

Chora Museum

The Mosaic Mask Figure with
Acanthus Beard in Istanbul's Great
Palace Mosaic Museum

Don't Miss



Chora Museum Visiting Hours

Winter Season

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00
16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30

Summer Season

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00
18:30	18:30	18:30	18:30	18:30	18:30	18:30

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Please visit the website for current information.



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
AND TOURISM



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showcasing the finest of mosaics
and frescoes

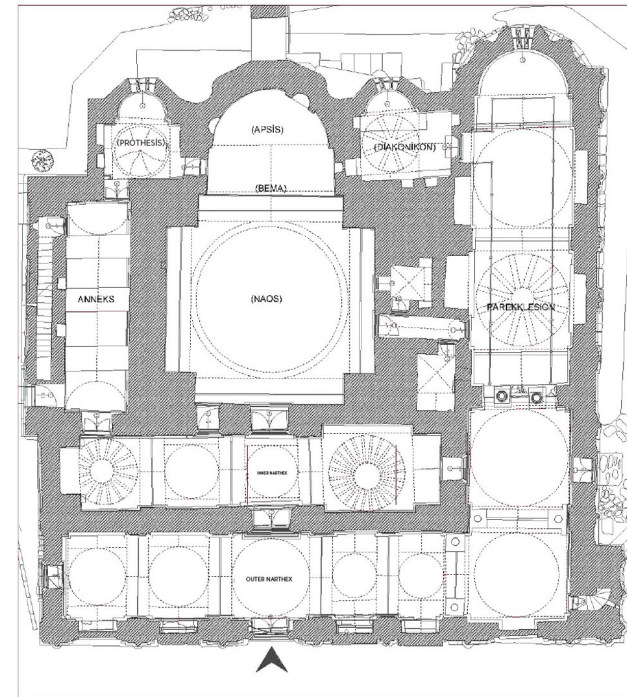




The Inner Narthex

Mosaics and frescoes are the finest samples of the art of painting performed in the last period (14th century) of the Eastern Roman Empire (the Byzantine Empire). The mosaics here depict scenes from the Bible and the Old Testament and also, from the life of the Virgin Mary not mentioned in the Bible but in the Apocryphal Gospels.

On the right wall of the inner narthex, Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary are depicted with Isaakios Komnenos and Princess Maria, the daughter of Michael Palaiologos VIII, wearing nun's robes, who became the wife of the Mongol ruler Abaqa Khan. The mosaics depicting the scene of the Dormition of the Virgin in the western part of the Naos while Virgin Mary carrying the Child Christ in her arms is seen in the southeastern part. The mosaics in the northeastern part of the Naos depict Jesus Christ.



Parekklesion Dome

The centre of the dome with high frames portraits the Virgin Mary and the Child Christ on her lap, with segments featuring the twelve figures of angels. There are four divine writers illustrated in the pendentives of the dome, while scenes from the Old Testament adorn the walls and arches under the dome. The north wall illustrates Jacob's ladder and on the right side of the north wall is the scene of Moses standing on the side of a burning bush. On the south wall is the scene of Solomon and the assembly of Israel and the transportation of the Holy Furnishings. On the right side of the south wall, the placing of the ark of the covenant in the Sanctuary of the Temple of Solomon and the archangel Michael and the struggle of the Assyrian army before Jerusalem is illustrated.



The Bread Miracle of Jesus Christ

One of Jesus Christ's first miracles before the eyes of people, the scene of him feeding the multitude is depicted in this section. The other mosaics depict Jesus healing a man with a skin disease. Another mosaic illustrates a paralytic who picked up his bed after he was cured by Jesus Christ. On the northwest corner, Jesus is depicted with a Samaritan woman seeking a cure at a well.



The Dormition of Mary

Above the main entrance door of the Naos, the Virgin is depicted lying on a catafalque that is surrounded by a crowd of apostles and prominent church members. Jesus is seated in a mandorla, holding an infant representing the soul of Mary. On the front side of the apse is the Virgin Hodegetria depicted as standing with the Child Christ on her arms. Jesus is illustrated standing and holding an open book in his left hand. The book reads, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."



The Scene of Anastasis-Jesus Pulling Adam and Eve from Sarcophagi

The frescoes on the semi-dome of the apse illustrate the scene of Anastasis, where Jesus pulls Adam and Eve from their sarcophagi. The broken doors and chain and lock pieces represent hell and are seen under the feet of Jesus. Honest pious people stand on the left side of Jesus and a devout group, including John the Baptist and the king prophets, is seen standing on the right side of Jesus. On the side walls of the apse, left of the arch, is the scene in which Jesus resurrects the dead son of a widow, while the scene where Jesus performs another miracle by resurrecting the daughter of Jarius is illustrated on the right side. In the mid of the upper arch, inside a medallion, is the archangel Gabriel depicted.