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Selimiye Mosque Added to UNESCO World Heritage List

A new Turkish site has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The Selimiye Mosque and its Social Complex in the former Ottoman capital of Edirne joins the nine sites already on the list. The famous architect, Sinan, himself considered this to be his best work.

Built in the late 16th century, the magnificent mosque takes pride of place at the centre of a complex which comprises a medrese, libraries, hospitals, baths and a cemetery. Unique in its design at the time, its *mihrab* was pushed back into a semi-circular alcove so that it could be seen from any location within the mosque, thus allowing the mosque to be flooded to spectacular effect with natural light from three sides.

The city of Edirne is situated some 235km west of Istanbul, a two-and-a-half-hour drive easily manageable by day trip.

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