



Turkey : Istanbul



Istanbul is a mysterious city with many different identities.

Byzantium for the Byzantines, Constantinople for the Oriental Roman Empire, Catholic for the Crusaders, and Muslim for the Ottomans, it has long been the refuge of the most powerful empires of the planet.

From 1299 to 1923, it was the centre of the Ottoman Empire, which spread right up to the borders of Europe.

The Ottoman Empire was originally founded by a family from the Kayi tribe, one of the Turkic tribes.

The massive size of the empire led to a very diverse population, in terms of ethnicity, language and religion.

The empire reached its peak under the rule of the sultan Suleiman.

The great genius of Ottoman civilization is seen in monuments such as the Topkapi Palace, which was the residence of the Sultans for 4 centuries, the Shehzade mosque, the Selimiyye mosque, the Dolmabahce palace and so many others.

The world-famous church of Hagia Sofia is an architectural masterpiece of Byzantine art. It was the greatest Christian monument for 10 centuries, from 537 to the fall of Constantinople in 1453.

More than a thousand years after Hagia Sofia was built, Sultan Ahmet Ist ordered a mosque as beautiful as the church from the disciple of Sinan.

The Blue Mosque is one of the most famous mosques in the world. It is fitted with six minarets, as in Mecca. The inside of the mosque is decorated with over 21,000 Iznik ceramic tiles, all blue, thus the mosque's name.

Inseparable as it is from Istanbul, the Bosphorus has ensured the city's development thanks to trade with Europe, Russia and the Mediterranean. The strait links the Marmara Sea with the Black Sea and is a major point of passage in the world.

Due to its rich and tumultuous past, Sultans' palaces, hunting lodges and residences are nestled along the strait's banks...

The traces that remain of the Ottoman empire give us a glimpse into the mythical, legendary civilization that has inspired so many authors, drawn to its oriental charms.

Directed by Jacques VICHET

A documentary of 52'

French Version
English Version

High Definition
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

©2014 IN POST PRODUCTION