



TÜRKİYE BİLİMLER AKADEMİSİ  
TURKISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

## SÜLEYMANİYE COMPLEX RÂBİ MADRASA

We welcome you to the **Süleymaniye Complex - Râbi Madrasa**, one of the important structures of our cultural heritage.

The complex built by **Süleyman the Magnificent** (1520-1560) in Süleymaniye, Fatih district of Istanbul in 1550-1557 consists of a mosque, darü'l kurra (education center of Quran), darü's şifa (hospital and medicine school), tabhane (free guesthouse), madrasas, mausoleums, sibyan mektebi (religious primary school), baths, imaret (soup kitchen), and arastas. Architect of the complex is **Mimar Sinan**, considered the pinnacle of Ottoman architecture.

The madrasas of the complex include “Evvel”, “Sanî”, “Salis”, “Râbi”, “Darü'l-Hadis” and “Tıp (Medical) Madrasah”. Süleyman the Magnificent had these madrasas built for education and science in addition to his army's need for educated engineers and doctors. Among them, he appointed the famous scholar Molla Yahya Bin Nureddin, who had previously served as the qadi of Baghdad, to the position of Darü'l-Hadis. In addition to him, Kadızade Şemseddin Ahmed, Mimarzade Musluhiddin Mustafa and Sheikh Mehmed Efendi of Karahisar also lectured here.

With the construction of Süleymaniye Madrasahs, Fatih Madrasahs, one of the famous cultural centers of the period until then, took a backseat. In the 17th century, with the arrangement made in Süleymaniye Madrasahs, place was elevated up to 12 levels and this arrangement lasted until the last period of the Ottomans. The education in Süleymaniye Madrasahs started from iptidai and ended with Darü'l-Hadis, the highest level of education.

In order to place the collection of buildings on a sloping terrain, the madrasahs were placed on the top level and classrooms were placed on this level. Staggered porticoes were placed in front of the cells, and stairs descended from both sides to places outside the porticoes. A fountain was placed under the classrooms extending with a bay window towards the courtyard. The madrasahs have twenty one cells each, a madrasah room with a niche and other factors. The madrasa cells have square plans and are covered with domes and vaults. Hearth niches and cupboard spaces were added inside them. In addition, they were opened to the porticoes in front of them and to the outside with a rectangular jambed window.

Süleymaniye Madrasahs are made of cut stone and consist of madrasah cells and classrooms arranged around the courtyard. “Salis” and “Râbi” madrasas, separated from each other by a symmetrically arranged inner courtyard, were the richest institutions in terms of location among the madrasas built by the Ottomans. “Salis” madrasah is located to the west of the entrance of the mosque and “Râbi” madrasah is located to the south. Below these madrasas is the Tiryaki Bazaar with its shops. These madrasahs were built around a square courtyard with a square plan. Around a large courtyard measuring 718m<sup>2</sup>, 21 madrasah cells of 14m<sup>2</sup> are symmetrically arranged behind domed porticoes in front of them, and these cells are accompanied by a 61m<sup>2</sup> classroom, which is the tallest building in the madrasah on the central hill. The “Râbi” and “Salis” madrasas are arranged symmetrically to each other.

Darü'l-Hadis Madrasah was built opposite the mihrab of the mosque in the complex. In this section, which attracts attention with its high dome made of cut stone, education on Hadith sciences was given. To the east of the mosque entrance is the “Evvel Madrasa” and to the north is the “Sani Madrasa”. There are student cells under these madrasas, which are symmetrically placed on both sides of a narrow road. These buildings contain 23 cells, a lecture hall, latrines and a house for the müderris.

Tıp (Medical) Madrasa was added to the building community in 1552 and is located between Darü'l-Hadis and Salis madrasas. This madrasah was also built on shops. Since the maternity hospital was built behind this madrasah, which forms the east of Tiryaki Bazaar, there is not enough information about its original condition. Only one row of cells on the Tiryaki Bazaar has survived to the present day.

Râbi Madrasa, which started to be used by the Turkish Academy of Sciences in 2005 and was restored by donation in 2013 in line with its historical and architectural features, hosts scientific activities as the Istanbul headquarters of the Academy.

