality for the usage of the citizens from every age.

Küçükçekmece Municipality organizes "International Küçükçekmece Lake Festival" which is held beside lakeshore every year in July.

The festival held eighth time in 2013 and became traditionalized is made with the participation of folk dances groups, the locals of Küçükçekmece and people of İstanbul.

The festival lasting one week becomes much more colorful with dragon boat races, stunts at avenues and shopping centers and various competitions beside the performance of folk dances groups.

Within the scope of the festival that brings different cultures together, our foreign guests visit official authorities, see different places of İstanbul and learn its historical and cultural sites.





# Historical and Cultural Structures in Küçükçekmece



## Mimar Sinan Bridge

Restoration was completed in 2006. This building is an architectural landmark of Küçükçekmece.

Together with Fatih the Conqueror's developing works related with Küçükçekmece, it is seen that Kanuni Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent also embarked on very important activities of public works and improvements for the region. In this period, we see that the biggest contribution for the public works and development of Küçükçekmece comes from Head of Treasurer Abdüselam Bey. Abdüselam Bey had mosque, school, hermitage and free public soup kitchen constructed at the slope overlooking the lake and had lots of foundation established for these structures. When Abdüselam Bey died in 1526-1527, he buried beside his hermitage and his tomb was erected there.

At the period of Ottoman Empire, the sultans constructed small mansions and hunting lodge close to Küçükçekmece and benefited from the area as hunting place. In XVI and XVII centuries, the summer palace of Sultan Mehmed IV in Haramidere close to Küçükçekmece, İskender Çelebi Garden and Summer Palace ren-

ovated by Sinan the Architect in the place of Baruthane in Florya, a sultan palace made again by Sinan the Architect at Halkalı were available. Moreover, there are some remains called as Sultan's Mansions Remains at the west side of Küçükçekmece Lake.

In the history of Hammer as well, it is written that after the earthquake on 14 September 1509 Büyükçekmece and Küçükçekmece Bridges and Silivri Castle were repaired. According to the thing written there, afterwards there occurred a frightful flood on 20 September 1560 around İstanbul and it is known that Melas (Karasu) and Atiras (Büyükçekmece) streams surged up to unprecedented degree and the surroundings was flooded, Büyükçekmece and Küçükçekmece Bridges collapsed and many houses were destroyed as a result of streak of lightning. Upon this disaster, Suleiman the Magnificent ordered Sinan the Architect to repair barriers and construct stone bridge in Çekmece by assigning half a million gold.



"It is supposed that there was well-kept and renowned place at the time..."

Famous German Traveler Hans Dernschwam stopped by Çekmece at his travel to İstanbul and Anatolia in 1555 and after staying here for a while he set out for arriving at İstanbul. Travelling to İstanbul from Thracian part, Küçükçekmece which is the last destination was famous for its caravansary, inns, baths and madrasahs. Hans Dernschwam wrote out the lines below while he mentioned about Küçükçekmece of that period.

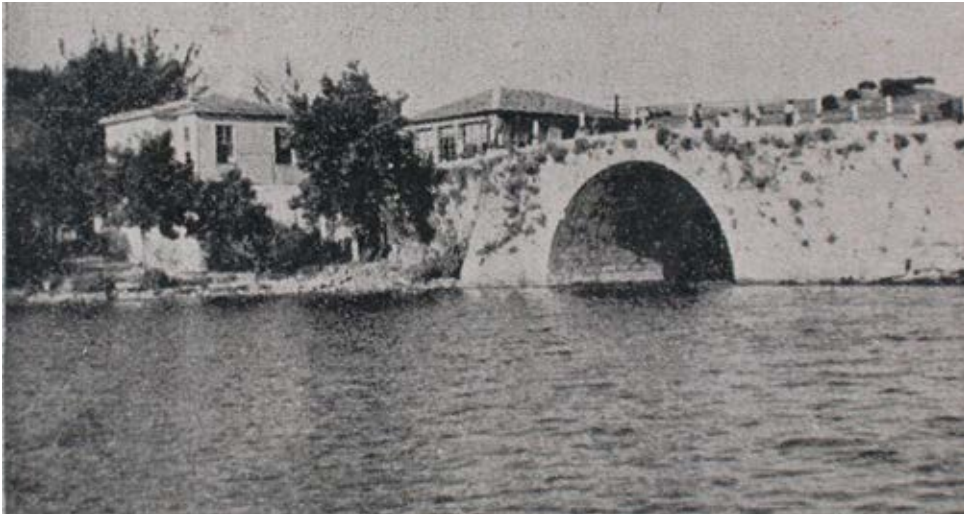
"By setting out from Silivri on August 24 and advancing forward for 11 hours without stopping, we came to Çekmece (Çekmece) which is a Turkish town at a distance of 6 miles. "Even if we asked the old name of here, nobody knew it. It had to be very well-kept and famous place. We crossed a stone bridge on the way. From place to place, we also cross some ways with the pavements remained from old Romans. However, these roads were not preserved well and left alone. We crossed a small town again. We saw the sea on the right side again and proceeded our way along the seashore uphill. After for a while we crossed one more devastated town. The population of this town was not pretty much. There was no one who knows old names of the town and many villages. Again a Roman road. This road is also distorted from place to place. We passed a pretty long and bare hill. Here, water was gushed out from a rock. Passengers

and animals benefits from this water"

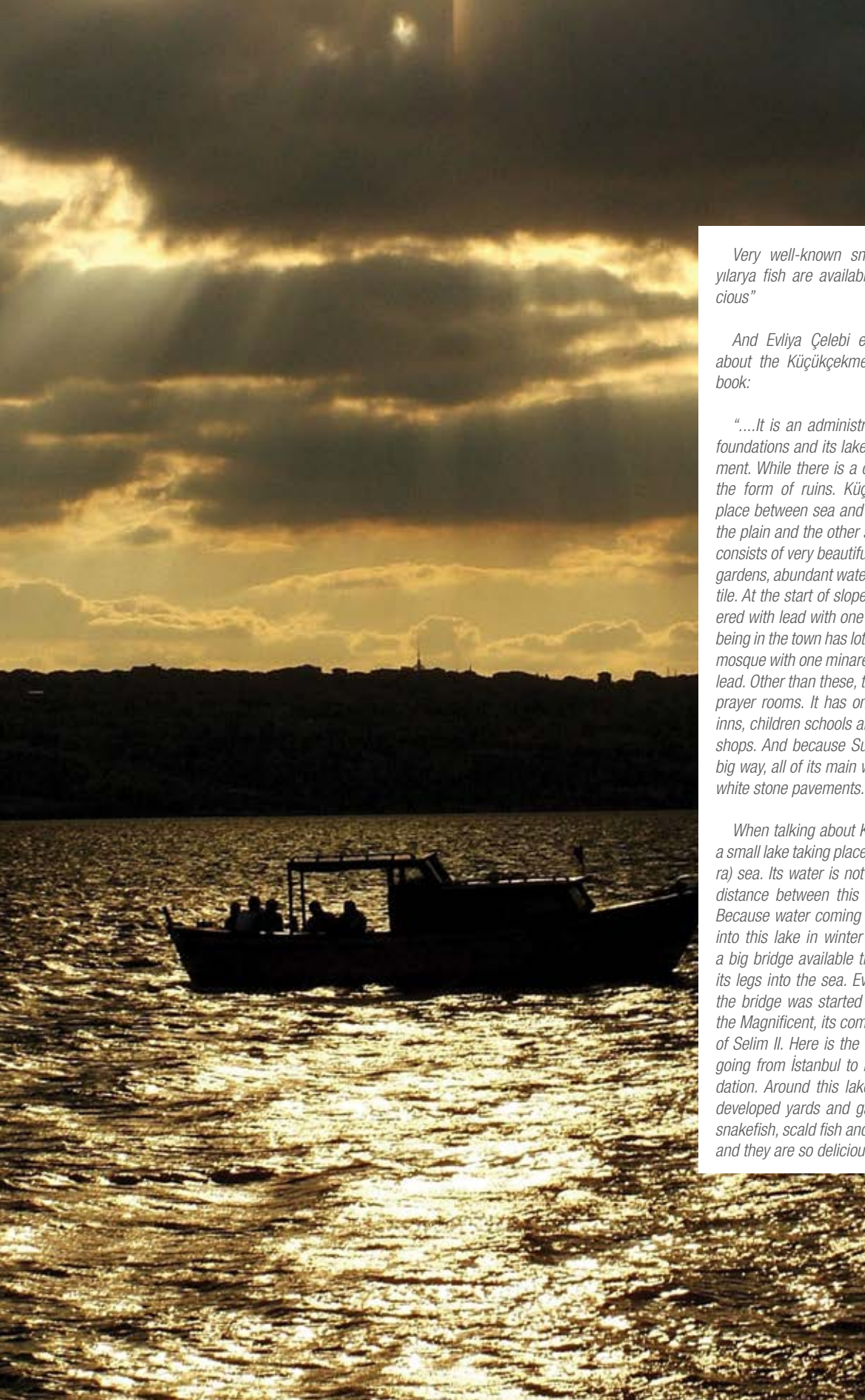
"The people can walk here without soaking their foot"

Polish Simeon wrote these lines related what he saw when he set out from İstanbul in 1611 June in his travel book.

"Six days way between Edirne and İstanbul was paved with stones completely and the people and animals could walk without soaking their feet. In every destination, there were big stoned mosques, inns, bathes, guesthouses and hospitals. At the destination where gardens, cypresses, fountains and delicious waters, there were 2 times foods coming out consisting of rice, meat, dessert and 2 big breads. Even if the caravan is consist of one thousand people, they stay there, everybody, including the animals, eat, rest, have a bath and then proceed their way. We saw on the way twenty or even seventy arched stoned bridges over wide rivers."



**Küçükçekmece Bridge**  
in 1950



Very well-known snakefish, scald fish and yılarya fish are available and they are so delicious”

And Evliya Çelebi explains its observations about the Küçükçekmece in its famous travel book:

“...It is an administration under Eyüp. It has foundations and its lake is operated on consignment. While there is a castle beside sea, it is in the form of ruins. Küçükçekmece Town takes place between sea and lake, one side of it is on the plain and the other side is on the slopes and consists of very beautiful 600 houses with yards, gardens, abundant waters and all covered by roof tile. At the start of slope, there is a mosque covered with lead with one minaret. Bazaar Mosque being in the town has lots of attendants, is a small mosque with one minaret and dome covered with lead. Other than these, there are also some small prayer rooms. It has one bath and seven stone inns, children schools and around three hundred shops. And because Sultani Bazaar was on the big way, all of its main ways were furnished with white stone pavements.

When talking about Küçükçekmece Lake; it is a small lake taking place beside İstanbul (Marmara) sea. Its water is not bitter. There is an arrow distance between this lake and Marmara Sea. Because water coming from many streams falls into this lake in winter season, there is always a big bridge available that the water falls under its legs into the sea. Even if the construction of the bridge was started at the time of Suleiman the Magnificent, its completion was done at time of Selim II. Here is the destination of statesmen going from İstanbul to Rumelia and a big foundation. Around this lake, there are perfect and developed yards and gardens. Very well-known snakefish, scald fish and yılarya fish are available and they are so delicious”



# Abdüsselim Çelebi

There is a name other than the names we mentioned before that enabled many historical monuments in Küçükçekmece to remain until today and enabled Küçükçekmece to be well-developed in such a way; he is Abdüsselim Çelebi. Abdüsselim Çelebi who was brought by Sultan Selim the Stern together with him with the return from his Egypt campaign has contributed his service to the state many years and settled in Küçükçekmece town in 1526. He was very wealthy man and known among the people as “ebu'l hayrat” that is to mean “father of charity”.

Abdüsselim Çelebi has both made services for the humanity with the charity works he erected in Küçükçekmece and also made contribution to the development of this destination linking İstanbul and Rumelia. It is obvious that humanity has benefited from the works he made for centuries. However, from these works made by Abdüsselim Çelebi who is the architect of Küçükçekmece, a refurbished mosque, a ruined fountain and a neglected tomb has remained until today.

Even if the Tomb of Abdüsselim Çelebi was repaired many times, it is still standing in a neglected situation. Tomb is hexagonal structure with every side which is 4.60 m. Its height is 4.10 m and covered with flat and lead dome. There is an entrance hall in its direction of kiblah and one rounded arched window on every facades. From the tablet with sülüs writing above tomb door and embossed ornaments covering around the tomb, it is understood that it belongs to XVI century, that is to say, it is the first structure of the tomb. On the front place that seems to be built later and is entered with three steps, one piece rounded arched window for each made from brick is put to two sides of entrance door. When considered its style and technique of this setting which is open-topped today, it is understood that it was built in a date which is different than the construction date of the tomb.



Abdüsselim Çelebi had madrasah constructed in Küçükçekmece in order to make it a science and learning town and it is called today as Abdüsselim Çelebi Madrasah.

**Abdüsselim  
Mosque and Shrine**  
Fatih Mahallesi

According to understanding from his foundation charter, it was constructed right beside the public free soup kitchen and has ten rooms, a big hall named dershane and central place belonging to these rooms and one another central place where a fountain is available and covered with shiny stones and two toilets for the purpose of learning the knowledge on religious affairs and positive sciences.





Abdüsselam Çelebi also had prayer room constructed beside the madrasah and public free soup kitchen he made in Küçükçekmece. In the foundation charter, it is written that this prayer room is available within public free soup kitchen but no information was given about its architectural structure or other features. The Mimbar of this prayer room which was called as Tekke Mosque by Evliya Çelebi in his travel book was constructed by Hüseyin Ağa the Head Cook. It is supposed that after madrasah, public free soup kitchen and prayer has given service for a long period of time they turned into ruins towards the midst of XIX century. A new mosque named Abdüsselam Mosque was built in the place of Abdüsselam Prayer Room in 1967. However, today's mosque was rebuilt from reinforced concrete, only the bottom base and its linking disk of minaret from old mosque reached to the present day.

There is also a fountain on the west side of mosque and tomb. This structure called Namazgahlı Çeşme as well is found at the low end because of elevation difference and descended into it with steps. It does not have any tablet and is in the form of rectangular prism. With the left side steps, it is stepped up onto the fountain. While the mihrab stone did not reach today, the basin of the fountain and mirror stone was put into a niche having arches with 4 parts. It is known the fountain reflecting the classical style of Turkish art was built together with the first foundation of public free soup kitchen.

Toward the end of 19th century, when the industrialization started in Ottoman Empire the corporate movements have also accelerated. However, lack of enough capital set foreign entrepreneurs who wanted to make investment into action. The French among these groups wanted to establish a modern match factory in İstanbul and started to preparations for this.

# A Mullah in Küçükçekmece: Keçecizade İzzet

The father of Keçecizâde İzzet Mullah who was born in the neighborhood of Avratpazarı in İstanbul in 1786 was Keçecizâde Salih Efendi who is kadi 'asker of the period of Abdulhamid I and his grandfather was Keçeci Süleyman Efendi who is the imam of Konya Toprak Mosque. İzzet Mullah took his first education from his father. Upon his father's passing away, he started to have a life of poverty and deprivation.

Later on, he met with Halet Efendi via Hançerli Bey, secret consultant of Mahmut II and Halet Efendi took İzzet Mullah into his service. İzzet Mullah who improved himself in a short period of time in an extent that he can come into sultan's presence was assigned to Bursa judgeship in 1809 then to Galata mevlivîyet (judgeship) a few years later.

Even though all of properties of Halet Efendi who fell from favor and executed in 1822 were seized and his relatives were sent to exile, no harm was given to İzzet Mullah and he continued to the duty of Galata judgeship. Upon the gossip about Mullah that he talked against the grand vizier, he was sent to exile

to Keşan in 1823 and he wrote his famous "Mihnet-keşan" masnavi about this exile adventure. After around one year later, he was forgiven and went back to İstanbul and became Mekke mullah in 1825.

On year later, he took İstanbul rank degree, then, he became mufti of Haremeyn. Upon the Mora uprising in 1828, because he objected to war declaration to the Russians he was decided to be executed then he was forgiven and sent to exile to Sivas. At the ninth month of Sivas exile, he was probably poisoned and died while he was at 43 yet. When the result of the war became in the way İzzet Mullah thought a royal decree was issued for his amnesty but the royal decree arrived two hours after his death.

In his poetical diary related with the Keşan exile as well, he has a poem written about Küçükçekmece on his way to exile. In this poem named 'Konaklama Yeri Küçükçekmece' (Accommodation place Küçükçekmece) he gives interesting information regarding Küçükçekmece and its bridge.





# A golden necklace at the gates of happiness land



**Mimar Sinan Bridge**

Situated above the strait where Küçükçekmece Lake is opened, it is the bridge linking old İstanbul with Edirne Motorway. The foundations of Küçükçekmece Bridge were laid at the Roman age and it is one of the oldest historical buildings of the district.

The bridge which collapsed completely in the quakes which occurred in 557 and 558 was later rebuilt by Emperor Justinien. After destroyed by Bulgarian King Krum in 813, even if the bridge was renovated by Macedonian Vasil (867-886) it destroyed again by Bulgarians, crusaders from XI century until the conquest of İstanbul and by Kantekuze in 1345.

Upon the conquest of İstanbul, Fatih the Conqueror had the bridge renovated again, however, in the quake which occurs in September 1509 and continued for 47 days and in the flood on 20 September 1563, the bridge was destroyed to a large extent. After this incident, Süleyman the Magnificent ordered Sinan the Architect to

build Çekmece Bridge again and the bridge was built again with five arched and 210 m length in 16th century. In the sources of 17th century, the bridge was defined as twelve arched and about 200 meters in length.

15 years after this extensive repair carried out at the period of the Ottomans, a two storied building was built adjacent to Küçükçekmece Bridge for serving as guardhouse.

Fatih Mosque which was built by Fatih the Conqueror according to the narratives is the oldest mosque of Küçükçekmece District. Even if it became distant from its original form as a result of repair and maintenance in the process of time, it still stands today and serves as mosque to the people. The mosque got damaged too much in 1894 quake and it got repaired by Abdulhamid II. The present building is essentially a work of Abdulhamid period. Finally, the minaret of the mosque was also renovated with some extension in 1965.

At the place where Fatih Mosque is opened to the square, **Vizier Mehmed Pasha Fountain** is available. Due to a big plane tree right above the fountain, the fountain was also called as Çınaraltı Çeşmesi (Below Plane Tree Fountain) among the people.

Above the fountain, there is a simple mirror stone without decoration and two different tablets which are put one on the top of another. These tablets were taken into a niche which is not deep. According to the tablets, the fountain was built by Grand Vizier Mehmet Pasha and repaired by Hasan Beşe after one hundred years from its original construction.

The fountain which is rectangular prism has seen many alterations. It is covered by concrete roof and in the form of square fountain with one face and watering basin. The upper part of fountain mirror was renovated later. The tablet and mirror part of the fountain is placed into arched niche.

Upper additional part was built with a different material compared to the bottom part and arch form does not reflect its original period. Basin part is heading out toward the front of the fountain. Vizier Mehmed Pasha Fountain has also continued its presence until today like Fatih Mosque.

And there is also **Fountain with Tughra** built by Sultan Abdulhamid II available in front of station at Küçükçekmece Square. The fountain has the same decorative characteristics with the Hamidiye fountains which connect to Hamidiye waterways.

There is a pediment above the fountain where tughra of Sultan Abdulhamid II is available. On mirror stone, 'Rumi' patterns exist around wavy arch form. The fountain also has a basin with the adverse pyramidal form sitting on a framed leg. On the upper part, 'el-Gazi Abdülhamid bin Abdülmecid el-Muzaffer' in a tughra and on the bottom part, '1318' (M. 1900) are written. The fountain reflects orientalist architectural style. Its rear side is plastered and its front facade is coated with marble.

One another fountain situated beside police station at the gates of Küçükçekmece Bridge is **Caravansary Fountain**. It is in the form of single face and was built from cut stone. On the fountain, a cavity with pointed arch in the round arched niche is available and here is the place of mirror stone.



**Çınaraltı Fountain**

One part of set at its front side remained underground. And a water basis from one-piece marble was put on its ground.

Küçükçekmece which is rich in terms of fountains has another fountain called **Corner Fountain** at the beginning of Ayazma Street and at the corner of 27 Mayıs Avenue. In this fountain whose tablet is not available, a mirror stone with baroque style and distorted ornaments within a drop arched niche exists. When looked on architectural structure, it is expected to be built in XVIII and XIX centuries.



**Karakol Fountain**









Another fountain of Küçükçekmece is **Mustafa Aga Fountain** located at Altınşehir. The fountain that forms the best example of Turkish classical style has a separate historical value in terms of becoming the fountain with the oldest tablet in İstanbul as well. This fountain made from limestone sculpted and processed meticulously has also an arch from two colored stones and a very elegant mirror stone from marble. Küçükçekmece had a quiet important location during the conquest of İstanbul by Fatih the Conqueror. Having a very important military point for the back of the army, Fatih ordered in favor of the repair of Küçükçekmece Bridge and construction of a prayer room and inn.

According to the writing in historical Ebu'l Feth Karolidis, this inn in question was built in 1455. There is no trace left from this structure called as **Fatih Inn** at the present time unfortunately.

Küçükçekmece which is quiet rich in terms of fountains has also a fountain called **Pir Pa-sha Fountain** called as Sadrazam Emini or Emini Çeşmesi among the people. This name of the fountain resulted from misreading of 'Pir' as 'Emini' or 'Piri'. Above this fountain's beautiful baroque profiled arch, a tablet consisting of five lines with sülüs writing in thirty cartridges. And two columns with Byzantine heads are available at both sides of the fountain.

### Tuğralı Fountain



This structure named **Ottoman Match Factory** had been started to be established within the boundaries of today's Kadıköy in the first place, but with the concern that it may give damage to human health because of its location within the city, the construction was stopped and it was recommended to Halphen who is special attorney of **Ottoman Match Factory** to find more appropriate place for the factory construction.

At the end of searches made by company official Halphen, a land at the strait which connects Küçükçekmece Lake to the sea and whose ownership belongs to foundation of Sultan Mahmud II was found. By completing necessary permits and preparations, Ottoman Matches Corporation (Société Anonym des Allumettes Ottomanes) was established by French entrepreneurs. The factory established in March 1898 consisted of four big offices. Ottoman Matches Factory was going to be one of the biggest factories in that period and even export matches to Europe.

Ottoman Matches were produced from the logs of poplar and linden trees brought from Black Sea. After attaching Turkish and French labels written Ottoman Matches on them, the boxes were carried with carriers and put into the chests in tens after match sticks placed into the boxes. Ottoman Matches Factory has continued its production until the beginning of 1900s but it has been closed down due to unproductiveness after a while.

Moreover, the factory was registered with the decision no 2717 and dated 27.08.1991 from İstanbul number 1 Assembly of Cultural and Natural Assets Protection. The foundation purpose of Agricultural School established with the name '**Ziraat Talimhanesi**' under the management of Agaton Efendi, Minister of Post Office, at Ayamama Farm firstly in 1846 was to cultivate cotton which the raw material of thread to which cloth weaving factory started at Yedikule at those years needs.



Ottoman  
Match Factory





# The Pioneer of Modern Technical Education: Ziraat Talimhanesi

Historical  
Halkalı Ziraat Mektebi

Afterwards in this school, forestry courses started to be instructed and the name of the school was changed as **Halkalı Ziraat ve Orman Mekteb-i Âlisi**. In 1910, Orman Mekteb-i Âlisi was established and forestry classes transferred into this school and the name of school was changed again as **Halkalı Ziraat Mekteb-i Âlisi**. Ziraat Talimhanesi has been the pioneer of modern education in the field of technical education in our country. Modern agricultural equipment and tools was brought from Europe and by teaching how to use this equipment in the farms the farmers were tried to be encouraged.

In spite of all works, Ziraat Talimhanesi opened with big purposes and hopes could not be long-lasting. Because enough teaching staff and materials could not be found, the students from the Anatolis could not be admitted, the school closed down compulsorily after five years. When the school was reopened as Ziraat

Mektebi, a Farm Machinist Branch also was opened in 1914 associated with the school for the purpose of spreading new agricultural equipment among the farmers. The school which had to be closed down again after Mondros Ceasefire Agreement was equipped in Republic era by opening again and in the first years of the Republic, many young persons graduated from Halkalı Ziraat Mektebi were sent to Germany for study.

Upon closing down Halkalı Ziraat Mektebi again, its students transferred to Forestry School in İstanbul. The school continues its education as Prof. Dr. Sabahattin Zaim University nowadays.

Mehmet Âkif Ersoy, the poet of Safahat, is the leading figure among our intellectual and artistic persons whose name is mentioned with Halkalı Ziraat Mektebi today.

Halkalı Ziraat ve Baytar Mektebi has succeeded to be an institution at the level of Europe and trained many students who received good education and served the country. The most important person among these is undoubtedly Mehmet Âkif Ersoy, the poet of Independence March. Safahat poet Mehmet Âkif Ersoy is leading figure among our intellectual and artistic persons whose name is mentioned with Halkalı Ziraat Mektebi today.

After graduating from Fatih Merkez Rüştüyesi ve Mülkiye İdadisi, due to his father's death and a fire that burnt down their house, he felt the full responsibility of his family and enrolled in Mülkiye Baytar Mektebi in 1889 because this school's graduates can find job immediately. Our poet is one of the first students of this school whose four year study period consists of two year day school and two year boarding school.

Akif's most school friends in Halkalı are fatherless and lonely persons like him. Therefore, there is a mutual love and tight relationship between these children who share same fate. Akif was also interested in sportive activities in addition to his courses in school.

Wrestling was his favorite sport. Akif who took wrestling courses from Kıyıcı Osman Pehlivan in Fatih and wrestled in village weddings in Çatalca has continued this sport in Halkalı too. His wrestling interest which started in Fatih and continued in Halkalı will be topic of his poems in the forthcoming years.

Akif who preferred this boarding school due to financial difficulties has met poem in these years of school as well. He wrote his first poems under the influence of Muallim Naci.

Principal Mehmet Ali Bey who liked his poems is one of the main persons who encouraged Akif in this way. But, he could not publish any of his poems in anywhere. However, the last verse of his Terci-i Bend he wrote during the Halkalı period was published by researcher Fevziye Abdullah Tansel after years.

This poem called "Destûr" which was found at aunt's home of Tansel was published in the first edition of Safahat I with the Mehmet Akif's handwriting and its date is 22 Tegrinievvel Thursday 1308" (3 November 1892).



# The Modern Side of Küçükçekmece



**Küçükçekmece  
Municipality  
Building a Green Building**

Regarding the modern architectural elements of Küçükçekmece, we should inform about the works among lots of areas as cultural and art centers ,special built knowledge houses, modern buildings and urban renewal projects.

The first natural certificated public building of Turkey is Küçükçekmece Municipality Building. The building which was finished in 2013 is equipped with natural lightening and minimum carbon dioxide emission.

Building Research Establishment (BRE) which was established in 1990, has developed a certificate program called BREEAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) which can be called the first of its kind based on criteria. BREEAM-BESPOKE (tailored style) criteria was used in the project of “Küçükçekmece Municipality Building” and BRE-GLOBAL has prepared the peculiar criteria for the building style and the climate.

It is presumed this project, which is the first BREEAM certificated public building, is going to bring out innovative solutions for people to work in a comfortable and safe are with environmental consciousness.

A preliminary rating regarding energy, carbon dioxide, water, materials, surface water control, waste, dirt and health has been performed in the design process.

In the building which was established with the equity of the Municipality, environmental solutions like, high level of insulation, low air permeability, passive solar energy strategies, less energy using lighting, environmentally produced materials that promote the use of local resources, solutions that promote less water usage like the use of rainwater and counters were used.



There are 8 houses that help the mental and physical growth of the children by means of libraries, courses and art. Among these *Halkalı ve Söğütluçeşme Education Houses* has a great importance in terms of their architecture.

The shape of Book and Pencil case refers to the importance of knowledge, on the other hand the shape of Earth refers to research, development and the importance of information technologies in today's world and the house provides access to internet. This house also recalls the universal meaning of knowledge.

### Halkalı Education Home





At the second term of 2011-2012 education year the Küçükçekmece Municipality Kinder garden has been taken into service. The school is fully equipped and fills the need of preschool education. The school has a capacity of 600 pupils and built on an area of 1685 m2. The most important feature of the school is the classrooms are not old style classrooms divided by walls but instead they are formed of areas that make the children feel that they are in a playground.

One of the most important features of Küçükçekmece is that it is called as a cultural district. Cennet Art and Cultural Center, Sefakoy Art and Cultural Center, and Halkalı Art and Cultural Center has hosted about 4.000 activities and about 1 million people per year has visited these places.

### Söğütluçeşme Education House









Sefaköy Art and Cultur  
Center









یا حضرت مولانا



Turkey's and Europe's Largest Performing Arts Center  
**"Küçükçekmece ARENAMEGA"**

**"Küçükçekmece ARENAMEGA,"** which was built by the Municipality of Küçükçekmece Halkalı is the biggest of the show centers built in Turkey with the concept of an amphitheater.

Being the biggest show centre after the Cennet Art and Culture Center, Sefaköy Art and Culture Center ve Halkalı Art and Culture Center, Küçükçekmece ARENAMEGA has been in service in 2013. Küçükçekmece ARENAMEGA, which was built on an area of 30 Acres wide, is a very important investment to host various kinds of activities, concerts, and international productions with its special platform, architecture, lightening and sound system, to increase the healthy life standards of the public with its open and close sport. It is a modern version of "Ephesus Celcus Library" with its architecture style.

The total capacity of open and closed tribunes is 35.000, the capacity of the closed tribune which is covered with membrane cover is 7.000 and the total capacity of the closed tribune is 10.000. It also has parking capacity of 600 cars in the closed, and 200 cars in the open area.

Küçükçekmece ARENAMEGA has the largest scene in Turkey with an area of 704 m2. Having the most sophisticated sound and lighting systems in Turkey, the ceiling of the center is covered with special material that prevents echo.

The knowledge houses, that were designed for children to explore themselves, to improve their abilities and knowledge, and to keep them away from harmful places are one of the important moves in education in the district.









The show centers on the amphitheater of concept,  
"Turkey's and Europe's Largest Performing Arts  
Center" with a capacity of 35.000 spectators, 704  
m<sup>2</sup>, with a scene of a giant nature of international  
organizations to host the exhibition center  
*"Küçükçekmece ARENAMEGA"*









**Cennet Art and Cultural Center** which was opened in 2008 has a multipurpose building reserved for art and cultural activities.. It has modern theatre of 435 people capacity, 850 m2 exhibition hall, full equipped music studios, a ballet studio of 250 m2 and painting studios.

**Sefaköy Art and Cultural Center** is the most modern centre in Turkey. The center, which was opened in 2009, is also a cultural complex. It has a 507 people capacity stage, 17 classrooms and multipurpose activity areas.

**Halkalı Art and Cultural Center** which is located in Atakent quarter is built on a 4 acres of

area. It was renewed in 2005 with theatre of 386 people capacity, there is also an exhibition hall at the entrance of the centre.

### Cennet Art and Cultur Center

The housing projects in the districts carry Küçükçekmece to the top of the urban renewal projects. So that, the number of people who likes to stay in our district increase day by day.

Regarding these improvements, the investors of the projects like **İstanbul Palaces, Bosphorus City, Eroğlu, Torunlar, Ağaoğlu, Avrupa Konutları** are also eager to choose Küçükçekmece for a quality living area.



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# **The First Settlement In İstanbul Started In Küçükçekmece**



**Region Village Roads**



The archeological researches in Küçükçekmece show that regarding today's borders the settlement in İstanbul started in Küçükçekmece.

In the Roman times Küçükçekmece district was called Region Village. The historical Roman Road (Via Egnatia), an important road of the Great Roman Empire passes along Küçükçekmece. The remaining of the road, which binds the empire's western lands and Europe, were kept till the recent times.

***The Region Village which has demolished three times in its history has experienced its first demolition in the years of 550.***

Byzantian historian Theophanes explained the event with those words "In the earthquake that happened at 557 or 558 the greatest damage was in the Region subsequent to the walls of the castle and the churches.

The town was totally damaged and Saint Stratonikos and Kallinikos churches collapsed. The town has its second misfortune in the beginnings of 9th century.



Bulgarians, who were cheated by Byzantine Emperor Leon, plundered the shores of Marmara and came near the walls. The Region town was also one of the towns that were plundered. The attacks continued for about 50 years and ended by Emperor Basileon the first. He rebuilt the town and the bridge was also rebuilt from wood. He also repaired and built Hagios and Kallinikos churches.

The third damage of Region has happened at the end of XI century by the Crusades and Peceneks. At the time of Roman Empire Küçükçekmece district has become a part of the Empire and until the Turks has moved to Rumeli the town was attacked by Bulgarians. At the last century of the Byzantine Empire the Region town has lost its importance. Bertrandon de la Broquiere who travelled in Anatolia in 1432 wrote for Küçükçekmece; "..... the sea is inwards the land around here. There is a tower and a bridge at this place which was attacked and rebuilt. But Turks has broke the tower down. There is a Greek village around here. People who came to İstanbul by the road has to pass the way over the stream."

Küçükçekmece district has a rare geological specialty as river lake and sea are together. So it became oldest residential area of İstanbul. *"The Bathonea"* antic city which lies at 12 miles west of Constantinople is in the borders of Küçükçekmece today. From the ancient founding that were kept in İstanbul Archeological Museums tell that the district may be a part of Byzantium.

***The Huns are the first Turks who has been in Küçükçekmece 1653 years ago.***

The first passage of Turks to İstanbul has happened through Küçükçekmece. Avars, Peceneks and Bulgarians followed Huns.

The Hun Empire Attila has come near to Çekmece but hasn't attacked Byzantium. But **Avar Turks** Has came to İstanbul at the start of 7th century and surrounded the town in 626 but couldn't succeed and had to pull back.

At the year 812 the Bulgarian also surrounded with the leadership of Kurum Han, but it ended because of the Han's death. Küçükçekmece which was a ruin in the Byzantine times and because of the Crusades has become a town by the conquest of İstanbul.

Because of the weakness of Byzantine empire İstanbul has been invaded by the Crusades. Because of the weakness of the Empire İstanbul has become a target for the surrounding countries. One of these was Ottoman Principality. Having the intentions of being a state Ottomans moved to their new capital Bursa and turned its face to the west. İstanbul was carefully observed by this young state.

Before Fatih Sultan Mehmet's conquest in 1453 some attacks happened to İstanbul but all has failed. Some say that Küçükçekmece has been conquered one year before the conquest of İstanbul.



**Researching of Ancient City**

By the Conquest of İstanbul Küçükçekmece has become a town. Sultan Mehmet the 2nd ordered for the repair of all the roads and bridges in Kuckcekmece knowing the importance of the town as a passage. Sultan Mehmet the 2nd has also brought his people for reviving the houses, lands and gardens. After the repairmen of roads and bridges he also built inns and caravanserais for the people passing through. The name of the Region has changed to "Çekme-I Kucuk" which has become Küçükçekmece today.

***In the Turkish written sources it is told that the name "Çekmece" is first seen in the Haslar District recordings in 1498 at the time of Sultan Bayezid the 2nd.***



According to the written sources lots of opinions about the name Küçükçekmece is seen and most of them are coherent. Bousquet, who holds one of the opinions, say that the name "cekmece" (known as drawer in English) may be given because of the cages that are pulled up the sea for catching fish at the doors of the sea. A. Boue says that the name is given because of the shape of the lakes reminding a drawer. Ermya Celebi Komurciyan gives this information,

"The name of Buyukcekmece was Athyros and Paras. Emperor Justinyen has built a bridge there and Bulgarian damaged it in 814. Küçükçekmece has its name because it has a smaller bridge than Buyukcekmece(kucuk means small, buyuk means big). The district which was called as Region was a summer resort of the Byzantium.

### Bathenoa Port Structures





### Bathenoa Sacroage

According to the Turkish written sources it is told that the name "Cekmece" is first seen in the Haslar District recordings in 1498 at the time of Sultan Bayezid the 2nd. The recordings that has the information about 180 villages at the European side of İstanbul, Küçükçekmece was named as "Karye-i cekme-i küçük".

The papers also tell that the village has a population of 325 people and 125 of them were brought from Rhodes and some other places as prisoners who deal with farming. It is also possible to say that 46 of these prisoners were fishermen. Other than these people there have been 21 people who were called "meremmetci", who were responsible of repairing

the bridges. They were also masons. These masons keep their repair tools with themselves and repair the bridge whenever it is damaged. They were given farms and lands for their service.

According to the land registrations the Muslims in Küçükçekmece village was 134 people. Also one of the important historical record of Küçükçekmece, which was found in the foundation of Abdusselam Bey, the village is called as "Cekme-i Kucuk".

However the Ottoman recordings call here as "Cekme-i Sagir", the place is called "Kucukcekme" after the first years of conquest.



**Port Buildings**

In 1750s Haslar district that's center was Eyup, has three important townships as Terkos, Buyukcekmece and Küçükçekmece.

Küçükçekmece covered 29 villages. At the beginning of this century Küçükçekmece was the last place that travelers, State people, representatives. People who came to İstanbul first had a small break here, they spruce up themselves and enter İstanbul afterwards.

*Küçükçekmece has been a favorite residence since it is a convenient location for farming and hunting as it has a lake and sea.*

The district offers various beauties of the nature with its sea, forest and the lake. From the start of human history people hunted and cultivated crops in these land. The melting of glaciers in the latest geological period played very important role in the formation the lake the raise in the sea level.

This incident caused the break of linkage between Marmara, Mediterranean and Black sea and The Marmara Hole is filled with water.

Rivas are formed by this event. Eventually, first the bay formed and it has became a lagoon. The lake has a link to the see with a 1.5 mt depth passageway.



These natural properties caused Küçükçekmece to be a favorite hunting site for the Sultans. Lots of Hunting kiosks and cottages were built here for the Sultans and Emperors as it was a tradition.

As an Example Emperor Basileos the 1st was very interested in Region. He rebuilt the town that was damaged by the Bulgarian attacks with his personal treasure. He often came to Region for hunting and staying at the kiosk in Apamea.

The place was also a popular for Ottoman sultans. They came here for hunting and rested in their Kiosks.

In 2007-2008 lots of remaining were found at the shores of Küçükçekmece Lake during the archeological researches. Hundred meters of walls o harbor, 60 meters of mole, an antique lighthouse, lots of walls and small piers, and lots of ceramic found tells the existence of a harbor city.

In 6 A.C, the city of Bathonea disappeared like the other cities that were lost in history. The disappearance of the city became a myth.



**The Walls of  
Bathonea Port**

# Garip Dede Shrine

## *One of the myth is told as;*

"An old man with a luminous face was hungry and couldn't find food even he went to lots of villages. Nobody invites him. At last he knocks a door and the people inside respond;

-What do you want?

-I am hungry!

The old lady opens the door, invites him in and feeds him.

The old man who was called Garip Dede prays and says to the woman;

-Take your children and leave the town, never look back.

The woman listens to him and leaves the town but she can't hold herself to look back,

She screams

The villa collapsed, the village collapsed !

The village has collapsed and a lake was formed.

(collapse means Cokme in Turkish)

So the lake was first called "Cokmece golu" and it became "Cekmece Golu"

Another source says another myth as ;

"Gul Baba and his friend Garip dede comes

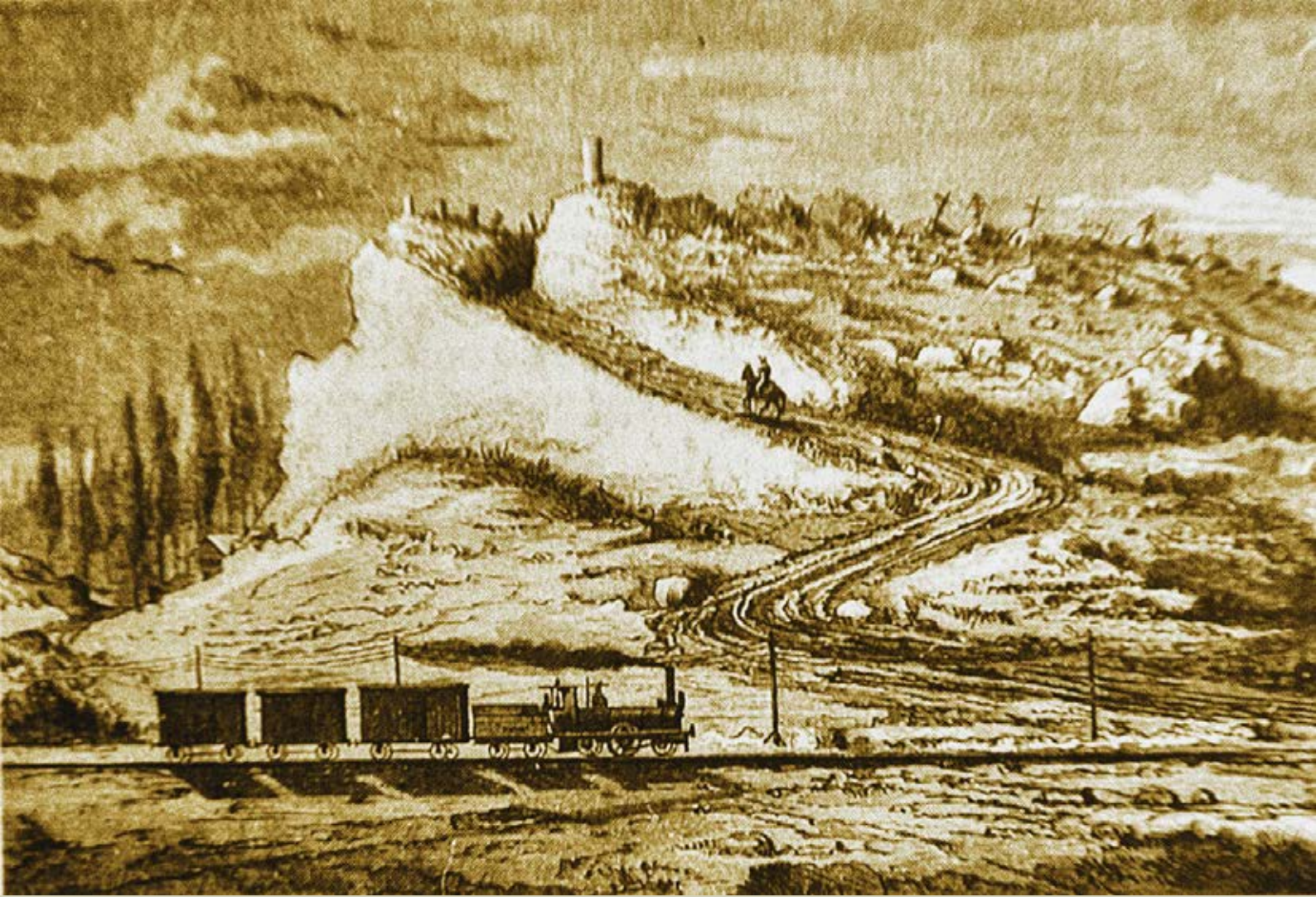
from Merzifon to the lake. They knock the doors saying that they are the Guests of God but the owners of the houses do not open the doors assuming that they are beggars. The last door they have knocked was a very poor house. The lady of the house shares everything she has with Garip Dede. Garip Dede tells her that there will be a very bad flood and the village would disappear. He takes the woman and leaves the village. He tells her not to look back because the whole village was under water. They settle at a place nearby and help poor people."

Another myth is;

"Garip Dede lived in a cottage at the lakeside. One evening he got very hungry, but there was no food and he went to the village to look for food. Nobody helped him, but he never got angry and sad "god Bless you" to every door closed on his face. When he got home back a very heavy rain has started and tons of water has poured into the soil. The ground couldn't resist the heavy load and collapsed in. So this place was called "Cokmece".

*The horses that were present in the peculiar barns of the palace were provided from Küçükçekmece.*





Gravure of Ancient  
Küçükçekmece



**Fatih Mosque**

The farms and dairies that flourished and became the main source of wheat and food of İstanbul after the conquest of Fatih Sultan Mehmed, involved 180 villages reaching to Besiktas, Haskoy, Arnavutköy, Ortaköy, Bakırköy, Yeşilköy, Küçükçekmece, Büyükçekmece, Avcılar, Silivri, Çatalca and Vize. 50 of these villages were in Küçükçekmece district.

*The crops and the fatlings satisfied the needs of first the palace than the public.*

Küçükçekmece has been the farming area which was the source of food for İstanbul hence it was near the city and has been a proper place for agriculture. Some of these farms are Ayamama, Safra, Kanarya, Alemborgos, Papazbergos, Alibey, Filyos, Menekşe, Nakkaş, Büyük Halkalı, Alibey, İncirli, Çavuşbaşı, Safra Köyü, Soğuksu, , Küçükalkalı, Resneli, Beylik Çayırı, Ispartakule, Kapadık, Ömerpaşa ve Firus farms.

*The sale of the crops and the wheat was forbidden to be sold out anywhere other than İstanbul.*



The crops and the fatlings satisfied the needs of first the palace than the public. The sale of the crops and the wheat was strictly forbidden to be sold out anywhere other than İstanbul.

The area from Küçükçekmece to Eregli was like the key point of the food storage. The fat that the palace needed was taken from Küçükçekmece farms. The area was rich of plateau. The food need of the horses in the barns of the palace was also gathered from Küçükçekmece.

The use of modern European farming tools and techniques that are taught in Halkalı Agriculture School was first applied in these palace farms. Some of the important royal farms around were **Alibey Farm, Safra Farm, Alembertos farm, Florya Farm, Ayamama Farm.** These Farms were very efficient.

***The Russians who have stayed 445 days in Küçükçekmece caused lots of damage at the places they have invaded.***

After restructuring of Küçükçekmece at Fatih Sultan Mehmed's time, in 1800s we observe the Russian Army moving towards Yesilkoy. The people who were living here ran away to safer places and Küçükçekmece is ruined by Russians. Archives show that the state building has been moved to Bakirkoy.

The Russians also invaded Dolap yayırı, Papaz Bergos Plateau, Kozalıkalı Plateau, Kadiasker Plateau, Moha Plateau, Sazlıdere Plateau ı, Yezir Plateau,

Taşlıburun, Filyos Beidge and Sazlıbosna. The Russians who have stayed 445 days in Küçükçekmece caused lots of damage at the places they have invaded.

***Because of the Ottoman-Russian war and Balkan wars it is linked to Bakirkoy (Marikoy).***

In 1900 the effects of Balkan war is seen in Küçükçekmece. It became an important logistic center. Also there were field hospitals in the area, and an animal hospital in Sefakoy.

Since there was lots of contingency in the animals used in the war, the animal hospital had a great importance.

Balkan wars were a turning point for in Ottoman history. The safety of the Muslims living in Balkans is threatened badly. Because of this pressure and chaos they had nothing to do but to migrate to Anatolia.

About 200.000 people from the Balkan war migrants were given located to farms and land of the treasury. Since Küçükçekmece is full of Treasury lands we see that a lot of migrants were located in this area too. There are also documents showing that these people provided their subsistence by tobacco farming.

Küçükçekmece which has lived its most productive and yielding days by joining to Ottoman Empire has lost its importance because of the devastation it had during the Russian and Balkan Wars.



**Village House in 1901**



**Ancient Küçükçekmece**

On the other hand because of the fire in the forest near Küçükçekmece caused absence of wood for burning and heating. These are the reasons that Küçükçekmece lost its status and linked to Bakırkoy (Marikoy).

***In 1935 the establishment of Florya Beach by the order of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk the area has been a favorite place of the public. The people preferred here for swimming and having picnic.***

In 1923 Küçükçekmece has been a village which is under the district of Bakırkoy. At the same time, Turkish people were replaced instead of the Greek people who has moved to Greece after the war. In 1928, Kazaks were located to Küçükçekmece and they earned their life by collecting caviar from the lake.

The village people were still farming. In 1935 we can see that fishing and caviar collection was made by the people outside Küçükçekmece.

In the early years Republic Küçükçekmece has been a popular place of migration. The most important reason for this is the building facilities in the area. Also Sirkeci-Halkalı railway line in 1951 and The London road in 1955 has been a great matter of attraction.

Besides İstanbul, Edirne and Europe roads were passing through here. In 1935 the establishment of Florya Beach by the order of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk the area has been a favorite place of the public. The people preferred here for swimming and having picnic.





Halkalı Ziraat Mektebi'nin genel görünüşü, I. Ü., Nadir Eserler, II. Abdülhamid Albümü.

Also the low price of fresh lamb and beef in Küçükçekmece revived the commercial life in the village; the people of İstanbul has come to the village to buy cheap meat, milk, yoghurt and cream, and went back to İstanbul with the evening train.

The migrations and the other economic factors became the reason of foundation of the Municipality in

1956. And by the administrative regulations made in 1986 the village has become a district again.

After being a district the population of Küçükçekmece increased gradually. In 1990 the population was 352.926, in 1991 it has become 169.537. In 1995 it was seen that it reached 479.417 people. In 2000 it became 614.736 and in 2013 722.315.

**Halkalı Ziraat Mektebi**  
1869

# The Changes in 2000



In 2000s it is possible to say that there has been radical changes in the district. In 2004 and 2009 Civil Engineer Aziz Yeniay has been elected as the Mayor.

He made very important progress for Küçükçekmece. In this concept, in his period, forestation, architecture, arts and culture, the needs of the public, health and transportation services showed great progress.

In 9 years, 362 landscaping, parks for children and forestation works has been performed and the amount of green area is increased from 100.000 to 2.5 million m<sup>2</sup>.

About 7 km long of lake shore has been rebuilt as a sports and recreation area for the public.

The increase of green area caused the district to become a resort again. The Hayat park which was brought to life by İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality on an area of 52.317 m<sup>2</sup>.

The park has sitting and relaxing areas, porches, a small lake, wooden bridges, cafes, picnic areas and walking ways. There are also parks for children, a sand pool, skate floor, 2 basketball field, a volleyball field, walking paths, cycling path, exercise areas. There is also a medical center in the park.

Balıkci Ada Park which is on an are of 5657 m<sup>2</sup> has playground fro children, cafes, resting spaces and walking paths. Balıkci ada, (fisherman's Island) also a shelter for the fishing boats.

## The Bosphorous City in Küçükçekmece



Menekse Deresi (Menekse River) recreation project has an area of 300.000 m2. It includes the Lake and a sideway project from Menekse River to Avcılar. Menekse Deresi is reformed, and the project went on with the formation of walking paths. The investment has a volume larger than the Gulhane Park restructuring project.

Bezirganbahçe Park with an area of 15 acres has 10 acres of green land. The park has playgrounds, basketball field, a small pool and ward building.

Tastepe Animal Kingdom Park is designed at an 16 acres area since there is a need for zoo in the area. The park includes information boards, banks and game groups to give information about animals. There are also picnic areas, fountains, and a football field.

One of the most important green parks in the district is Halkalı Pine Forest and resort. It is restructured on an area of 57 acres. It contains playgrounds, cafes, picnic tables, pool, sports gardens, walking paths and football field.

102 investments for sports including a stadium, Astroturf, pools, basketball, volleyball and tennis fields are great developments in the district.

Halkalı Stadium which is in the Housing area of Halkalı provides opportunities for football teams. The Complex contains basketball, volleyball fields and tennis courts.

The oldest stadium of the district is Metin Oktay stadium. It has been rebuilt and serves the public with its 500 people capacity grandstand. "The First EU standardized Fishing Market" has been opened by European Union Minister and Chief Negotiator Egemen BAĞIŞ on 22nd of February 2012. Yeşilova Football field has been renewed with a 300 car capacity in 2011.

In 2007, 2 closed half olimpic pool were opened in Halkalı area and Sefakoy. ***Osman Solakoğlu Sport Center, Halkalı Sports Center, Kanarya Outdoor Sports Center and İkitelli Sports Center are the other areas for sports.***



**Actual Housing Structures**



The district also serves the public in terms of health. The examples to health services are Mehmet Akif Ersoy Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery Hospital which is the only hospital in European side.

Kanuni Sultan Süleyman Research and Training Hospital was opened in 2011 and it is the biggest hospital of Thrace. It has a capacity of 643 beds. It was Build by the Prime Ministry Housing Administration and the field is provided by the Municipality.

From 2004 67.7 km of transport axis has been built to Küçükçekmece. These are Halkalı Beltway, Akşemsettin Viaduct, Halkalı Mehmet Akif Ersoy Intersection and Halkalı TEM connection roads. Also the roads inside the district are renewed.

There are also works about supporting education has been made in the district. The most important development is the knowledge houses that provide courses and areas for children.

### **Kanuni Sultan Süleyman Teaching and Researching Hospital**





One of the missions of the district is to be an art and culture centre. The centers in the city has hosted for 3.00 activities to 860.000 people in a year. One of the most important social investment in the district is "Women Shelter" . The shelter was opened in 1996 and goes on in its new building from 2007.

Women who face with verbal, physical, emotional and sexual abuse are hosted in the shelter. They can get support to overcome their problems with their children. The stay time in the shelter is about 6 months and has a capacity of 32 people. 10-20 applications

are received per week. The kindergarten of the shelter is for the women living and working here. There is also a hobby garden for planting their own vegetables and plants.

Küçükçekmece Nikah Sarayı serves for weddings and based on a 51 acres of area with 500 people capacity and 3 halls. The place is also used for other celebrations other than weddings. Joy of Life Center, Family counseling center, Eating house and Employment Desk are the other social facilities of the Küçükçekmece Municipality.



**Küçükçekmece  
Wedding Hall**

# Resources

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