



#### Visiting Hours

##### April 1 - October 31

Opening Time: 09:00  
Closing Time: 17:30  
Ticket Office Closing Time: 17:30

##### October 31 - April 1

Opening Time: 10:00  
Closing Time: 16:00  
Ticket Office Closing Time: 15:30

Closed on Monday.

**Address:** Bostan Mahallesi Tatlı Badem Sokak No:10 Beyoğlu İstanbul • **Phone:** 0212 518 18 05

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# ADAM MICKIEWICZ MUSEUM

The Symbol of Poland Turkey Friendship



One of Poland's most famous poets, Adam Mickiewicz, who devoted his life to the independence of Poland, was born in 1798 in Nowogródek, within the borders of present-day Belarus. He was arrested in 1823 and then deported because of his activities in the patriotic student community he joined when he was a student at the University. In the following years, he produced important works in the field of literature and became one of the leading poets of Polish romanticism. Trying to transfer European poetic forms to Polish literature, Mickiewicz's patriotic character and passionate devotion to Polish culture are also reflected in his poems.

Adam Mickiewicz comes to Istanbul with his friends after the end of the Crimean War. Together with his companions, he rented an idle house in Beyoğlu Pera, which was a cosmopolitan district in those days. This house is a center where Poles "gathered and gave fiery speeches during the Crimean War. Among his friends was Adam Czartoryski, who came to Istanbul at the end of the uprising in 1830 and founded Polonezköy. When his independence poems are read, the following lines are particularly striking.

"Born in slavery and chained in my  
swaddling bands I bid you farewell,  
but not for long; there are sure  
hopes that in spring the dawn of  
freedom will arise for us"

He died in his home in Beyoğlu district of Istanbul in 1855 due to the cholera epidemic spreading in Istanbul. In 1955, the 100th anniversary of the poet's death, his house was transformed into a museum affiliated to the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum Directorate in cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Culture and Arts.



Istanbul, where he arrived with great expectations and dreams of independence for his country and only two months later was sent off on an eternal journey in a simple coffin with participation of individuals from various nations, left a small mark in the sorrowful life of the poet. However, the three-story house where he stayed with his friends, including Adam Czartoryski, who founded Polonezköy, known as Poland in Istanbul, and historian T.T. Jez, dreamed of a liberated Poland, gave fiery speeches, and eventually died, continues to keep the memories of Turkey-Poland friendship alive along with the memory of the poet.

The last words of Adam Mickiewicz are as follows; ""Had I known I was going to die of cholera in Istanbul, I would still have come here. Because it was my duty to do so. Rather than becoming the general secretary of a scientific academy in France, I prefer to be an ordinary secretary of a Turkish battalion.

With his love for Poland, respect fo Ottomans and a romantic poet spirit in his heart, he awaits his fans in his house, which was turned into a museum on the 100th anniversary of his death.

