

## **A Living City: Troy**

Troy is situated within the boundaries of Çanakkale province, 30 km away from the center. Its geographic location being rather strategic, the Ancient City of Troy has been enjoying an important crossroad position between two continents, where trade, culture, science and art meet together.

The first Troy was erected in this geography some 3200 years ago and due to wars and natural disasters, the city has been destroyed and rebuilt nine times on the same site.

Despite several destructions it went through, Troy has never lost its will to struggle for survival.

Several stories exist on its soil, blending reality with mythology.

For instance, the first beauty contest of the World has been held in this land.

Paris, son of Priamos, King of Troy, was appointed by Zeus to select the most beautiful girl at the World's first beauty contest organized at the Mount Ida.

In another legend, Zeus' beautiful daughter Helene, queen of Sparta was kidnapped by Paris, Prince of Troy. This led to the Trojan War also present in the World famous legends of Iliad and Odyssey.

With its nine different culture layers and all the values it owned, Troy has disappeared from the scene of History for a while. Until Heinrich Schliemann rediscovered Troy.

Came in the area in 1873, guided by the World famous legend of Iliad, Schliemann caused to this land the most important harm that anyone could cause. Instead of uncovering Troy and make out of it a value for the Human History, he took away the treasure and left the area. Today, the subject treasure is being exposed at the Moscow Pushkin Museum and Berlin Museum instead of Troy, where it belonged.

The excavation works have been carried out in the Troy area from 1988 to 2005 by the supervision of Professor R. Manfred Korfmann, on behalf of the University of Tübingen. Korfmann has felt so involved in Troy that he took the Turkish name of "Osman" and called himself Manfred Osman Korfmann. As a real passionate of Troy, Manfred Osman Korfmann communicated the Ancient City of Troy to the World as Anatolian Civilization and enlightened the History with his works. Thanks to these works Troy has reached the value it deserved and it has been registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1998.

Manfred Osman Korfmann who proved that Troy is still a living city today, was awarded the Honorary Çanakkale Citizenship, in 2005, on the occasion of the International Troy Festival. The grave of Manfred Osman Korfman who passed away in 2005 is facing Troy which he loved and enlightened the History of.

The name of Manfred Osman Korfmann who loved Çanakkale as much as its own inhabitants did is living with the Korfmann Library to which he donated 6000 of his books and 10000 of his articles. The site which was restored in 2006 by the Municipality of Çanakkale was allocated in 2007 to the Çanakkale-Tübingen Troy Foundation for usage as a library.

Today, a new value is still unconvered with each and every breeze which blows in Troy. The new head of excavations Rüstem Arslan who leads a successful work has taken over Manfred Osman Korfmann's dream from where it started. Rüstem Arslan who carries on the successful excavation works was given the Homeros Culture and Art Award during the 54th International Troy Festival by Ülgür Gökhan, Mayor of Çanakkale.

With its more than 3.000 years old past, from King Priamos to God Zeus and the beautiful Helene, Troy is celebrating today the 20th anniversary of its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The Mount Ida which has witnessed a number of legends for thousands of years is greeting with all its magnificence, mythology, History and love; in other words, greeting Troy.

Today, "Troy Lives With Peace".

We all invite you for 2018 Year of Troy, to Çanakkale, Troy, the City of Peace.