

# All About Turkey

## With tour guide Burak Sansal



[Home](#) > [History](#) > Byzantine Empire

## Byzantine Empire



The Byzantine Empire is also known as the Eastern Roman Empire, for it was in fact a continuation of the [Roman Empire](#) into its eastern part. At its greatest size, during the 500's AD, Byzantine included parts of southern and eastern Europe, the Middle East, and northern Africa.

The Byzantine people called themselves [Romans](#) although they were actually descendants of various ancient peoples and they spoke Greek. The word Byzantine, in fact, comes from "Byzantium," which is the Greek name for a city on the [Bosphorus](#). The Greeks colonized the area first, in the mid-600's BC, even before [Alexander the Great](#) brought his troops into [Anatolia](#) (334 BC). Greek culture continued its influence long after the [region](#) became part of the [Roman Empire](#), in the 100's BC. But it was when Roman emperor [Constantine the Great](#) moved the capital of the Empire from Rome to Byzantium and renamed it Constantinople ([Istanbul](#) today), in 330 AD, that the Byzantine Empire really began. It lasted over 1000 years, ending finally in 1453, when the [Ottoman Turks](#) [conquered](#) Constantinople and renamed it [Istanbul](#).

[Christianity](#) had a strong influence on Byzantine [art](#), [music](#), and [architecture](#). Since Constantinople was the political center of the Empire, it also was the educational center, where future government officials learned to read and write the language of ancient Greece. Thus this period produced remarkable works in history as well as fine poetry, and much religious prose. All the visual [arts](#) flourished, too. Most of the artists worked as servants of the court or belonged to religious orders, and they remained anonymous. Ivory carvings, Byzantine crosses, and "illuminations," or small manuscript paintings, attest to their skill. Almost all that survives of the Byzantine [architecture](#) are its churches, with their glorious frescoes and mosaics. With [Hagia Sophia](#) as an example, their architects and artisans reached heady heights of magnificence, indeed.

For 1100 years, the Byzantine's were able to maintain control of their empire, although somewhat tenuously at times; the Empire's expansion and prosperity were balanced by internal religious schisms (such as [Nika Riot](#)) and recurring wars with enemies from the outside. Finally, weakened by recurring waves of attack, the [Ottomans](#) overcame the exhausted Byzantines and a new era of leadership began. The Byzantine Empire, however, had left its mark on the culture, never to be entirely erased even after the [Conquest](#).

[Home](#)

[Regions of Turkey](#)

[Top Tourist Sites](#)

[History](#)

[Culture](#)

[Islam](#)

[Tourism Info](#)

[My Tours](#)

[Photos](#)

[About](#)

[Search this Site](#)

# Byzantine Emperors

## Year / Emperor

323–337 [Constantine I](#) (The Great)  
337–361 Constantius  
361–363 Julian (The Apostate)  
363–364 Jovianos  
364–378 Valens  
379–395 [Theodosius I](#) (The Great)  
395–408 Arcadius  
408–450 [Theodosius II](#)  
450–457 Marcianus  
457–474 Leo I  
474 Leo II  
474–491 Zeno  
491–518 Anastasius I  
518–527 Justin I  
527–565 [Justinian I](#) (The Great)  
565–578 Justin II  
578–582 Tiberius, Constantinus  
582–602 Mauritius  
602–610 Phocas I  
610–641 Heraclius I  
641 Constantine III  
641 Heracleon  
641–668 Constans II  
668–685 Constantine IV  
685–695 Justinian II  
695–698 Leontius II  
698–705 Tiberius III, Apsimar  
705–711 Justinian II (restored)  
711–713 Philippicus  
713–715 Anastasius II  
715–717 [Theodosius III](#)  
717–741 Leo III, the Isaurian  
741–775 Constantine V, Kopronymus  
775–780 Leo IV  
780–797 Constantine VI  
797–802 Irene  
802–811 Nicephorus I  
811 Stauracius  
811–813 Michael I, Rhangabé  
813–820 Leo V, the [Armenian](#)  
820–829 Michael II  
829–842 Theophilus II  
842–867 Michael III  
842–866 Bardas  
867 Theophilus II

## Macedonian Emperors

867–886 Basil I, the Macedonian  
886–912 Leo VI, the Wise  
912–913 Alexander III  
913–959 Constantine VII, Porphyrogenitus  
919–944 Romanus I, Lecapenus  
959–963 Romanus II  
963–969 Nicephorus II, Phocas  
969–976 John I, Tzimisce  
976–1025 Basil II, Bulgaroktonus  
1025–28 Constantine VIII  
1028–50 Zoë  
1028–34 Romanus III, Argyrus

1034–41 Michael IV, the Paphlagonian  
1041–42 Michael V, Calaphates  
1042–54 Constantine IX, Monomachus  
1054–56 Theodora  
1056–57 Michael VI, Stratioticus  
1057–59 Isaac I, Comnenus  
1059–67 Constantine X, Dukas  
1067 Andronicus  
1067 Constantine XI  
1067–71 Romanus IV, Diogenes  
1071–78 Michael VII, Parapinakes  
1078–81 Nicephorus III, Botaniates  
1081–1118 Alexius I, Comnenus  
1118–43 John IV, Calus  
1143–80 Manuel I  
1180–83 Alexius II  
1182–85 Andronicus I  
1185–95 Isaac II, Angelus-Comnenus  
1195–1203 Alexius III, Angelus  
1203–04 Alexius IV  
1204 Alexius V, Dukas

#### **Latin Emperors ([Crusaders](#))**

1204–05 Baldwin I  
1205–16 Henry VI  
1216–17 Peter de Courtenay  
1218–28 Robert de Courtenay  
1228–61 Baldwin II

#### **Nicaean Emperors**

1206–22 Theodore I, Lascaris  
1222–54 John Dukas Vatatzes  
1254–59 Theodore II, Lascaris  
1258–61 John IV, Lascaris

#### **The Paleologi**

1261–82 Michael VIII  
1282–1328 Andronicus II  
1295–1320 Michael IX  
1328–41 Andronicus III  
1341–47 John V  
1347–54 John VI, Cantacuzene  
1355–76 John V (restored)  
1376–79 Andronicus IV  
1379–91 John V (restored)  
1390 John VII  
1391–1425 Manuel II  
1425–48 John VIII  
1448–53 Constantine XI, Dragases; until the [conquest of Constantinopolis](#).

All About Turkey © Burak Sansal 1996–2019, a certified professional tour guide in Turkey. Contact Burak at [info@allaboutturkey.com](mailto:info@allaboutturkey.com) for all kinds of regular and/or private travel services throughout the country.